

Proposal for IAIA pre-conference Training Course, IAIA'15, Florence
Submitted by Maria Rosario Partidario, IST, Portugal
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Section 1 – Basic information

a) Course Title: **Strategic thinking SEA for Sustainability**

b) Level: Advanced

c) Course Prerequisite: Basic knowledge on policy-making, planning and Strategic Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Assessment

d) Language of Delivery: English

e) Duration: Two Days

f) Number of participants: Minimum 10; Maximum 35

g) Laptops not required but welcome

h) Trainer: Maria R Partidario, mariapartidario@tecnico.ulisboa.pt, Associate Professor, Instituto Superior Tecnico (IST) Portugal, IAIA member signed IAIA's code of conduct

Section 2 - Course Description

a) Summary of the purpose: The main purpose of this course is to lead participants into strategic thinking in SEA, using flexible and innovative approaches to strategic design for sustainability. The course builds upon the experience with the application of a strategic thinking model and critical decision factors approach developed by Maria Partidario (2007, 2012), and published in Guidance, available in Portuguese, English and Spanish. The emphasis is on transformative processes from routine, traditional SEA into an SEA that changes practices and enables sustainability driven decision-making. The course will address SEA design for sustainability, stakeholders engagement, use of creative and practical tools, understanding the building blocks that map a sustainability focused SEA. Links to internationally recognized approaches developed by Gibson et al (2005: sustainability assessment), the OECD-DAC (2006: approach to development cooperation), The World Bank (2011: Policy and Sector reform SEA), will be addressed. Expected learning outcomes include 1) the added-value of using strategic thinking in SEA; 2) how to consider the environment in SEA as an integral component of sustainability; 3) why a strategic-based approach is different from an impacts-based approach; and 4) how to apply forms of strategic-based SEA such as the critical decision factors approach.

Learning techniques in this course will be based on dialogues, exchange of experiences and case-application, involve short presentations, case examples from different regions in the world, and group exercises. The course will also work with what participants bring to share on their questions, challenges

and experiences. The course aims to encourage discussion and debate as a form of building ideas in a collective way. Participants attending this course are required to have some background on SEA or EIA, and also basic knowledge on policy-making or planning to enable advanced workshop discussion. The course is not aimed at delivering recipes, but in stimulating strategic thinking and creativity, which is a distinctive feature of Maria Partidario's training courses on SEA: strategic nature of the methodological approaches, reflection on international perspectives and approaches, and the encouragement to innovative thinking in SEA.

b) Detailed Course Description

Day 1 – Exploring the concepts and tool boxes – old elements in new combinations

9:00 Participants introduction. Overview of course aims and structure.

9:30 What do I want SEA for?

- Perspectives and expectations from participants – dialogue around a strategic problem

10.00 Theories supporting SEA

- Complexity, systems approach, integration, strategic thinking
- SEA and sustainability assessment – what makes it strategic?
- Discussion, Q&A

11:00-11:15 Tea/Coffee

11.15 Elements for a methodological framework

- Analytic, creative and practical approaches
- Engagement for creativity and the governance dimension
- Toolbox for creative SEA
- Discussion, Q&A

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14.00 Case stories – looking at SEA in practice

- Review of leading SEA methodological approaches
- Review of cases that illustrate different approaches (with inputs from trainees)
- Discussion on the distinguished role of SEA in adding value to decision-making
- Q&A

15:15-15:30 Tea/Coffee

15.30 Critical decision factors approach

- Strategic sustainability framework and the critical decision factors
- Illustrations

17:00 Close Day 1

Day 2 –Testing the use of a strategic sustainability approach to SEA

9:00

Case-application in interactive working groups

The day will be structured around one real case adapted for a one day desk-based exercise, the topic to be selected depending on participants enrolled up to registration deadline. The exercise will particularly enable participants to understand how they can adopt a strategic thinking approach to SEA, from the

initiation, to engagement of perspectives, setting strategic focus and process links and exploring strategic options. Various aspects explained earlier will be turned into a practical approach by asking participants to briefly play different roles in an assessment process. The outcomes will be discussed in plenary, and commented upon by the trainer.

9:30 Case: Values, preferences and expectations - understanding the problem and the context

- Setting a strategic framework – problem: drivers and scale, priorities
- Stakeholders dialogue
- The governance dimension

11:00-11:15 Tea/Coffee

11.15 Get strategic focus

- Identification and discussion on critical decision factors
- Optional strategies to reach sustainability aims / targets

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14.00: Assessment

- Assessment of intended strategies
- Learning processes and learning organizations

15:15-15:30 Tea/Coffee

15.30 Outcomes and overall discussion

- Meaning for strategic decision-making

17:00 Close Day 2

c) Materials to be Provided

- OECD, 2006, Applying Strategic Environmental Assessment – good practice guidance for development cooperation, OECD.
- Partidário, M.R. 2012. Strategic Environmental Assessment Better Practice Guidance—methodological guidance. Lisboa: Agência Portuguesa do Ambiente and REN.
- Ahmed, K. and Sanchez-Triana, E. (Eds) 2008. Strategic Environmental Assessment for Policies. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- UNEP, 2009, Integrated Assessment: Mainstreaming sustainability into policy-making. A guidance manual. Geneva: UNEP.
- World Bank, University of Gothenburg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Netherlands Commission for Environmental Assessment 2011. Strategic Environmental Assessment in Policy and Sector Reform – conceptual model and operational guidance. Washington, DC: World Bank.
- CD-ROM with background documents, powerpoint presentations, case and exercise documents.

d) Technology / equipment required

The course is based on interaction and dialogues, actively participated. The room should have space for people to move around, round tables for groups and a good acoustics to enable talking without sound system. Of course flipchart sheets, pens and datashow as the basic equipment.

e) Pre-conference and post-conference communication with participants

There will be e-mail communication with confirmed trainees ahead of the course to highlight issues and suggest previous readings as home assignments. Trainer will be around for the whole conference as usual.

Section 3 – Qualification of the trainer

a) Abridged cv

Maria R. Partidario, PhD, Associate Professor at IST (Instituto Superior Técnico), University of Lisbon, Portugal, long-standing trainer on SEA, environment, planning and sustainability consultant; has trained around 1000 professional participants throughout the world in 1 to 5 days training courses on SEA, both in the context of IAIA pre-meeting courses and in national contexts (in Europe, Latin America, Middle East, South East Asia and Africa). Recent courses were offered in Mozambique, Indonesia, Chile, Brazil, Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, Canada.

Maria was co-team leader in the SEA Distance Learning Course for China, led by the World Bank in collaboration with SEPA (China) and IAIA. Over the years several training courses have been designed and conducted by Maria under contract with private, public and governmental institutions in different countries and as pre-meeting courses at IAIA annual conferences since 1998. Maria is co-editor of three internationally published key books on SEA (one with Riki Therivel, 1996, second other with Ray Clark, 2000, third with other Barry Sadler, Ralph Ashmann, Jiri Dusik, Thomas Fischer and Rob Verhem, 2011), and has authored and co-authored several book chapters and journal articles on SEA. In Portuguese she has prepared three guidance for SEA, the latest in 2012, the SEA Better Practices Guide – Methodological Guidance, published by the National Environment Agency and by REN, SA, which support current SEA practice in Portugal and is available in several website, including the European Commission website.

Maria has been an advisor to UNEP and UNDP on SEA and Integrated Assessment initiatives, to ELARD, S.A./ UNDP / the Lebanese Ministry of Environment in developing an SEA model for Lebanon, to the World Bank on the development of guidance for institutional-based SEA, and provided consultancy to the Inter-American Development Bank in developing SEA guidance for application in Latin America. She was a consultant to UNDP in running two capacity-building programmes on SEA, one for the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ministry of the Environment and the second for the Federal government of Brazil, Ministry of Planning and Ministry of Environment. She was also an advisor to the Minister of Environment in El Salvador on the establishment of SEA at national level. She has been appointed to several expert panels within the European Union, UN system and World Bank in matters related to SEA. Maria was President of the International Association for Impact Assessment in 1997-98, and awarded the IAIA Individual Award in 2002 for contributions made to the advancement of SEA internationally. Background: First graduation on *Environmental Engineering*, MSc on *Regional and Urban Planning* and PhD (Aberdeen University, Scotland, 1992) on *Strategic Environmental Assessment*.

b) History of the Course and Commitment of the trainer

Maria Partidario offered previous versions of this course in 2011 in the SEA Prague conference (31 participants) and in Calgary in 2012 (16 participants). In 2014 the course was offered but not selected because of reduced number of registrations and space limitations in Chile.

c) History of comparables courses

Since 1998 Maria Partidario has been offering a two days pre-training course on SEA in IAIA Conferences, every year except in 2008 and 2011 (Puebla). The course was occasionally offered in

collaboration with other experts (in 1998 with Riki Therivel, 2004 with Olivia Bina and 2007 with Lea den Broeder for a special emphasis on health issues). In 2006, 2007, 2009 and 2010 the course was jointly offered with Jonathan Allotey and his team, focusing on developing countries. In Prague a new SEA course was prepared, offered in Calgary for the second time.

In 2010 a course on *Increasing the Tangibility of SEA through the Valuation of Ecosystem Services* was offered as a one-day training course, jointly by Maria and Roel Sloomweg. Because of a very positive evaluation, the course was offered and run again in 2011 (Puebla) and 2012 (Porto) as a two days course.

None of the courses offered has ever been cancelled. The following table provides details as required.

Date	Course	Location	Other Trainers	Participants	Evaluation
1998	Strategic Environmental Assessment: a tool kit for practitioners	Christchurch	Riki Therivel	27	?
1999	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - a tool-kit	Glasgow	-	17	8,4
2000	Strategic Environmental Assessment: key elements and practices	Hong-Kong	-	20	8,2
2001	Strategic Environmental Assessment: key elements and practices	Cartagena	-	18	8,6
2002	Strategic Environmental Assessment: key elements and practices in the European approach	The Hague	-	17	7,3
2003	Strategic Environmental Assessment: current practices, future demands and capacity-building needs	Marrakech	-	27	7,9
2004	Strategic Environmental Assessment: experience and good practices in policy-making, planning and programme development	Vancouver	Olivia Bina (on day 1)	37 2-day and 5 1-day	7,9 (day 1) 8,0 (day 2)
2005	Strategic Environmental Assessment: strategic approaches to assist decision-making	Boston	-	19	7,9
2006	Strategic Environmental Assessment – Experiences and good practices in strategic approaches to assist decision-making	Stavanger	Jonathan Allotey and team	14	8.2
2007	Strategic Environmental	Seoul	Lea den	15	8,6

	Assessment (SEA) and strategic decision-making Two applications: The case of health inclusive SEA. The Ghana experience with energy and transport SEA		Broeder and Jonathan Allotey		
2009	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in developing country context	Ghana	Jonathan Allotey	34	9,3
2010	Strategic Environmental Assessment in Developing Country Context	Geneva	Jonathan Allotey	15,5 (on day 1)	7.7 (for the two days)
2010	Increasing Tangibility in SEA through Valuation of Ecosystem Services	Geneva	Roel Slootweg and Benjamin Landreau	8,5 (on day 2)	8,4
2011	Increasing tangibility in SEA through Valuation of Ecosystem Services	Puebla	Roel Slootweg (video)	13	8,9
2011	Innovative uses of SEA - Strategic Sustainability Approaches	Prague	-	31	8,2
2012	Increasing tangibility in SEA through Valuation of Ecosystem Services	Porto	Roel Slootweg	14	8,2
2013	Innovative uses of SEA - Strategic Sustainability Approaches	Calgary		16	8,6

? - information unavailable

Section 4 - Commitment of Trainers

- a) None of the above mentioned course has ever been cancelled.
- b) The only time there was a change to the initially planned course was in 2011 in Puebla when Roel Slootweg was unable to attend and Maria Partidario run the course alone, replacing his lectures by video presentations that he previously prepared.
- c) Trainer is committed to deliver the course. Trainer attended all IAIA annual conferences every year since 1992 and has never withdrawn a proposed training course.
- d) No need
- e) I agree with the new policy established by IAIA - one place up to 9 paying participants, two places for 10-19 paying participants, three places for 20 or more paying participants. I want to participate in the selection process.