

Stream D
Cross-cutting Issues in SEA Practice
By Ralf Aschemann

Structure of the stream

- D1 – Data and scale issues in SEA, chaired by Elsa Joao
- D2 – Public Participation in SEA, chaired by Bo Elling
- D3 – Addressing Health in SEA, chaired by Ben Cave, Alan Bond, Marco Martuzzi and Suphakij Nuntavorakarn
- D4 – Assessment of Cumulative Impacts in SEA, chaired by Jenny Dixon
- D5 – SEA Follow-up, chaired by Aleg Cherp
- D6 – SEA Review, chaired by Karl Fuller and Tadgh O'Mahony
- 6 position papers, 3 panel discussions, 22 papers and lots of discussion; thanks to all chairs!

D1 / Data and Scale Issues

- Scale: space, time, level of aggregation
- Not just a technical issue, it's about how you define and understand issues
- What comes first? Issues should be first!
- Importance of being STRATEGIC!
- Appropriate data to the tier corresponded
- Say WHY, not only WHAT!
- Using only data or using more information (like story telling, ...)

D2 / Public Participation

- Public participation/involvement is COMMUNICATION and DIALOGUE in between all parties (public authorities, stakeholders, general public...)
- PP can be facilitated in many ways, but first of all facilitation should support the ABILITY for participation for every party, and the AVAILABILITY of information should be safeguarded
- How PP takes place will always be CONTEXT-DEPENDENT
- Suggestion for four possible indicators for PP
 - 1) Invitation via media (newspapers, radio, TV, web, ...)
 - 2) Ensure that there is a two-way communication
 - 3) Do it early enough
 - 4) Consider identification and evaluation of alternatives as well
- Web based PP / New opportunities, but danger of DIGITAL DIVIDE (elder people, countries with lower internet access possibilities, ...)

D3 / Health in SEA

- Another tool or integrated in SEA? Integrated!
- Public health evidence-driven
- Capacity problems (in terms of knowledge, methods, understanding), planners often lack regarding health issues; i.e. there is a significant gap between planners and health experts and vice versa (health experts often don't have a vision of planning)
- At strategic level often a high degree of uncertainty
- For EU (SEA Directive) – Health included amongst others (air, soil, water, fauna, flora, ...) for elaborating the environmental report, so evaluate those reports regarding human health issues
- Health is more than physical well-being (WHO definition)

D4 / Cumulative Effects

- Some definitions on cumulative effects in SEA, clarity sought by participants
- Big issue of scale (D1) – Some cumulative effects are less “visible” or simply too big to handle, e.g. climate change
- Jurisdictional and sectoral issues: Not only one agency responsible; need to use forecasting tools; sometimes need to consider transboundary impacts (across watersheds e.g.)
- Need to consider setting thresholds, issues of capacity for limiting change
- Need to think about appropriate scales
- Involving stakeholders groups (Canadian example was given)
- Need to think about alternative models for empowering change (Urban Planning Institute in Curitiba, Brazil e.g.)
- Need to better understand institutional relationships in order to overcome deficiencies (looking for successful models that have been developed so far)
- One cannot expect governments to maintain long-term vision

SEA follow up (D5)

- *three papers*
- *one session*
- *ca 23 participants*

Summarized by Aleh Cherp with support from Jos Arts, Nicholas Murry, and Marie Hanusch

a) Importance of SEA follow-up

- If SEA is to deliver on its promise to make strategies more environmentally friendly, it should affect not only what is “said/written”, but also what is “done” in reality
 - Strategies are series of “emergent” decisions rather than “one-time” single decisions
 - Strategies are “patterns of action” as much as formal plans, policies or programs;

- Addressing “uncertainty” and dynamism

b) Conceptualising SEA follow up

- SEA follow up should be similar to EIA follow up in that it should address gathering, interpreting, communicating and acting upon information after adoption of the strategic initiative in question;
- Specifics of SEA follow up: is that it should focus not only on “effects” of PPPs but also on progress towards strategic intentions
 - A ‘multi-track’ approach
 - SEA follow up even if the PPP is not implemented?

c) Little evidence on practical application

- There has been little evidence presented on systematic application of SEA follow up, especially its “management” elements ...
 - though many separate elements have been reported in relation to various frameworks

d) What does SEA follow up need?

- Refining and disseminating the concepts:
 - Linking up with relevant SEA discourses (tiering, ‘evolutionary’ public participation, staging data collection)
 - What is ‘strategic’ in SEA follow up?
- Systematizing empirical evidence and lessons
- “Organizational anchoring”: who should do SEA follow up?
- “Tool interaction”: what environmental management tools can be used in conjunction with SEA follow up?
 - Planning reviews, management plans, EMS, environmental monitoring and reporting, audits, etc.
- e) ... what does IAIA need?

- Continuous discussion of SEA follow up!

D6 / SEA Review

- Practice exists, but to a limited extent related to SEA
- Different perspectives (process, products like environmental report, and outcome)
- Compliance AND good practice is necessary (only compliance is too less, does it make sense?)
- Linking objectives with targets and indicators (not only for review, it is important for monitoring, too)
- Consider transboundary issues (Kiev Protocol)
- EIA Commission Netherlands is reviewing every EIA, its comments are available on the internet; good model for the strategic level, too
- Presentation on SEA process review criteria (approx. 100), applied for three Scottish SEAs
- Canada: Checklist for review, might serve as a training tool, too

Last sheet

- It was only possible to present some highlights and messages, of course
- A subjective selection has been done by the presenter (in one hour during lunch time ☺)
- Overall topic is “experience and perspectives in SEA”, I think, there are still too less experiences, but a lot of perspectives and challenges.