25-26 November 2002 - Presentation given during the
CONFERENCE on the use of EU pre-accession funds and their environmental and social implications
Billions for Sustainability? Lessons learned from the use of pre-accession funds

Estonian SPD 2003-2006

&

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Kristel Kiiple
Ministry of Finance
Estonia
Overview of the presentation

* Single Programming Document (SPD)

* Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

* Lessons learned
Single Programming Document (SPD):

...is a development plan that reflects only these development activities which are financed from State Budget of the Republic of Estonia and co-financed from Phare economic and social support programme 2003 before and from Structural Funds after accession to EU.
Overall objective of SPD

• Fast, socially and regionally balanced sustainable economic development

• According to the EU Structural Funds´ general regulation (1260/99) EU post-accession support to Estonia for co-financing of SPD can be up to 4% of GDP of Estonia
The process of SPD - main steps

- August 2001: the process of SPD started
- March 2002: analytical part ready
- March 2002: start of SEA of SPD
- November 2002: strategic basis ready
- November 2002: SPD measures ready
- November 2002: financial plan ready
- December 2002: final report of SEA submitted to the Minister of Environment
- January 2003: submission of SPD to the Government of Estonia and to the European Commission
SPD priorities

1. Human resources development (ESF)
2. Competitiveness of enterprises (ERDF)
3. Rural development and agriculture (EAGGF and FIFG)
4. Infrastructure and local development (ERDF)
5. Technical assistance
Objectives of SPD:

Overall objective: Fast, socially and regionally balanced economic development

Objective of 1 Priority: To increase the employment and potential of Estonian labour force

Objective of 2 priority: To increase entrepreneurship and competitiveness of Estonian enterprises

Objective of 3 priority: Balanced and sustainable economic and social development of rural areas

Objective of 4 priority: Increase quality of Infrastructure for supporting sustainable and balanced economic development

Horizontal environmental objectives and horizontal objectives for regional development

Objective of 5 Priority: Effective and efficient implementation of SPD
General co-operation network for the preparation of SPD

1 Priority
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

2 Priority
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

3 Priority
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

4,5 Priority
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

ASSOCIATED LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS
Local co-operation network
for the preparation of SPD

Local associated partners (116):

* Local municipalities and county governments

* Professional unions

* NGO-s and foundations
Procedure of public participation in SPD process

* Two formal commenting rounds for social partners
* Constant availability for partners to comment in the Internet
* On-going formal answering to the questions and comments
* Information days on Structural Funds, including SPD
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - basic documents

• EC SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)

• Estonian Law on Environmental Impact Assessment and Audit (RT I 2000)
SEA - in the context of SPD

• SEA is an autonomous part of SPD ex-ante evaluation
• a part of SPD process
• implemented by independent licensed group of experts
• co-financing and methodological assistance from REC Estonia
Key participants in the SEA process

- Ministry of Finance - overall co-ordination
- Ministry of Environment - start of SEA process, endorsement of draft SEA programme and interim and final report
- Expert team - carrying out SEA
- REC Estonia - co-financing SEA process and methodological support to the experts
Selection of the expert team

- Personal invitations to all licensed experts in Estonia to participate in the selection
- Establishment of SEA committee (12. March 2002)
- Creating indicators for evaluation of tenders
- Evaluation of tenders (6)
- Signing of a contract between expert group and REC Estonia
Members of SEA committee

- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Agriculture
- REC Estonia
- Estonian Council of Civic Organisations
- Association of Non-governmental Organisations
- Union of Estonian Associations of Local Authorities
Objectives of SEA

• Assessment of environmental situation in

• Selection of environmental objectives in SPD priority areas

• Assessment of SPD strategy, measures and implementation plan

• Analysis of the process and methodology of SEA and giving recommendations for the next SEA process
Methodology of SEA

• Prepared with expertise from REC

• Integrated methodology where SEA is implemented for priorities, measures and monitoring scheme of SPD

• Mainly expert opinion and qualitative analysis have been used for assessment

• General environmental management principles are used

• Flexible methodology - can be changed when necessary
Main steps in SEA process

• Public hearing of SEA programme and endorsement (March 2002)
• Assessment of analytical part of SPD (June 2002)
• Preparation of interim report (July 2002)
• Public hearing of SPD environmental objectives and indicators (November 2002)
• Assessment of SPD strategic basis (November 2002)
• Assessment of SPD measures (November 2002)
• Public hearing of the measures and monitoring plan (December 2002)
• Public hearing of draft final report of SEA and submission of the final report of SEA to the Ministry of Finance (December 2002)
Public partnership

- Open discussion of the SEA programme (two rounds)
- Public hearing of environmental indicators (November 2002)
- Introducing SPD and SEA process on different seminars and conferences
- Possibility to make comments in the Internet
- Public hearing of SEA final report (December 2002)
Lessons learned in Estonian SPD and SEA process (1)

- Unforeseen obstacles (extension of the time schedule, disagreements between partners etc)

- Shifts in SPD time schedule influence SEA process
Lessons learned in Estonian SPD and SEA process (2)

- SEA should start as early as possible within the SPD process

- It is beneficial to organise a preparatory meeting for planners to introduce the purpose and procedure of SEA

- Good communication between the SEA expert team and SPD working group is a key factor
Information on SPD

Kristel Kiiple
Foreign Financing Department
Ministry of Finance
Estonia

kristel.kiiple@fin.ee
+372 611 3040

www.fin.ee