**E Stream Report**

*Stream E. Improving standards and building capacity for SEA*

Coordinator:
*Maria Rosario Partidario*


**Topic  sessions in E stream:**

Professional and Institutional capacity-building
*Topic leaders: Maria Partidario and Lee Wilson*

SEA Theory and Research
*Topic leaders: Olivia Bina, Tabatha Wallington and Wil Thissen*

Developing SEA Guidance
*Topic leader: Bobbi Schiff*

Institutional frameworks for SEA - search for appropriate organizations
*Topic leaders: Lone Kørnøv and Holger Dalkmann*

Operating SEA knowledge centers
*Topic leader: Petrie van Gent*

Distance learning and e-learning
*Topic leaders: Brendan Barrett and Gerard Brady*

Capacity Development Manual for the implementation of the Protocol on SEA
*Topic leaders: Nicholas Bonvoisin and Ausra Jurkeviciute*


**Key issues proposed for discussion at the E stream**

- What are the main trends in this area?
- What progress has been made in taking forward the aspects and areas identified in E1 to E7?
- What more needs to done and what are the priorities for future action?
- How might IAIA contribute to that agenda?


This report will address first the key concluding points coming out of each topic session, followed by the overall E stream concluding points, closing with a contribution on how might IAIA contribute to the Capacity Building agenda.

This report is to be read complementary to the individual topic sessions reports.

**Key concluding points in each topic session**

This section highlights the two strongest ideas / concluding notes per topic that appeared to come out of each topic session, as discussed in the E stream wrap-up session on Friday morning.

*E1. Professional and Institutional capacity-building*
- Capacity for SEA is yet not in place and far from ideal
- Principles and forms of building capacity need to be adapted to each country needs and realities

*SEA Theory and Research*
- There is a need for strategic use of the instrument
- Should SEA go into policy, plan or programme to improve it or is SEA supposed to improve the systems, the organizations that determine the context of development?

*Developing SEA Guidance*
- Best practice principles are not always good practice
- The importance of using SEA guidance to promote shift in SEA development

*Institutional frameworks for SEA - search for appropriate organizations*
- Consider and design actors constellation models
- The political culture effect in influencing decision

*Operating SEA knowledge centers*
- Too much for those that have access, too little for those that don't
- There should be more than one-single knowledge center

*Distance learning and e-learning*
- Need for accreditation of education and training courses on SEA
- Generalize the language and approach, deliver to the general society, assume learning styles between cultures

*Capacity Development Manual for the implementation of the Protocol on SEA*
- Avoid duplication, instead be complementary
- Link to case-studies and experiences, undertake critical review of methods rather than simple description

**Key concluding points out of Stream E**

**1. Improving standards for SEA**

What standards? For whom? For what purpose of SEA?

No static standards, more principles of good practice - countries need to find their good practice

Legal and regulatory capacity is basic to building capacity particularly in developing countries

Agenda for good practice at general level shapes according to contexts, SEA purposes, national systems, sectors and professionals - list of issues that matter in SEA

**2. Better capacity for decision-making towards sustainable development**

When thinking of improving SEA focus must be on sustainable development and decision-making, not on SEA

SEA is a means not an end

**3. Diversity in interpretation of what SEA is and should be doing, multi-purposes, context-specific…**

The existing situation means we are looking at the bigger picture, therefore showing improvement

Comment: "this chaos is an improvement"

# IAIA contribution to the agenda

**1. Contribute to empirical and theoretical research**

Promote workshop-oriented format conference opportunities for conceptual brainstorming discussions

Stimulate high standard publications - sharing ideas and experiences - multipliers of SEA thinking

**2. Engage other non-impact assessment professional areas**

IAIA is speaking to IAIA - need move beyond our boundaries

Establish liaisons / interactions / joint events with other professional organizations - namely the users of SEA


**3. Contribute to clarification of SEA**

Clarify the role of SEA in the constellation of impact assessment instruments

Improve EIA to clarify SEA - promote the discussion around the theory of EIA, quality in EIA, clarify distinction of EIA and SEA

Avoid the trend of using SEA to replace ineffective EIA