



# SEA in Latvian rural spatial planning

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# Presentation outline



- Interview method and results
  - - environmental problems
  - - public participation
  - - Impacts to territorial plans
- SEA reports
- Conclusions

# Interview method



- In-depth interviews, semi-structured, free conversation
- Insights into SEA process «from-below»
- Carried out 2010-2011 in Western, Central and Easterns parts of Latvia in 10 parishes
- With parish heads, planning leaders



- Environmental problems are
  - - not present – (4 of 23)
  - - due to land abandonment, re-naturalization processes, lack of human activities – (9 of 23)
  - - Natura 2000 and bureaucracy as a problem (4 of 23)



- Impacts to territorial plans
  - - Do not know or no opinion (8 of 14)
  - - No impacts recognised (6 of 14)
  - - No or unclear sense of SEA (9 of 12)

# SEA reports



- Little to analyse within overexploitation paradigm
- Formalism: follow normatives – no negative impacts
- Challenge to SEA methodology outside overexploitation paradigm

# Conclusions



- Environmental problems contrary to overexploitation paradigm
- Leads to ineffective and formal SEA
- In-depth interview method very valuable