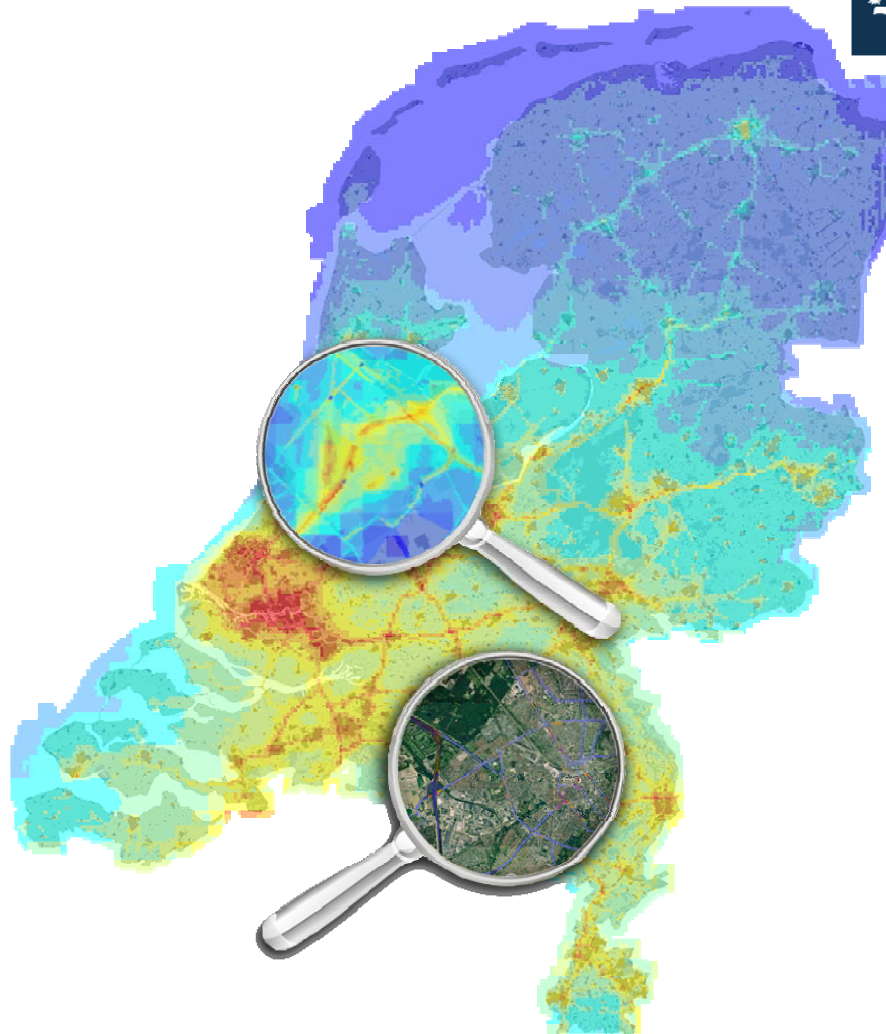




Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment



The long road to shorter planning and improving EIA: a reality check

Hans de Vries

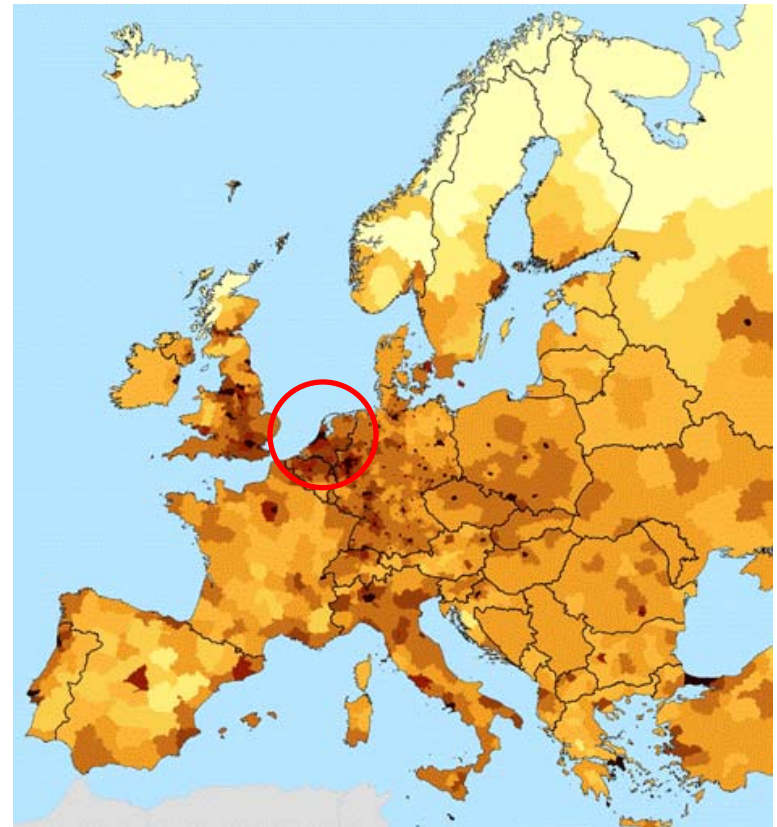
Jos Arts

Jeroen Weertman



Spatial planning characteristics Netherlands

- High pressure on land use, conflicts of interest
- Environmental pressure: nature, air, noise





Situation 2007

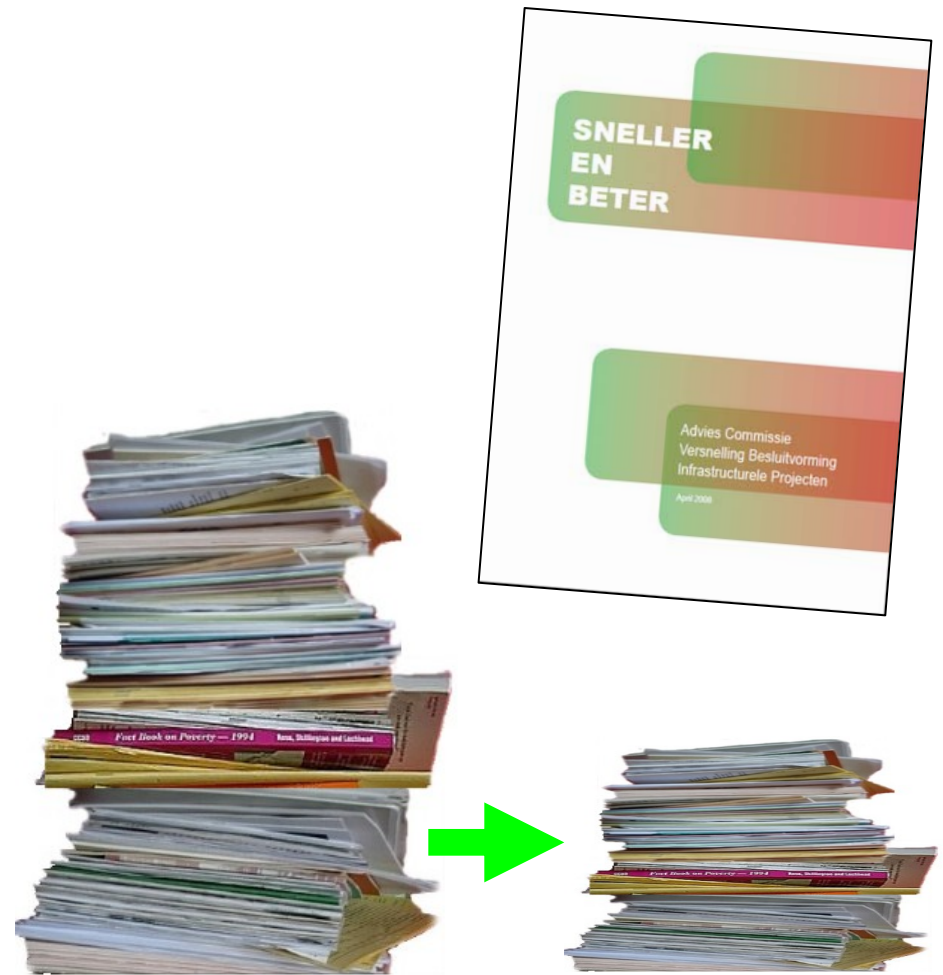
- Complex policy & planning procedures: lengthy, costly, irrelevant IA – old discussion
- Deadlock in planning process: planning a new motorway takes > 15 years



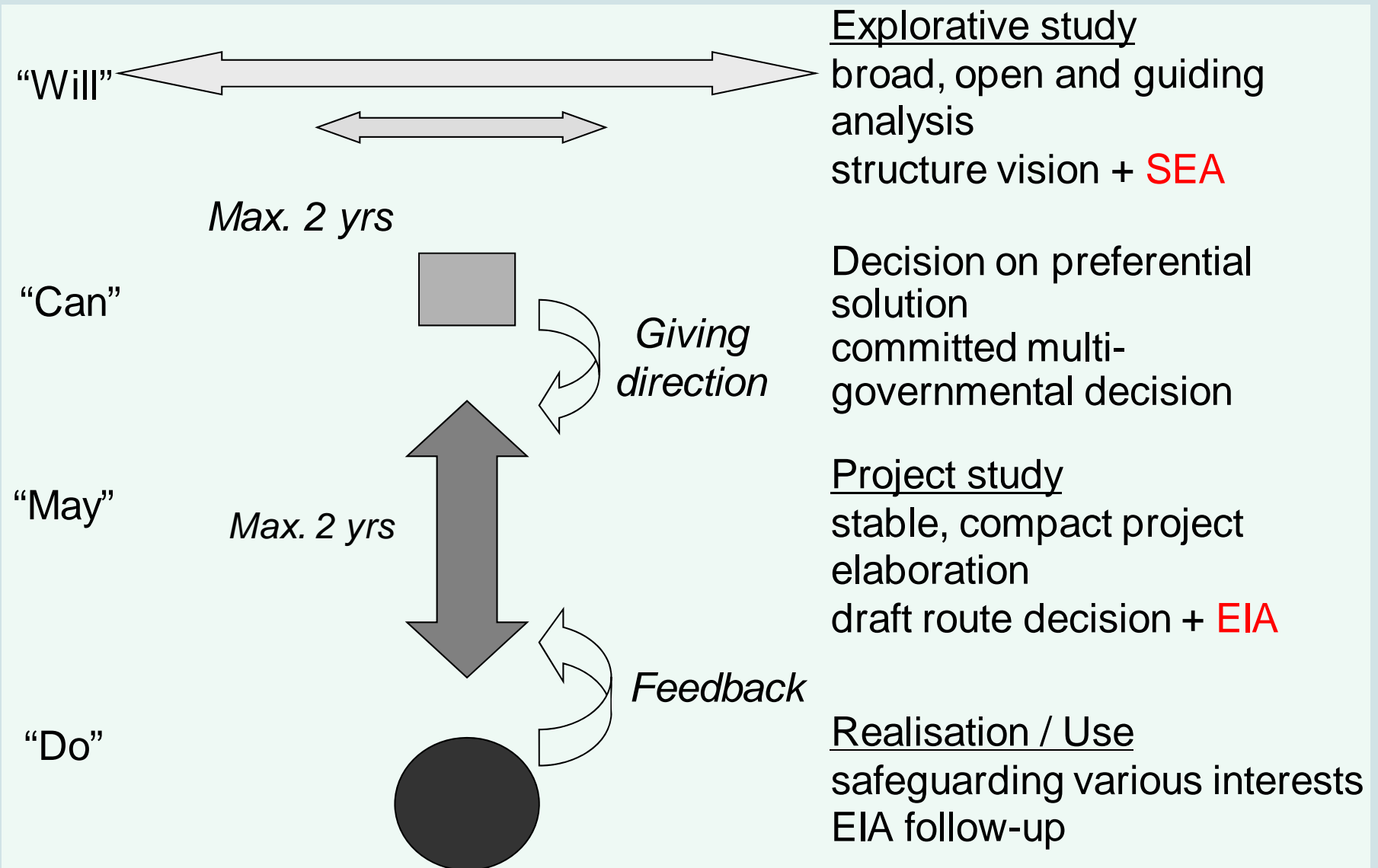


2008: "Faster & Better"

- National committee
- Improve
 - legislation
 - public participation
 - internal procedures
 - governance
 - impact assessment

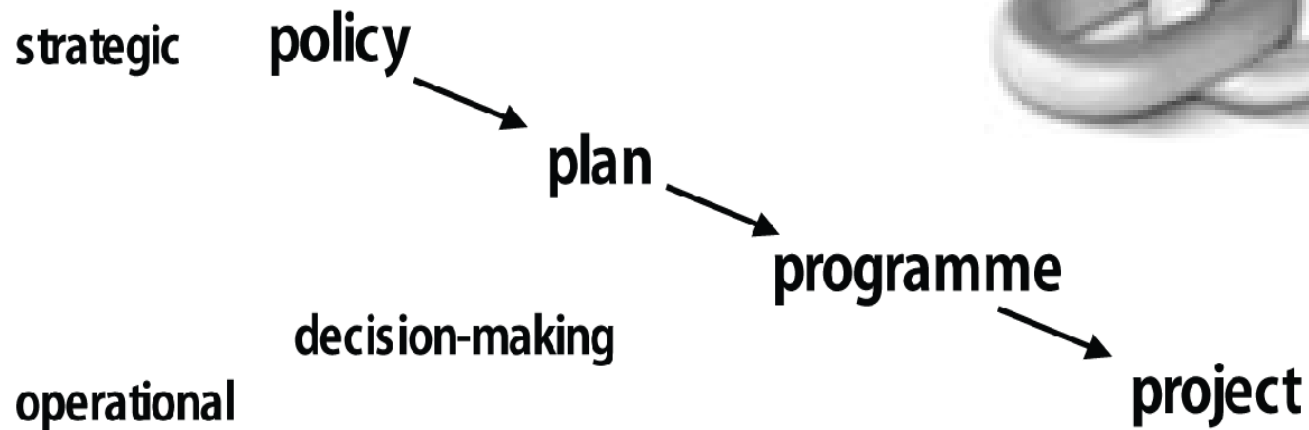
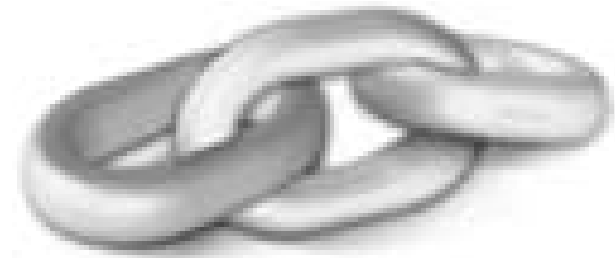


Approach: linking IA & planning/programming process

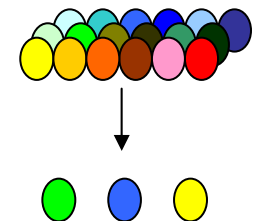
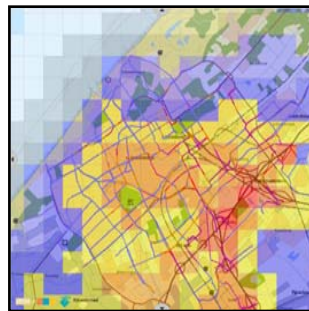
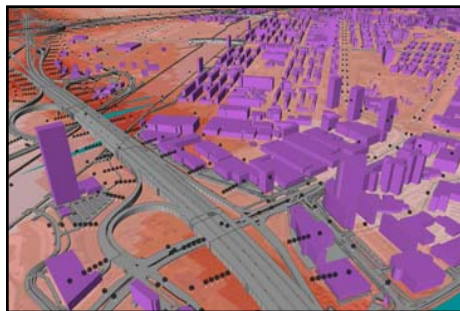




Useful IA, chain approach



reality / environment





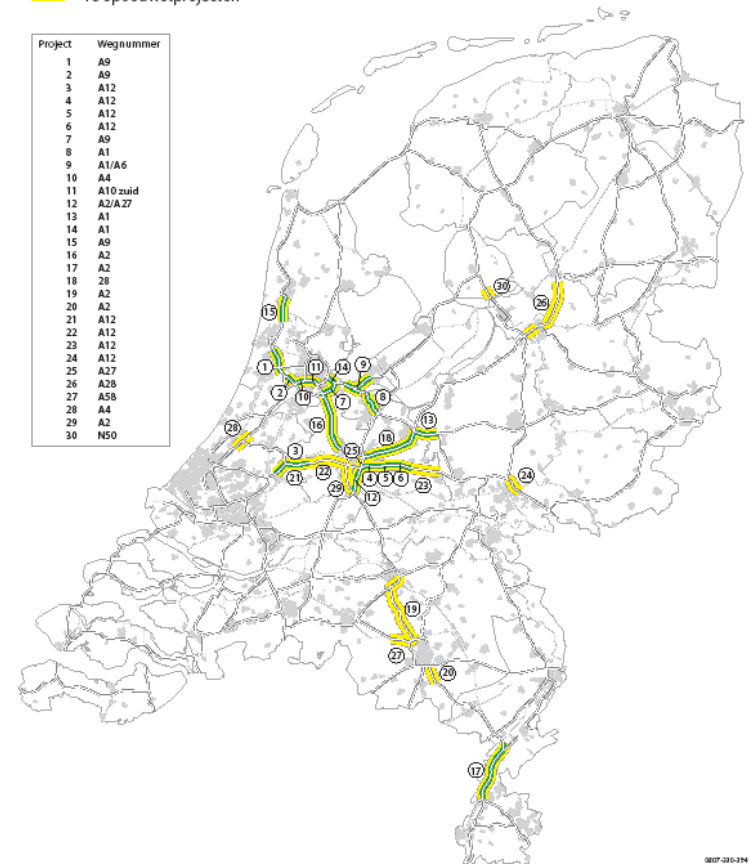
Simplification of IA for most urgent (EIA) projects

- Limited study area
- 'Rules of thumb' for IA
- Using national program information for air quality, traffic noise and nature
- Specific law
- Successful: most decisions taken 2009-2010

Legenda

- 30 Versnellingsprojecten
- 18 Spoedwetprojecten

Project	Wegnummer
1	A9
2	A9
3	A12
4	A12
5	A12
6	A12
7	A9
8	A1
9	A1/A6
10	A4
11	A10 zuid
12	A2/A27
13	A1
14	A1
15	A9
16	A2
17	A2
18	A2
19	A2
20	A2
21	A12
22	A12
23	A12
24	A12
25	A27
26	A26
27	A56
28	A4
29	A2
30	N50



0807-2013-214



A reality check: the results in practice

Assessment aspects 'Faster & Better'	Initiatives	
	Roads	Waterways
Duration of the entire initiative	+	+
Governmental focussing	-	-
Prospect of funding	0	0
Useful Impact Assessment	0	0
Market search	0	0
Appropriate public participation	-	0
Co-operation with other authorities	-	0
Chain approach	-	0



Complexity of plans and projects

- Duration and connectedness of stages is crucial
- Faster and better framework is designed for complex plans and projects
- Focussing in time important
- Large, broad and complex projects need more time for the explorative (SEA) study (2-4 years)





How to avoid double and excessive IA?

- Avoiding double IA (info overlap SEA - EIA) requires adequate SEA on a policy / program level, providing basis for projects
- Strict scoping and focussing on relevant impact criteria by all parties involved (including the public) at the very start





Challenging the concept of tiering

Integration of
strategic and
project decision
Integrated
Impact
Assessment





Conclusions

- Improving SEA, EIA procedures has to be integrated with improving other procedures (planning, programming, budgeting)
- Include public participation, governance, culture, etc. from the start
- More focus needed on strategic programming level
- A one-size-fits all framework works on paper: in practice tailor-made adaptations are necessary
- Reducing the amount of impact research is possible, not easy
- Tiering between planning stages is essential