



Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Environment

Survival of the fittest

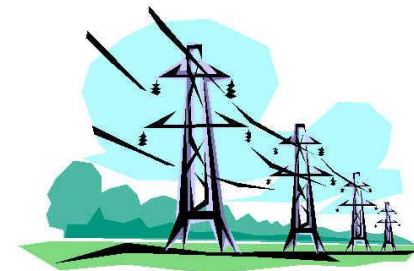
Adaptive strategies in Impact Assessment

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National infra projects, multiple challenge for IA

- National infrastructure projects (transportation, energy) in The Netherlands have long lead times : on average 10-20 years
- To improve the planning process is not just a 'technical challenge' (SEA/IA), IA is part of framework, including:
 - governance (governmental willpower)
 - scoping / focusing
 - prospect of funding (sufficient budget, including mitigating measures)
 - appropriate public participation
 - co-operation with stakeholders
 - chain approach





Root causes for delay

- Changing priorities, political changes, changing scope
- Budget restraints
- Research overload, indecipherable results, uncertainties
- Legal risks
- Inadequate stakeholder involvement
- No public support
- Delay causes further delay





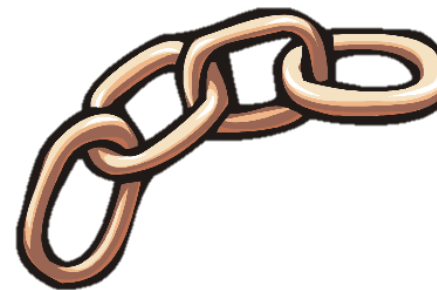
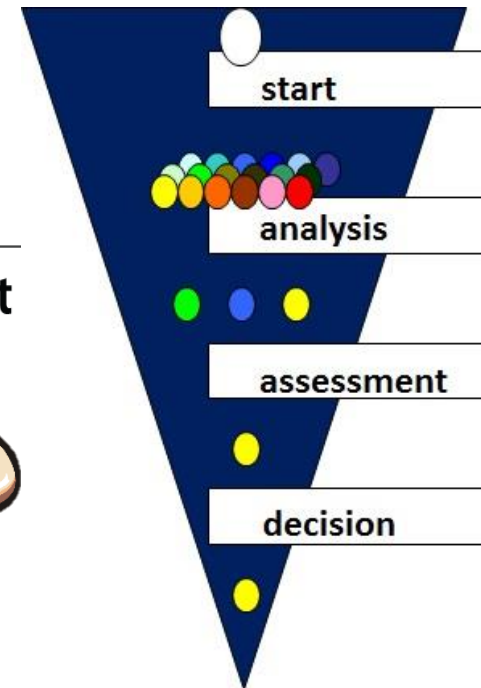
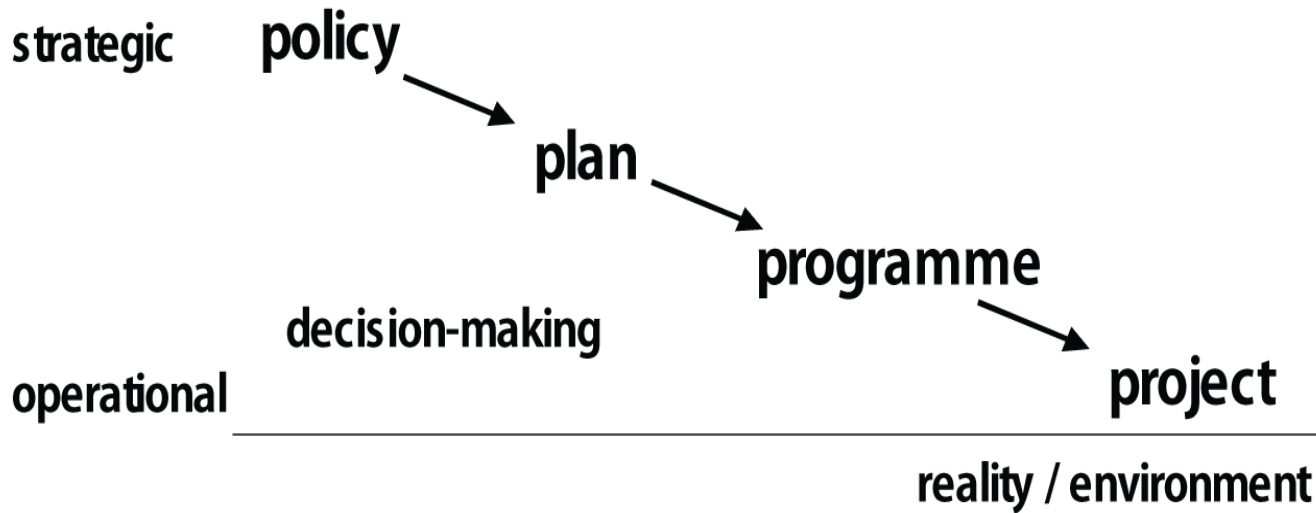
Optimizing, streamlining determinant factors

- Improving **planning process** ('Elverding committee: Faster & Better'): improving governmental focusing, prospect of funding, useful IA, market search (parallel process procurement and IA study), appropriate public participation, co-operation with other authorities, chain approach
- Improving **legal procedures**, legal framework: shorter legal proceedings, one national court of appeal
- Improving **technical IA instruments**: standardizing methods, models, quality assessment





Joint process at all levels: SEA, IA





Key factors for success IA

Wide range IA: strategic => detail	Narrow range (no SEA)
Connecting primary project target with secondary targets	Narrow focused project target
Inclusive: from start to end with stakeholders	Exclusive: selected 'in-crowd'
Joint fact finding, share with stakeholders	Experts fact finding, no sharing until decision
Adaptive, iterative scoping process	Fixed, irreversible scoping process
Mutual gains, benefits for local community	No benefits for local community
Multi governance commitment, securing step by step results	One single final government decision



Further reading...

Survival of the Fittest?

Adaptive strategies in Impact Assessment in a "Darwinistic perspective"

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Paper available at

<http://conferences.iaia.org/2016/draft-papers/Survival%20of%20the%20Fittest.doc>