

Bottlenecks in SEA implementation

Towards a proposal of guidelines for Sardinia



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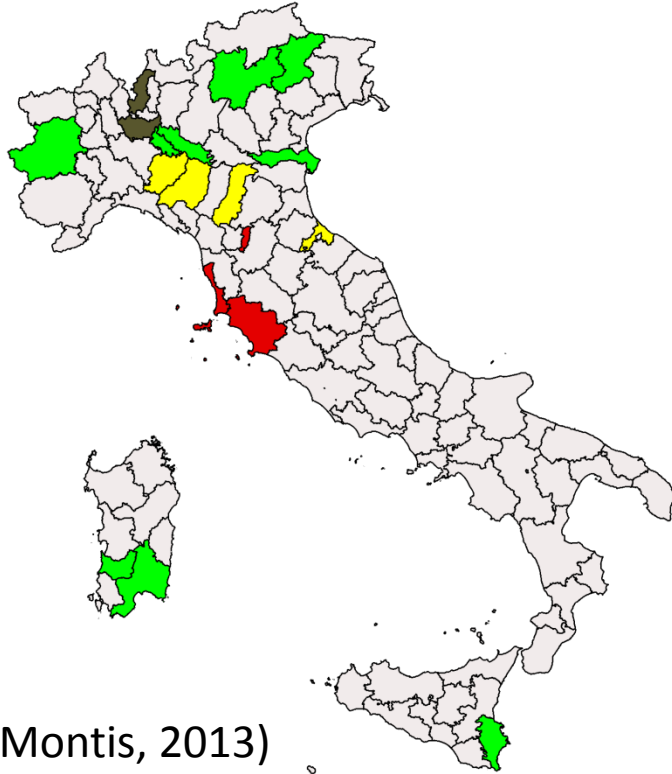
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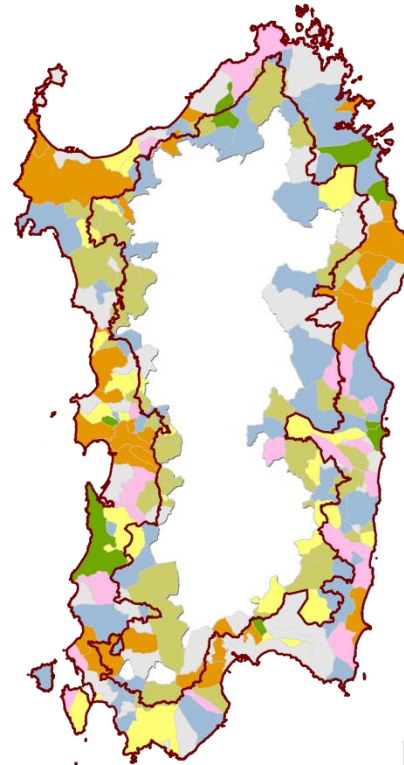
20-23 April 2015

Florence

Introduction



(De Montis, 2013)



- PPR: first homogeneous setting
- Municipalities involved in the survey
- Group 1
- Group 2
- Group 3
- Group 4
- Group 5
- Group 6

De Montis *et al.*, 2014

Introduction

So far few studies have been performed to analyze Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) guidelines.

We analyze some SEA guidelines in order to evaluate the contents of those documents to take suggestions for SEA guidelines for the sector of land use planning in Sardinia.



Introduction

The availability of SEA guidelines drawn up for specific sectors, organizations, and types of impacts, is useful to promote, or speed up, SEA practice.

(Thérivel, 2004)

Defining the sample

We selected SEA guidelines:

1. issued by EU member states and Italian regions;
2. accessible on-line for free;
3. written up in English or Italian;
4. approved after the publication of (and coherent to) the SEA Directive.



Defining the sample

A



B



Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Sweden	Practical guidelines on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programmes	2010	Environmental Code	2004

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Ireland	Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities	2004	Regulations 2004, and Planning and Development Regulations 2004	2004

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
The UK	A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive	2005	Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations	2004

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Italy	La Valutazione Ambientale Strategica dei Piani urbanistici e territoriali [Strategic Environmental Assessment of Urban and Regional Plans]	2006	Environmental Code	2006

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Latvia	Guidance to SEA in practice	2007	Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act on 26 February 2004 and 15 September 2005 and by new secondary legislation	2004

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
	Strategic		Environmental	
Scotland	Environmental Assessment Guidance	2013	Assessment (Scotland) Act	2005

Defining the sample

EU STATE	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	NATIONAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Portugal	Strategic Environmental Assessment Better Practice Guide – methodological guidance for strategic thinking in SEA	2012 (2007)	Decree-Law n. 232/2007	2007

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Province of Bolzano	SEA guidelines for spatial planning	2007	Provincial law n. 2	2007

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Region of Friuli- Venezia Giulia	SEA guidelines for spatial planning	2010	Italian Environmental Code	2006-2010

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Region of Lombardy	Methodological model for environmental assessment of plans and programs	2010	Regional law (RL) n. 12	2005

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Region of Sardinia	SEA guidelines of municipal spatial plans	2010	Regional Committee Resolution n. 34/33	2012

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Region of Valle d'Aosta	SEA guidelines of municipal spatial plans	--	RL n. 12	2009

Defining the sample

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	DESCRIPTION	PUBLICATION YEAR	LOCAL SEA REGULATION	ADOPTION YEAR
Region of Veneto	SEA guidelines for plans and programs	2009	RL n. 11	2004

SEA guidelines: some critical issues

CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA	REFERENCES
A Specific guidelines	Brooke et al. (2004); Sheate et al. (2004); Thérivel (2004); Schijf (2011)
B ₁ Regularly updated	Schijf (2011)
B ₂ Case studies included	

SEA guidelines: results

EU STATE	LEVEL
Ireland	Plans
Italy	Plans
Latvia	Plans and programs
Portugal	Policies,* plans and programs
Scotland	Plans
Sweden	Plans and programs
The UK	Plans and programs

* The guidance applies to all actions that are driven by long-term strategic objectives.

SEA guidelines: results

ITALIAN INSTITUTION	LEVEL
Province of Bolzano	Plans
Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Plans
Region of Lombardy	Plans and programs
Region of Sardinia	Plans
Region of Valle d'Aosta	Plans
Region of Veneto	Plans and programs

SEA guidelines: results

Most of the guidelines insist that SEA should be integrated and carried out as early as possible during the development of plans and programs.

(Scottish SEA guidelines)

STAGE	PLAN	SEA
Pre-review	Preparation of Working Papers on key issues	If SEA is not mandatory, screen for possible significant environmental effects
Initial public consultation	Publication of (a) statutory notice of intention to make or review plan, and (b) Issues Paper	Scoping of the Environmental Report, in consultation with environmental authorities
Preparation of Documentation	Preparation of draft plan	Preparation of Environmental Report
Public consultation	Public display of draft plan and consideration of submissions	Public display of Environmental Report and consideration of submissions

SEA guidelines: results

b) Environmental Impact Assessment

SEA of development plans offers an opportunity to strengthen and streamline subsequent Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) undertaken at project level. Identifying environmental issues at strategic level, may help to inform the screening and scoping stages of EIA, as well as providing an early indication of any additional survey work which may be required.

There is considerable potential for strengthening the links between SEA and EIA, to facilitate more proportionate approaches to project level planning and assessment. For Example, Strategic mitigation measures identified through the SEA process can help to inform project level design, where relevant. SEA also provides an ideal opportunity to explore potential for cumulative effects at an early stage in the process of developing multiple projects within a given area.

(Scottish SEA guidelines)

SEA guidelines: results

In some cases SEA guidelines suggest the adoption of checklists to assess the quality of SEA and its phases.

(Swedish SEA guidelines)

Checklist for a good quality SEA

A good quality strategic environmental assessment process is:

Integrated

- Ensures appropriate environmental assessment of all strategic decisions relevant for the achievement of sustainable development.
- Addresses the inter-relationships of biophysical, social and economic aspects.

SEA guidelines: results

In some cases SEA guidelines suggest the adoption of checklists to assess the quality of SEA and its phases.

Checklist for avoiding a good quality SEA

(Swedish SEA guidelines)

1. Find out that you need an SEA when the strategic action is almost completed; alternatively “forget” that you need an SEA until then. Decide that none of your staff can do the SEA because they are too busy putting final touches on the strategic action.
2. Hire the cheapest consultant you can find, who happens to live far away and be unfamiliar with the area: justify this by saying that you need ‘independent’ assessment of strategic action. Alternatively, get your most junior planner to do the SEA: explain that this will be “a good introduction to our strategic action”.

SEA guidelines: results

EU State	A – Specific guidelines	B ₁ – Regularly updated	B ₂ – Case studies included
Ireland			
Italy	✓		✓
Latvia			✓
Portugal		--	✓
Scotland		--	
Sweden			
The UK			✓

SEA guidelines: results

Institution	A – Specific guidelines	B ₁ – Regularly updated	B ₂ – Case studies included
Region of Friuli-Venezia Giulia			
Region of Lombardy	✓		
Region of Sardinia	✓		
Region of Valle d'Aosta			
Region of Veneto	✓		
Autonomous Province of Bolzano	✓		

SEA guidelines: results

As an example Helsinki Metropolitan Area Transport System Plan (TSP 2002) is a strategic, long-term plan of transport in The Helsinki Metropolitan Area. The transport system

Latvian SEA
guidelines:
example of
case studies

Lines of action considered.

Alternatives	Principle
Reference alternative Alt 0+	The current transport system supplemented with infrastructure projects already decided upon
Alt 1 The former Transport System Plan (TSP 1998)	Transport system described in the 1998 plan. Emphasis on infrastructure investments. Problems are solved by building new roads, and adding new rail tracks.
Alt 2 Traffic management	An alternative based traffic and mobility management. Reduced demand for new infrastructure because of increased efficiency of the current system (pricing etc). Less new road infrastructure than in other alternatives.
Alt 3 Land use management	The leading principle is to minimize demand through land-use planning. The existing capacity of the transport system is used more efficiently. New infrastructure investments support the land-use decisions.

SEA guidelines: results

SEA themes	Specific recommendations
Screening	Aim; basic criteria and exceptions
Scoping	Aim; what information is needed for the draft scoping document; clearly define aims of plan and SEA; define the environmental report's contents
Environmental report	Aim; how to measure the quality; how to handle uncertainties and lack of data; how to identify, describe and evaluate the effects of the plan
Alternatives	Why define alternatives; how define alternatives; how compare the alternatives with each other; how to select reasonable alternative

SEA guidelines: results

SEA themes	Specific recommendations
Consultation	Aim; who, when and how; how to measure the quality; define a time schedule for meetings
Monitoring	Aim; who should do it; what needs to be monitored; which indicators should be used
Integration SEA-planning process	The need to integrate SEA within plan process is highlighted
Checklist	SEA guidelines suggest the adoption of checklists to assess the quality of SEA and its phases

SEA guidelines: conclusions

1. The SEA guidelines generally describe SEA procedure by segmenting it into **distinct stages and indicate who should be involved in the process and when**. In addition, most of the guidelines insist that SEA should be integrated and carried out **as early as possible during the development of plans** and programs.
2. Public consultation: **who and when?**
3. Some SEA guidelines cover the **relationship between SEA and EIA** and other environmental assessments, and suggest the adoption of **checklists** to assess the quality of SEA and its phases.

SEA guidelines: conclusions

4. In general we have observed that **guidelines are not regularly updated**. Late updating may result in: i) the failure to introduce the contents of new regulations, as in the case of the Italian guidelines, and ii) the plight of links to other resources on-line which now are no longer available.
5. SEA guidelines **include some case studies in quite a useful way**, as they help designers in identifying the most effective solutions. Sometimes real case studies are replaced with theoretical examples that help to select the most adapt actions with respect to a particular stage of the SEA process.

References

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Acknowledgements

The authors are supported by the funds received from the Autonomous Region of Sardinia through the research project “Efficacia ed efficienza della governance paesaggistica e territoriale in Sardegna: il ruolo della VAS e delle IDT” [Efficacy and efficiency of the landscape and environmental governance in Sardinia: the role of SEA and of SDI].