

Conference: EIALAW 2018

How to combine streamlining with environmental effectiveness? – Sharing First Experiences with the New EIA Directive

23 March 2018, Helsinki

Keynote speakers:

MEP **Sirpa Pietikäinen**, European Parliament: *A Glance to the Past: Experiences in implementing the original EIA Directive*

Professor **Thomas Fischer**, Environmental Assessment and Management Research Centre, University of Liverpool: *EIA in the EU: past, present and future*

Professor **Lone Kørnøv**, The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment: *Quality issues on implementation of the revised EIA Directive*

Professor **Kevin Hanna**, Centre for Environmental Assessment Research, University of British Columbia: *What constitutes a sound EIA system? – Reflections from a Canadian perspective*

Background and objectives of the conference

The Directive on environmental impact assessment (EIA Directive, 2011/92/EU), one of the key pieces of environmental law in the European Union, was recently subjected to its most extensive changes since 1985. The amendment of the Directive (2014/52/EU) clarified the EIA process and is acting as a catalyser for structural changes in many EU member states. However, a range of issues remain open and there is a need to identify smart means for the implementation.

The conference will bring together those working on EIA, enabling them to share their experiences with implementing the revised Directive. A key goal is to support the practical application of the new requirements by discussing different approaches used in member states. To this end, the conference is open for papers that reflect on the following overarching themes:

- Implementation of the new requirements for screening and EIA reports. How can we implement the new requirements in Annexes II.A and IV without sacrificing the objective of streamlining? How should we evaluate the adequacy of the reports in practice?
- Experiences with EIA as a one-stop-shop / integration of EIA the other assessments
- Content and function of “reasoned conclusions” given by the competent authority
- Ways of judging adequate expertise of EIA consultants or competent authorities
- Utilizing EIA as a (cost-efficient) planning tool within the new regulatory frames

Papers can focus on national regulatory choices, guidance or implementation tools. They can also introduce case analyses or other types of practical experiences with the new EIA scheme.

Call for the papers

EIA experts from throughout Europe are invited to submit abstracts for paper presentations. Papers will be allocated 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for discussion.

The deadline for abstract submission is September 15, 2017.

The abstracts should be sent by email as a Word or Open/Libre Office attachment to ismo.polonen@uef.fi (message title: *EIALAW2018, Abstract*). The document should contain author information (including author name(s), affiliation and contact email address), presentation title and abstract (max 1000 words). Notification of acceptance will be communicated by September 30, 2017. Presenters are exempted from the registration fee.

Registration via Conference web pages:

<http://www.yvary.fi/eialaw2018-registration/>

Registration fee (inc. taxes): 180 € The registration fee includes morning and afternoon coffee/tea, lunch and buffet dinner after the conference.

The Venue

The House of Science, Helsinki (Street address: Kirkkokatu 6).

Organizers

University of Eastern Finland (UEF Law School): Project EIA law in Transition
(<http://www.uef.fi/web/yva/home>) funded by Academy of Finland

Finnish EIA Association (<http://www.yvary.fi/in-english/>)

In a collaboration with Environmental Assessment and Management Research Centre (*University of Liverpool*).

Draft Programme

Fri, 23 March, 2018

8.00-9.00 Registration & coffee

9:00 Opening and introduction

Senior Lecturer Ismo Pölönen, UEF Law School

9:10 A Glance to the past: Experiences in implementing the original EIA Directive
Member of EU Parliament, former Ministry of Environment, Sirpa Pietikäinen

9:30 EIA in the EU: past, present and future
Professor Thomas Fischer, Environmental Assessment and Management Research Centre, University of Liverpool

Quality issues on implementation of the revised EIA Directive
Professor Lone Kjørnøv, The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment

11.00 Coffee

11.30 Presentations, a 20 min + 10 min discussion

13.00 Lunch

14:00 Presentations

15:30 Coffee

16.00 What constitutes a sound EIA system? – Reflections from a Canadian perspective
Prof. Kevin Hanna, University of British Columbia

16.30 Panel discussion: What have we learned from the first experiences?

17.15 Closing

Buffet dinner (time will be informed later)

The detailed programme will be developed based on the proposed presentations.

Further information:

Ismo Pölönen, Senior Lecturer, Adjunct Professor of Environmental Law, UEF Law School

Mail: ismo.polonen@uef.fi

Tel: +358-40-5946024

Erkki Ikaheimo, Chair of the Finnish EIA Association

Mail: Erkki.ikaheimo@gmail.com

Tel: +358-40-5911087

KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

Sirpa Pietikäinen is Finnish Member of the European Parliament representing European People's Party (EPP) since 2008. Pietikäinen was Finland's Minister of Environment between 1991 and 1995 and a Member of the Finnish Parliament from 1983 to 2003. At the European Parliament, Pietikäinen is a substitute Member of the Environment and Public Health Committee (ENVI) and a full Member in the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee (ECON), as well as in the Women's Right and Gender Equality Committee (FEMM).

Thomas B Fischer is a Professor and Director of the Centre for Environmental Assessment and Management as well as Director of the associated World Health Organization (WHO) collaborating centre on health in impact assessments at the University of Liverpool. His specialist areas revolve around spatial, transport and other sectoral planning and associated ex-ante impact assessment (IA) tools on which he has worked in consultancy, public administration and academia for over 27 years. Since starting at the University of Liverpool in 2002, Thomas has either led or otherwise been involved in over 30 research and consultancy projects, funded by different International and European sources as well as UK research councils. His research has had a profound impact on international and national policy making and planning. These projects have had their geographical foci on Europe, East and South Asia, North and South America. He has published over 70 papers in a range of international peer-reviewed journals and has numerous other publications to his name, including 9 books and over 100 book chapters, non-refereed articles, monographs, guidelines and others. Since 2002, Thomas has successfully supervised over 20 PhD students, most on topics related to IA. He is editor-in-chief of the Journal 'Impact Assessment and Project Appraisal' and an editorial board member in a range of other journals. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (FIEMA) and has been Visiting Professor at the strategic environmental (SEA) Centre of Nankai University, China, since 2008 and at Sao Paulo University, Brazil, in 2012. He currently chairs the Ireland-UK branch of the International Association for Impact Assessment (IAIA) and is a member of IEMA's EIA quality mark expert review team.

Lone Kørnøv is Professor at Aalborg University, Denmark and Head of The Danish Centre for Environmental Assessment (DCEA). Her research is focused on impact assessment (SEA, EIA) and planning with special emphasis on links with decision-making and governance. She has more than 20 years experience within the field of impact assessment both in research and practice. Her work

concerns transdisciplinary research, university teaching, PhD supervision, research evaluation, capacity building and training and advisory work. Appointed by the Minister of Environment, she has since 2012 been member of the National Committee modernizing EIA and implementing the revised EIA Directive, and is chair of the recent formal professional EIA training programme in cooperation with COWI and The Ministry of Environment

Kevin Hanna is a Professor at the University of British Columbia and Director of the UBC Centre for Environmental Assessment Research. Prof. Hanna's research centres on environmental impact assessment and integrated natural resource management. He has collaborated with colleagues in Finland and Sweden in research and writing on impact assessment and forest management. Dr. Hanna's work is published widely in peer-reviewed journals in the fields of impact assessment, planning, and natural resources management. He is also the editor and author of books on impact assessment (Oxford), integrated resource management (Oxford) and parks and protected areas (Routledge), and community forestry (Cambridge).