



SEA Implementation and Practice: Making an Impact?

21-23 September 2011 • Prague, Czech Republic • First Announcement

Special Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment

To Celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the SEA Directive

and the Entry into Force of the SEA Protocol and to Evaluate Progress in Europe and Internationally

- What is the state of SEA practice?
- Is it making a difference to planning and decision-making?
- How does the experience of EU member states compare internationally?

The program will:

- Review key trends, issues and lessons of progress in implementing the SEA Directive in the EU.
- Examine developments of other forms and types of SEA systems in Europe and internationally.
- Consider the role and potential of the SEA Protocol and other legal and policy instruments for promoting SEA, particularly at the policy level.
- Include a session on the **Tenth Anniversary of the SEA Directive: Looking Back, Looking Forward** with keynote reviews and a panel discussion. Invited participants include senior officials of the EC, UNECE, Polish Presidency and other Member States.

Submission deadline:
15 June 2011

Sessions will be organized around the following major themes:

- **Effectiveness of national SEA systems: how are they making a difference?** Are they integrating environmental considerations into decision making, and achieving positive outcomes? What legal, institutional or procedural changes that could improve SEA application and quality of practice?
- **SEA application in major sectors: Are we getting it right?** How are SEAs influencing decision-making in key sectors such as transport, water, energy, mining, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and coastal zone management? What are the lessons for good practice?
- **SEA procedure and methods: Are the tools we use fit-for-purpose?** How adaptive and robust is SEA in analyzing the impacts and issues that matter? What frameworks, approaches and tools are or can be used to best address cumulative effects, climate change and other large scale environmental threats?
- **Use of SEA with other impact assessment and planning tools: how much progress has been made?** What progress has been made in relating SEA to other domains of impact assessment, such as EIA, RIA, SIA and HIA and to other environmental and development planning tools? What are the issues and opportunities associated with recent development, particularly in contributing to sustainable development or in addressing new policy initiatives such as the green economy?
- **Public and stakeholder consultation in SEA: too little or too much?** How well is this process working and what does it deliver to SEA and decision-making? Is it time to move toward more interactive approaches such as multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and dispute resolution or to broaden the terms of engagement?
- **Advancing SEA theory and practice through research and capacity development: what are the needs and priorities?** How have SEA concepts, methodologies and practices been improved and extended through research, discourse and capacity building activities? What outstanding issues and aspects need to be addressed?
- **SEA as a sustainability instrument: still more questions than answers?** What is the experience in applying and adapting SEA as an integrative sustainability tool? How can resilience thinking help us gain a firmer grip on the sustainability of ecological and socio-economic systems?
- **Addressing climate change in the SEA:** How to best address climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in the SEA, considering outcomes of the IAIA special topic meetings in Aalborg and Washington, DC?
- **SEA and EU Cohesion Policy: coming together or still far apart?** Are SEAs effectively integrating priorities for sustainable and competitive economy into programming process and use of EU Structural Funds? What should be improved in the next programming period?
- **Toward Good Practice in SEA for development cooperation:** what is the experience of European and international donors in promoting suitable forms of SEA that are fully adapted for decision-making cultures in the respective recipient countries?
- **SEA and policy-making:** What are the existing or emerging flexible forms of SEA that can work at the policy level? How to make the best use of the Article 13 of the SEA Protocol for promoting consideration and integration of environmental concerns into the preparation of policies and legislation?

This SEA conference is a special IAIA thematic meeting separate from IAIA's Annual Conference. For more information on the annual conference and other special meetings, please visit www.iaia.org for information or contact IAIA HQ (info@iaia.org).

Why this meeting? Why now?

The conference is follow up on the successful global theme conference on SEA held in Prague in 2005 (Prague I). It is being held to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the introduction of the EC SEA Directive and the coming into force of the UNECE SEA Protocol.

Now is an opportune time to review progress with SEA implementation in member states and Europe-wide and assess the prospects for future work under the SEA Protocol.

Although it will have a strong European focus, the conference will also consider major trends and developments in SEA that have occurred internationally, recognizing that much has happened in the interim period since Prague I and particularly in the area of development cooperation.

Who should attend: The conference will provide a forum for discussion among planners and impact assessment professionals, government officials, researchers and NGO leaders.

Training courses offered: Training courses will be held 19-20 September, in conjunction with the conference. For information, visit the Prague SEA 2011 page at www.iaia.org.

Registration and fees: The conference will have a single registration fee of Euro395. A conference banquet and training courses will also be available for additional fees. Registration opens in April 2011.

Logistical information: The conference will be held on the premises of the Czech Agricultural University in Prague (www.sic.czu.cz/sal_EN.html). The conference venue is located about 5 km from the historic center of Prague and about 10 minutes' taxi drive from the Prague airport.

About Prague: Prague is the capital city of the relatively small Czech Republic which lies in the heart of Europe, neighbouring with Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland. Prague is known as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and has been attributed adjectives such as "golden," "city of hundred spires," "the crown of the world," and "a stone dream." In 1992 the compact historical centre of Prague that covers an area of 866 hectares was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register. Prague offers a vibrant social life and a range of tourist services that satisfies visitors of all interests. For more information, visit www.prague.fm.

What to see and do in Prague: In addition to conference activities, a cultural program including a city tour/Prague Castle, Old Town walking tour, hot air balloon ride, sightseeing flight, and guided bus excursions to Karlstejn Castle, Bernardr Brewery, and more will be offered through the conference website.

Organized by:

International Association for Impact Assessment in cooperation with the European Commission – DG Environment, the Polish EU Presidency and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Co-hosted by:

Integra Consulting and
Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague

Call for sessions, papers, and posters

Contributions should address one of the themes and may be of four types:

- **A proposal to organise a workshop, paper session, panel or facilitated discussion or other forum or event** that addresses one of the main themes of the conference and requires a block of time (normally 90 minutes). This should briefly describe the purpose and approach to be taken, the specific topics to be discussed and those who will be involved as speakers, facilitator or in any other capacity. Proposals should be sent to IAIA by 15 June 2011, after which the organizer may be contacted by the theme chair and/or the conference co-chairs.
- **Individual papers** that address important topics or subject areas or relevant issues and aspects of the main themes. Preference will be given to case studies of SEA good practice, reviews of the performance of SEA systems and evaluations of the quality or effectiveness of SEA application in relation to policy, plans or programmes, and papers that develop critical perspectives on the state of SEA theory and practice, particularly as it relates to sustainability and large scale environmental change. An abstract should be sent to IAIA by 15 June 2011.
- **Posters** that address the areas listed immediately above will be particularly welcomed. Individual poster abstracts should be sent to IAIA by 15 June.

Submissions will open online 15 March 2011.

The conference will be held in English.

