




# **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Local Land Use Planning Process in Hungary**

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# Structure of the presentation

- The Hungarian land use planning system
- SEA regulation in Hungary
- Planning process with SEA
  - The circumstances of the implementation of SEA in the local land use planning process (the types of local plans and their SEA relevance, the role of the sub-plans basis of the local land use plans, difficulties in the implementation),
  - The role of the stakeholders
  - Tools for integration environmental concerns
  - The applied approach to the monitoring
- The implementation support



# The Hungarian land use planning system

- **Hierarchy (Tiers)**
  - country
  - regions (7+2)
  - counties (19+1)
  - small regions (150)
  - municipalities (3145)
  - The content of a lower level plan must not be contradictory of a higher level plan.
- **Types of spatial plans:**
  - development concept and programme
  - land use plans
- **Land use plans are adopted as an act, decree or resolution**



# SEA regulation in Hungary

- Amended Environmental Act and new Governmental decree
- The two faces of the SEA
  - Integration of environmental concerns
  - Control of the plan
- 3 decisions in the process (screening, scoping, evaluation of the environmental report and the plan)
  - The decision maker is the planning/adopting authority
  - The role of the environmental authorities and the public
  - Transparency, balancing instruments
- Annexes
- The case of transboundary impacts
- Monitoring
  - Criteria in the plan
  - Measurement through the existing system



# Planning process with SEA

## The local plans

- **Types of local plans**
  - land use plans
    - **local structure plan (LSP)**
      - outline the area utilisation and functions, design of technical infrastructure elements, the structure of the whole territory of settlement
    - **local building code and zoning map (LBC)**
      - ensure building regulations
  - **development strategy (DS)**
    - **development policy of local government, base for the land use planning**
- **Adoption by the local council**
  - **DS, LSP as a local government resolution**
  - **LBC as a local government decree**
- **SEA is obligatory to**
  - **amendment of or new LSP and LBC for the whole territory of the municipality**
  - **LBC and DS if affects Natura 2000 territory**



# The screening decision in the local planning

- **Screening decision should be taken on**
  - LBC for a part of the territory of the municipality
  - Amendment of LBC for a part of the territory of the municipality
  - New or amended DS
- **Criteria**
  - The whole of a municipality can not be excluded
  - The significance of likely environmental effects (Annex)
  - The significance of the amendment of the plan (Guidance) and of the environmental effects



# Difficulties in the implementation

- Influences of the negotiations during the law making process on the regulation
- The good practice
- Inside or outside?
- The plan, the sub-plans and the SEA
- Who is the SEA expert?
- The place and the role of the public participation
- Monitoring
  - What kind of criteria should be applied?
  - Regular review of plans
  - General monitoring of the state of the environment by the municipality



# Tools for integration of environmental concerns

**Ensuring independence and integration of SEA at the same time**

- **SEA is part of the process of preparing, consulting on and adopting plan**
- **Environmental report is an obligatory part of the plan documentation (independent chapter)**
- **SEA expert(s) work in co-operation with planners of the other parts of the plan**
- **Meetings to understand the grounds of the opinions**
- **Ensuring transparency**
- **Decisions have to be reasoned**
- **Public and authority opinions should be taken into account**
- **Environmental report is not to be adopted with the plan**
- **Feedback from monitoring**
- **Education and accreditation of SEA experts**



# The implementation support

- **MoEW initiate research or co-operate in other research**
  - Guidance for SEA to the sectoral plans (local spatial plans, regional spatial plans, pilot project for SEA of NDP ROP, SEA for transport sectoral plans)
  - Guidance for special questions, like ‘what does significant amendment of a plan mean?’
- **MoEW organise training or co-operate in them**
  - Regular training for environmental authorities’ experts
  - Participation in educational programs of universities or other organisations
- **Further guidance for SEA of sectoral plans and special issues (connection between SEA and local environmental program or the other environment-related parts of the plan)**
- **Improvement of regulation: provide connection and harmony between**
  - EIA and SEA procedures
  - the content of environmental sub-plans and environmental report
- **Establish accreditation system and education for SEA experts**

# References

- **Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection**
- **Act XXI of 1996 on Regional Development and Land Use Planning**
- **Act LXXVIII of 1997 on the Formation and Protection of the Built Environment**
- **Government Decree No. 2/2005. (I.11.) on the environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes**
- **TOMBÁ CZ et al. 2003. *Strategic Environmental Assessment for the purposes of providing the foundations for the ex-ante assessment of the Regional Operational Programme from an environmental aspect.*  
Budapest: VÁTI, 136 p.**



# THANK YOU