

■ Who should attend

The conference will provide a forum for discussion among planners and impact assessment professionals, government officials, researchers and NGO leaders.

■ Logistical information

The conference will be held on the premises of the Czech Agricultural University in Prague (www.sic.czu.cz/sal_EN.html). The conference venue is located about 5 km from the historic center of Prague.

■ About Prague

Prague is the capital city of the relatively small Czech Republic which lies in the heart of Europe, neighbouring with Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Poland. Prague is known as one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and has been attributed adjectives such as “golden,” “city of hundred spires,” “the crown of the world,” and “a stone dream.” In 1992 the compact historical centre of Prague that covers an area of 866 hectares was listed in the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Register. Prague offers a vibrant social life and a range of tourist services that satisfies visitors of all interests. For more information, visit www.visitprague.cz/index.php3?lng=en.

■ Registration and Fees

The conference will have a single registration fee of EUR 500.

The conference will host a maximum of 300 participants. Due to the limited space available, we encourage all interested applicants to register early. On-line registration will be open from January 2005 at www.iaia.org.

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe will offer a limited number of subsidized registrations to participants from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, and Turkey. Subsidized registrations will be made available through REC and can be provided only to nationals of these countries. Interested applicants should register their interest by 1 April 2005 to Ausra Jurkeviciute (ausra@rec.org).

Conference format

This IAIA meeting on “International experience and perspectives in SEA” will offer focused workshops to discuss issues raised in position papers on key issues of the evolving SEA theory and practice.

Position papers and the preliminary program of the conference will be available on www.iaia.org and from IAIA HQ in October 2004. A general call will be made for

- case studies that elaborate the main themes of the workshops
- papers that respond to position papers

Since the focus of the conference will be on discussions within workshops and not on presentation of papers, the Program Committee will review submitted case studies and papers and will invite those that are likely to most effectively stimulate discussion within the workshops.

In addition to the workshops, the conference will offer poster sessions, and for an additional fee, training courses on SEA.

The conference will be held in English.

This SEA conference is a special 2005 global IAIA thematic meeting separate from IAIA's 24th Annual Conference Event, “Ethics and Quality Assessment,” which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA 31 May - 3 June 2005. If you wish to attend IAIA 05, please visit www.iaia.org for information or contact IAIA HQ (info@iaia.org).

Conference Committees

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International Association for Impact Assessment • Celebrate the Spirit 1980-2005

International experience and perspectives in SEA

26-30 September 2005
Prague, Czech Republic

A Global Conference on Strategic Environmental Assessment organized by the International Association for Impact Assessment



Hosted by

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

and

The Czech University of Agriculture

IAIA

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SEA Legislation and Policy

- Legal and institutional frameworks for SEA in Africa, Australasia, Commonwealth of Independent States, Europe, and North and Latin America
- Application of SEA in development assistance
- Transboundary SEA

SEA Practice in

- spatial planning
- planning for poverty alleviation
- transport management
- energy management
- waste management
- agriculture and forestry
- watershed management
- regional development planning
- coastal zone management
- international trade agreements
- mining
- tourism
- biodiversity protection

Linkages between SEA and other assessment or planning tools

- SEA of policy and plans/programs
- SEA and sustainability appraisal
- Integrated assessment and planning
- Integration of health aspects into SEA
- SEA and EIA tiering
- Assessment of cumulative impacts and SEA
- Public participation in SEA
- Alternatives in SEA
- SEA follow-up

Improving standards and building capacity for SEA

- Developing SEA guidance
- Development of institutional and resources capacity for SEA
- Training and professional development in SEA
- SEA research and development

International experience and perspectives in SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is part of a family of related tools that have developed rapidly world-wide since the 1990s. International legal instruments for SEA are now in place in the European Union and in regions of the UN Economic Commission for Europe. New frameworks for SEA are also emerging in Africa, Asia and Latin America. SEA practice is also beginning within donor assistance activities, including lending operations of International Finance Institutions.

Key issues for consideration in this rapidly-evolving field include:

- How to design effective legal or policy frameworks for SEA to enable its optimal application in planning, programming and policy-making?
- What is the most effective interface between SEA and decision-making?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages in attempting to expand the focus of SEA from consideration of environmental issues to an integrated examination of economic, social and environmental implications of development proposals?
- What is the experience with the application of SEA tools? What methods can be effectively applied in SEA in addition to the traditional impact assessment techniques known from project-level EIA? How do these vary between planning, programming and policy making levels respectively?
- What lessons can be drawn with regard to SEA good practice? Does this need to be defined with reference to different strategic levels or to different sectors?
- How can public participation in SEA be carried out effectively? What are the unique characteristics, processes and tools in stakeholder consultations within SEA?

About the host institutions

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The center fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making. For more information, please visit www.rec.org.

The Czech University of Agriculture

The Czech University of Agriculture in Prague (CUA) has historically been a natural center of agricultural education in Bohemia. Today it is a prime educational institution that offers theoretical and applied research, training of young scientists and advisory services in agriculture and forestry. The University is a temporary home for 6,000 students and 1,000 staff members. For more information, please visit www.czu.cz/english/index.html.

About IAIA

The International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) is an interdisciplinary society dedicated to developing international capacity to anticipate, plan, and manage the consequences of development. The Association has over 2,500 members in over 100 countries. IAIA seeks to ensure that political, environmental, social and technological dimensions of decisions are understood by those making them. To obtain more information about IAIA, please visit www.iaia.org.