



Strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the Viennese waste management plan 2007

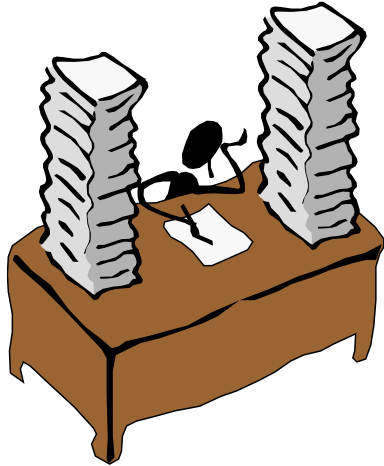
Austria

by Kerstin Arbter

**at the UNECE Aarhus Workshop on
Public Participation in Strategic Decision-making, 3 – 4 Dec. 2007, Sofia**



Topics



1. Content of plan



2. Process design



3. Public participation

1. Content of the Viennese waste management plan



- Objectives and measures for waste management in Vienna by 2012/2022, e.g.
 - for waste avoidance
 - for separate collection of waste
 - need of treatment facilities: new landfill (by 2022)
- Local plan for Vienna, capital of Austria (1.6 million inhabitants)
- §: Up-dated every five years + SEA
- Adopted by the Viennese government.



2. Process design



- Planning and SEA process completely integrated
- 7 process steps:
 1. Plan objectives incl. environmental objectives
 2. Definition of alternatives to reach the objectives
 3. Assessment of alternatives: significant effects on the environment
 4. Best alternatives → draft plan, environmental report
 5. Consultation on draft plan + env. report → final draft
 6. Plan adoption → final plan: V. waste management plan 2007 with integrated environmental aspects
 7. Monitoring.



Who determined the process, incl. public participation?



- Department of waste management of Vienna (planning authority)



- Department of environment of Vienna



- Environmental ombudsman of Vienna.





Duration and aims

- **Spring 2006 – completed by the end of 2007**
- **Aims:**
best solution for Vienna's waste management +
broad acceptance
→ public participation.



3. Public Participation

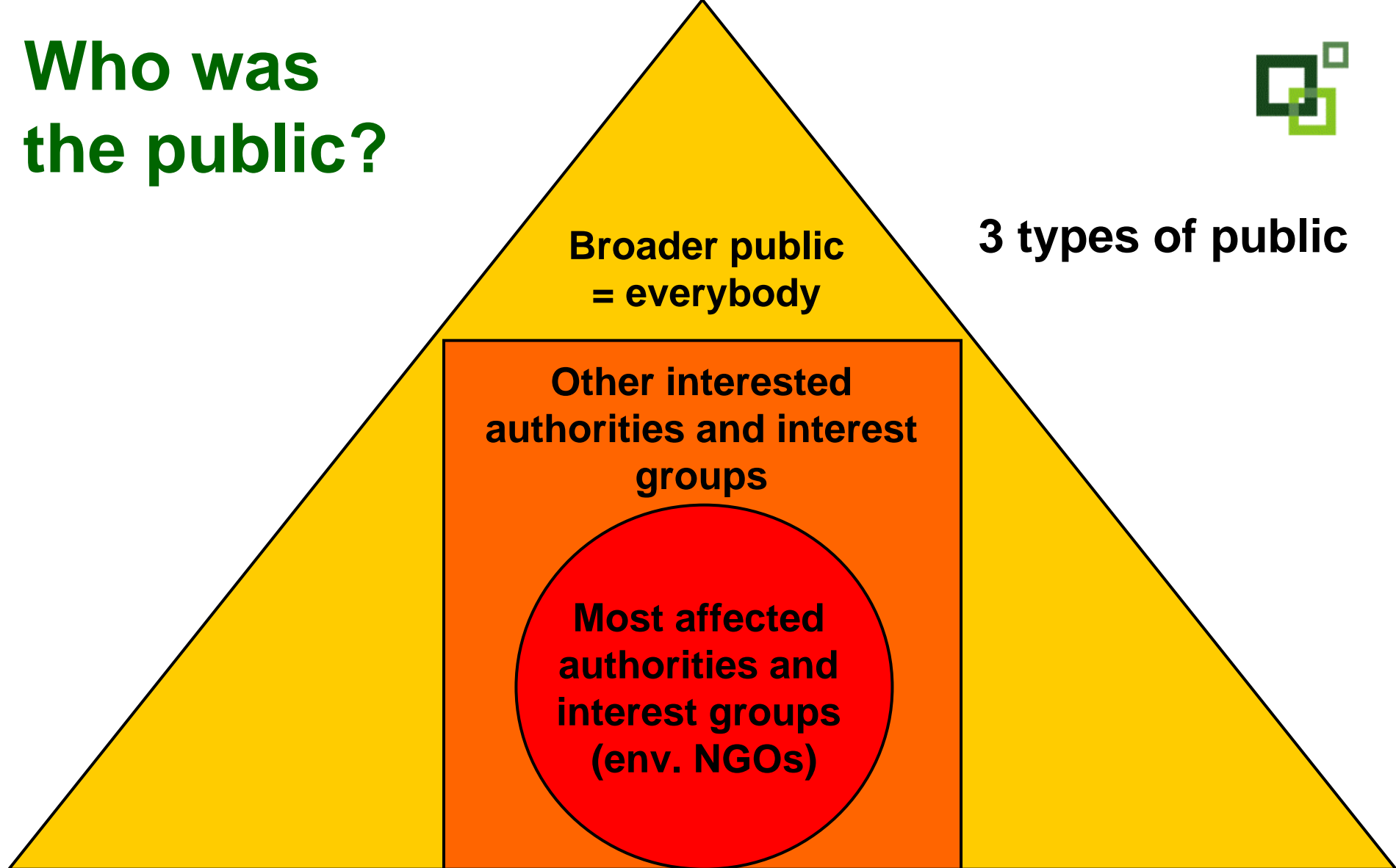
- Who was the public and how was the public involved?
- Influence on the decision
- Public participation in SEA monitoring
- Lessons learned.



Who was the public?



3 types of public



**involved at different stages of the process,
for different tasks and with different tools.**



**Most affected
authorities and
interest groups
(env. NGOs)**

= SEA and planning team

- **Who:**
 - **Departments of Vienna city administration (waste management, environment, water, finance, construction & technology, climate protection)**
 - **Env. ombudsman, 2 env. NGOs**
 - **External waste management experts**
- **When: continuously involved right from the start throughout the process, cooperated in all planning and SEA steps**
- **What: draft plan + SEA (env. report)**
- **How: “SEA Round Table“.**



“SEA Round Table” means:

- **Equal partners**
- **To reach consensus**
- **Carry and share responsibility for draft plan and SEA.**



- **16 organisations,
~ 25 persons**
- **6 SEA workshops
(~ 1-2 days)**
- **Team work for
~ 1 year.**



**Other interested
authorities and
interest groups**

= Feedback group

- **Who: further interested departments and organisations, e.g. NGOs, teachers, interest groups, chambers**
- **When: consulted on interim results**
- **What: new ideas, broader range of opinions**
- **How: feedback workshop (1 day).**



- ~ 50 persons,
1 dog
- Active team
work.



**Broader public
= everybody**

- **Who: everybody**
- **When: consulted on draft plan + environmental report (SEA Directive)**
- **What: submit comments**
- **How: public display of draft plan + env. report**
 - **For 8 weeks at 3 different departments**
 - **Announced in 2 daily newspapers**
 - **Download on website of waste management department**
www.wien.gv.at/ma48/

Webservice der Stadt Wien

[wien.at](#)



Strategische Umweltprüfung (SUP) zum Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007 (Wr. AWK 2007)

Die Stadt Wien erstellt das neue Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007. Damit werden für die nächsten fünf Jahre Ziele und Maßnahmen der Wiener Abfallwirtschaft festgelegt. Das Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007 wird im Rahmen einer Strategischen Umweltprüfung (SUP) entwickelt. Die Ergebnisse der SUP sind im Umweltbericht dokumentiert.

Der Entwurf zum Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007 wurde nun mitsamt den Entwürfen zum Ist-Zustand-Bericht und zum Umweltbericht zur allgemeinen Einsicht von 21. Juni bis 16. August 2007 öffentlich aufgelegt und zur Abgabe der schriftlichen Stellungnahme eingeladen.

Entwürfe zum Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007

- Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007 [1.3-MB-PDF](#) | [226-KB-RTF](#)
- Ist-Zustand 2007 [3.9-MB-PDF](#) | [592-KB-RTF](#)
- Umweltbericht 2007 [1.8-MB-PDF](#) | [748-KB-RTF](#)

Auskunft

Für Auskünfte steht Ihnen D| Wojciech Rogalski, von der MA 48, der Abfallwirtschaftsabteilung der Stadt Wien, gerne zur Verfügung:

- Telefon: (+43 1) 588 17-48271
- E-Mail: rog@m48.magwien.gv.at

Dokumentation

Die Stellungnahmen werden im Umweltbericht zusammengefasst und in den Endfassungen der Berichte berücksichtigt. Berücksichtigen heißt, dass alle Stellungnahmen fachlich geprüft und so weit wie möglich einbezogen werden. Sollte das nicht in allen Fällen möglich sein, so wird begründet, warum einzelne Stellungnahmen nicht einbezogen werden konnten.

Abschließend wird das Wiener Abfallwirtschaftskonzept 2007 von der Wiener Landesregierung beschlossen. Danach wird es mit dem Umweltbericht und einer zusammenfassenden Erklärung bei der [Wiener Umweltschutzabteilung \(MA 22\)](#), der [MA 48](#) (auch online) und der [Wiener Umweltschutzabteilung \(WUA\)](#) öffentlich aufgelegt.

■ **Explanation on how to submit comments**

■ **Contact person: name, mail address, phone**

■ **Explanation on what will happen with the comments and what “will be taken into account” actually means**

■ **Explanation on further process steps.**



Taking comments into account

- **SEA and planning-team decided on how to take comments into account**
- **Many comments integrated into final draft or environmental report**
- **All comments and means of consideration documented in environmental report**
- **Transparency → build trust.**



Influence on the decision

- **Final draft of waste management plan:**
 - ✓ **yes**
 - SEA and planning-team found consensus on final draft, also on taking comments into account**
- **Final waste management plan adopted by Viennese government (Dec. 2007):**
 - ? **but likely**
 - responsible politicians continuously informed.**



Public participation in SEA monitoring

- **To monitor plan implementation and environmental effects of implementation**
- **Monitoring task force:**
 - 3 departments (waste management, environment, construction & technology),
 - env. ombudsman, 1 env. NGO,
 - 1 professor
- **Monitoring report → SEA and planning-team.**

General lessons learned



- Different types of the public need different offers for effective public participation
- Choose appropriate tools according their degree of concern, interest and know-how
- Consulting the broader public on the draft plan and the environmental report is often too late and not enough for effective public participation at strategic planning levels
- Active cooperation with the most affected interest groups throughout the entire process is crucial.

Lessons about SEA Round Table



- Promising tool, especially for plans which might raise conflicts

Benefits	Factors of success
Easier to take comments into account → early	Start early → it takes time
Enables co-decisions at every single SEA and planning step → plan quality increases	Find the “right” team members: able and willing to cooperate and to work for common results
Extensive knowledge and view-point exchange: new ideas, innovative solutions	Involve representatives of all interest groups affected → set up an unbiased team.
Team building & common success → plan acceptance & easier implementation	

Lessons about feedback workshop



- **Good means to involve further interested authorities and organisations at a stage, when the plan is still flexible**
- **Enables to involve larger groups and to keep the SEA and planning team small.**



Lessons about public display

- **Broader public is not always interested in strategic planning processes where it is not clear whether they are personally affected or not**
 - **public display should be combined with other means of public participation**
- **Internet worthwhile support tool (easy, quick, flexible, continuous, downloads),**
 - but often hidden and only for internet community**
 - **internet participation should be combined with media announcements and open-door policy at the authorities**
- **8 weeks – sufficient display period.**



Personal experience

- It is not always easy to “walk the talk”, but it is worthwhile trying it!

Further information:
Kerstin Arbter

Büro Arbter



office@arbter.at

www.arbter.at

Process manager

