



Accomplishments and challenges of SEA implementation in Europe

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Results of SEA application in Europe

- **SEA has been recognized as a standard tool** (*SEA is a part of the decision-making process – all involved know what to expect from it and SEA results are taken seriously*).
- **SEA leads to changes in the SPP** (*New priorities - new alternative solutions; Environmental Criteria in the selection of projects; Conditions for implementation, etc.*)
- **SEA provides effective opportunities for public participation** (*Public is informed and uses SEA for participation in the planning process*)
- **SEA has improved policy development and strategic planning** (*draws attention to some so-far neglected issues at high levels of policy development and planning*).



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Key challenges of the SEA in Europe

- **The general lack of interest** and **lack of capacity** to focus on the most important cases.
- **Too broad application** – excessive and/or too extensive use of the SEA.
- **Just a formal procedures** with no real results - limited access when considering alternative solutions, there is no change in the SPP, the decision or the implementation of the SPP.
- **Low quality of analysis** and **insufficient quality control** – can question the results and conclusions of the SEA.

The final results?

Problems in the implementation of the SPP who have undergone the SEA procedure.



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Common myths about SEA



SEA is a tool of the competent authorities for environmental protection!

Good practice:



- ✓ SEA was originally designed to support the planning process and as such is primarily a „planners tool“.
- ✓ Nevertheless, SEA procedures provide a platform for consultations with the competent institutions for the protection of the environment and health.



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Common myths about SEA



SEA requires detailed analysis that may be unsuitable for certain planning document!

Good practice:



- ✓ The level of detail of the information and analysis in the SEA should correspond to the level of detail of the SPP for which SEA is done.
- ✓ It should be determined as part of the process of deciding on the need for SEA and its contents (scoping).



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Common myths about SEA



SEA represents a significant additional cost and extend the planning process!

Good practice:



- ✓ SEA must be properly linked to the planning process and conducted on the ex-ante way (request of SEA Directive).
- ✓ Cooperation between planning professionals and experts for SEA helps optimization of the SBA and the exchange of general data.
- ✓ Own capacities should be used



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Common myths about SEA



SEA will decide on the strategy, plan and program!

Good practice:



- ✓ SEA is not and should not be a decision making tool.
- ✓ SEA will provide information about the likely impacts on the environment and human health caused by the decision.
- ✓ Nevertheless, the conclusions of the SEA process must be taken into account in the decision (and later during the implementation of the SPP).



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