

# **Strategic environmental assessment**

**Polish experience related to  
National Development Plan**

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# Agenda of presentation

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- **Legal status**
- **SEA procedure in Poland**
- **Case study - National Development Plan  
2004-2006**
- **Conclusions**



# **Legal status of SEA in Poland**

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- Act of special planning (1994) – SEA on local level**
- Environmental protection act (2001) – SEA on regional and national level**
- Many types of plans and programs require SEA**

# SEA procedure

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- **Planning authority coordinates with environmental protection authority and sanitary inspectorate the scope and detail of information covers by SEA**
- **The draft document together with SEA is consulted by environmental authority and sanitary inspectorate**
- **Planning authority is required to organize the public participation during SEA procedure**
- **Planning authority takes to account recommendations from SEA, opinion of environmental authority and results of public participations**



# **SEA report needs to cover**

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- State of environment and environmental problems**
- Environmental goals in strategic documents, law and international ecological conventions**
- Assessment of significant environmental impact**
- Measures and alternative solutions**
- Transboundary impact**
- Methodology and weaknesses**
- Non-technical summary**

# **SEA of National Development Plan – subject of assessment**

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- **National Development Plan for years 2004-2006 (NDP) without regional part**
- **Operational sector programs weren't the subject of assessment but they were the sources of information**



# The goals of SEA

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- ❑ **Assessment of environmental issues in all parts of NDP**
- ❑ **Assessment of environmental impact as a results of propose activities in NDP**
- ❑ **Preparation of recommendations for NDP improvements**



# **Key principle for assessment**

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**Following Constitution of Republic of  
Poland the state needs to protect  
environment using sustainable  
development principle**



# SEA report covers

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- **Assessment of NDP as whole and its six sector parts**
- **General and detail recommendations for whole document and for sector parts**
- **Methodology of assessment, sources of information and uncertainties encountered (weaknesses and gaps)**



# Phases and methodology of work

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- I - Bottom up approach of criteria composition**
- II - Preliminary assessment**
- III - Integration bottom up and top down approaches of criteria composition**
- IV - Final assessment**
- V - Recommendations**



# **Selection of assessment criteria**

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- Major legal Acts, strategic documents, ecological conventions (national and international) – a total of over 100**
- Selection of acts, documents, conventions to be used for formulation of criteria – 14**
- Formulation of criteria – 250 detailed criteria**
- Grouped criteria – 52 criteria**

# Groups of criteria (1)

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## Sustainable resources management:

- **General and horizontal issues**
- **Transport**
- **Energy**
- **Agriculture**
- **Nature and landscape**
- **Forestry**
- **Water management and fisheries**

# Groups of criteria(2)

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## Changes in the environment:

- **Air**
- **Noise and radiation**
- **Soil and wastes**
- **Water**
- **Nature**
- **Other**



# Initial assessment

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- ❑ **Matrix approach - criteria and proposed actions**
- ❑ **Qualification of relations (from 0 to 3)**
- ❑ **Individual assessment and brain storming**
- ❑ **Consultations with programming teams**
- ❑ **Corrections and initial assessment**
- ❑ **Informing the programming teams**

# Initial sectoral assessment matrix

	<b>Activity 1</b>	<b>Activity 2</b>	<b>Activity 3</b>
<b>Criterion 1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Criterion 2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>

# **Integration of selected criteria and sustainability criteria**

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- Comparison of the sets of criteria**
- Formulation of 23 mega-criteria**
  - formal/procedural and issue-oriented**





# Formal/procedural criteria

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- Were diagnosis and SWOT prepared taking into account sustainable development?
- Were environmental aims and goals suggested?
- Are proposed actions in accordance with environmental policy documents?
- Were negative environmental impacts quantified?
- Is publicly accountable EIA envisaged for proposed activities?
- Are sustainability indicators taken into account?
- Is „green purchasing” promoted?
- Did the document undergo public consultations and were the results taken into account?
- Are sustainability aims in different sectors coherent?
- Are environmental criteria for the choice of project suggested?
- Are diagnosis, aims, proposed activities and monitoring indications coherent and sustainable?
- Is the role of environmental protection authorities made clear?

# Issue –oriented criteria

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- Will proposed activities result in effective use of resources (production,consumption, management)?
- Will proposed activities result in decreased use of non-renewable resources?
- Is eco-innovation promoted?
- Do proposed activities promote sustainability (including mitigation measures and monitoring)?
- Will proposed activities improve state of the environment?
- Is nature and landscape protection taken into account (in particular NATURA 2000)?
- Do proposed activities reduce environment-related health risks?
- Do proposed activities maintain cultural values?
- Do proposed activities create conditions for fair competition in the use of the environment?
- Do proposed activities raise environmental awareness?
- Do proposed activities improve spatial management structure?

# Final assessment

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- ❑ **NDP assessed according to mega-criteria. Assessment and comment for each criterion.**
- ❑ **Over 60 general and detailed recommendations were formulated**
- ❑ **Draft version of assessment was made available for public consultations**
- ❑ **Final version incorporated some comments received**

# Final assessment matrix

<b>Mega criteria</b>	<b>Definitely yes</b>	<b>Rather yes</b>	<b>Rather no</b>	<b>Definitely no</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
<b>1. Is...?</b>		<b>X</b>			
<b>2. Is ...?</b>				<b>X recommendation</b>	

# Some uncertainties encountered

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- ❑ **No „ready made and approved“ set of criteria**
- ❑ **Only draft NDP assessed (many changes of document during the process of assessment)**
- ❑ **SOP and Regional Program NOT included in the assessment**
- ❑ **Types and location of action uncertain – locally both strong and weaker effects are possible**
- ❑ **Lack of environmental criteria for project selection**
- ❑ **Long-term and multi-sectoral effects of activities undertaken in accordance with NDP**
- ❑ **Any additional studies only base on existing knowledge**

# Environment in draft NDP

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- Environment perceived as liability and cost
- Environmental protection activities not considered as separate issue, no cross sectoral approach (e.g. Flood control)
- Sustainability not considered
- Lack of long term perspective
- Lack of integration of aims between sectors
  - ex. transport
  - ex. agriculture
- Some recommendations
  - Sustainability rather than „end-of –pipe” solutions
  - Environmental aims in NDP and sectors
  - Environmental limitations in sectors
  - Steering Committee (working group)

# Key changes in NDP

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- **Broader approach to environment**
- **Better structure and coherence of document**
- **Changes in diagnosis ex.:**
  - **Organic farming seen as a chance**
  - **Polish environment considered as asset**
  - **Environmental aspects of competitive economy**
- **New „axis” in the NDP: promoting of sustainable development (limited )**
- **A number of detailed provisions ex.:**
  - **Environmental impact assessment**
  - **Environmental requirements in project implementation**
  - **Environmental Monitoring Sub-Committee**
- **Environmental issues more considered by sectors ex.:**
  - **„Green jobs” perceived (not everywhere)**
  - **Support for renewable energy sources (insufficient)**
  - **Changes in flood control approach**

# What could be „even greener”

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- **Aims: overall and sectoral**
- **Monitoring of implementation – lack of sustainable/sustainability indicators**
- **Innovation promoting – increase effectiveness of resource use, reduce impacts**
- **Education and staff training – understanding the idea of sustainability**
- **Environmental preferences in project criteria – yes- to environmental gain; no- to environmental impact**
- **Development of transport infrastructure – lack of environmental and economic justification for strong preference of road building (in particular motorways)**



# Lessons learned

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## Lessons for this planning cycle

- **Method used for internal assessment of SOP by Ministry of Economy**
  - **250 criteria available**
  - **Lessons from „trial run”**

## Next programming cycle

- **Start early – assumptions and aims first**
- **A broad consensus on the aims**
- **Continue for all of NDP and all of the programming cycle, including lessons for next cycles**

# General Conclusions (I)

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- **Team in relation to the programming team: co-operative and independent**
- **Criteria:**
  - **No problem to generate**
  - **Lack of a set of „politically” approved**
  - **Need to limit the number**
  - **Choice will always be controversial**
  - **Need for active consultations**
- **SEA is by definition a process:**
  - **purposeful**
  - **flexible**
  - **relative**
  - **iterative**

# General Conclusions (II)

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- Experience from NDP was used to prepare SEA for Tourism Development Strategy for Poland 2007 – 2013 (Matrix 48 criterion and 19 operational goals = 912 areas of analyze of interdependency)
- Each strategic document has it own structure and content producing not enough and accurate information (quantitative and qualitative) for SEA.
- Weak understanding of the needs of SEA in administration procedure (time and role for SEA).
- Not exist strong system of quality control and the position of ministries of environment and health are politically to weak to do that.
- Weaknesses in organization of public participation (weak understanding of the role of SEA and low skill to take part)



**Thank you for your attention.**

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