

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Macroeconomic and Sectoral Reforms

Building on WB clients' experience and new directions

Objectives

- Raise awareness on the potential of SEA in supporting good development policy lending in Central European countries
- Identify key SEA resources and tools in the same set of countries
- Highlight commonalities and differences between WB and other financiers' approaches to SEA applied to macroeconomic and sectoral reforms

Rationale

Macroeconomic and sectoral budget support (which includes structural funds, adjustment operations and development policy lending) constitutes an increasing part of the World Bank portfolio and pipeline in Central Europe. These funds are meant to catalyze fundamental reforms and policy making in key sectors such as energy, forestry and water. On the side of the recipients, awareness of the potential benefits of SEA, as well as the capacity to initiate, inspire, manage and review SEA is often lacking and limits the development impacts of these SEAs. Some core principles for effective SEAs should be communicated to key decision and policy makers in the recipient countries, and this workshop is an opportunity to communicate these core principles and provide the audience with key pointers to help SEAs be more appropriate and effective on structural funds and development policy lending.

Target audience

- Specialists and policy makers from international financial institutions that work in Central Europe
- Staff from national and regional/sub-national authorities responsible for environmental planning, management and policy-making
- Parliamentarians and CEOs
- Private SEA consultants
- Professional trainers and university professors
- Other public and private donors funding programmatic reforms in Central Europe

Tentative schedule

8:30 am to 7:00 pm

Morning	WB development policy loans and their SEA requirements/practices
	Case studies
	Questions and answers and selection of issues for the group discussion
Afternoon	Breakout groups on the 3-4 issues identified
	Briefing from the rapporteurs
	Wrap up with a panel of four independent experts
6:00 pm	Cocktail

Registration

The World Bank Day event is free of charge, but pre-registration is required. Please mark the indication of interest on the registration form (page 29). Registration for the World Bank Day will close when capacity for the main conference is reached.