SEA and spatial planning in Slovakia: Current practices and lessons for practical application of the EC Directive
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Spatial / Land Use Planning System in Slovakia

- **Spatial planning** in the Slovak Republic is based on a **complex set of instruments and methods** at the national, regional and local levels.
- Vertical (-between different levels of government), horizontal -(between different sectors: transport, land use, environment etc.) integration and co-ordination of various interests in the territory.
- The emphasis on applying the decision making power by the self-government and executive authorities

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Spatial/land use system cont.

• Spatial planning / of general kind, but outputs must be reflected in land use plan at different geographical level, in the form of blue print allocation of land use


SEA Legislation at Present

Slovak EIA Act No. 127/1994, §35

• SEA is obligatory for substantial development policy (energy, mining, industry, transport, agriculture, forestry, water management, waste management, tourism), land use plans of regions and selected municipalities, any proposal for generally legal binding regulations with possible adverse environmental impact

• Neither official methodology nor any detailed rules determined by legislation
Planning Processes and SEA Directive

- New separate EIA Act divided into three main parts - project level, strategic levels, transboundary issues
- SEA as an integral part of the land-use planning procedure after the amendment of land use planning Act according to new EIA Act
- regional policy, strategy of regional development, ppp of rural development, territorial develop, strategy, land use plan at national, regional, development level

Co-ordination of Planning and SEA Procedure

- Integration of SEA and land use planning procedure
- steps of land use planning procedure
- SEA steps (SEA screening, SEA scoping, elaboration of SEA Report, review of SEA report, account of SEA report, consultations, decision making
Methodological Guidelines

- as soon as possible
- to define objectives and principles of the assessment (great number of information on predicted impacts, risks revealed, etc…)
- relevant degree of detail (different degree and scope of detail according to the planning level - regional or local)
- cumulative assessment
- scope of monitoring

Lessons from Practice

- Bratislava case study
- initiated by the City council
- from October 2000 to March 2001
- three draft alternatives of blue print spatial concept had been available
SEA Procedure - Case Study

- The strategic evaluation of Bratislava land-use plan goals and aims and different aspects towards sustainability principles and criteria (sustainability test)
- Quite detailed evaluation of the plan towards sustainability criteria and indicators together with cumulative assessment
- SEA report
- Public involvement

Content of SEA Report - Case Study

- Comparison between strategic development objectives included in the Comprehensive Development Strategy of Bratislava City and strategic development objectives included in the individual alternatives of Bratislava land-use plan (sustainable development test)
- Comprehensive assessment of environmental quality (basis for the identification of positive and negative environmental impacts of individual land-use plan policies – e.g. housing, technical and social infrastructure, etc.)
Content of SEA Report - continued

• Selection of individual plan policies to be evaluated
• Selection of criteria for environmental evaluation of individual plan policies
• Mitigation measures (mostly for hierarchically lower levels of land-use plans and for EIA of projects

Key Actors or Stakeholders

• Local authority of Bratislava
• two EIA Centres
• Ministry for the Environment of SR
• NGOs and Bratislava citizens
• Integration of public views through different forms of public participation
Costs of SEA

- SEA costs in comparison with planning costs
- integrated procedure or separate procedure
- early integration of SEA or not
- depending on management of the SEA procedure

Lessons Learned

- SEA has started quite late, it should be at the very beginning of land-use planning process
- SEA should be linked to the tiered approach at the different levels of land-use planning (procedural and methodological link)
- Sustainability goals that were determined at Bratislava development policy level were too general
- Follow up actions
Lessons Learned - continued

• SEA legal provisions must be followed by executive regulation and more detailed guidelines
• detailed list of spatially relevant plans that are subject of SEA
• to define key actors in SEA process

Lessons Learned - continued

Institutional implementation of SEA in spatial planning
• detailed, officially recognised guidelines
• expert training
• financial issues
• development of SEA methods and techniques