

# Integration of environmental assessment into plan and program making process

## Experience from Central and Eastern Europe

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# EU Accession Countries



- 10 countries of Central and Eastern Europe
- Transition from centrally controlled economy to free-market „democracy“
- Similar, but delayed reforms in South East Europe

# Selected SEA projects in CEE

## Czech Republic

- National Energy Policy(1998), National Development Plan (2001, 2002), Sectoral Operational Programme for Tourism (2001), National Waste Management Plan (2002)
- Development Strategy of Plzen Region (1999), Regional Development Programme for SouthWest (2001),

**Slovenia:** National Development Plan (2000, 2001)

**Poland:** National Development Plan (2002)

**Hungary:** Regional Operational Programme (2002)

**Estonia:** National Development Plan (2002)



# Presentation outline

- SEA for Czech Sectoral Operational Programme for Tourism
- Views of government officials
- Recommendations for integration of SEA into strategic planning



**Case example:**

**SEA for Czech Sectoral  
Operational Programme for  
Tourism**



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# Process management

- assessment focus– environment (SEA) – the same philosophy applies
- SEA based on intensive consultations with the planning team, Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of Environment
- 4 months, SEA team – 3 experts, total 70 person days
- SEA broken down into individual environmental assessment of
  - current state of the sector
  - specific goals of the programming document
  - proposed activities
  - implementation plan
  - monitoring plan



# Env. assessment of the current state of the sector

- Review of env. issues in the analytical part of the programming document (situation analysis and SWOT analysis):
  - Key environmental problems arising from intensive tourism (individual car transport, impacts in protected areas, etc.)
  - Key environmental issues affecting attractiveness of destinations (air, noise and water pollution, loss of biodiversity and attractiveness of countryside, etc.)



# Env. assessment of objectives

- Review of env. objectives of the programming document and suggestion of specific env. goals for the programming document:
  - No env. objective found in the programming document
  - SEA team developed a set of 10 specific env. goals for tourism (based on National Environmental Policy and environmental criteria for tourism developed by the World Tourism Organisation and the 7th Session of CSD)
  - SEA team agreed on these objectives with Ministry of Regional Development and Ministry of Environment (to ensure that both authorities support their use to optimise the programming document)



# Environmental objectives for Tourism

- Support adoption of environmental management systems (ISO 14000, EMAS) in tourism industry,
- Regulate number of tourists in areas heavily affected by tourism,
- Disperse tourism in time and space,
- Support environmentally friendly means of transport in areas attractive for tourisms, including city centers,
- Improve local env. quality (e.g. local air quality, water quality, noise levels and attractiveness of urban areas),
- Maintain biodiversity and attractiveness of landscape,
- Protect local cultural heritage,
- Inform visitors about key features of local environment and how to protect it,
- Enhance community participation in management of tourist sites.



# Env. assessment of proposed activities

- Evaluation of relationship between env. goals for tourism and proposed measures/activities:
  - modified Leopold Matrix used to evaluate performance of each measure against set of 10 goals – evaluation scale:
    - -2: very negative impact,
    - 0: indifferent
    - +2: very positive impact
  - Evaluation used to suggest:
    - reformulations of measures
    - conditions for their implementation



# Example of Assessment Matrix

<b>Measures / Activities</b>	<b>Relevant Env. Goals</b>				<b>Reformulation of measure / activity</b>	<b>Conditions for implementation</b>



# Env. assessment of implementation plan

- environmental evaluation was suggested for all projects that implement the strategy:
  - preliminary evaluation (to guide design of projects)
  - formal evaluation (to guide selection of projects),
- environmental authorities should review quality of environmental evaluation during selection of individual projects,
- SEA recommended draft scope of EIA (key issues and alternatives) for specific investment projects that will require full EIA.



# Env. assessment of monitoring plan

- SEA team suggested a set of specific indicators to measure whether the programming document meets its specific environmental objectives (one indicator per each environmental objective)
- monitoring data obtained through environmental evaluation of each individual project



# SEA and the planning and programming process

...comments by senior officials in  
CEE



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# Estonia

Ms. Kerli Lorvi, Ministry of Finance, Estonia

- SEA is not a complicated and theoretical tool. It was a flexible mechanism that gave us feedback from environmental experts.
- It ran in parallel to the elaboration of the Estonian Single Programming Document and provided operative and practical inputs.
- It helped us to improve quality of the document and increased awareness among NGOs of the entire planning process.



# Poland

Piotr Zuber, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Social Policy,

- The SEA for the first National Development Plan of Poland provided us with useful recommendations for improved consideration of environmental issues.
- The SEA has a wider applicability and can also be used in elaboration of other documents. We will be able to use the lessons learned and methodology developed in the future.



# Hungary

Ms. Ágnes Somfai, Prime Minister's Office, Hungary

- SEA helped us to improve the quality of the Hungarian Regional Operational Program since its proponents often did not take into account natural resources, which form the basis of any economic activity.
- The SEA team identified the main relevant environmental issues and helped us to consider this information throughout the entire planning process.
- SEA also facilitated our cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, other sectoral ministries and regional authorities during environmental optimising of the programme.



# Czech Republic

Mr. Tomas Nejd, Ministry of Regional Development, CR

- SEA was very useful experience in elaboration of the Czech National Development Plan. It had benefits that went beyond its original purpose of ensuring full consideration of sustainable development during the planning process.
- SEA helped us to improve openness of the entire programming process and established a “bridge” between the planning team and the public. This turned out to be very positive feature that we later very much appreciated.



# Practical recommendations for integration of SEA into strategic planning

How to customise SEA to provide right env. analyses within planning process



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# SEA and planning process

- SEA is a means for coherent planning
- It has to be integrated into the planning process
- It should strengthen rather than replace env. evaluations that already exist within the planning process
  
- Review the existing strategic decision process
  - its internal logic, key tasks and formal steps,
  - environmental evaluations
  - consultation mechanisms
  
- Upgrade these existing provisions to meet requirements of good SEA practice



# Coordination of strategic planning process and SEA

Tasks in the elaboration of plan/program	Corresponding tasks in elaboration of SEA Report	Consultations with (env-health) authorities	Public access to info. and public consultations
.....	.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....	.....



# Elaboration of plans and programs

## Usual tasks and logic

1. **Initiation** (ToR for the plan/programme - its aims and relation to other P/Ps)
2. **Analysis of existing problems within the relevant area or sector**
3. **Determination of specific goals of the plan/programme**
4. **Development and evaluation of possible “strategic” scenarios**
5. **Detailed design** of selected scenario
6. **Design of implementation system and monitoring system**
7. **Final proposal** of P/P and **Decision** on P/P (+ justification for decision-maker)



# Coordination of SEA requirements with planning/programming process – I.

Usual tasks in elaboration of the P/P	Corresponding environmental analyses	Consult. with authorities	Consult. with public
Initiation of the P/P	SEA screening	?	?
Analysis of existing problems within the area or sector	Analysis of environmental baseline for the P/P - (b), (c), (d)	?	?
Determination of specific goals of the P/P	Determination of relevant env. objectives for the P/P - (e.1)	?	?



# Coordination of SEA requirements with planning/programming process – II.

Usual tasks in elaboration of the P/P	Corresponding environmental analyses	Consult. with authorities	Consult. with public
Strategic scenarios	Review of consistency of proposed scenarios with relevant env. objectives (e2)	?	?
Design of specific measures/actions	Assessment of their possible env. effects + design of mitigation measures – (f), (g),	?	?



# Coordination of SEA requirements with planning/programming process – III.

Usual tasks in elaboration of the P/P	Corresponding environmental analyses	Consult. with authorities	Consult. with public
Implementation and monitoring system	Design of env. monitoring system	?	?
Final proposal of the P/P	Key findings and uncertainties and summary for decision-maker	?	?

