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The Role of EIA for Decision-Making and Formulation of Alternatives – Evaluation of Influence

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The Research Task

- ✦ The influence of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) procedures on the decision-making
- ✦ How EIA effects on the formulation of alternatives of certain project?
- ✦ Operation with three cases
- ✦ The creation of more theoretical framework and model

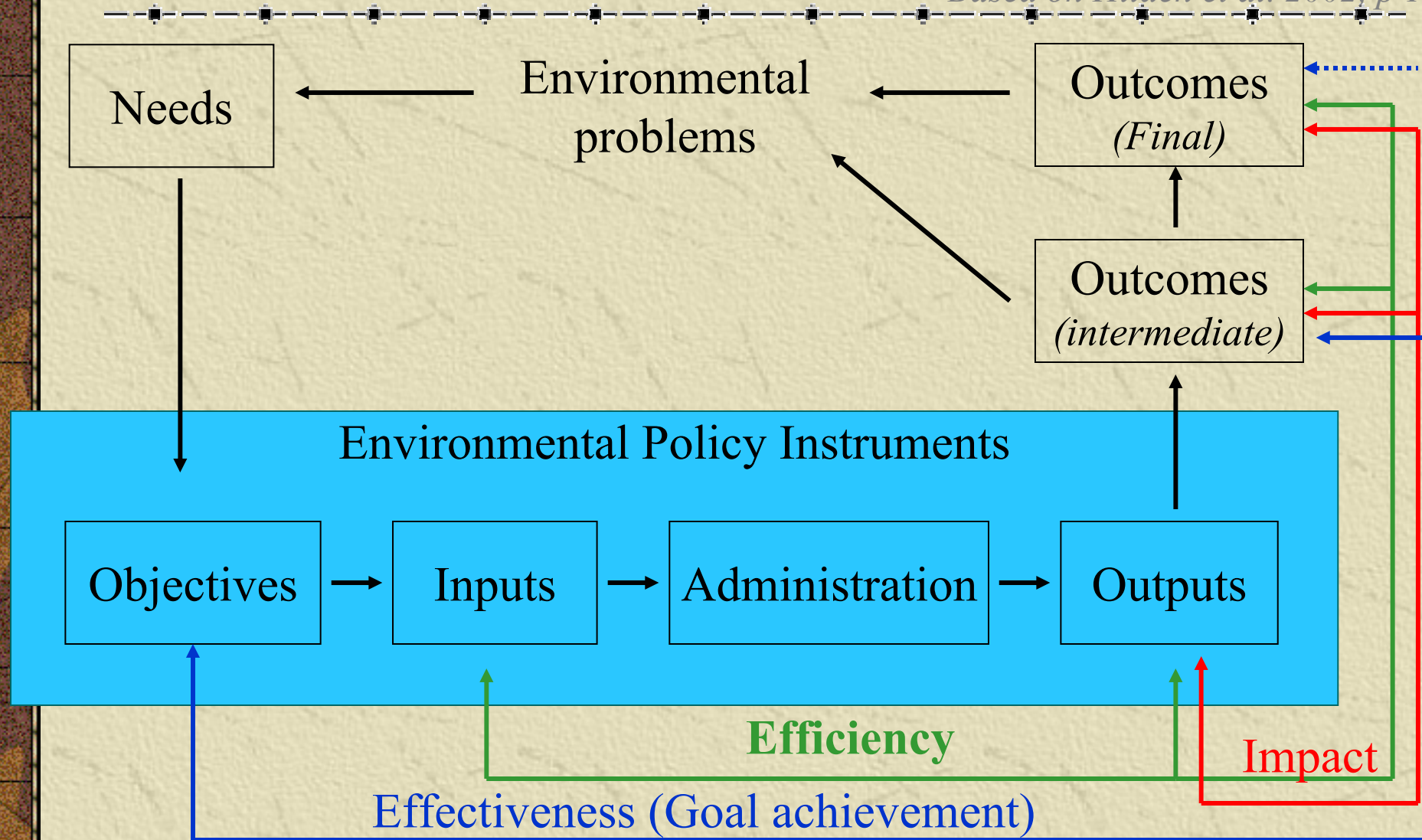
Research Cases

- ✠ Fingrid Ltd's 400 kW power line between Muhos and the Swedish border
 - ✠ Posiva Ltd's nuclear waste deposit
 - ✠ Central Finland road district's project for improving highway 4
- Different type/size/location
 - Two most typical EIA-projects included

The input-output model of policy instruments

Examples of criteria for evaluation

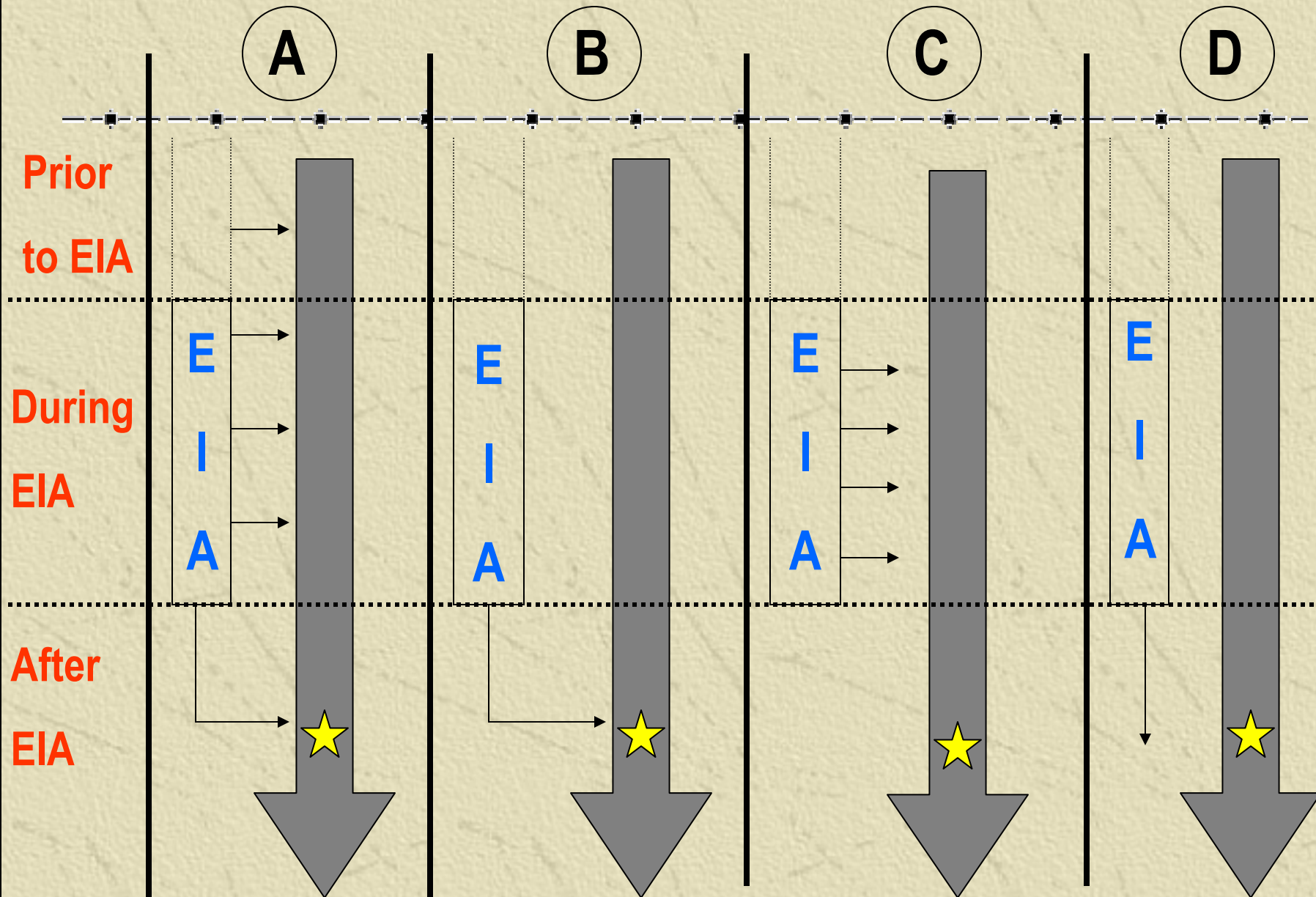
Based on Hildén et al. 2002, p 1



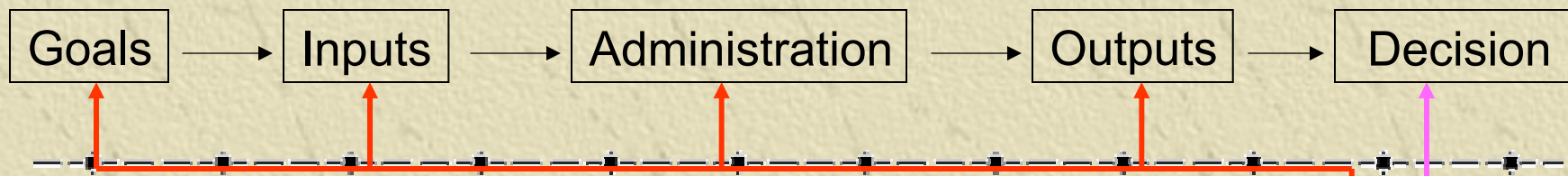
Framework for the Influence of EIA on Formulation of Project and Decision-Making

	Effects on the project alternatives	Effects on the decision-making process
Prior to EIA	A. Consideration of the environmental impacts e.g. assessment of local features, former conditions and definition of the project	B. Consciousness of environmental legislation obligations e.g. timeout in decision-making, presentation of decision-making, other parallel processes
During EIA	C. Practical advancement of the project e.g. recognition and valuation of environmental impacts	D. Adaptation of environmental legislation principles e.g. consideration of environmental issues, make public participation and public debate possible
After EIA	E. Adaptation of the project to local level e.g. prevention or mitigation of environmental impacts	F. Realisation of environmental policy e.g. supporting decision-making, acceptability

Theoretical Models of the Influence of EIA



Decision-making process/Formulation of the project



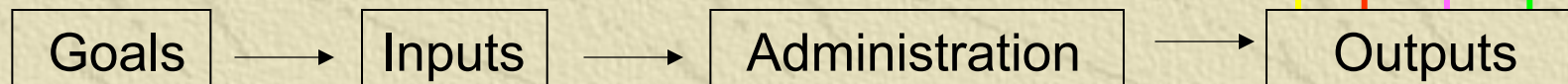
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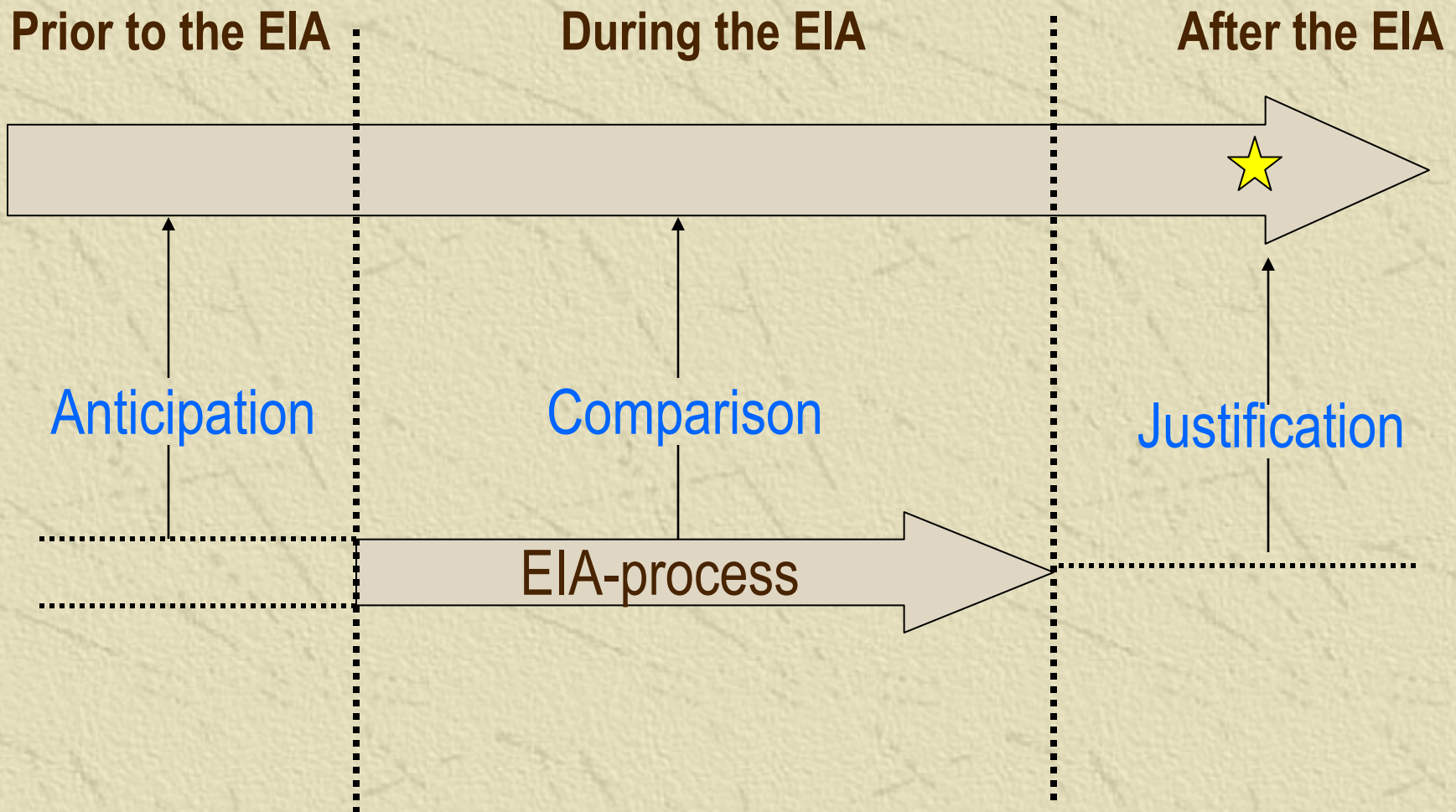
Impacts

D



Environmental Impact Assessment procedure

Influence Connection between the EIA and Decision-Making



The Influence of EIA in the Cases

	The power line case	The nuclear waste case	The road case
Prior to the EIA (anticipation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary examination of technical alternatives• A negotiation concerning the role of the EIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlling the publicity• Connecting the EIA to the planning of "basic model"	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary formulation of road line alternatives• Linking the EIA to the decision-making process
During the EIA (comparison)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Absorbing of alternatives to the land use plan• The alternative choice of the developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Examination between candidate municipalities• Building social acceptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A new compromising alternative• Identification of the polarisation of environmental impacts
After the EIA (justification)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The alternative choice of land use authority• Justification• Subjects for follow-up examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Justification• Alternatives for follow-up planning

Conclusions

- ✧ The influence of EIA is not a one-time impact
- ✧ EIA affects all along the decision-making process
- ✧ Anticipation, comparison, justification
- ✧ The most essential impact is the direct influence on the formulation of the project (i.e. the preparation of the decision-making) → indirect influence on the formal decision-making
- ✧ Dependence on the context and the planning history of the project → "feedback"