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Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Session 2: Making pilot SEAs more effective: current status of the beneficiary countries' pilots and tips for success

## Main pre-conditions for a successful (pilot) SEA

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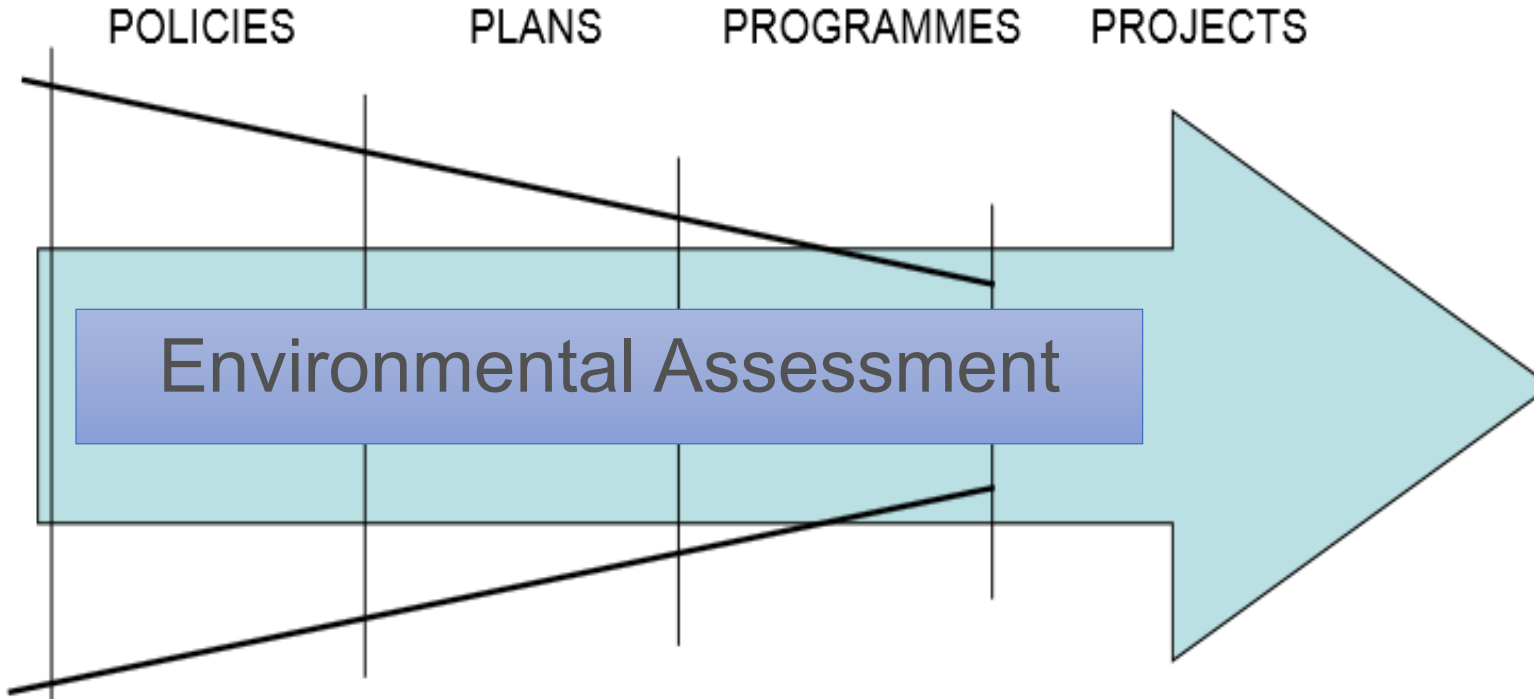
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Context:  
Environmental  
Assessment  
Hierarchy

**SEA – assessment of consequences of strategic planning documents, as well as of their synergies with other initiatives**

**EIA – assessment of impacts at the project level**

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# Effectiveness & good practice principles for SEA

Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. UNECE. 2012. <https://unece.org/resource-manual-sea>

IAIA. 2002. *Strategic Environmental Assessment: Performance Criteria*. Fargo, ND: International Association for Impact Assessment. <https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/sp1.pdf>

Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment: Manual for Trainers. UNECE. <https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/manual-trainers-application-protocol-strategic-environmental>

Many articles, conference papers, books, generic guidance documents and other publications since the early 1990s

## **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT Performance Criteria**

A good-quality Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process informs planners, decision makers and affected public on the sustainability of strategic decisions, facilitates the search for the best alternative and ensures a democratic decision making process. This enhances the credibility of decisions and leads to more cost- and time-effective EA at the project level. For this purpose, a good-quality SEA process:

- Is integrated**
  - Ensures an appropriate environmental assessment of all strategic decisions relevant for the achievement of sustainable development.
  - Addresses the interrelationships of biophysical, social and economic aspects.
  - Is tiered to policies in relevant sectors and (transboundary) regions and, where appropriate, to project EIA and decision making.
- Is sustainability-led**
  - Facilitates identification of development options and alternative proposals that are more sustainable<sup>1</sup>.
- Is focused**
  - Provides sufficient, reliable and usable information for development planning and decision making.
  - Concentrates on key issues of sustainable development.
  - Is customized to the characteristics of the decision

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# Prerequisites for Conducting Effective Pilot SEAs (1)

A pilot SEA is initiated jointly with a body responsible for developing a plan or a programme that is subject to SEA

A plan or a programme that is subject to SEA should be in an early stage of development

Key SEA stages as defined by the SEA Protocol **and** national legislation should be completed

Interaction with developers is required to ensure that SEA results are focused and delivered in a timely manner

SEA is conducted as early in the decision-making process as possible

Two sets of requirements (unless they have already been harmonised)

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# Prerequisites for Conducting Effective Pilot SEAs (2)

❑ A pilot SEA should be integrated in the strategic planning process and adapted to the process logic

Each SEA is specific and should be adjusted to meet the needs of a specific plan/programme by taking into account its:

- ✓ Focus and planning level,
- ✓ Timeline, process and expected outcomes,
- ✓ Structure,
- ✓ Governmental agencies and other stakeholders involved in it, etc.

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# Prerequisites for Conducting Effective Pilot SEAs (3)

## ❑ Core elements of SEA:

- ✓ Is focused on key issues
- ✓ Assesses a reasonable set of alternatives
- ✓ Employs suitable methods

- ✓ The most significant potential impacts
- ✓ Important issues that should be considered at various stages in the strategic planning process

A range of potential alternatives depends on the strategic planning level. The best practicable environmental option should be identified where possible and feasible.

The choice of methods depends on the strategic planning level and type of plan or programme, and takes account of the nature of data to be gathered and findings to be made

*Special IAIA Fastips: Alternatives in SEA of Plans & Programmes:*  
[https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/Fastips\\_7SEAlternatives.pdf](https://www.iaia.org/uploads/pdf/Fastips_7SEAlternatives.pdf)



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# Prerequisites for Conducting Effective Pilot SEAs (4)

Any pilot SEA is primarily the **capacity building and awareness raising process** for all participants



- ✓ Broader consultations with various stakeholders (various governmental agencies and organisations, national interagency SEA task force, NGO/CSO, the public, and environmental assessment specialists)
- ✓ Broad media coverage of all steps and outcomes of pilot SEA

- ✓ **Understanding the SEA objectives** by the strategic planning agency executives, decision-makers, other governmental bodies, NGO/CSO, the public, and environmental assessment specialists
- ✓ **These parties should also understand their role in the SEA process**

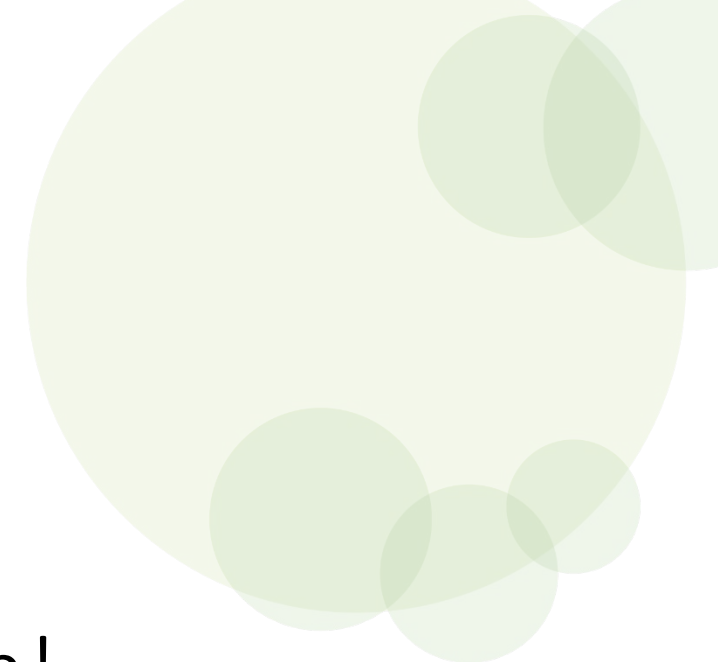
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Thank you for your attention!

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