

concept

DECISION MAKERS, DOERS AND ADVISORS
– JOINING FORCES TO ENHANCE UTILITY OF INVESTMENTS

Concept Symposium 2010
Oscarsborg, Norway
16 – 17 September 2010

Symposium web-site: <http://www.conceptsymposium.no/>
Concept Research Programme: <http://www.concept.ntnu.no/english/>

Sustainability Impact Assessment & Public Participation



Overview

- **How to do SIA effectively?**
- **Participative SIA approach: “SIA Round Table”**
- **Who – how – when to involve?**
- **Example: Viennese waste management plan**
- **Lessons learned.**

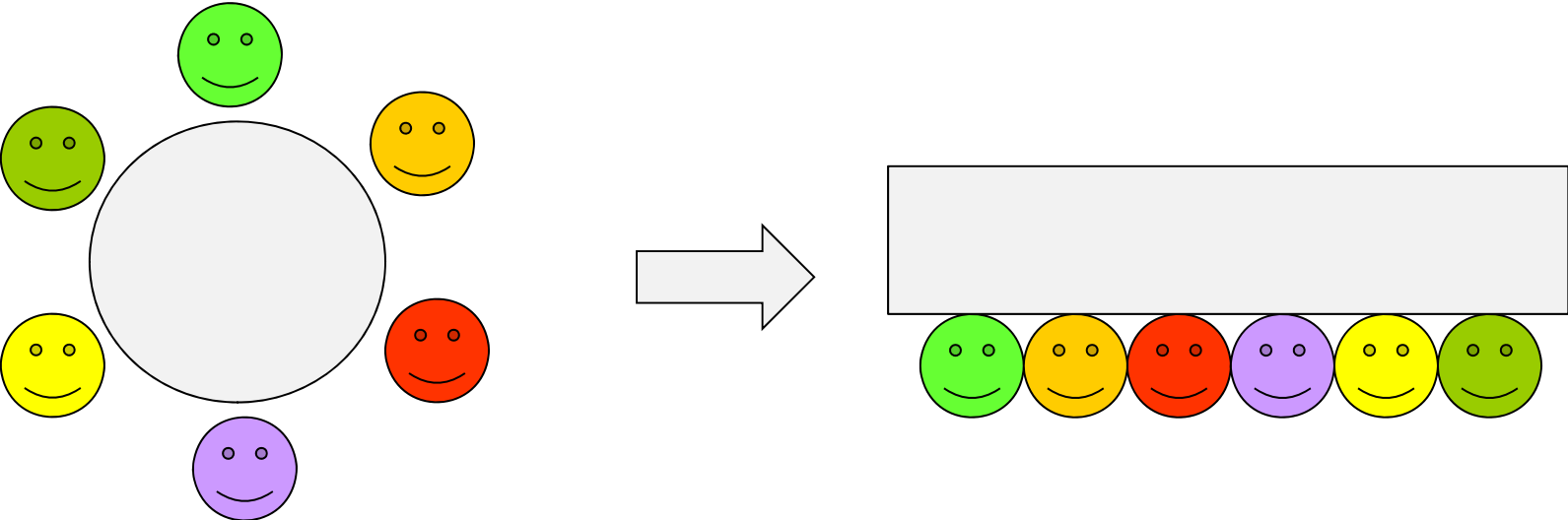


Aims of SIA

Aims	Public participation
Sustainable projects, plans, policies	Involve representatives of environmental, social and economic interests
Implement them	Accepted by the public concerned

→ Public participation can contribute to effective SIA

SIA Round Table



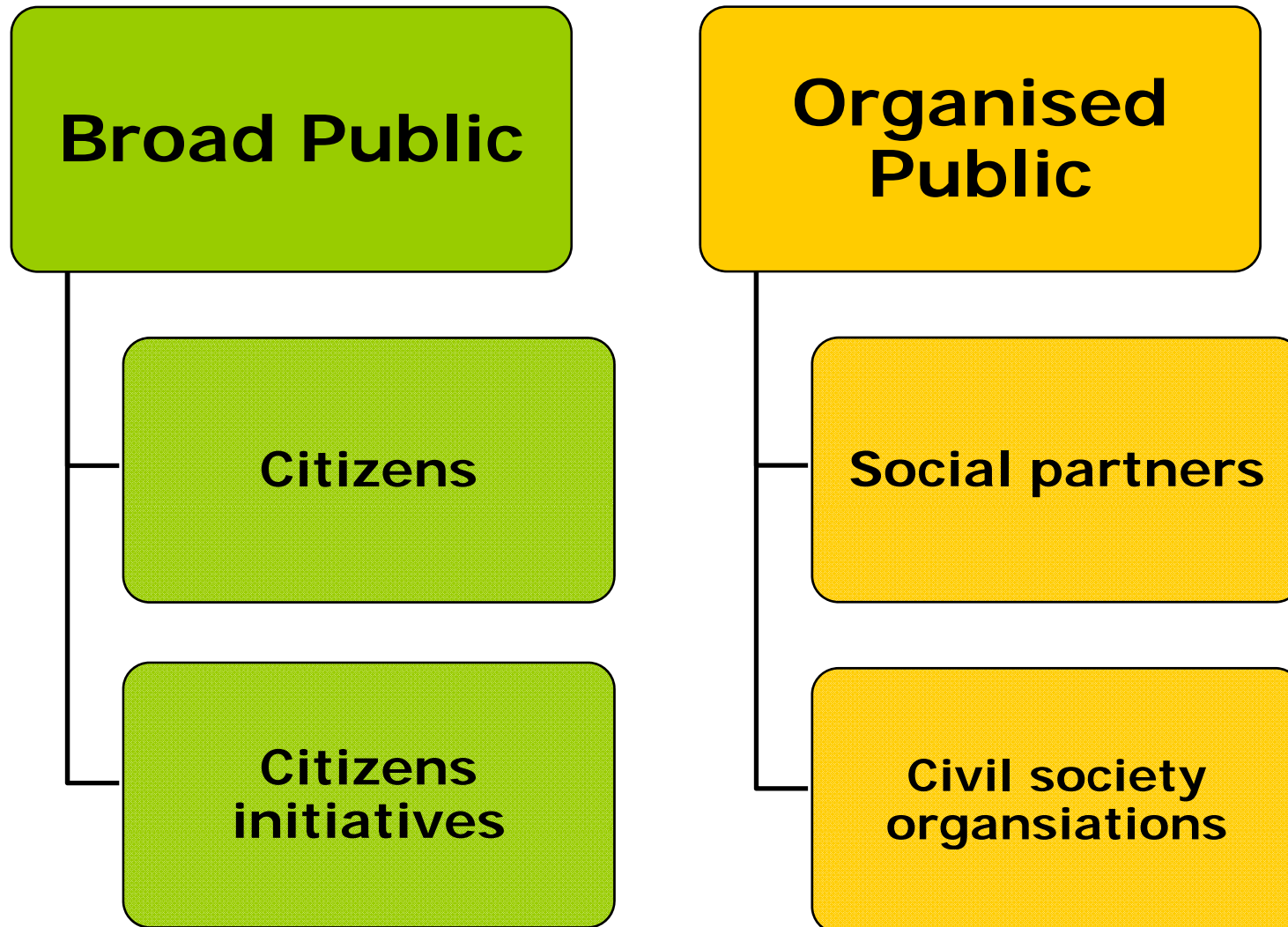


How to set up a SIA Round Table

- **Who?**
- **How?**
- **When?**



Who is the public?





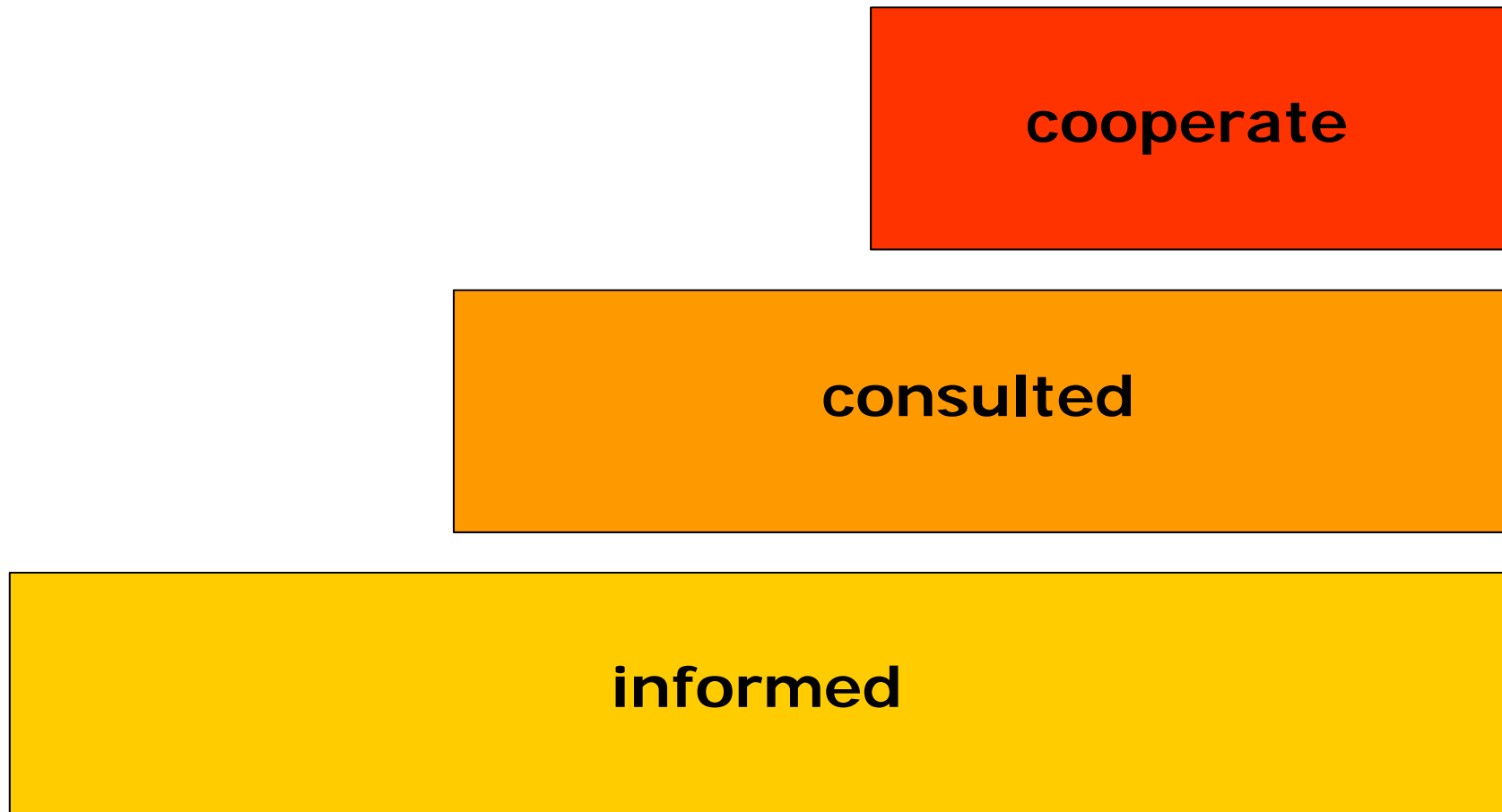
Who should be involved?

- **Who is affected?**
- **Who could hinder the implementation?**
- **Who has specific know-how?**
- **Who can speak on behalf of environmental, social and economic interests?**
- **Who is able and willing to cooperate at the Round Table?**

How should they be involved?



How intensive?





Which methods?

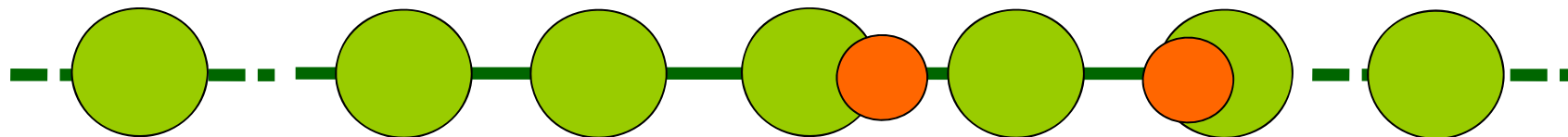
- **Public display – Consultation**
- **Workshops**
- **World cafe**
- **Open space conference**
- ...

Which tasks and responsibilities?



- **Share their ideas and opinion**
- **Draft a consensual proposal → decision makers**
- **Decide.**

When?





Viennese waste management plan

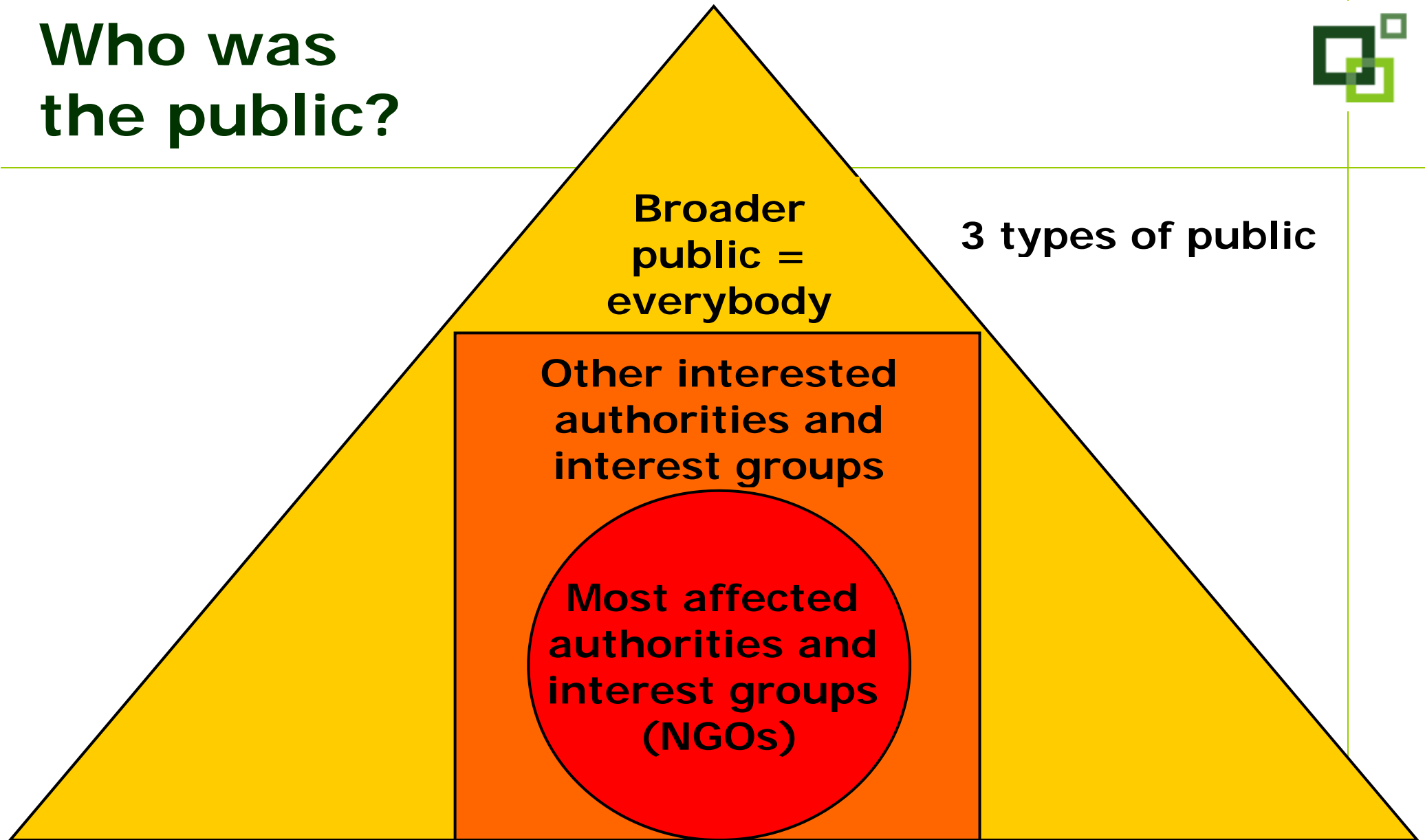
- **Objectives and measures for waste management in Vienna by 2012/2022**
 - waste avoidance
 - separate collection of waste
 - need of treatment facilities: new landfill
- **Local plan for Vienna, 1.6 million inhabitants**
- **Adopted by the Viennese government.**



Process design and steps

- **SEA → SIA**
- **Planning and SIA completely integrated**
- **Objectives**
- **Alternatives to reach the objectives**
- **Assessment of alternatives**
- **Best alternatives → draft plan**
- **Consultation on draft plan → final draft**
- **Adoption**
- **Monitoring.**

Who was the public?



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



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

= Planning team

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



“SIA Round Table” means:

- Equal partners
- To reach consensus draft plan → decision makers
- Carry and share responsibility for draft plan and SIA.





- **16 organisations,
~ 25 persons**
- **6 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**

= everybody

- **When: consulted on draft plan**
- **What: submit comments**
- **How: public display of draft plan**
 - **For 8 weeks at 3 different departments**
 - **Announced in 2 daily newspapers**
 - **Download on website of waste management department.**



Taking comments into account

- **Planning-team decided on how to take comments into account**
- **Many comments integrated into final draft**
- **All comments and means of consideration documented**
- **Transparency → build trust.**



Results

- **Planning-team:**
All interest groups involved agreed to the final draft
- **Political decision:**
Final waste management plan adopted by Viennese government without changes
- **Implementation:**
Half of the measures have already been implemented without any resistance of the public concerned.

Public participation in monitoring



- **Monitoring task force:**
 - 3 departments (waste management, environment, construction & technology),
 - env. ombudsman, 1 NGO,
 - 1 professor

- **To monitor plan implementation.**

Lessons learned



**Public participation per se
does not make SIA more effective.**



Precondition 1: Unbiased representation

- Representatives of environmental, social and economic interests are involved equally weighted
- Point out the affected aspects of SD and how they could be taken into account
- Reconciliation of interests: find consensus on final draft

→ Sustainable solution & broad acceptance:

“Our organisation would have never accepted the plan, if we had not been involved at the Round Table.”

Precondition 2: Social skills



Involve the “right” persons:

- Ready to listen, to change the perspective, to recognize other interests
- Mediative facilitation techniques.

Side effects of participative SIA



- Transparency → democracy
- Common learning process about SD.



Personal experience

Not only the indicators,
also the people involved make SIA effective!

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