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TAIEX-ECRAN Sub-Regional Workshop on Appropriate Assessment on Serbian Pilot Sites (Natura 2000)

Workshop I: Screening (Stage I of Appropriate Assessment)

Topic: Who is to carry out AA? (*EU approaches, pros and cons*)

Novi Sad, Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, Republic of Serbia 24 – 26 September 2014



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Approach

- **Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?**

(issue of education, references, memberships)

- Is it necessary to ask for a defined education (university degree, selected type of university degree, targeted courses)?
- Is it necessary to ask for professional experience, references?
- Membership to professional bodies and adherence to codes of conduct
- Is it necessary to have a special licence?
 - Only for AA process
 - AA as a part of EIA/SEA licence



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Defined education in ecology/biology

Pros

- Guarantee of quality (limited)

Cons

- Limit for some specialists (depends on definition of education)

EU MS: CZ, HR



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Professional experience (references) welcomed

Pros

- professional experience as a presumption of right conclusions

Cons

- Risk of stereotypes

EU MS: UK, A, D, HU, LV



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Membership to professional bodies and adherence to codes of conduct

Pros

- professional experience as a presumption of right conclusions
- internal possibility of quality check

Cons

- Risk of stereotypes and smaller flexibility

EU MS: UK, D



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Special licence

Pros

- Higher guarantee of quality
- Limited and well known list of subjects
- Better possibility to check the outcomes
- Better possibility of methodological supervising

Cons

- Process of licensing is not 100% guarantee of quality
- Complicated administration of licensing, check, record

EU MS: CZ, RO,



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Special licence for EIA + AA

Pros

- Good knowledge of process and legislation

Cons

- AA is (in spite of EIA) a very specialized topic

EU MS: SI, SK, HR



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

Special licence for AA only

Pros

- Higher guarantee of scientific quality of licensed subjects
- Good knowledge of specialized legislation
- Better methodological supervising and training by state authority

Cons

EU MS: CZ, RO



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

- Commercial consultancy companies
 - licensed
 - non-licensed
- Freelance experts (persons)
 - licenced
 - non-licenced
- Scientists or scientific institutions (e.g., universities)
- State/public authorities
- Special agencies (usually state)



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

Commercial consultancy companies

Pros

- Higher professionalism
- Wider teams (depending on company)

Cons

- Commercial interest (company should profit)
- Limited teams (depending on company)
- Bigger company = higher costs of work
- Risk of overpaying (hush money)
- Anonymous authorship of assessments („team members“)

EU MS: HR, SLO, D



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

Freelance experts (physical persons)

Pros

- Small and flexible
- Nominal responsibility for work of the other experts
- Frequently persons specialized for some types of assessment (botany, ornithology, ichthyology...)

Cons

- Tend to do everything (botany, zoology...)
- Risk of overpaying (hush money)

EU MS: CZ, UK, A, SK, DE, PL,..



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

Scientists or scientific institutions

Pros

- High quality of biological work
- Team work and top methods as a basic approach

Cons

- Limited flexibility
- Tend to elaborate results like for scientific publications
- Outputs are often not unambiguous
- Ignorance of legislation



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

State/public authority

Pros

- Independency on developer
- Methodological supervising is not so complicated

Cons

- State officials cannot be specialists
- Limited space for this work

EU MS: some ES provinces, DE



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Who is responsible for preparation of AA study?

(issue of elaboration)

Special agency (usually state)

Pros

- Team work of specialists
- Independency on developer

Cons

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of time and capacity
- Possible political pressures

EU MS: SI (partly)



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Approach

- **Who is responsible for preparation of AA?**

(issue of payment)

- developer
- state/regional/local public authority



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Who pays for AA study?

Developer

Pros

- Big developer – big resources

Cons

- Risk of overpaying (hush money)
- Outcome can't be checked by state authority
- Small developer – small resources

EU MS: AT, SK, DE, UK for projects, HR, HU, PL, LV, CZ, AT, RO

...



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Who pays for AA study?

Public resources

Pros

- Independence on developer
- State check of subjects elaborating AA
- No independent audit by state authority needed

Cons

- Influence of possible political pressures
- Limited resources and capacities

EU MS: SLO, UK for plans, ES (some provinces), SK, DE, AT,



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Approach

- **Which level of state administration is to carry out the AA process?**
 - Central
 - Regional
 - Local



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Level of state administration carrying out for process

Central level

Pros

- Better methodological supervising and coordination
- Coherence in decision-making

Cons

- Bad or no familiarity with sites
- Impact of political changes on the whole policy

EU MS: SI, HR, SK, HU, UK,



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Level of state administration carrying out the process

Regional level

Pros

- Coordination on regional level possible (cumulative effects)
- Better familiarity with sites

Cons

- Bad or no methodological coordination among regions
- Possible influence of local/regional politicians

EU MS: CZ, HR, PL, SK, HU, UK, AT, DE



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Level of state administration carrying out the process

Local level

Pros

- Better familiarity with sites

Cons

- Bad or no methodological coordination among municipalities
- Difficult access to some information (cumulative effects)
- Possible influence of local politicians

EU MS: AT, UK, DE, LV



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