

SEA and Strategic Decision-Making: The Case of Health-Inclusive SEA. The Ghana Experience with Energy and Transport SEA

SECTION 1 – Basic information

- a. Course title: "SEA and strategic decision-making - experiences in developed and developing countries. The case of health inclusive SEA"
- b. Level: Advanced Course
- c. Prerequisites for participants: Participants are required to have medium to high knowledge-based experience on planning/policy and EIA.
- d. Language of delivery: English
- e. Duration: 2 days
- f. Minimum and maximum # participants: minimum 10; maximum: 25
- g. Trainers:

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SECTION 2 – Course description

- a. Summary of the purpose(s), content, and anticipated learning outcomes (300 words)

IAIA'07 pre-conference training course on SEA is set to address SEA as a strategic decision-making support instrument, that operates through strategic thinking approaches directed towards sustainability, and an emphasis on how SEA can be made health-inclusive.

It will introduce the purpose, logic, key functions and activities of what constitutes good practice in SEA, following a strategic methodological approach with a holistic and integrated impact assessment focus towards sustainable development. It will consider both developed and developing countries realities, and will address the context within which strategic decisions in policy-making, planning and programme development are taken. The emphasis will be on the role of SEA, and how SEA need to be formulated, to influence the

information, communication, prioritization, transparency and other fundamental issues in strategic decision-making.

The course does not intend to provide one solution, or a particular recipe, for good practice SEA. It will (1) drive participants through key concepts and issues in SEA, (2) review current practices in different countries and respective approaches and (3) focus on the characteristics and requirements of strategic assessments to assist decision-making towards quality in development decisions for sustainability. One of the aspects that distinguish Maria Partidario's training courses on SEA is the strategic nature of the methodological approach the international overview that reflect different perspectives and approaches to SEA, illustrated with case-studies and the encouragement to innovative thinking in SEA. The capacity-building approach invites participants to understand the key elements and components of SEA that constitute good practice and explore the needs adapted to each national, or organizational, decision-making realities.

IAIA'07 course will emphasize health-inclusive SEA. Course participants will have learned the purpose, logic, methodological approaches and key functions and activities in SEA and also assess needs for implementing SEA systems in respective countries in view of facilitating more sustainable decision-making.

b. Detailed description of the course structure and content, including an outline of participatory and/or case-study based exercise (2 pages minimum)

The SEA course is structured in two days: The first is organized to provide knowledge-based information on SEA, including theory concepts, and international experience to illustrate both the development of SEA as a legal/regulatory instrument, and also SEA as a process-methodology that runs parallel and complementary to policy/planning processes, with reference to particular tools normally used in SEA. The second day provides for a simulated application of SEA to semi-real cases, where some parameters come from real-life cases while others are simulated to make the cases interesting for an international diverse group.

The general structure and content of the course follows:

Day 1

Morning

Introduction to course aims and structure

Background, key concepts and overview of international experience

What is and why doing SEA

Evolution, mixture of concepts - Schools and models of SEA

Background concepts, principles and rules of good practice

Health concepts, the social model of health, and how to use it in SEA

SEA and EIA relationship

Group discussion on the different types of SEA and expected outcomes

The role of SEA in decision-making

Sustainability as a key SEA driver

Lunch

Afternoon

Group discussion on the potential role of SEA in decision-making

- Overview of SEA experience in different parts of the world
- SEA legislation, institutions and practice
- Capacity-building processes on SEA – some experiences

Key elements and practices in SEA

- Methodological approaches to SEA - Illustrations from selected countries
- Framework concept in approaching SEA

Day 2

Morning

Group exercise: How to do an SEA (Working groups on a simulated case on Health inclusive SEA)

- Understanding the problem
- Analysing options
- Scoping impacts
- Stakeholders engagement

Lunch

Afternoon

- SEA framework approach
- Preparing the argument
- Groups presentation and discussion

Closing

This years course will have a special emphasis on health issues relevant at SEA level and will distinguish developed and developing countries realities. With the special participation of Lea den Broeder, Health Impact Assessment expert, the course will lead participants to look at health issues in the context of the cases to be further developed but engaging industry, water related strategies or urban related contexts. For developing countries strategic plans concerning industrial development or mining or water basins or irrigation schemes are being considered. For developed countries a municipal or regional plan is thought to be an interesting case. The participants group will split up in the developed and developing country subgroups, considering that health issues are very different in these country's realities. The purpose is to enable participants to identify health related factors and how these are approached and factored at strategic levels, consequent key issues to be analysed and how these health issues are related to other environmental, social and economic relevant issues that require normal consideration in an holistic approach to the specific context of the cases being considered.

Given the need for great adaptiveness of SEA to decision-making processes, course participants are invited to interchange their experiences with respect to national decision-making procedures and respective needs, or current application, with SEA. Participants are engaged in discussion groups in both days. On the first day dicussion is encouraged to address particular aspects being discussed, both as a general goup and also in working groups. On the second day the course exercises are run with working groups, where participatory methodologies are sought, such as role-playing, depending on the final set and diversity of participants enrolled.

There is a possibility that this SEA course will be linked up to another course on SEA and Sustainability Assessment led by Dr. Jonathan Allotey, from Ghana EPA, as successfully

happened at IAIA'06 (Stavanger). The idea has already been agreed, however it was not possible to establish the details of content and collaboration in time to be ready for the submission deadline.

c. Description of the materials participants will receive during the course

Folder with slides presented at the course, with up-dated list of bibliography and key website contacts. Course manual (Maria Partidário author's edition, available in the IAIA website) and other supporting papers.

d. Provisions for post-conference follow-up with participants. IAIA Training Discussion Forum (IAIA website) and Follow-up support through e-mail exchange

SECTION 3 – Trainer(s)

Maria R. Partidario, PhD, professor at IST (Instituto Superior Técnico), Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, long-standing trainer, environment, planning and sustainability consultant; has trained more than 600 participants throughout the world in 2 to 5 days training courses on SEA, both in the context of IAIA pre-meeting courses and in national contexts (in Europe, Latin America, South East Asia and Africa).

Maria was co-team leader in the SEA Distance Learning Course for China, led by the World Bank in collaboration with SEPA (China) and IAIA. Over the years several training courses have been designed and conducted by Maria under contract with private, public and governmental institutions in different countries and as pre-meeting courses at IAIA annual conferences since 1998. Maria is the author of a Training Manual on SEA (available at the IAIA website), co-editor of two internationally published key books on SEA (one with Riki Therivel, 1996, the other with Ray Clark, 2000), and has authored and co-authored several book chapters and journal articles on SEA. In Portuguese she authored the Manual on Environmental Planning and co-authored the Manual on EIA, both for the Open University in Portugal.

Maria was a member of the UNEP Expert Group established to oversee the preparation of the EIA Training Resource Manual, and advised on its 2002 up-date, particularly on the SEA chapter. She developed SEA guidance for land-use planning in Portugal, was an advisor to ELARD, S.A. in developing an SEA model for Lebanon, for UNDP and the Lebanese Ministry of Environment, provided consultancy to the Inter-American Development Bank in developing SEA guidance and to UNDP. Over the past year she has been running two capacity-building programmes on SEA, one for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ministry of the Environment (now completed) and the second for the Federal government of Brazil, Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Environment. She was also appointed for the experts panel that overviewed the preparation of the European Union Manual on Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Trans European Network and was contracted by the Beacon team to assist in the 2005 review of this Manual. Maria was President of the International Association for Impact Assessment in 1997-98, and awarded the IAIA Individual Award in 2002 for contributions made to the advancement of SEA internationally.

Background: First graduation on *Environmental Engineering*, MSc on *Regional and Urban Planning* and PhD (Aberdeen University, Scotland) on *Strategic Environmental Assessment*.

Lea den Broeder MA MPH, is a senior researcher at the *RIVM, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment* in the Netherlands. She has worked on Health Impact Assessment both on project and on strategic level. She has cooperated in an international project lead by the University of Liverpool, developing and applying guidelines for EU policy HIA. She has done work on HIA capacity building in Lithuania, which included running a 2-day HIA course. For the Dutch Ministry of Health she has done advisory work on the inclusion of health considerations in other policies. At this moment Lea leads a project on the inclusion of health in EIA and SEA, leading to a web-based manual and guide. Lea was the chairperson of the HIA section within IAIA until 2006. Currently she leads IAIA's Sections Coordinating Committee.

IAIA'07 Course proposal: "SEA and strategic decision-making: experiences in developed and developing countries. The case of health inclusive SEA. The Ghana experience with SEA /sustainability appraisal applications to the Energy and Transport sector".

Joint initiative led by Maria Partidário and Jonathan Allotey

IAIA'07 pre-conference training course on SEA is set to address SEA as a strategic decision-making support instrument, that operates through strategic thinking approaches driven by sustainability, with an emphasis on how SEA can be made health-inclusive.

The purpose of the course is to review and discuss the role of SEA, how SEA need to be formulated to be more effective with information, communication, prioritization, transparency and other fundamental issues in strategic decision-making. It will consider both the realities of the developed and developing countries in relation to policy-making contexts, planning frameworks and the role that impact assessment is playing, and can play, in strategic contexts. Special attention will be given to the consideration of health issues in SEA, when and how to consider relevant health considerations, what are the implications in developed and developing countries in relation to current SEA practices.

Content and format

The course will not provide recipes for good practice SEA. Instead it will (1) drive participants through the evolution of SEA to understand the role and the rationale of SEA in decision-making, (2) review and discuss selected practices and approaches in different countries and (3) focus on the framework and on the working tools for strategic assessments, that need to be shaped to each decision-making context to enable an effective role of SEA in strategic decisions for sustainability.

The course is organized in two parts. Part I runs on Day 1 for all course participants, and will provide knowledge-based information on SEA, including theory concepts, and international experience, including both developed and developing countries, to illustrate the development of SEA as a legal/regulatory instrument and also SEA as a process-methodology that runs parallel and complementary to policy/planning processes, with reference to particular tools normally used in SEA. Particular attention will be given to the consideration of health issues in SEA. Day 1 will close with a presentation and discussion on an overall framework for SEA.

Part II runs on Day 2 in parallel sessions, for different groups in separate rooms: See group option (A/B) above.

Group C option will be running a workshop, providing a focus for discussion and debate about practical applications of SEA/SA in developing countries, the strengths and weaknesses of the processes, and methodological issues. Principles for performing SEA and sustainability appraisal in developing countries are presented. Led by professionals from the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana, headed by Jonathan Allotey, and from consultants in Ghana and the UK, this session will be based on techniques developed in Western Africa to meet the needs of national, regional and local decision-makers coming from diverse social, cultural and economic backgrounds. These methods (compound matrix, compatibility matrix and sustainability test) should have applications in other developing countries. The focus

of the workshop will be on sharing experience from different developing countries, using case study material developed for previous workshops in Ghana, Tanzania and South Africa. Special focus will be given to the Energy and Transports sector, based on the Ghana experience.

Target audience/participant background

Medium to high level of experience on planning/policy and EIA. Those participating in the Day 2 group exercises with Maria Partidario and Lea den Broeder should have advanced experience in SEA.

Instructors

Maria Rosário Partidário (mpartidario@gmail.com) is Associate Professor at the Technical University of Lisbon (IST); trainer; and environmental planning and sustainability consultant. **Lea den Broeder** (Lea.den.Broeder@rivm.nl) is a Health Impact Assessment specialist with the RIVM, National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands. Maria will lead the course in Day 1, with the special participation of Lea den Broeder and Jonathan Allotey, and on Day 2 will conduct the group exercise session together with Lea den Broeder.

Jonathan Allotey will lead the workshop on Day 2; he is Executive Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana. He will be assisted by **Christine Asare**, SEA Coordinator, **Badu-Yeaoah** and **Appah Sampong**, SEA facilitators of the Ghanaian EPA; and by consultants **Evans Darko-Mensah**, Director at Refast Consulting in Ghana and **Peter Nelson**, Principal at Land Use Consultants in the UK.

COURSE PROGRAMME

DAY	TIME	COURSE ACTIVITY	
1	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA principles and SEA's status worldwide links between SEA, environmental impact assessment, and strategic decision-making 	
1	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health-inclusive SEA - key issues to be analysed and how to consider these health issues in holistic approaches 	
1	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA tools, techniques, and methodological approaches, their advantages and disadvantages in different cultural decision-making contexts Framework approach to SEA 	
		Group A	Group B
2	AM	How to do an SEA (Working groups on simulated cases on Health inclusive SEA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding the problem and setting a vision - Analysing options to meet objectives in a holistic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three exercises on the use of sea tools- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> compound matrix, compatibility matrix, and

		context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sustainability test <p>Note: These will entail five groups of five people. The exercises will give hands on practice of the use of these tools</p>
2	AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scoping impacts - Stakeholders engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conduct of the SEA of the Transport and Energy Sector SEAs
2	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SWOT analysis and/or application of other assessment tools - Preparing the arguments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understanding the key issues affecting and constraining the development of SEA
2	PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Groups presentation and discussion. Comparing results 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEAs link to MDGs and NEPAD