

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” (Foucault)

“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

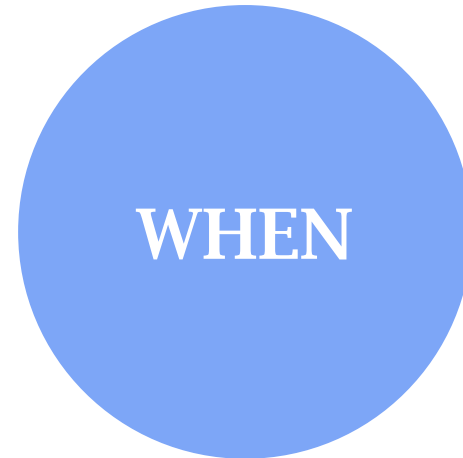
question # 1

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'?

evidence on
responsibility and
power holders



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

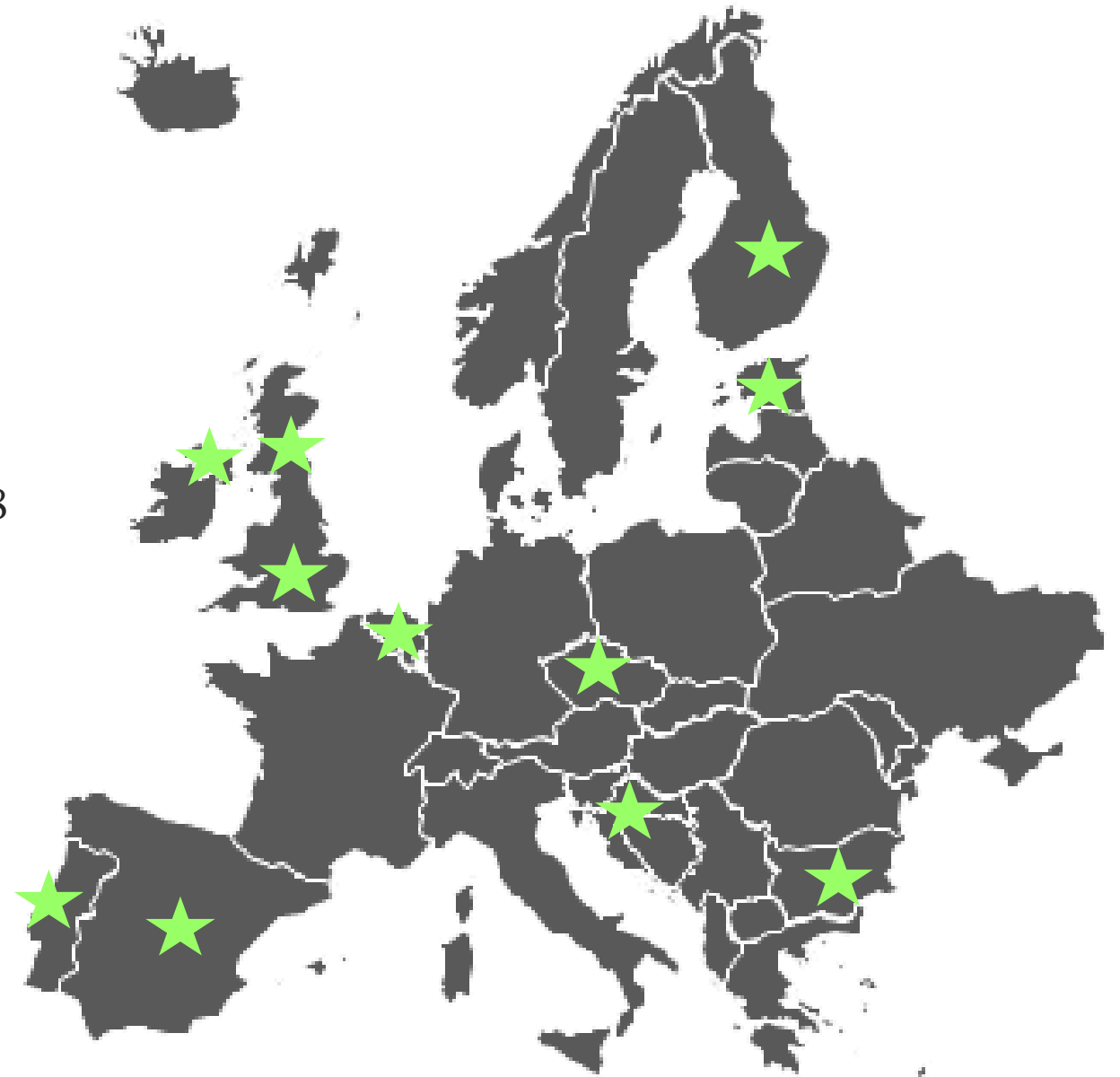
NIE: 2004 No. 280

MT: LN 418 of 2005

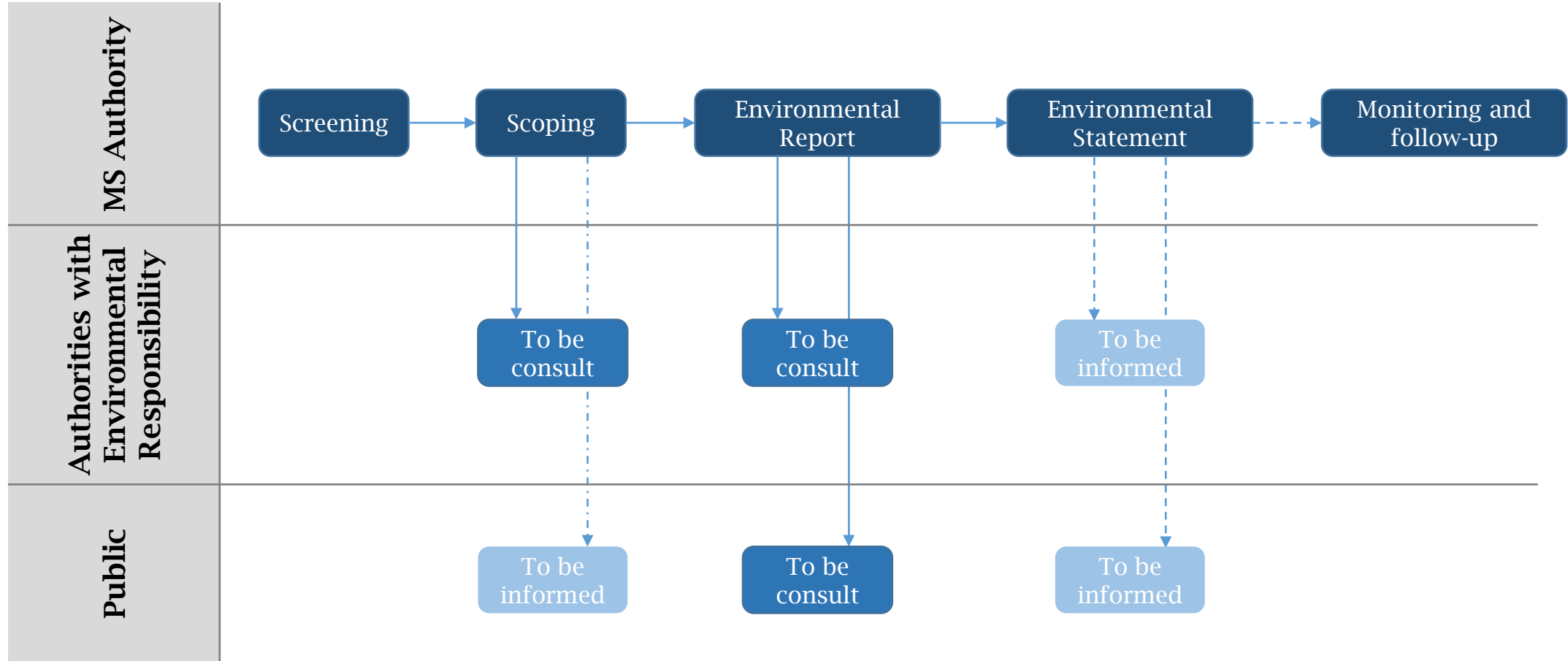
PT: DL 232/2007 and 58/2011

SCT: Environmental Assessment Act

UK: 2004 No. 1633



common procedural requirements...



'decision windows'...

Scope of the
assessment

Development of the
Environmental Report

Consultation

Environmental
Statement

Quality Control

(e.g. ES)

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**

answer # 1

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

answer # 2

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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