SEA for governance enhancement

Monteiro MB; Partidário MR
Centre for Management Studies, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
to what extent can SEA contribute to governance enhancement by promoting sustainable public policy-making and act as a political support instrument for advanced SD?

**governance** as a relational concept that provides legitimacy to the exercise of power

(e.g. Monteiro and Partidário, in development; Klijn 2008; Meuleman 2008; Meuleman 2009; Jessop 2002; Stocker 1998; Voss 2006)

**SEA as a political support instrument** – the strategic role sets SEA in the political arena, at highest levels of decision-making

(e.g. Cashmore *et al.* 2010; van Buuren and Nootboom 2010; Partidário 2007; Partidário 2012; Richardson 2005)
first approach

my starting point

SEA

institutions

decisions

sustainability
1) can SEA enable the integration of social, economic, environmental and institutional aspects in public policy formulation for governance enhancement?

2) what influence has power distribution and institutional behaviours in the performance of SEA?

3) can SEA play a proactive role in securing institutional legitimacy and sustainable decisions in public policy formulation?
The existing knowledge

- Current practice of SEA more ‘traditional SEA’ oriented (reactive EIA-based approaches) – theory vs. practice (e.g. Monteiro and Partidário 2012)

- Need to emphasize governance and institutions in SEA research (e.g. Axelsson et al. 2012; Jiliberto 2012; IAIA FasTips no.4 by Meuleman 2013; Slootweg and Jones 2011)

- Recognition of the role of power actors and the legitimization of SEA by international institutions and organizations with influence on how SEA is interpreted and carried out (e.g. Partidário and Sheate 2013; Richardson and Cashmore 2011; Jiliberto 2012)

- Importance of metagovernance in SEA as a coordinative mechanism in highly complex contexts (Monteiro et al., in development)

- SEA success dependents on the political-social-administrative contexts (styles of governance influence SEA institutionalized regulation and practice) (Monteiro et al. in development)
objectives

- relationship between institutionalized practices of SEA and governance systems
- how institutional behaviours and power distribution can affect SEA role for governance enhancement
- necessary shifts in the institutionalization of SEA to pursuit sustainable public policies

 decision-making
 policy-making
 governance

SEA

new institutionalism

application of conceptual framework to case studies
from real practice…
to the expected results...
thank you for your attention!

margarida.monteiro@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
mariapartidario@tecnico.ulisboa.pt