power distribution in the SEA European Union model

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Power…. Ability to intervene and make a difference (as a quality of a system of rules and resources)

“Knowledge is power” (Foucalt)

“Knowledge is a source of power” (Kooiman)

Power is in all relations – the level of allocation is provided by actors knowledge, capabilities and resources

Limitations vs. Level of influence

Empowerment (as transition process): individual, community and professional
Responsibility

Influence

Empowerment
question # 1

Is there a relationship between the distribution of power and responsibilities, and the structure of SEA regulation?

question # 2

Is there any pattern in MS concerning the type of actor’s holders of power with influence in the systems ‘decision windows’?
research design...

evidence on responsibility and power holders

WHO

WHEN

evidence on responsibility and ‘decision windows’
Evidence on responsibility ...

**EU:** SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

**BE:** Law 13 2006  
**BG:** SG 98/28.11.2014  
**CZ:** Act 100/2001 and Act 93/2004  
**EE:** EIA and SEM Act 2005  
**ES:** Ley 21/2013  
**FI:** Act 200/2005 and Decree 357/2005  
**HR:** Environmental Act OG 80/2013 and OG 64/08  
**NIE:** 2004 No. 280  
**MT:** LN 418 of 2005  
**PT:** DL 232/2007 and 58/2011  
**SCT:** Environmental Assessment Act  
**UK:** 2004 No. 1633
common procedural requirements...

MS Authority

Screening → Scoping → Environmental Report → Environmental Statement → Monitoring and follow-up

Authorities with Environmental Responsibility

To be consult → To be consult → To be informed → To be informed → To be consulted

Public

To be informed → To be consulted → To be informed → To be informed
‘decision windows’...
power holders...

- **Scope of the assessment** (MS Authority)
- **Development of the Environmental Report** (MS Authority)
- **Consultation** (MS Authority, Authorities with ER, Public)
- **Environmental Statement** (MS Authority)

**Quality Control**
(e.g. designated body from public administration ES)
Power in a process that aims to create **development contexts towards sustainability**

- In the perspective of responsibility, most of the ‘ability to decide’ is on actors with **similar levels of knowledge** – centralized state authority

- Rigour defines the ‘powerful’ actors – rational-centred approach with focus on **structure and quality**

- **General public** (non-state actors) with **small degree of influence** in the SEA process (‘to be informed’ instead of ‘to be engaged’)

- **Practitioners** have a role in the process – as **knowledge providers** that influence decisions (empowering role)
Power in a process that aims to create **development contexts towards sustainability**

“power **defines rationality** in the construction of an SEA instrument” (T. Richardson)

**YES!**
Focus on the distribution of power - can add value into a process of change

Change mental modes – from ‘decision Windows’ to ‘Windows of opportunity’

Acknowledge power as a transformative capacity (not as controllative)
Thank you for your attention!

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