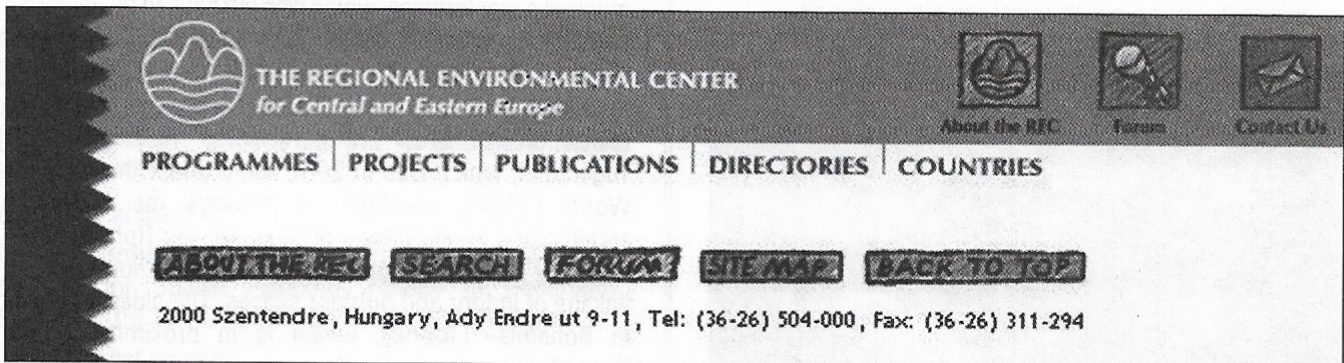




Ingrid Belčáková

## INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR "APPLICATION OF DIRECTIVE 2001/42/EC IN SPATIAL PLANNING IN THE ENLARGED EUROPEAN UNION"

The international conference on application of SEA Directive took place on April 14 to 16, 2004 in the Hungarian city of Szentendre. This event has been organized by the "Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC)". This spring it was organized in co-operation with the Ministry of the Environment of Norway.



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"Application of SEA Directive in spatial planning in the Enlarged Europe" was defined to be the principal topic of this seminar. More than 30 experts from several EU countries took part at the event. It gave an opportunity for discussion on questions related to the forthcoming implementation of the so called SEA Directive within the EU countries. It was tailored to the needs of government officials at national, regional and local levels and of practitioners who will undertake SEA in accordance with the Directive in different spatial planning mechanisms.

The seminar provided a forum for detailed discussion on the main challenges in the practical application of the SEA Directive. It focused on integration of SEA into the elaboration of spatial plans, selection of appropriate SEA approaches and methodologies, design of effective public participation for spatial planning and SEA, and quality reviews of SEA in spatial planning.

The seminar was opened by the opening remarks made by Marta Szigeti Bonifert, Executive Director of REC. As usually, the first two days were dedicated to various national SEA presentations on several aspects:

- the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) - current practices and lessons for practical application,
- SEA in spatial planning - key issues for consideration
- integrating SEA into spatial and regional planning
- selecting effective SEA approach and methodology for spatial planning
- designing effective public participation system for SEA in spatial planning
- review quality of SEA- lessons from muse of Sea review package for spatial planning

The above-mentioned topics were presented by world-wide recognized professionals with broad experience in the given area. In addition these contributions were complemented by the welcome note from David Aspinwall, the representative of European Commission- DG Environment.

The event was concluded by outputs from the working groups as well as issues proposed to become central topics for the next SEA international meeting taking place in September 2005 in Prague, Czech Republic.

The hosts of this next SEA event will be Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and the Czech University of Agriculture.