

SECOND REVIEW OF SEA EFFECTIVENESS IN IRELAND

The national follow-on review of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectiveness in Ireland, funded by the EPA, started on the 31st of March 2018. The project goal is to update the progress made in implementing SEA in Ireland and to guide future actions.

Background

Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) aims to integrate environmental considerations into planning and decision-making with a view to promoting sustainable development. The SEA Directive contains provisions for regular review of the effectiveness of its implementation. Moreover, the European Commission is currently evaluating the SEA Directive to ensure that it is "fit for purpose".

SEA effectiveness entails not only compliance with legislative and procedural requirements, but also fostering of benefits beyond the tangible changes made to a strategic action or plan to improve its sustainability, such as improved planning, environmental protection, stakeholder involvement, etc.

A review of SEA effectiveness in Ireland was undertaken between 2011 and 2012, which resulted in an SEA Action Plan. The present review aims to update the on-going progress made in implementing SEA in Ireland, to identify areas where further improvements are required and to provide guidance and make recommendations on the actions needed to address any identified issues. The findings of the project are anticipated to inform the EU evaluation of the SEA Directive.

Project Partners:

University College Dublin

RPS

Levett-Therivel



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Agency



Project Objectives:

- to assess progress on SEA effectiveness in Ireland in light of the previous effectiveness review findings while revealing aspects needing improvement;
- to identify emerging good international practice in order to define improvement measures and lines of action;
- to develop practical recommendations and guidelines, focusing on the context in which SEA is carried out, the SEA statement and monitoring requirements; and
- to explore SEA monetary costs and benefits.

Project Progress

The project team is currently undertaking a comprehensive examination of post-2010 European and international effectiveness reviews to establish the state-of-the-art in SEA effectiveness, and define the review framework.

This framework will form the basis for the SEA case study reviews as well as for stakeholder consultation.

We are currently compiling the stakeholder list. Please let us know of anyone who may want to be consulted or informed about the project.



We would also welcome any suggestions on review criteria or considerations, as well as good practice case studies to be included in the review process.

For further information contact ainhoa.gonzalez@ucd.ie **or visit:** <http://www.epa.ie/monitoringassessment/assessment/sea/effectiveness%20review/>