Module 6: Capacity development for SEA

- Key messages
- Needs’ assessment
- Stakeholders
- Strategy
- Main tools
- Tips

Key message in capacity development for SEA

- Demystify SEA - SEA is not a „mega-EIA”
- Emphasize that good SEA practice requires:
  - Adequate integration of SEA into specific plan- and programme-making process
  - Right choice of assessment methods (the simplest techniques available to deliver appropriate information)
  - Right choice of consultation techniques (focus on problem solving - different from public hearings at the end of EIA process)

Capacity development strategy

- Atomised interventions usually do not accomplish much
- SEA capacity building strategy can:
  - Build critical mass of promoters of good SEA practice
  - Be agreed with key stakeholders (future users of SEA procedures)
  - Facilitate in-country policy discussion on SEA
- Focus of SEA capacity building strategy should be designed through needs assessment
Needs’ assessment

- Careful needs’ assessment will establish links between stakeholders, motive partners, provide for transparency and methodological CD process
- Identify gaps and needs in current SEA/EA and planning systems
- Identify key institutions, partners, stakeholders and responsible people
- Plan capacity development for SEA practitioners as well as planners
- Get stakeholders commitment - involve in assessment and strategy preparation.

Main capacity development tools

- Pilot projects - to test and develop SEA methods in real-life situations and to establish precedents of good SEA practice
- Professional training - to prepare initial experts for pilot activities and train decision makers on benefits of SEA
- Guidelines - to guide SEA for specific types of planning/programming processes
- Promotional materials - to explain benefits of SEA to planners and policy-makers
- Professional networking - to establish professional benchmarks for good SEA practice
- Periodic evaluations – to review effectiveness (e.g. annual conferences, etc.)

Tips for capacity development

- Prepare 3 dimensional capacity development strategy targeting system, institutional and human capacities and needs
- Always plan resources: financial and human
- Prepare monitoring plan for the capacity development strategy for SEA and identify responsible/recipient institutions (e.g. SEA focal point or Government level)
- Capacity development is a long term process which takes time and resources.
- Keep close working links and consult key national institutions responsible for SEA/EA and planning