

## SECOND REVIEW OF SEA EFFECTIVENESS IN IRELAND

This third issue of the EPA-funded project Newsletter provides a summary of progress to date and an outline of key findings. The seven dimensions of SEA effectiveness presented in the previous Newsletter have formed the basis for the review of 15 case studies.

### Revised Methodology

The review framework is based on the identified seven dimensions of SEA effectiveness and looks at both documented and perceived effectiveness. Initially, it was proposed to differentiate between two sets of case studies to examine either documented or perceived effectiveness in each set. After consideration and consultation with the EPA, a decision was made to treat all case studies equally. This means that **both documented and perceived effectiveness will be examined in all the case studies**.

Given this amended (and more comprehensive) approach, and taking also into account difficulties encountered when trying to explore perceived effectiveness in some of the case studies (due to availability of practitioners involved for interview), **15 case studies** have been brought forward. These are:

- Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023
- Dublin City Development Plan 2011-1017
- EirGrid Implementation Programme 2011-2016
- Fingal County Development Plan 2017-2023
- Foodwise 2025
- Greater Dublin Area Transport Strategy 2011-2030
- National Forestry Programme 2014-2020
- National Planning Framework 2040
- National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021
- Nitrates Action Programme 2017-2021
- Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan 2014
- Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management 2015-2021
- Shannon Integrated Framework Plan 2013-2020
- Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021
- Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme 2015-2019

### Progress to Date

The **documented effectiveness of the 15 cases** has been **reviewed** (5 of these were previously revised in the first Irish review of SEA effectiveness in 2012). This has entailed a systematic examination of the relevant plan or programme document and accompanying SEA scoping report, environmental report, non-technical summary and SEA statement using pre-defined review criteria, which was adapted from that used in the first review.

In parallel, practitioners and key stakeholders have been interviewed to gather information on **perceived effectiveness**. The goal is to interview 2 practitioners for each case study (one for planning and another for SEA) as well as 13 national and international SEA experts. Although difficulties have been encountered undertaking some of the interviews, work is ongoing. 20 out of the 30 case studies interviews have been completed to date, as well as 10 out of the 13 national/international expert interviews. In other words, **70% of the interviews** have been **completed to date**.

We have also received **33 responses** to our **online questionnaire** on SEA effectiveness.

### Article on Irish SEA Effectiveness

González, A, Bullock, C, Gaughran, A and Watkin-Bourne, K (2019). Towards a Better Understanding of SEA Effectiveness in Ireland. *Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal* <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14615517.2019.1580475>

### Special Issue on SEA Effectiveness

Members of the project team are guest-editing a Special Issue on SEA effectiveness for the international peer-reviewed journal **Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal**. Given the high response to the call, two Special Issues will be published with 16 papers covering various or all of the seven dimensions of SEA effectiveness, and providing insights into the performance of SEA across Europe and globally.

### Next Steps

We will soon start drafting guidance on SEA statement and monitoring. If you wish to share your views or put forward any recommendation for the guidance, **please contact:** [ainhoa.gonzalez@ucd.ie](mailto:ainhoa.gonzalez@ucd.ie)



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