

# SEA and Strategies for Sustainable Development

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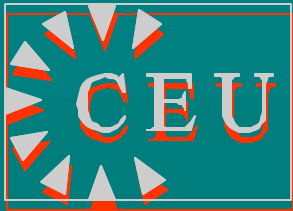
# Central European University

- ❖ International post-graduate research university founded in 1991 by George Soros, located in Budapest, Hungary
- ❖ Promoting a system of education in which ideas are creatively, critically, and comparatively examined
- ❖ Students from over 50 countries, faculty from ca. 20 countries
- ❖ The Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy is a regional center of excellence in environmental policy and management scholarship
- ❖ Welcome to visit at Nádor u. 9 in Budapest (or at [www.ceu.hu](http://www.ceu.hu))!

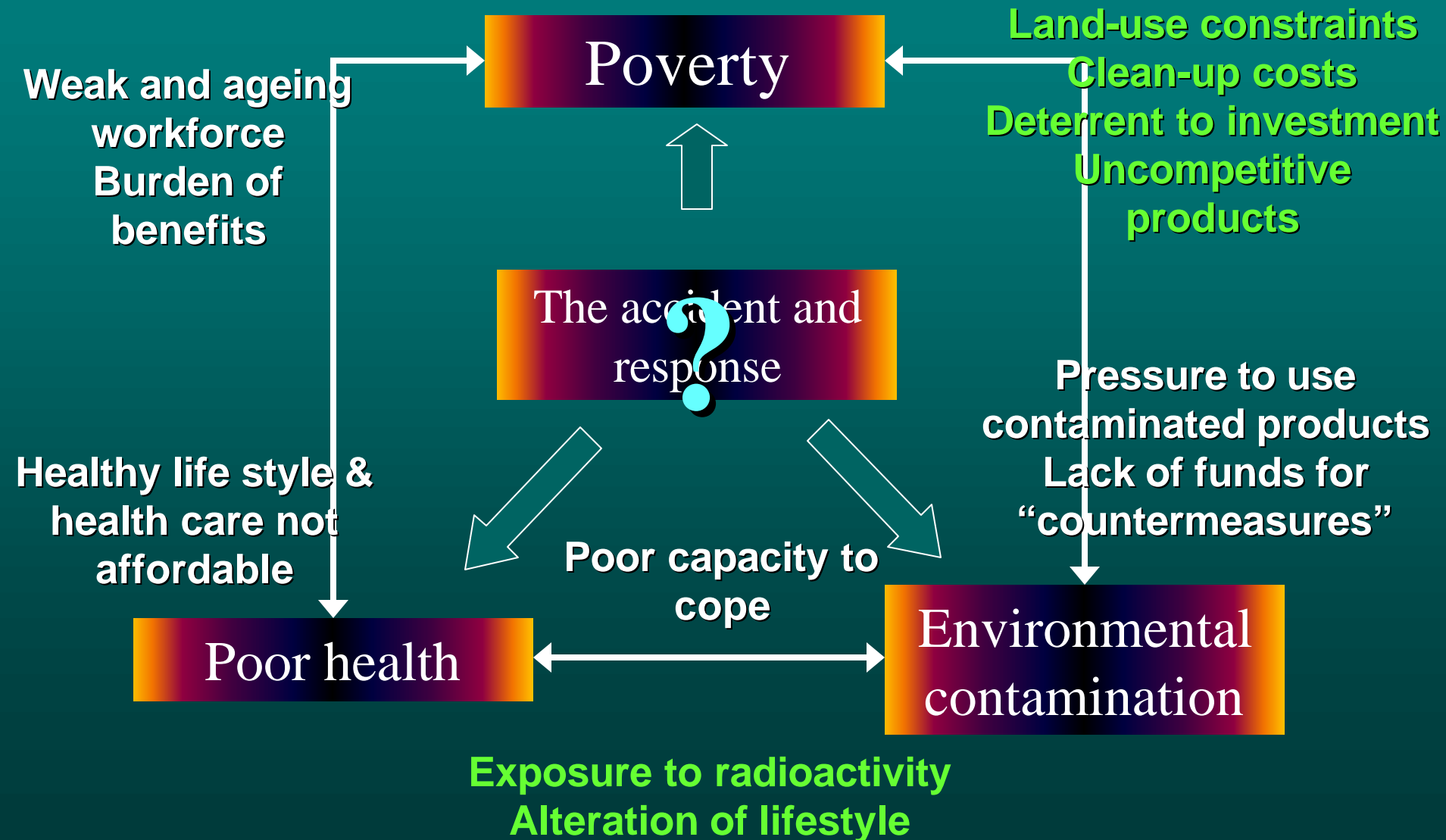


# April 26, 1986 – and 18 years later





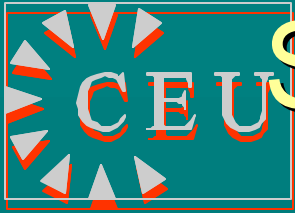
# Social, environmental and economic impacts of Chernobyl





# National Strategies for Sustainable Development (NSSDs)

- ◆ Requirement for each country to develop an NSSD was adopted at Rio and reinforced at Johannesburg
  - ◆ a strategy for sustainable development is:
    - “A co-ordinated set of participatory and continuously improving processes of analysis, debate, capacity-strengthening, planning and investment, which integrates the economic, social and environmental objectives of society, seeking trade offs where this is not possible”
- OECD, 2001
- ◆ National strategies for sustainable development should be seen as processes, not new plans
- DFID 2000
- ◆ Examples of NSSDs include Comprehensive Development Frameworks, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers, etc.



# Selected current trends in NSSDs

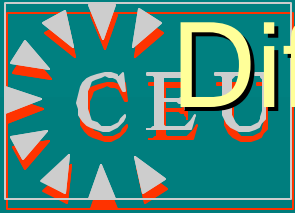
- ❖ Moving away from a “fixed” plan towards adaptive systems and processes that accommodate monitoring, learning and improvement
- ❖ Moving away from exclusive responsibility of the state
- ❖ Moving from centralised and rigid decision-making to negotiations and concerted actions
- ❖ Moving from sectoral towards integrated planning





# Rationale of applying SEA of NSSDs

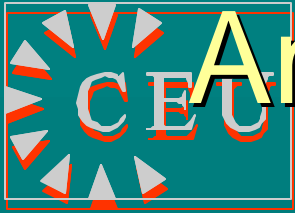
- ◆ Ensuring comprehensive inclusion of environmental goals into the NSSD
- ◆ Ensuring integration of environmental considerations into non-environmental components of NSSD
- ◆ Ensuring proper consultation with environmental stakeholders and public participation



# Difficulties in applying SEA to NSSDs

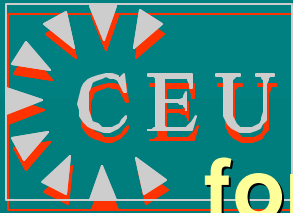
- ❖ Special role of SEA is difficult to justify
  - Why not social, economic and other assessments?
- ❖ Contribution of SEA is difficult to pin-point:
  - NSSDs seek to establish environmental goals
  - NSSDs contain extensive environmental analysis
  - NSSDs are based on broad consultation and public participation
- ❖ Suitability of traditional SEA paradigms
  - NSSDs are not only “planning” processes, they include elements of policy, implementation, monitoring capacity development and learning, etc.
  - NSSDs are essentially not self-standing processes





# An approach to evaluating NSSDs

- ❖ Sustainable development is a process as well as a “product”
- ❖ Assessment should be both product- and process-oriented
- ❖ Using general principles rather than more detailed assessment criteria
- ❖ Extending to “implementation” as well as “planning” elements.



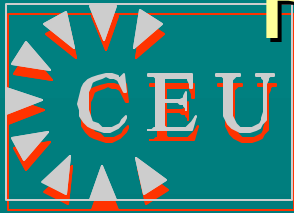
# IDPM principles and criteria for national sustainability strategies

Sustainable development principles		Strategic planning principles		
A. Integration of Economic, Social and Environmental Objectives	B. Participation and Consensus	C. Country Ownership and Commitment	D. Comprehensive and Coherent Policy Process	E. Targeting, Resourcing and Monitoring
Integration Social and poverty issues Environmental and resource issues International Commitments	Involvement of stakeholders Transparency and accountability Communication and public awareness Long-term vision and consensus	High level government commitment Broad-based political support Responsibilities for implementation Coordination with donors	Build on existing processes Analysis and information Realistic goals Decentralisation	Budgetary provision Capacity for implementation Targets and indicators Monitoring and feedback



# Application of the IDPM criteria in Eastern Europe

- ❖ National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of Belarus (2002-2004) (applied within the SEA of the strategy)
- ❖ NSSD of Slovakia (evaluated in 2002 applied independently from SEA)
- ❖ Five Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) strategies in Croatia (2002) (SEA evaluated)
- ❖ Five ICAM strategies in Ukraine (2003) (SEA evaluated)
- ❖ Environmental and agri-environmental programs in Hungary (2003) (no connection to SEA)



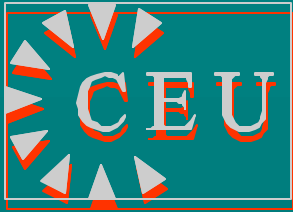
# Results of using the IDPM criteria in Eastern Europe

- ✿ The IDPM criteria provide a framework for strategic planning reform in transition countries
  - Towards more integratory, participatory and decentralized planning
- ✿ NSSDs in Eastern Europe are extensive and influential processes driven primarily by national agendas with attention to all pillars of sustainable development
- ✿ However, the NSSDs processes are primarily “expert-driven”
  - The agents of sustainable development are not clearly defined
  - Implementation elements are often very weak
  - Integration is not really achieved as well as trade-offs, priority setting etc.
  - Integration is also hindered by the domination of one Ministry (e.g. the Ministry of the Environment) of the process



# Concluding observations: the interaction of SEA and NSSDs

- ❖ “Traditional” application of SEA can be enhanced
  - Adding “process” to “substance” criteria
  - “Continuous” application may be as essential as “early” application
- ❖ IDPM criteria may be useful in SEAs of NSSDs, especially if:
  - Tensions between different principles are tackled
  - Realistic, context-specific expectations are developed
- ❖ In the context of NSSDs, SEA may become a more self-reflective process (cf. to SIA), looking at its own performance



# Thank you!

## ◆ More information:

- A.Cherp and R.Vrbensky: **“Sustainability and Transition: Synergies, Opportunities, Threats”** (*UNDP Development Policy Journal*, v. 1, 2002)
- A.Cherp and R.Vrbensky: **“Capacities for Sustainability Planning in Countries in Transition”** (submitted to *Sustainable Development*)
- C.Kirkpatrick, C.George and A.Cherp **“Methodology for assessing NSSDs and its pilot application in countries in transition”** (submitted to *Environmental Planning C*)
- [www.ceu.hu/envsci/aleg/research/](http://www.ceu.hu/envsci/aleg/research/)