SEA/EIA 2010
Donovaly 25. - 26. máj 2010

The role and experiences of the Environment Agency Austria within EIA procedures with special respect to actually sensitive aspects

The presentation starts with a statistical overview of EIA in Austria and then puts out the tasks of the Environment Agency Austria within the procedure, which is mainly checking the reports required for each EIA and as well providing information on EIA (the legal situation, technical standards, in general and for each EIA-project) for the public and other parties concerned (EIA data bases, etc.). Based on this comprehensive knowledge we are able to give an evaluation of the status of EIA in Austria. Pointing out the (re)currently sensitive aspects I`d like to concentrate on the special fields of energy, landscape and soil. It will be shown how these fields are taken into account and if the appropriate assessment is done adequately.

- Energy: the latest amendment of the EIA-act demands reports on the relevance of the project concerning energy and climate aspects; a special guidance is in progress.
- Soil: soil aspects that are examined within EIA; results of an interreg-project that aims on increasing the relevance of soil-issues within planning processes
- Landscape: a neglected field within EIA? – experiences of the situation in Austria

Further examples of sensitive aspects like “monitoring” and “final inspection” and the “consideration of alternatives” are to be brought up and shown how we try to meet the challenge of regarding them within the EIA.
A very interesting point would be the discussion of theses aspects to get to know how other countries deal with these issues.

Eva Margelik
UMWELTBUNDESAMT
Vienna, Spittelauer Lände 5 A-1090
eva.margelik@umweltbundesamt.at