

**Beacon project:**
**Partners:**


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<b>ISIS</b>	Institute of Studies for the Integration of Systems, Italy
<b>FGM AMOR</b>	Austrian Mobility Research, Austria
<b>TIS PT</b>	Transport Innovation and Systems, Portugal
<b>TFK</b>	Transport Research Institute, Sweden
<b>NEA</b>	Transport, Research and Training, The Netherlands

**Deliverables:**


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<b>D2.1</b>	Report on methodological approaches to SEA, including draft version of DS.1 (Report on current national procedures)
<b>D2.2</b>	Scoping and the boundaries of LCA
<b>D2.3</b>	Indicators, Tools and Data
<b>D2.4</b>	SEA in a tiered infrastructure planning and decision-making environment
<b>D3.1</b>	Guidelines for the selection of SEA Tools
<b>D3.2</b>	Test of EU wide tools, producing a sample set of GIS-based maps
<b>D4.1</b>	Guidelines for the Integration of Strategic Environmental Assessment in Transport Decision Making Processes
<b>D5.1/5.2</b>	Report on current national procedures and on the state of art of the SEA practice
<b>D5.3</b>	SEA MANUAL - A Sourcebook on Strategic Environmental Assessment of Transport Infrastructure Plans and Programmes
<b>D6</b>	Report on inputs provided to SEA implementation

**Fact sheets:**


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- Impact assessment tools
- Communication and reporting
- The Concept of Tiering in Transport SEA
- Land use and transport integration
- Project alternatives and forecasting methods
- The concept of handling transboundary issues in transport SEA
- Criteria / Indicators for sustainable transportations

**Reference to the website:**

[www.transport-sea.net](http://www.transport-sea.net)  
[www.isis-ll.com](http://www.isis-ll.com)

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**BEACON**

 Building  
 Environmental  
 Assessment  
 CONsensus

 On the Trans-European  
 Transport Network

 Strategic Environmental Assessment  
 (SEA) of Transport Infrastructure Plans  
 and Programmes

 A Thematic Network funded by DG  
 TREN within the 5th Framework  
 Programme of EU RTD


**Strategic Environmental Assessment of transport infrastructure plans and programmes.**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic, pro-active and participative process that aims at ensuring that environmental aspects are given due consideration in the development of (strategic) transport plans and programmes above the project level.

The "SEA Directive" (2001/42/EC), issued in 2001, aims "to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development". It requires environmental assessments to be carried out for a range of plans and programmes likely to have significant effects on the environment.

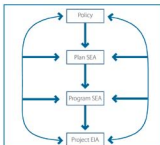
BEACON responds to the need of jointly and coherently addressing and integrating environmental and transport concerns.

**Accordingly, BEACON has:**

- Striven to provide a series of concrete inputs to policy makers and practitioners, including the preliminary assessment of 4 major TEN-T corridors.
- Carried out a substantive review of the 1999 SEA manual and produced a new, largely enhanced version of this guidance, to become the future reference for SEA implementation in the EU;
- Assessed the current state of play of the application of SEA in the transport sector across the EU;

**Strategic approach to environmental assessments**

SEA in the transport sector is conducted at different administrative levels of decision making. It differs substantially from the traditional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) approach. While EIA is associated with project decisions (usually the final decisions before construction work is started), SEA is associated with decisions on, for example, demand management options, modal solutions or different routes. SEA may therefore influence decisions on need, mode and location of transport infrastructure projects and, subsequently, the scope of project EIA.


**The revised SEA manual**

The main output of BEACON is the new version of the SEA Manual: "Sourcebook on Strategic Environmental Assessment of Transport Infrastructure Plans and Programmes".

This Sourcebook aims at giving support to those involved and/or interested in strategic environmental assessment (SEA) processes in transport plan and programme making. It aims at a wide readership in all European countries and regions, revolving around the effective implementation of the 'SEA Directive'. The Sourcebook does not only elaborate on the procedural stages to be followed and impacts to be addressed, it also explores the right context conditions for the effective application of SEA, the tasks to be fulfilled in specific strategic situations and the use of suitable methods and techniques. The Sourcebook has been drafted in such a way that each section is self-contained, so that the reader can focus on his/her specific interest.

Section 1 introduces SEA and presents a set of critical issues relating to SEA interpretation and application. Furthermore, context conditions, enabling the effective application of SEA are introduced. It also provides a concise outline of the SEA Directive.

Section 2 shows how the SEA process should be integrated into the decision making process and how it should be managed to achieve the expected results.

Section 3 illustrates in a more detailed way how to set up and carry out the main SEA process tasks, from screening to monitoring and implementation. Most of the contents highlighted in this third section are then further developed into fact sheets, providing users and operators with issues and aspects on which they need specific orientation, clarification, tools, technical help, or any other kind of assistance.

