

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for South Eastern Europe



IN SWEDEN OCTOBER 23 – NOVEMBER 24, 2006

Invitation

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is a government agency responsible for the major part of Sweden's development cooperation. Focus on long-term knowledge and competence development constitutes a major feature in all development cooperations.

Sida offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, Advanced International Training Programmes of strategic importance to the social and economic development of cooperating countries based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective the programmes shall contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the cooperating countries.

These programmes aim at enhancing managerial and technical skills and cover subjects of strategic importance to economic and social development. The Training Programmes are designed for experienced executives in middle and top management positions in their respective organisations.

With the Training Programmes, Sida aim to contribute to processes of change and development in the participants' organisations and lines of businesses. The foundation of the entire programme is a project assignment. The assignment shall be well established in the participant's organisation and is a basic part of the programme concept.



Maria Norrfalk
Director General
Sida

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and the closely related **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** are environmental management tools that are becoming extensively used all over the world. The aim of EIA as well as of SEA is to inform decision-makers, planners and the affected public, to facilitate the search for the best alternative and to ensure a democratic decision-making process.

The countries in South Eastern Europe (SEE) are in the process of aligning their national EIA/SEA systems in accordance with the EC requirements. The SEE countries have fairly recently adopted new environmental framework laws, or the environmental legislation is still under development. Following this, the detailed regulations concerning EIA/SEA is being reviewed, and national praxis is still young. Not only national governments but also development agencies increasingly require EIA or SEA to be carried out for new or revised projects/plans/programmes/policies.

Sweden has a modern EIA and SEA legislation in accordance with the EU requirements. A genuine capacity and experience is found with Swedish professionals in the field and Ramboll AB is one of the main actors, holding extensive experience from carrying out EAs in a wide range of sectors in Sweden and abroad.

We trust that this training programme will be of interest to you and we hereby invite you to nominate candidates.

Stockholm, January 2006



Stina Mossberg
Managing Director
Ramboll Natura AB

Programme Objectives

The General Programme Objective is to strengthen the capacity of the participants in relation to EIA and SEA and indirectly of the institutions they represent.

Specific objectives

After the programme the participants shall have

- increased knowledge, experience and ability to review and make decisions based on environmental impact assessments of different interventions on all levels;
- increased theoretical and practical knowledge about international, regional (including EU) and national EIA and SEA procedures, including processes, legislation, methods and tools;
- been able to exchange experience and establish contacts and networks between participants, and

between participants and Swedish actors (agencies, companies, NGOs) active in EIA/SEA; and

- clearly developed ideas on how to utilise their new knowledge and experience from the Training Programme in practice, in their respective countries.

Contents

Module 1: Framework and concepts for EIA/SEA

- The global environmental situation; the concepts of EIA, SEA and sustainable development
- History and background to EIA and SEA
- Recent trends in environmental assessment
- EIA and SEA in the planning process and principles of EIA and SEA
- Legal framework and institutional arrangements in Sweden, EU,

and South Eastern Europe

- Guidelines and requirements developed and used by different organisations and agencies
- Important cross-cutting issues in the EIA/SEA process (e.g. socio-economic aspects, participation, gender, stakeholder analysis)

Module 2: Tools and methods

- Methodologies for *screening* and *scoping*
- Methods and tools for the assessing phase (e.g. impact significance and valuation, matrices, flow diagrams and checklists; environmental economics and cost-benefit analysis; and environmental risk assessment)
- *Mitigation* and *impact management*
- Methods and tools for *reviewing*
- Decision-making
- *Monitoring, implementation and auditing*

Module 3: EIA/SEA Management

- Analysis of priority areas for improvements based on each participant's own work
- Exchange of experience with Swedish EIA actors and between participants
- Introduction to management tools (e.g. SWOT and/or LFA analyses and change management)
- Development of a "change project" related to each participant's field of work.

Programme Structure

Date and place

The Training Programme lasts in total 5 weeks, starting on Monday October 23, 2006 and ending on Friday November 24, 2006 and will be held in Sweden.

Teaching

Teaching methods include lectures, exercises, case studies, study visits, group work, group discussions and discussions in plenary. Relevant EIA and SEA cases from different sectors in Sweden (including field visits) and from other countries will be used throughout the programme.

The selected participants will be asked to write a report on their current work with EIA/SEA and, if possible, bring an example of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in English.

The participants will also be asked to discuss and agree upon priority areas for improvement in relation to EIA/SEA, with their respective supervisors, before coming to Sweden.

Management and staff

The programme is organised by Ramboll Natura AB. The programme will be carried out in close co-operation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe, REC. Several other EIA-actors will be involved, including consulting companies, universities, research institutions, NGOs and authorities, mainly from Sweden. Programme Director is Ms. Lova Nilsson André at Ramboll Natura AB.

Participation

Target region

Applicants from the following countries may apply: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration).

Target group

Only candidates officially nominated by an appropriate authority or organisation will be accepted. Women are encouraged to apply. The candidates should hold an academic degree and have at least three years of professional working experience. The programme is primarily intended for the following types of professionals:

- Decision-makers and specialists at environmental authorities and environmental organisations using EIA or SEA to identify and monitor environmental impact;
- Planners and managers in sector organisations. Persons from this category should have a clear responsibility for environmental issues and/or EIA/SEA.

Professionals actually carrying out EIA/SEA in the field, as well as lecturers and university staff responsible for teaching EIA/SEA at an advanced level, are also eligible for admissions.

Due to the character of the programme, family members are not allowed to accompany participants to the programme.

Application Process

**Closing date for application is
June 30, 2006**

Applications submitted after the closing date will not be considered. The application should be written on the special form attached and include a recent photograph and required information and documents. An English language test should be made with an official body of the applicant, unless the applicant can provide other documentation to support her/his ability. The Swedish Embassy/Consulate do not carry out language tests but may be able

to recommend appropriate language institutes for conducting tests. When necessary, the application should be approved by the official nominating authority in the country.

The application should be submitted to the programme organiser Ramboll Natura AB, see address on the last page.

Selected applicants will be notified by e-mail or telefax. Once accepted, the applicant must confirm participation. An invitation letter containing additional information on the programme and the practical arrangements will then follow.

Cost of Participation

The cost of the programme is divided between a participation fee and accommodation cost. The participation fee covers all training costs such as lectures, literature, documentation, study tours and certain social activities as well as accommodation costs including board and lodging. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) will cover these costs as well as visa fees and local airport taxes.

International travel cost to and from Sweden, visa fees and local airport taxes will not be covered by Sida.

Sida will not pay for personal expenses.

Accommodation

Hotel accommodation is arranged for the participants for the full duration of the Programme.

Visa

Participants are responsible for obtaining all visas necessary for their journey and stay during the training programme. The visa should be valid for the whole period of the programme and the passport should be valid for three months longer than the entry visa. Inquires should be directed to respective Swedish Embassy/Consulate alternatively other Schengen representation as soon as possible after acceptance into the programme. Participants visiting other countries on their way to or from Sweden must ensure that correct visas are obtained before leaving home country, especially for coun-

tries not included in the Schengen agreement.
The costs for obtaining visas are carried by the participant.
For more information, this website offers Swedish visa information: <http://www.migrationsverket.se/english.html>

Insurance

All participants are covered by a group insurance while in Sweden and on organised tours during the programme. This insurance includes costs for medical care in the event of acute illness or accident. Medical and dental check-ups are not included.

Contact Information

The address for all communication is:

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RAMBOLL

Ramboll Natura AB (former Scandiaconsult Natura AB) is an international consultancy firm in the field of sustainable development, with focus on environment and natural resources management; forests, land and water resources. Ramboll Natura AB is part of the Ramboll Group, the largest Nordic provider of knowledge services within engineering, management, IT and international development projects. The Ramboll Group employs more than 4,000 people. Ramboll Natura AB is also offering International Training Programmes on Education for Environment and Sustainability (EES), and on Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM).



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.

Halving poverty by 2015 is one of the greatest challenges of our time, requiring cooperation and sustainability. The partner countries are responsible for their own development. Sida provides resources and develops knowledge and expertise, making the world a richer place.



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