

Limits and Possibilities of PP in Infrastructure

Programmes - Experience of the CR

Zuzana Drhová

Green Circle

Limits and Possibilities of PP in Infrastructure Programmes

- ◆ The Aarhus convention helps to open the door for PP....
- ◆but Partnership principle as well

- ◆ Access to information according to the Aarhus Convention is an essential condition for PP

Access to information according to the Aarhus Convention

- ◆ **Article 4**
- ◆ **Requires public authorities to make information available upon request**
- ◆ **Article 5**
- ◆ **Requires to collect and disseminate environmental information (information about laws, strategies and policies as well)**
- ◆ **Requires to define the interested public and to inform it directly**

Public participation in programmes according to Aarhus

◆ Article 7

Promote PP in plans and programmes relating to the environment

Requires following:

- ◆ transparent and fair framework
- ◆ to identify participating public
- ◆ to conduct PP early in development of plans and programmes
- ◆ In the CR it is covered by the SEA procedures

Czech Experience

- ◆ In the CR the NGO participation at commenting RDP or OP is based more on Partnership principle instead of requirements of the Aarhus Convention
- ◆ Contract of the Ministry of the Regional Development and the Centre for Community Organizing on facilitating and coordinating NGO involvement in the process of RDP preparation
- ◆ Financial resource: technical assistance program
- ◆ NGO representatives – salaried members of working groups

Possibilities of public (NGO) participation

- ◆ Members of the working groups (preparation of the RDP or OP)
- ◆ Members of the Steering committees (participation at decisions concerning individual projects)
- ◆ Members of the Monitoring Committees (participation at setting criterias - indicators for assessing projects, evaluation how the chosen projects fulfilled these indicators)
- ◆ SEA (commenting from the environmental perspective – at scoping, at presentation the documentation)
- ◆ Concerning the EU directives (noise, particles..) NGOs can stress on their involvement in SEA process (at scoping) or in the monitoring committees

Barriers and opportunities

Barriers

- ◆ Confused (mixed formal and informal) processes
- ◆ Participation x lobbying

Opportunities

- ◆ raising NGO capacities (Global grants for strengthening NGOs institutional capacities at implementation EU directives)
- ◆ strengthen formal processes of decision-making (more transparency)
- ◆ NGO representatives in SEA teams