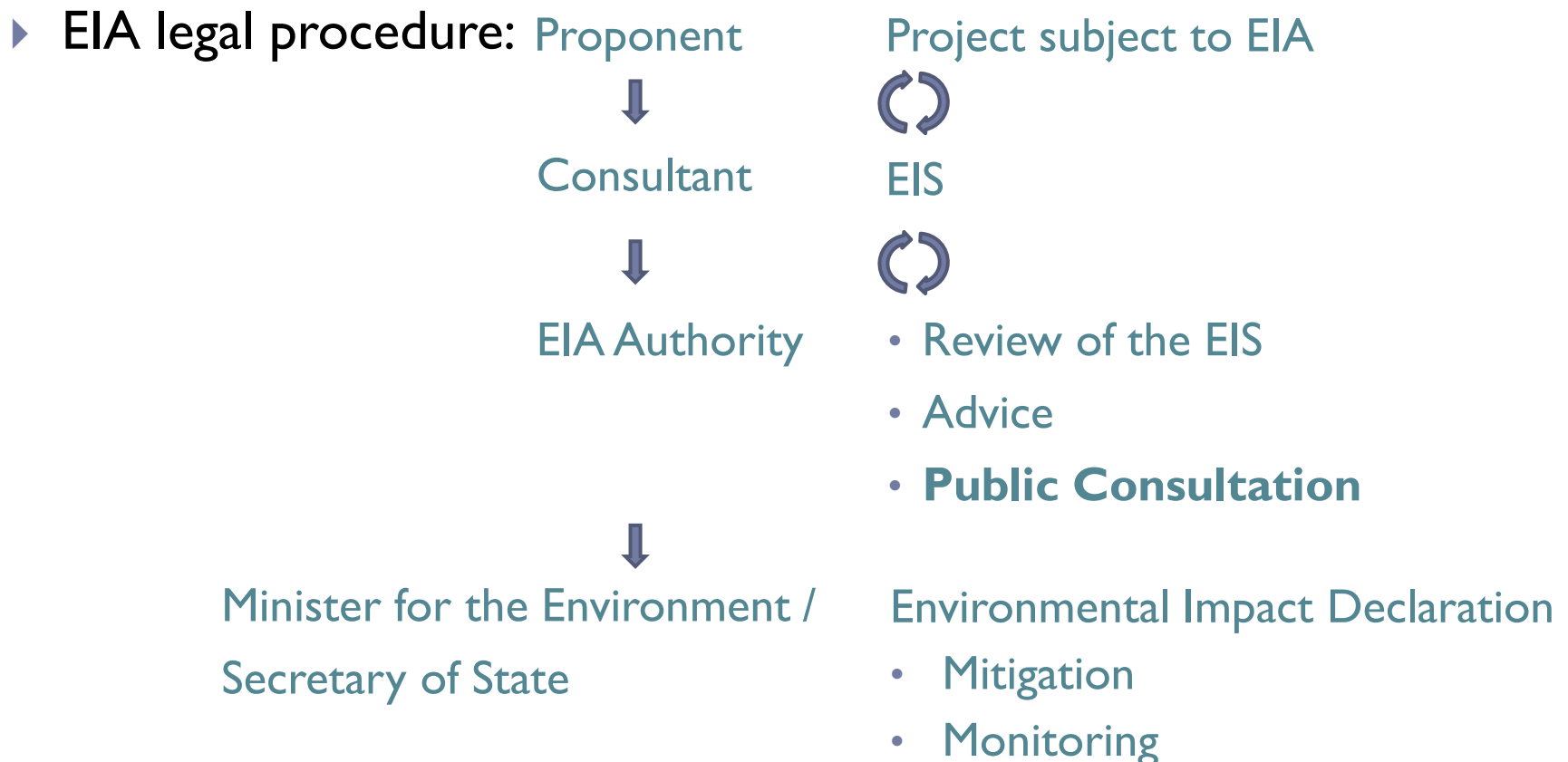




Public participation and decision making of energy projects (Portugal:2009-2011)

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- ▶ 1990: Portugal introduces the EIA legislation
 - ▶ 2000: new EIA regime
- mandatory



- ▶ Analysis of the **PP reports** of the EIA procedures of all energy projects subject to EIA with an EID issued from 2009 to 2011



total of 41 projects

- ▶ Survey on the **perceptions** about PP by developers and EIA consultants of those projects



10 developers + 11 consultants

(5 responses) (8 responses)

► PP reports

Type of participant	Opinion about the project				Issues and concerns						Suggestions	
	Favourable	Unfavourable	Unfavourable to at least one of the alternatives	Neutral	Legal and planning requirements	Strategic	Biodiversity	Landscape and cultural heritage	Social	Costs for the local economic activities	Project changes	Monitoring
Public authorities (inc. local authorities)	19	26	48	202	199	21	43	78	98	84	18	7
NGOs	4	30	7	16	7	23	33	19	19	8	3	2
Citizens	5	2297	1461	51	24	2228	2260	79	1434	700	358	1
Private businesses	0	9	3	10	9	0	3	7	7	15	4	0
Total	28	2362	1519	279	239	2272	2339	183	1558	807	383	10

► PP reports

Type of project	No of projects in each type	Average (no participants)	Maximum (no participants)	Minimum (no participants)
Wind farm	17	9,3	15	2
Gas pipeline	1	15,0	15	15
Hydropower	6	469,5	2277	6
Power transmission line	11	106,6	720	0
Substation	6	4,2	6	2

Average of all project types

102,1

► Survey of developers and EIA consultants

- **Initiatives** to promote PP or public consultation, including the participation or consultation of stakeholders, additionally to the procedures required by the regulations were **always or often taken**
- **None** of these initiatives was taken during **scoping** (none of the projects included scoping), a phase that is not mandatory in Portugal and in which most developers and most consultants agree that public consultation has **no benefits**
- **Opinions** were **taken into account** in the final selection of alternatives, site, design or other decisions about the project

► Survey of developers and EIA consultants

- Developers and consultants have divergent opinions about:
 - **PP advertisement** — most developers consider it sufficient
 - **Official procedures** — most consultants consider it insufficient
- **Time frames** established in the regulations are considered adequate by the majority of both developers and consultants
- Most developers agree they should be more **involved** in the public consultation but not more **responsible**; most consultants consider developers should be more involved and more responsible
- **PP has influence** in the EIA decision

- ▶ **PP is clearly low**, except when there are petitions involved
(98,7% of the citizen's and NGO's participation concentrates on five projects; twelve projects had no participation at all)
- ▶ The opinion of the majority of the participants tends to be **unfavourable to projects**, except in the public authorities case
- ▶ The **major concerns** are legal and planning requirements, biodiversity, strategic issues, social issues and costs for the local economic activities
- ▶ **Additional initiatives** to promote PP or public consultation are often undertaken
- ▶ **PP is taken into account** in project design and it has **influence** in the EIA decision

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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