

ECRAN Working Group: Environmental Assessment

Activity 2.4

1st TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON SEA/EIA

TRAINING WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

Since the local authorities/municipalities and other local stakeholders have an important role in SEA/EIA implementation, it is important to create a core group of the trainers in the ECRAN countries to ensure the knowledge transfer to the local level. The overall ToT scheme invites 3 representatives from each beneficiary country and it shall result in the country-specific SEA/EIA training packages and follow-up training strategies. Altogether three ToT events shall be organized during the project, while in between the ToT trainings the trainers should conduct trainings at the local level in their countries.

As agreed at the 1st Annual Meeting of the EA WG, the 1st ToT session will be organized in September 2014.

This paper provides description of the approach and methodology to be used at the training event as well as the outline of the training materials.

Training goals:

The 1st ToT session (4-day long) will focus mainly on developing the drafts of the country specific SEA/EIA training material as well as on training techniques and skills and planning of the local SEA/EIA training events. The goals can be therefore formulated as follow:

- The drafts of the country-specific SEA/EIA training materials are prepared in English (i.e. the training manual and the MS PowerPoint presentation to be used for the trainings at the local level)
- The participants are familiar with the topic i.e. with international principles of good SEA/EIA practice as well as are aware of the key issues or challenges related to SEA/EIA application in their countries
- The participants have capacity to organize and conduct the training events at the local level i.e. they have appropriate training and facilitating skills

General approach to the ToT:

The ToT will combine sections focusing on the substance (i.e. SEA/EIA-related topics) with parts addressing training, presentation and lecturing skills. The workshop approach will enable close interaction between the participants and lecturers.

The most of the sections will be arranged in the country working groups to develop – based on the training materials provided – the country-specific presentations on SEA/EIA topics.



The lecturers will be involved in the group work to assist the participants in developing the presentations. Usually morning session will be dedicated to this work.

The participants will then be asked (during afternoon session) to deliver presentation(s) and/or to facilitate the training sections and thus they will have an opportunity to enhance their lecturing and facilitating skills under the supervision of the training expert and other lecturers. Prior delivering the presentation, a short introduction to the lecturing and facilitating skills, respectively, will be provided.

Training materials:

The training manual will be prepared by the ECRAN experts prior the ToT. It will provide introduction to SEA/EIA as well as background information on usual SEA/EIA steps following the international good practice. The training manual will include following sections:

- Introduction to SEA and EIA (3 – 5 pages)
 - What is SEA and EIA
 - History and evolution
 - Main international legal documents (EC Directives, Espoo and Aarhus Conventions, UNECE SEA Protocol)
 - Linkages between SEA and EIA
- SEA and EIA processes (3 – 5 pages)
 - Key principles of SEA and EIA good practice
 - Usual steps and analyses
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Benefits and costs
- Main SEA/EIA steps (2 – 4 pages for each step below providing description of rationale, aim, overview of possible approaches and methods, topics for discussion and/or exercise and/or case studies as well as provides a structure of the presentation to be prepared – see example in Annex 1 below)
 - Screening
 - Scoping
 - Linking planning and SEA (only for SEA)
 - Baseline analysis
 - Evaluation of impacts
 - Mitigation measures and monitoring
 - Compiling SEA/EIA report
 - Quality control
 - Consultations with stakeholders



- SEA/EIA and decision-making

There will also be a part of the training manual on the “training skills” addressing following topics (approx. 10 pages):

- Presentation skills – key principles, methods and tools
- Facilitation and lecturing – key principles, methods and tools
- Workshop desing and planning
- Teambuilding and networking

Media:

The training facility will secure the following means:

- Spacious training room allowing to accommodate 8 small working groups (Note: or we can have one main room + several small meeting rooms)
- Video projector
- Flipcharts
- Place to put posters (optimally on the wall)

Participants will be asked to bring their own laptops to use them when preparing the presentations.



This Project is funded by the
European Union



A project implemented by
Human Dynamics Consortium

Annex 1 – example of the training manual’s section on screening

Topic XY: Screening

Rationale:

Many human activities may have certain environmental and health impacts. However, SEA and EIA are supposed to address mainly significant impacts. Thus, the screening identifies whether or not SEA or EIA needs to be applied for a specific plan, programme, or project. The screening is very important from efficiency of the entire SEA/EIA system point of view – well defined screening policy enables to focus the system to plans, programme and projects, which might potentially lead to significant environmental and health effects and exclude from SEA/EIA systems those with only minor (or without) environmental and health consequences.

Aim:

The aim of the screening is to identify if SEA/EIA needs to be applied for a specific plan, programme or project.

Approaches and methods:

There are various approaches to be used for screening. Often the screening is based on the list of criteria, which would help to identify if certain plan, programme or project should be a subject of SEA/EIA, or list of project types (for EIA) with or without thresholds for the project capacity or size.

In many SEA/EIA systems, the screening involves also consultations with relevant environmental and health authorities. Often, the screening is conducted directly by SEA/EIA competent authority based on the information (e.g. notification) submitted by the planning agency or the project developer.

Taking into account the requirements of the EU SEA Directive, the major criteria to be considered when conducting the screening for plans and programmes can be formulated as follows:

Question	Rationale
Is the plan or programme subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or is it prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and is it required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?	Only those plans and programmes should be considered as a subject of SEA. SEA should not be applied for ad-hoc documents, which are not formalized through any form of the legal decision or approval by the governmental authority.
Is the plan or programme prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water	The EU SEA Directive lists these sectors as the most important for strategic planning with potential significant environmental and health



management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?	impacts.
Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent of projects which may require EIA?	If the plan or programme implementation may include implementation of the projects requiring the EIA, then the significant impacts can be expected and SEA should be carried out.
Can the impacts on Natura 2000 sites be expected?	If Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Articles 6 or 7 of the Directive 92/43/EEC is required, the “full” SEA should be applied.

For the plans and programmes, which determine the use of small areas at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes, the SEA should be required only if they are likely to have significant environmental or health effects. To determine the significance of the likely impacts, criteria listed in Annex II of the EU SEA Directive can be used.

For EIA, the list of projects (or types of projects) can include inclusive or exclusive thresholds – see Box 1 below. Annex II of the EU EIA Directive can be used as an example of such a list, which has served as a basis for developing similar list in many European countries. Especially for EIA (and far less in SEA), deciding about necessity of EIA application may involve already preliminary identification of likely impacts and evaluation of their potential significance. Annex III of the EU EIA Directive provides criteria to be considered when discussing the significance of likely impacts.

Box 1 Inclusive and exclusive thresholds

Inclusive thresholds specify limits over which EIA needs to be applied (e.g. if the length of highways is more than 10 km, if the production is more than 100,000 tons / year etc.), while exclusive threshold define limits bellow which EIA is not required (e.g. if the volume of the water dam is lower than 5 mil m³, if the area of deforestation is less than 10 ha etc.).

Exercise:

Determine of SEA/EIA is needed for following plans, programmes and projects and justify your decision – use criteria stipulated by your national legislation or by the EU SEA/EIA Directive. Answer also following questions:

- Are information available sufficient for the screening?
- If not, what additional information would you need?
- What screening criteria / questions did you use?

SEA Case 1: Amendments of municipal spatial plan of Red Hill Municipality

The process of the amendments of Red Hill Municipality spatial plan has been initiated by the group of the land owners, who submitted the requested to the municipal council. The proposed amendment would change the functional use of altogether 15,000 m² of the land



– from permanent grassland to the housing area. The land owners aim at building 10 family houses in the area for their own living.

A given area borders with the urban area of the municipality from the south, with the agriculture land from east and west, and there is forest on the north side. The road connecting the houses with the main road and connecting the houses to the electricity network, sewage and water supply systems will be a part of the project.

SEA Case 2: The National Energy Strategy

The Ministry of Energy is initiating preparation of the national energy strategy. The strategy will define the energy priorities in the country i.e. primarily the energy mix and the domestic energy demand by 2030. The strategy will address all energy sources, which can be realistically utilized in the country.

SEA Case 3: Amendments of the county spatial plan

The County Council has decided on amendments of the county spatial plan, which was adopted already in 2001 and amended two times previously. The suggested amendments include following proposals:

- New tourist zone (on the coast), including aquapark and golf playground
- New sites for mariculture
- Two new economic zones (50 and 80 ha)
- In order to meet the target on increasing the accomodation capacities for tourist, several municipalities are to be identify by the spatial plan where new hotels and pensions should be primarily developed.

EIA Case 1: Theatre in old charcoal warehouse

A Theater Association (NGO) wants to develop one of the old warehouses into a theatre. The warehouse is situated in an industrial area, earlier used for large industries, but today many facilities in the area are empty and there are only “light” industries in operations. The warehouse has been used for charcoal storage, and it is likely that the building and the surroundings are contaminated. A few samples from the “floor” (gravel and dust) have been analysed, showing high contents of e.g. PAH (poly aromatic hydrocarbons).

EIA Case 2: New line (Chromium) in existing plating industry (Zink, Aluminium, Tin)

The operation is situated in an industrial area and all neighbouring facilities are used for industrial operations or storage of goods. The operation has an environmental operation permit from 1998, providing for the existing lines (Zn, Al, Sn). The waste waters from the proposed chromium line will be treated in exiting, internal waste water treatment plant, designed according to the BAT of 1998 and thereafter updated in accordance with the findings of the environmental audits carried out by external experts every third year. The treated waste water is led to a small stream joining with a larger river, both showing clear



signs of negative environmental impact, probably due to existing effluents from the company, other industries in the area and the traffic (polluted storm water). The plant will also increase working hours, going from 2 shifts per day to 3 shifts per day, i.e. it will be operating 24 hrs/d.

EIA Case 3: New type of solid waste to disposal site

A company operating an old lime quarry holds an environmental permit (1992) to develop a solid waste disposal site in one part of the quarry. The area allocated for the disposal site is found in one corner of the quarry, about 1 km from the areas where the quarry is active today. Most part of the lime wonned from the quarry is used for treatment of industrial air fumes (filter lime). The existing permit allows for disposal of the used filter lime. The existing permit has never come into use and no waste material is disposed of in the quarry. The operator now would like to include into the permit the possibility to put dispose of lime sludge from the pulp- and paper industry, classified as inert according to the EU directive appendix. Three families have private water wells within 3 km from the proposed disposal site.

Tips for practice:

- The majority of SEA screenings can be conducted using only “administrative” criteria i.e. considering only characteristics of the plan or programme with no need to discuss the likely impacts and their significance
- In SEA, the name of the document is not sufficient guidance – many so-called ‘plans and programmes’ will not require SEA, while some so-called ‘policies’, ‘strategies’, ‘projects’, ‘concepts’, ‘laws’, ‘regulations’ and so on, will.
- In EIA, in case of uncertainties on the likely impacts, additional data and information should be submitted by the project developer, in order to make sure that project with significant impacts is not excluded from the assessment
- Environmental and health authorities should be involved in the screening procedure and their opinion considering when deciding about application of SEA/EIA

Topics for discussion:

- Is there a clear procedure for SEA/EIA screening in your country?
- What are the criteria to be used for screening?
- What information and data need to be provided to conduct screening? Are these usually available?
- Are environmental and health authorities involved in screening? If so, are their opinions properly considered?



- What are the main challenges regarding the screening in your country and how these can be addressed?

Case study: SEA screening in the Czech Republic (ppt presentation will be provided)

Proposed structure of the presentation:

Aim and rationale (1 – 2 slides) – describe why screening is important and why the screening scheme needs to be properly designed and applied

Legal framework (2 – 3 slides) – describe legal requirements stipulated by the national legislation regarding the screening separately for SEA and EIA. If there are no relevant provisions in the national legal framework, make a reference to EU SEA or EIA Directives.

Approaches and tools (3 – 5 slides) – described approach to the screening in your country, again separately for SEA and EIA. Start with the procedure (i.e. who shall initiate the screening, which agency decides about the necessity of SEA/EIA, if there are any consultations required etc.) and then provide criteria for determining a need for SEA and EIA as stipulated by the national legislation. If there are no relevant provisions in the national legal framework, make a reference to EU SEA or EIA Directives.

Tips for practice (1 – 2 slides) – elaborate tips for practice provided above and/or develop additional ones reflecting the context in your country.

Exercise (1 – 2 slides) – prepare the assignment for the exercise. You may use examples provided above or (optimally) prepare a short description of real cases from your country.

Topics for discussion (1 – 2 slides) – elaborate topics for discussion provided above and/or develop additional ones to reflect SEA/EIA practice in your country.

Case study (2 – 3 slides) – describe one SEA and one EIA screening case from your country, providing information on the plan, programme and project which was a subject of the screening, criteria applied and the final decision.

