



Greening EU Cooperation

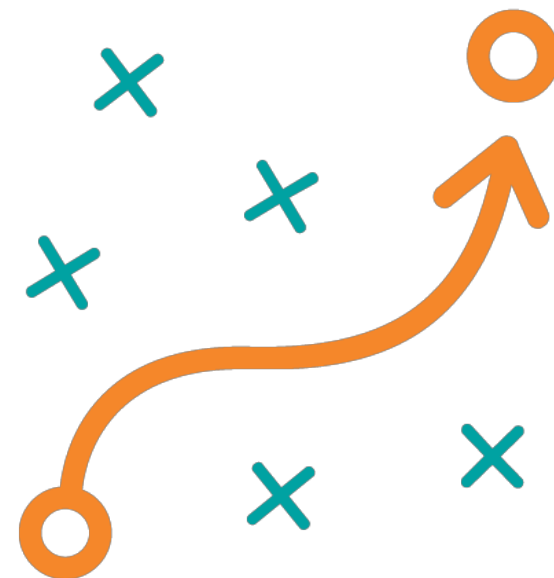
Integrating Environment, Climate Change and Disaster Risk
Reduction in EU External Action

Session 8: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Strategic Environmental Assessment

“the **process** and tool for evaluating effects of proposed policies, plans and programmes on natural resources, social, cultural and economic conditions and the institutional environment in which decisions are made”

IAIA (International Association for Impact Assessment)

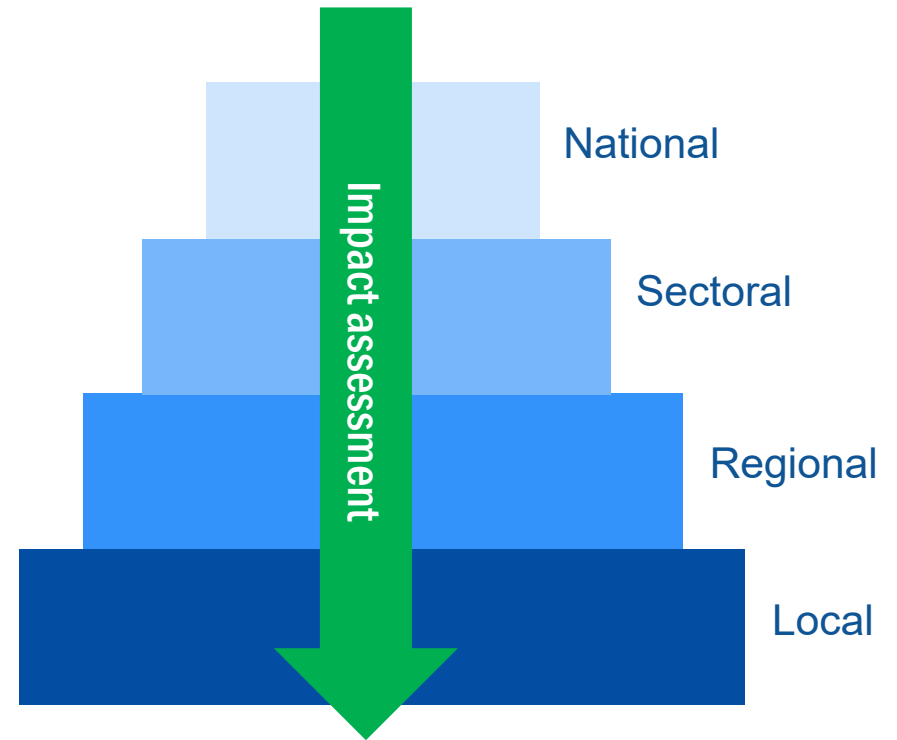
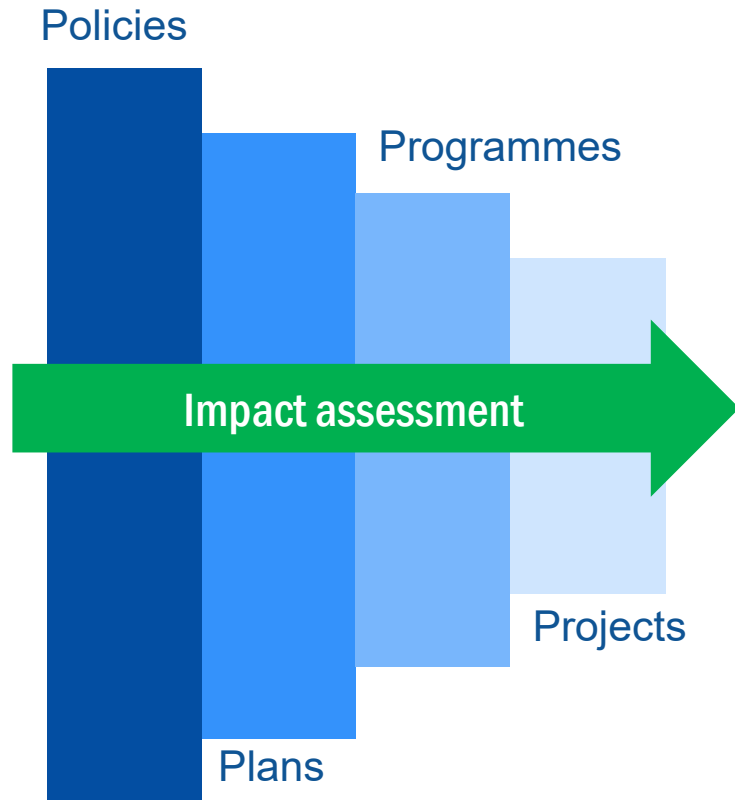


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Tiering approach



EIA: we know what we want to assess



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*SEA: we have an idea
of what we want, but
don't know exactly
what will be done*

SEA vis-à-vis EIA

EIA	SEA
Project-level	Policies, plans & programmes
Focus on informing development consent authorisation process	Focus on enhancing policy-making/planning process
Relatively standard approach	Different approaches available
Quantitative analyses dominate	Qualitative analyses dominate
Analyses alternatives within a project	Analyses alternatives to achieve strategic objectives



INTPA/NEAR approach to SEA

Common to most SEA systems:

What are the **likely environmental consequences** of implementing the policy/plan/programme?



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INTPA/NEAR approach to SEA

Also addressed in EU cooperation approach:

Are the **environmental threats** faced by the sector taken being addressed?

Are the **potential effects of climate change** on the sector taken into account?

On the proposed actions?



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INTPA/NEAR approach to SEA

Also addressed in EU cooperation approach:

Are there **opportunities** to enhance:

- Environmental sustainability?
- Low carbon development?
- Climate resilient development?

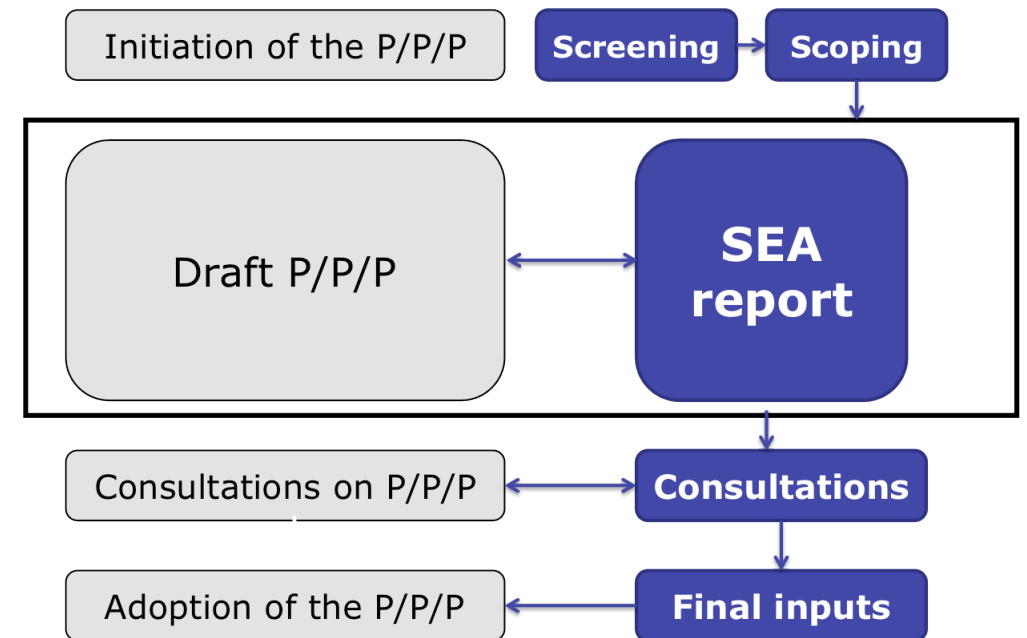
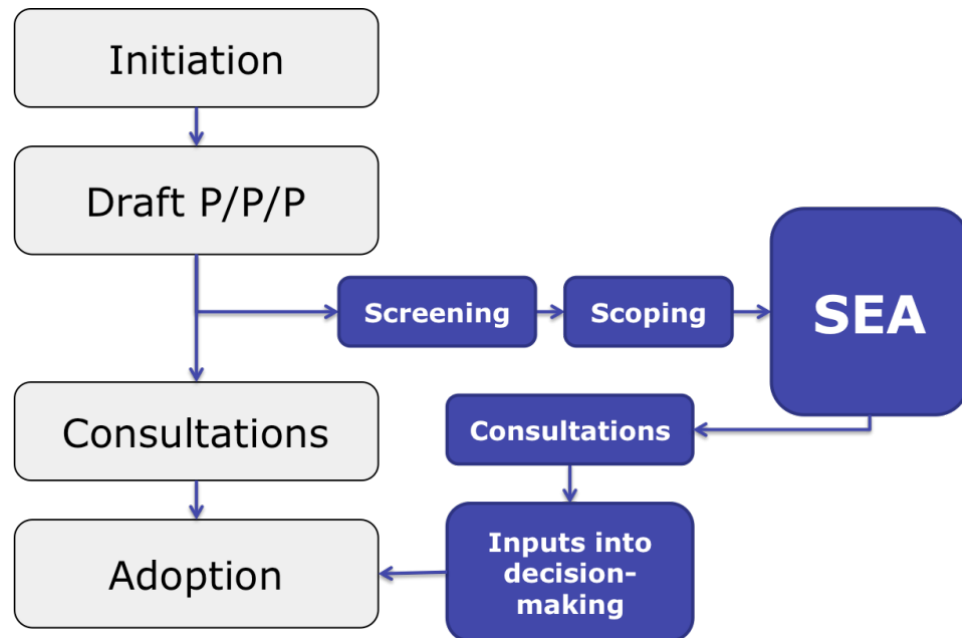


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Approaches to SEA

Based on **draft** PPP vs in **parallel** to PPP
elaboration vs **fully integrated**



SEA and climate change

- **Strategic planning:**
medium- to long-term
- **Climate change** is
fundamental



When can SEA be useful?

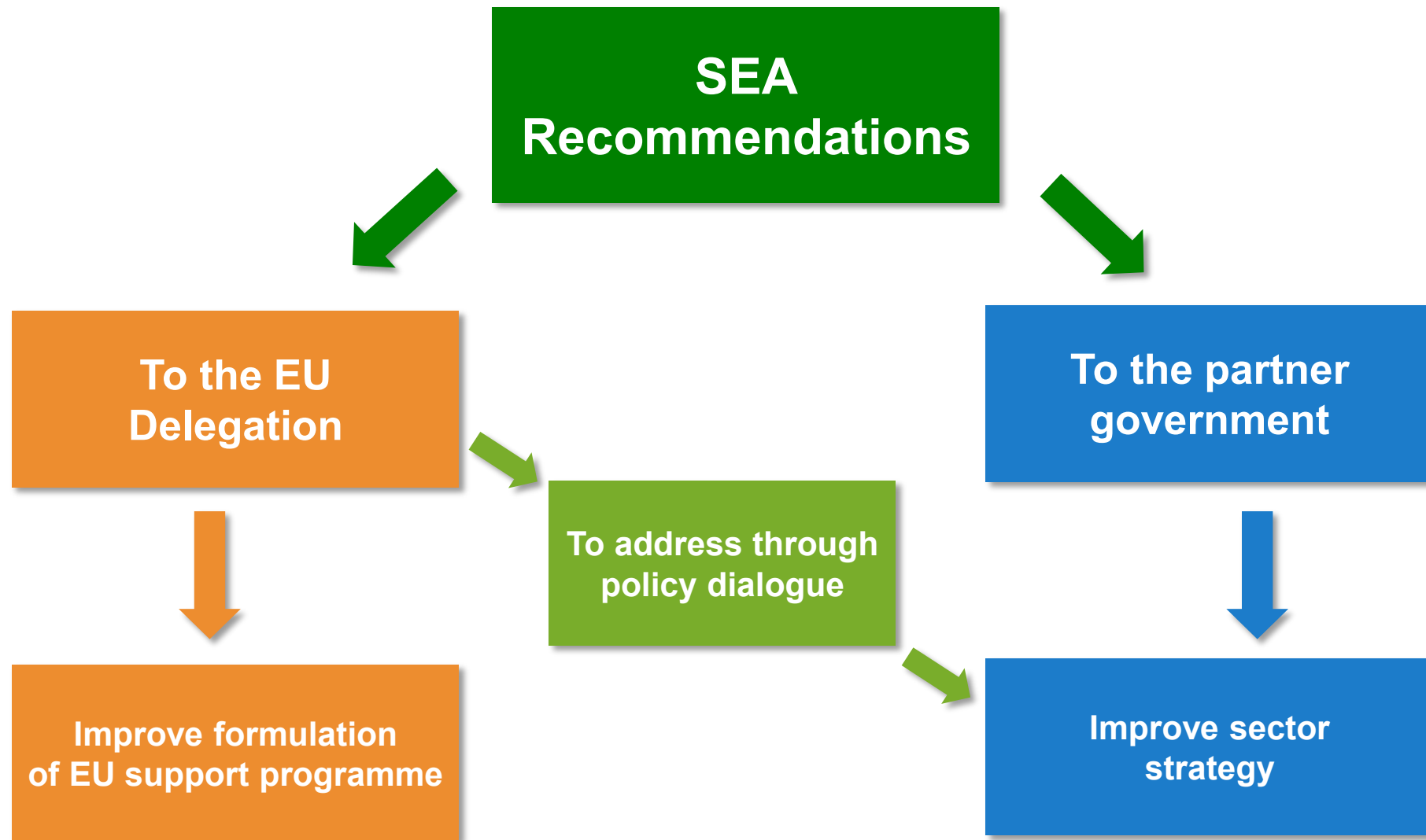
When providing **budget support** to an environmentally-sensitive sector

- To assess budget support **eligibility criteria**
- To inform the budget support **programme preparation**
- To identify performance **indicators**

When providing broad **strategic-level support**

When supporting sectoral **policy-making and planning processes**





Example: SEA of Zambia's sugar adaptation strategy

- Introduction of new industrial sector: ethanol distilling
- Potential impacts: vinasse management
- Addressing risks at strategic level: strengthening capacities of the environmental protection agency



SEA of Rwanda's agriculture sector strategy – seizing opportunities

- Recommendations on soil & water conservation and soil acidity informed the 11th EDF – e.g. performance targets on agro-forestry, reduction of soil acidity in areas of public investment...
- SEA is reference for design of feeder roads development policy and strategy.
- Findings on soil nutrient management informed GoR's review of inputs subsidy scheme and recommendations for pest and disease management to be promoted.



SEA of Montenegro's climate change strategy – enabling opportunities



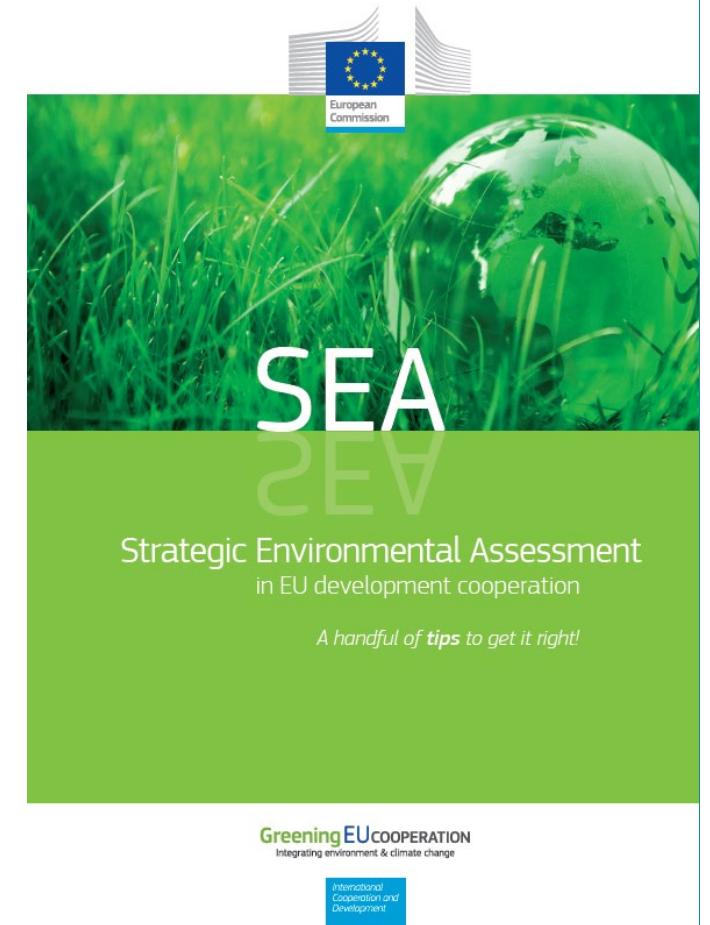
Potential contribution to air quality and improved health: co-generation from thermal power plant / reduced burning of coal in households

Key issues: how to ensure positive contributions would materialise?



SEA Guidance

Model ToR for an SEA
available in Annex 5 of
the Greening Toolbox



Practical tips to get an SEA right!



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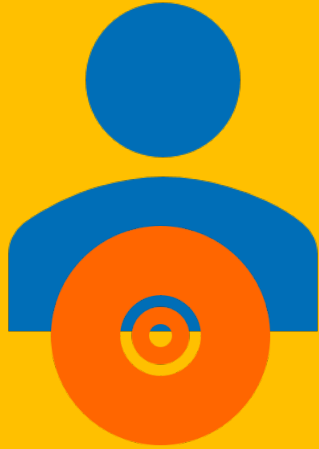
Tip 1: Be clear on whether you need an SEA

The “user” has to be convinced that an SEA will be a useful way to enhance then environmental sustainability and climate resilience of its support programme

The **screening** process is just an aid – the final decision has to be practical



Attention: imposed SEAs!



Tip 2: Put the Government in the driving seat

SEA is most effective when “owned” and led by the partner Government, with support from the EU

- ! Approach the Government at an early stage
- ! Reach a common understanding on the approach and what is expected from the SEA
- ! Decide on the scope jointly



Tip 3: Get the timing right

Start as early as possible – even from the programming phase we can have an idea if an SEA will be useful



Government and EU planning cycles do not always match

Even “late” SEAs can be useful, if there is a will to enhance support programmes



Tip 4: Coordinate with other development partners

Be efficient, make sure the SEA will benefit everyone

Don't duplicate efforts!



Tip 5: Be clear on what you expect from the SEA, get the ToR right

The Toolbox provides indicative ToR, but this is only a starting point!

Ensure you capture concerns of the Government and other donors

Be realistic and focus on what is really important

Don't be too prescriptive (let scoping do its job)



Copy-pasting ToR



Tip 6: Mind climate change

SEA is about planning that looks into the future – but, **with climate change, the future is no longer what it used to be!**

SEA should examine how climate change affects feasibility of a strategy and assist in building resilience



It can also identify opportunities to contribute to low carbon development



Tip 7: Select the right team

The Team Leader should be well acquainted with SEA

Other team members will fill in sector- and issue-specific expertise

Remember that SEA and EIA require a different approach



Good EIA expertise is no guarantee of good performance in an SEA!



Tip 8: Give due attention to scoping

Scoping is a critical phase to draw boundaries and fine-tune the approach

- Allow for participation
- Provide for a two-phase approach
- Allow time to make sense of the findings of the scoping phase
- Be flexible to accommodate changes



It can be tempting to try to address everything... but you can spread out too thin



Tip 9: Ensure transparency and broad participation

- Provide meaningful participation opportunities
- Ensure transparency
- Generation of debate is often a key contribution!
- SEA workshops are excellent opportunities for different actors to discuss themes of common interest



Innovative ways to engage stakeholders can lead to more fruitful debate!



Tip 10: Ensure recommendations are focused and discussed

Recommendations must be focused relevant realistic. Keep them at a strategic level!

Prioritise who/how to address them!

Discuss findings and agree on a way forward
– both w/Government and in EU



Sometimes the best solution is in the hands of a different authority – make use of policy dialogue!



Extra Tip: Think strategically! **Promote a national SEA system**

The most effective way for SEA to influence national policy-making/planning

Guarantees ownership

The starting point for the EU can be a well-integrated strategy