



# **Testing SEA in Practice – Experience from Austria**

**Presentation at the Conference on  
“International experience and perspectives in SEA”  
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# Topics

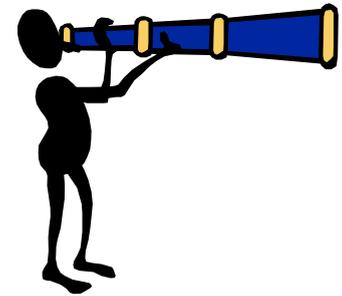
1. Development of SEA in A
2. SEA for the Viennese Waste Management Plan



Process design



Public participation

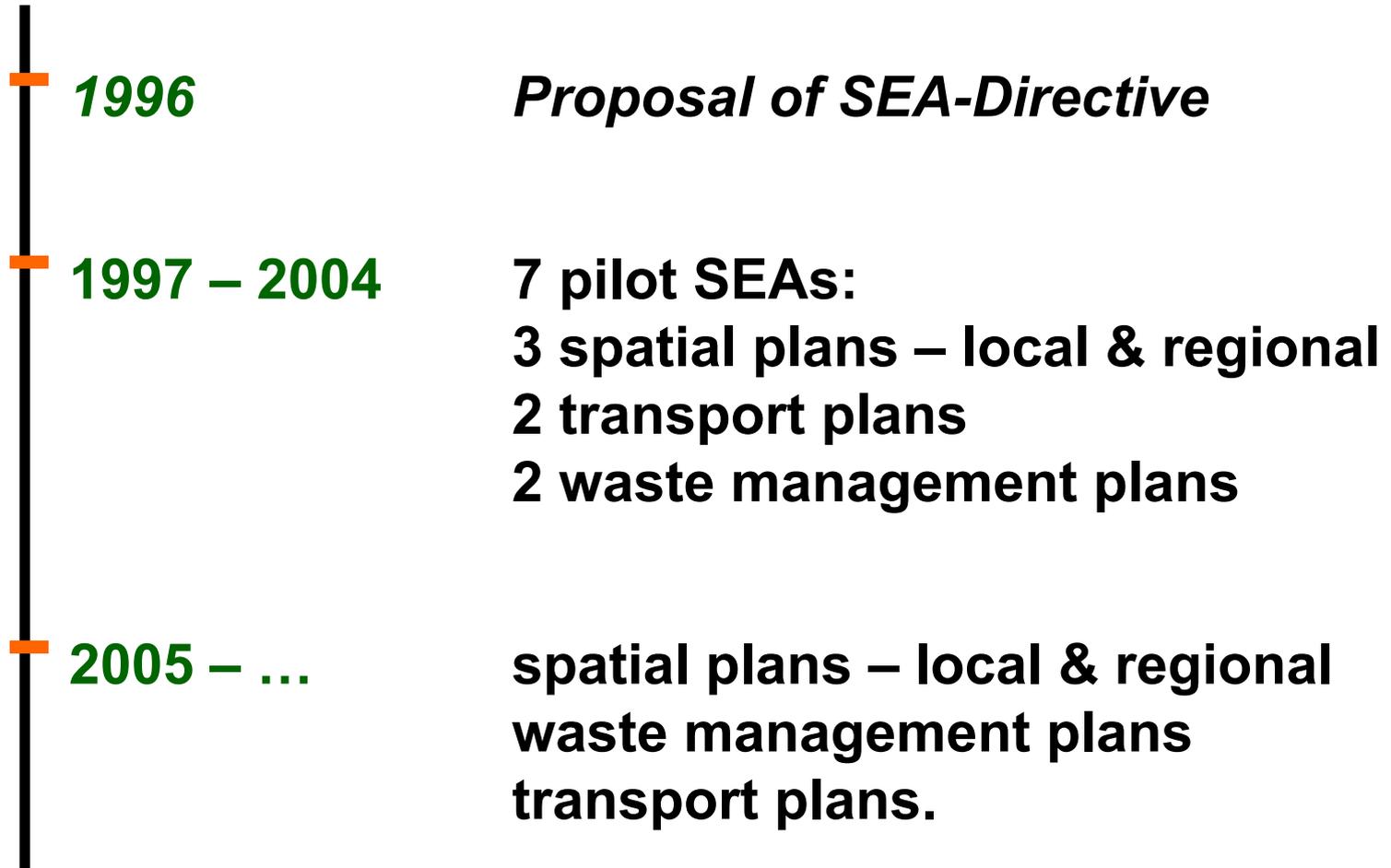


Monitoring

3. Actual effects of SEA for V. Waste Management Plan
4. Lessons learned.



# 1. Development of SEAs in A





## 2. SEA for Viennese Waste Management Plan – V. WMP

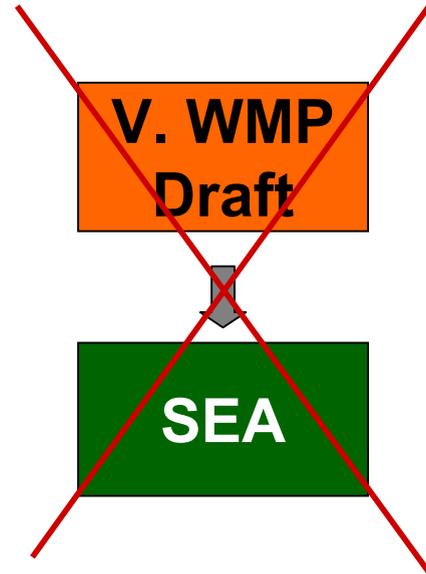
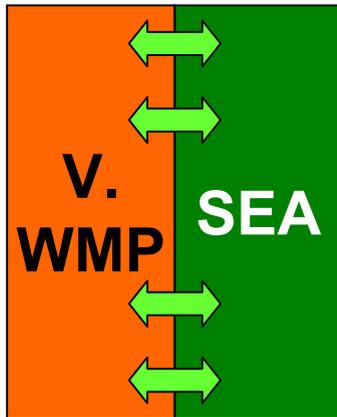
- **1<sup>st</sup> SEA in Vienna**
  
- **Launched by**
  - **department of environment,**
  - **department of waste management,**
  - **Viennese environmental ombudsman**
  
- **1999 – 2001**
  
- **Long term planning:**
  - **waste avoidance,**
  - **need for new waste treatment facilities,**
  - **capacity,**
  - **technology.**

# 2a: Process Design



- Relationship between planning and SEA process

integrated



- effective integration of environmental aspects into V. WMP.



# 2b: Public Participation

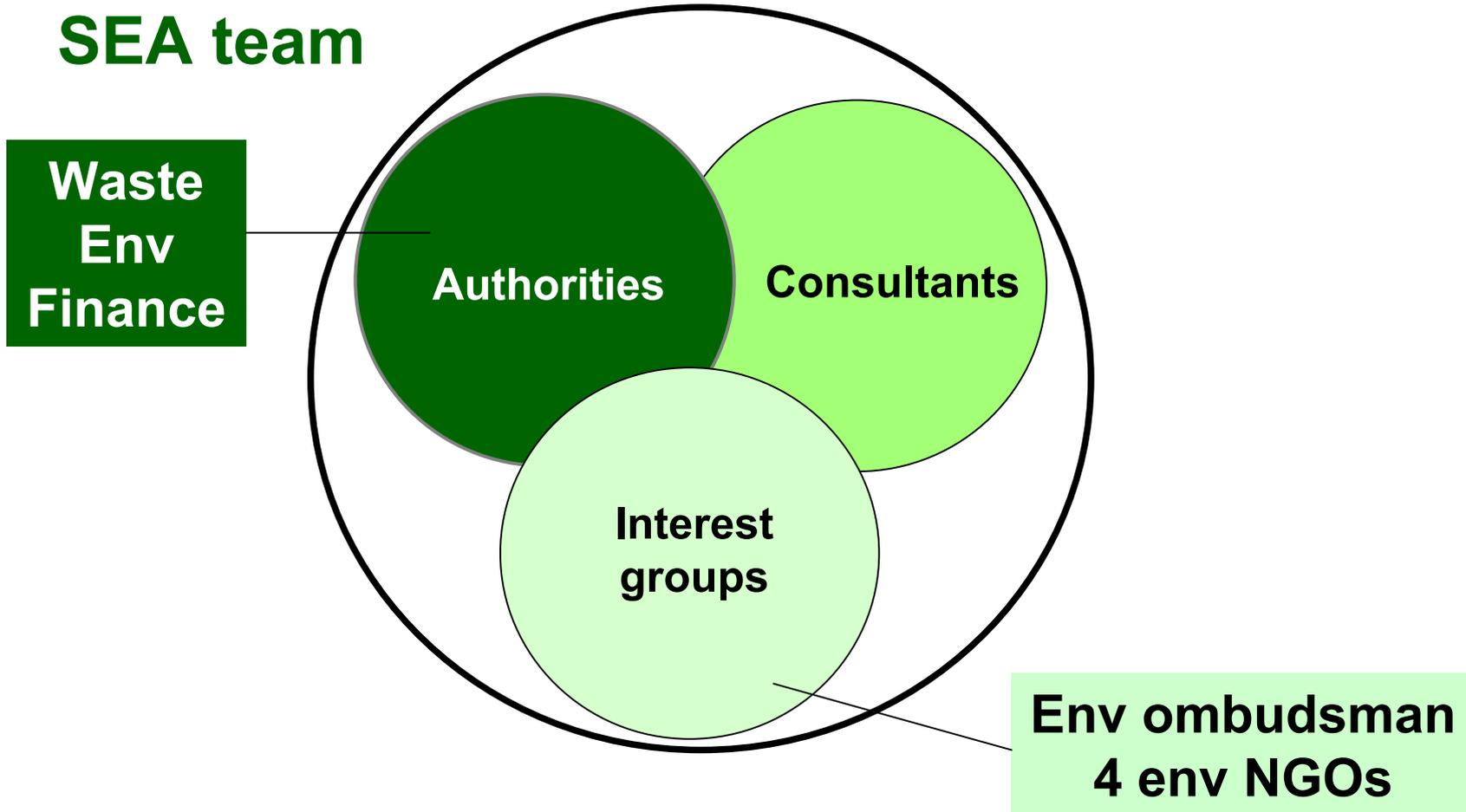
- **New approach to stakeholder participation**
- **→ SEA Round Table**





# SEA Round Table

## SEA team





- Involvement right from the start
- Equal partners
- Carry and share responsibility

- Common learning experience
- To reach consensus



# SEA Round Table



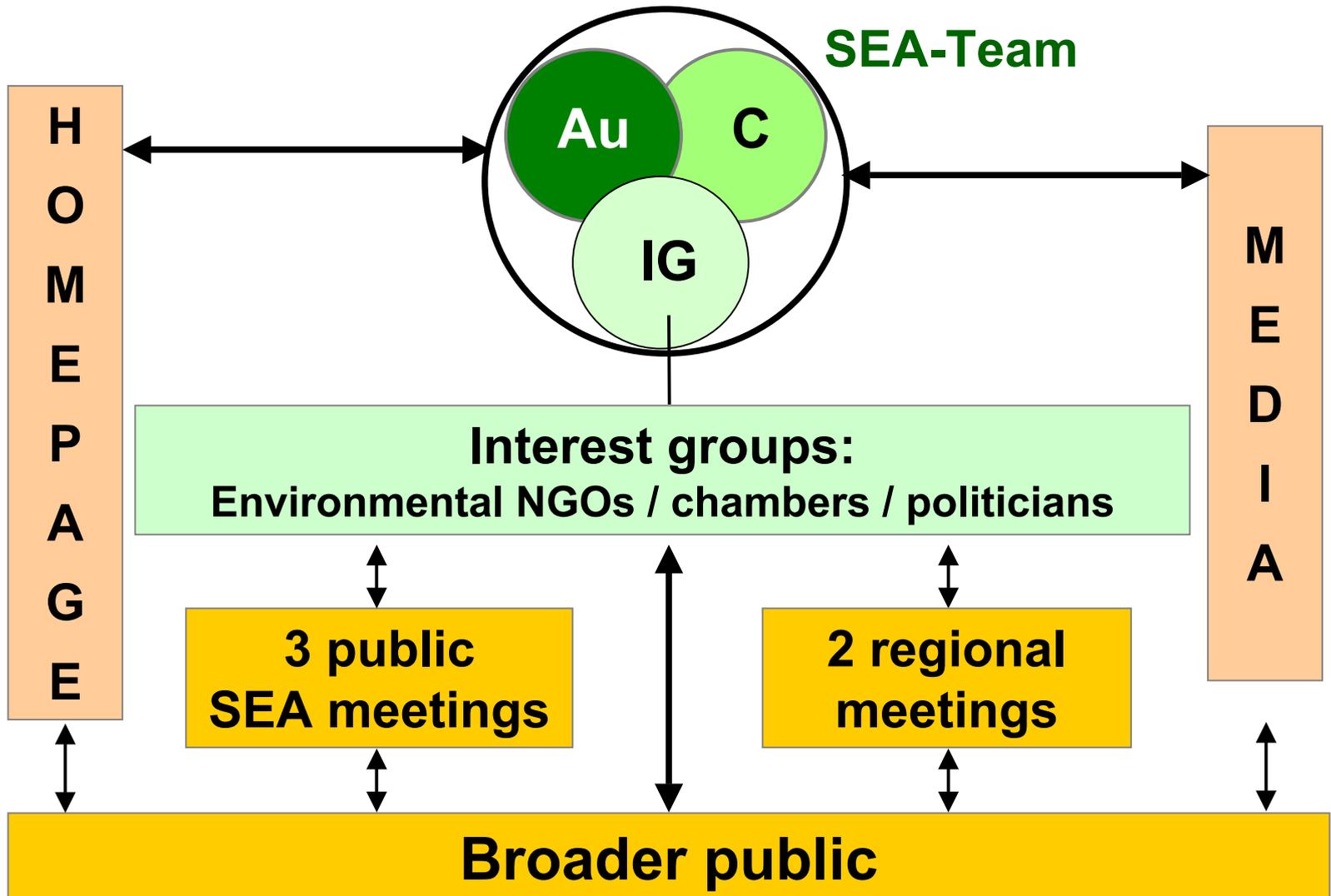
<b>Benefits</b>	<b>Factors of success</b>
<b>Easier to take comments into account → early</b>	<b>Start early → it takes time</b>
<b>Enables co-decisions at every single SEA step → PP quality increases</b>	<b>Find the “right” team members for co-operation</b>
<b>Knowledge and view-point exchange: innovative solutions, think-tank-effect</b>	<b>Include representatives of all interest groups concerned → set up an unbiased team</b>
<b>Team building &amp; common success → PP acceptance &amp; easier implementation</b>	



# What was missing?

- **Involving the broader public**
- **Involving other interest groups concerned, e.g. worker's chamber, chamber of commerce**
- **Involving politicians throughout the process.**

# Further development



# Internet Participation – Experience



## ■ Broader public

+

-

Easy, quick, flexible

Hidden

Easy to provide throughout the process

Only for the internet-community

Large documents for download

Information overload →  
counterproductive

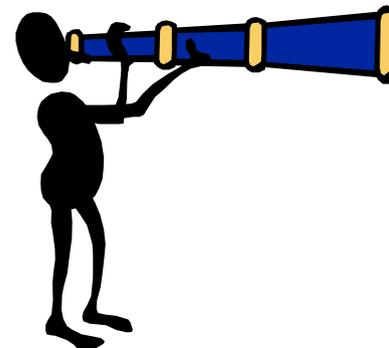


**Combine it: media announcements & open-door policy at the authorities**



## 2c: Monitoring V. WMP

- **SEA-Team planned monitoring provisions → part of env. report → adopted with waste management plan**
- **Monitoring task force: waste management department, env. department, env. ombudsman + consultant**
- **Monitoring reports**
- **Monitoring checklist.**





# What is monitored?

- **Whether SEA results were taken into account properly when V. WMP was adopted**
- **Whether V. WMP is implemented entirely**
- **Whether SEA assumptions are still valid (e.g. development of waste amounts, ...)**
- **Whether SEA prognosis on V. WMP's effects are right**  
**Which env effects can actually be seen?**  
**Are remedial actions necessary?**



# What happened?

- **V. WMP 3 main results:**
  - intensify waste avoidance: 5 m €/a
  - build new waste incinerator, close down an older incinerator
  - build new biogas facility
  
- **→ decision makers:**  
**Adopted V. WMP with one modification:**
  - Continue running the older incinerator
  - Reduce the capacity of the new incinerator appropriately.



# Reaction of the monitoring team

- **Calculated emissions of the new solution**
- **→ more emissions**
- **→ recommended upgrading the filters of the older incinerator**
- **→ filters will actually be upgraded next spring!**



# Monitoring experience



- **Powerful tool to foster the PP's implementation**
- **Independent body with support of external consultants**
- **Separate from influence of decision makers**
- **Needs resources**
- **Publish monitoring report.**



## 2005: 4 years later ...

- **Waste avoidance initiative running – next year evaluation**
- **EIA for new incineration plant completed – Nov. building begins**
- **Permission procedure for new biogas facility completed – Nov. building begins.**



# 3. Actual effects of SEA V. WMP

- **SEA contributed to a better environment**
- **SEA relieved the EIA for the new waste incinerator**
- **SEA provided other social and technical benefits.**

# Contribution to better environment



- **Waste avoidance initiative: solve problem at the roots**
- **New waste incinerator built with best available filter technology**
- **Filters of older incinerator will be upgraded in 2006**
- **No over capacity of incinerators, no waste imports to Vienna.**

# Relief for EIA



- **Less time to get the permission (applicant): 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  y. (normally: 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  - 3 y.) → SEA saved time and money**
- **Remarkably more acceptance for the new incinerator during the EIA process:  
~ 1,000 complaints – normally ~ 6,000,  
only 20 people at the public hearing – 1,000 chairs**
- **Need for incinerator widely accepted,  
discussion about technology and capacity**
- **Some data could be reused at EIA level → less work.**



# Social and technical benefits

- **Increased plan quality**
- **Broad consensus about the future of waste management in Vienna – no fundamental discussions any more**
- **New culture of cooperation and communication within administration and between administration and environmental NGOs.**

# 4. Lessons learned



- **Process design: Integrate SEA and planning process**
- **Public participation:**
  - **Involve interest groups concerned at SEA Round Table**
  - **Involve broader public via internet or public meetings**
  - **Involve politicians: political commitment at the start, to define the SEA tasks, interim reports**
  - **However, let the SEA team work independently!**
- **Monitoring:**
  - **Set up effective monitoring provisions**
  - **Set up an independent monitoring team**
  - **Publish the monitoring report**
- **Go beyond the SEA Directive's requirements!**