

Challenges of transparency and clarity of Environmental Impact Statement

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Improving environmental impact assessment by adopting good practices and tools of multi-criteria decision analysis (IMPERIA)

EU LIFE+ project (1.8.2012-31.12.2015) with the budget of 1.3 million euros of which EU financing 50% and partner organisations 50%

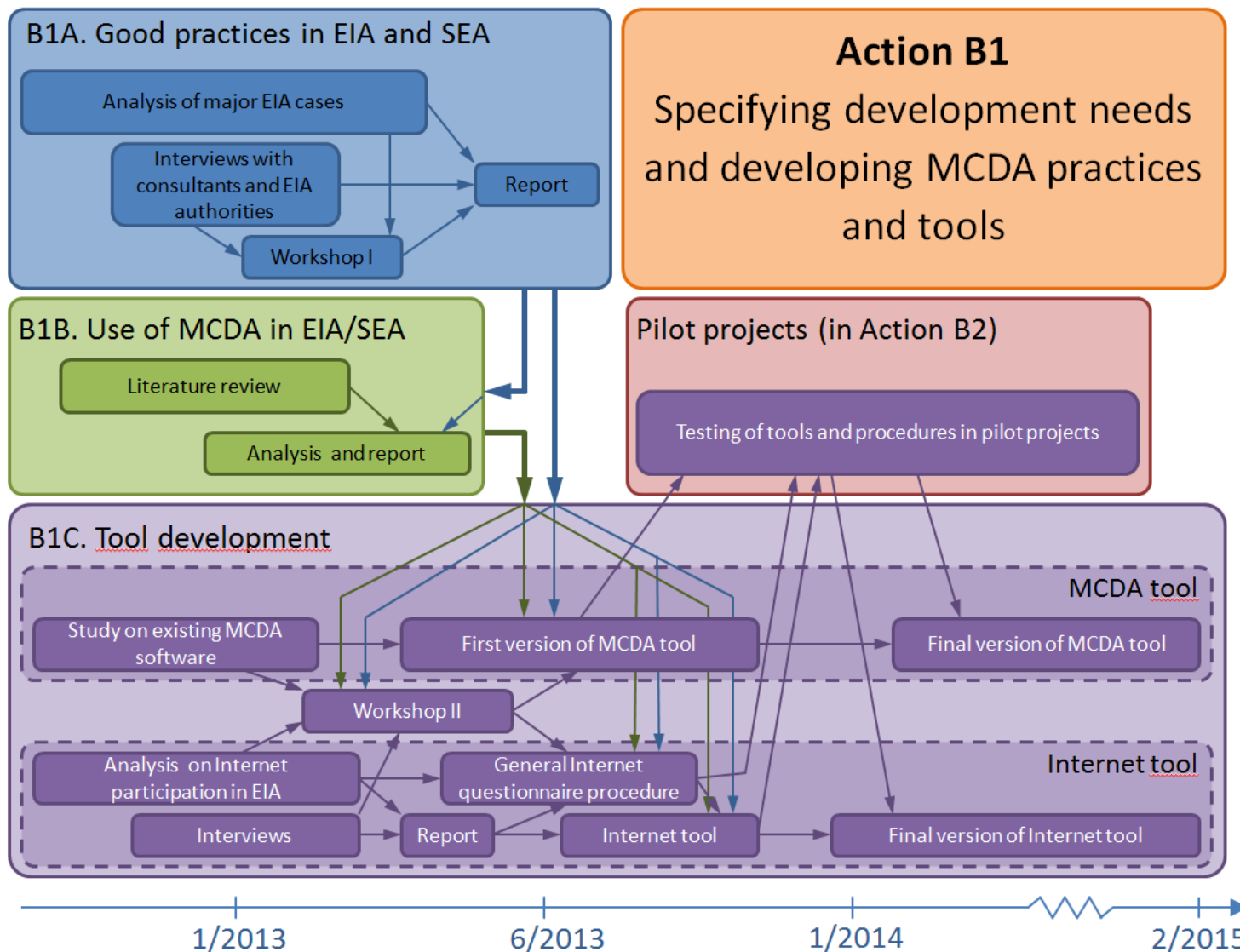
- Coordinator: Finnish Environment Institute
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- Ramboll Finland Ltd
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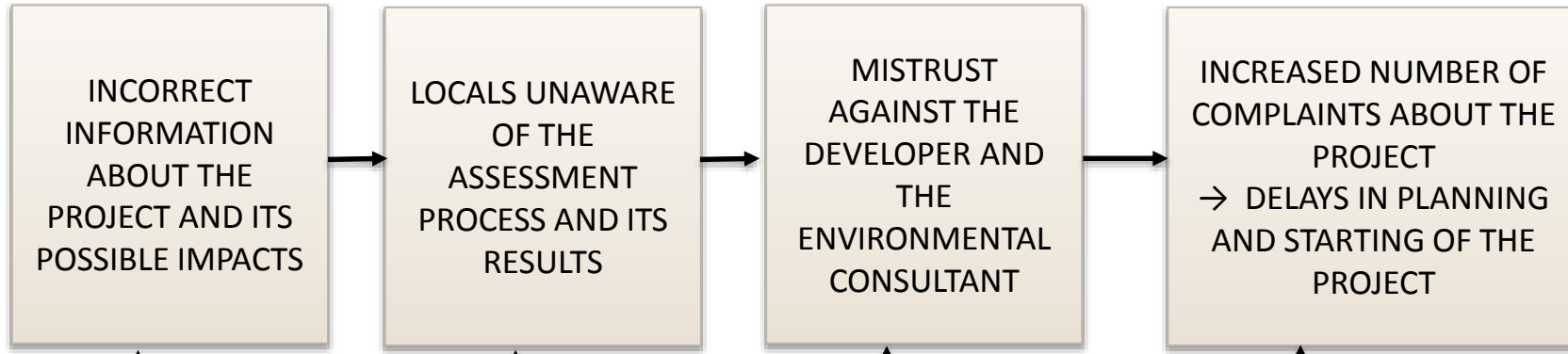
The goal is to make EIA better by developing tools and practices for

- recognizing impacts and evaluation of their significance
- comparison of alternatives
- ways of participation and influence of stakeholder groups

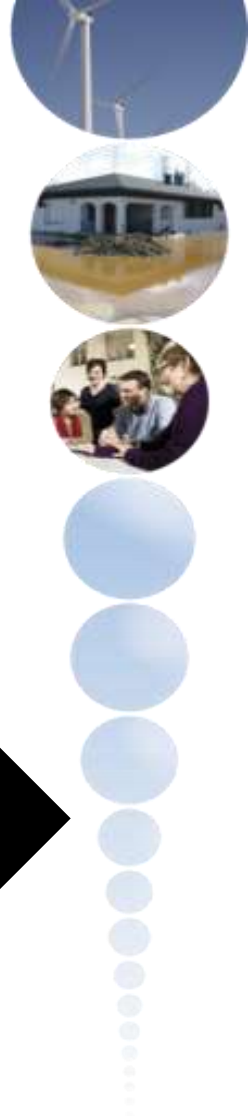
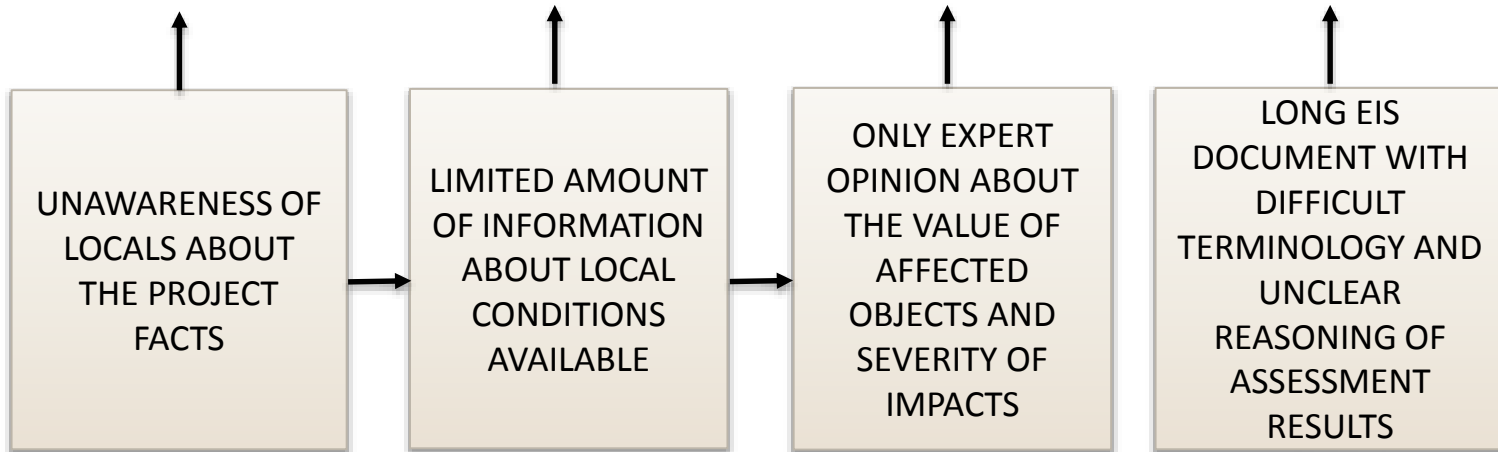


Searching for problems (and good practices) and doing something about it

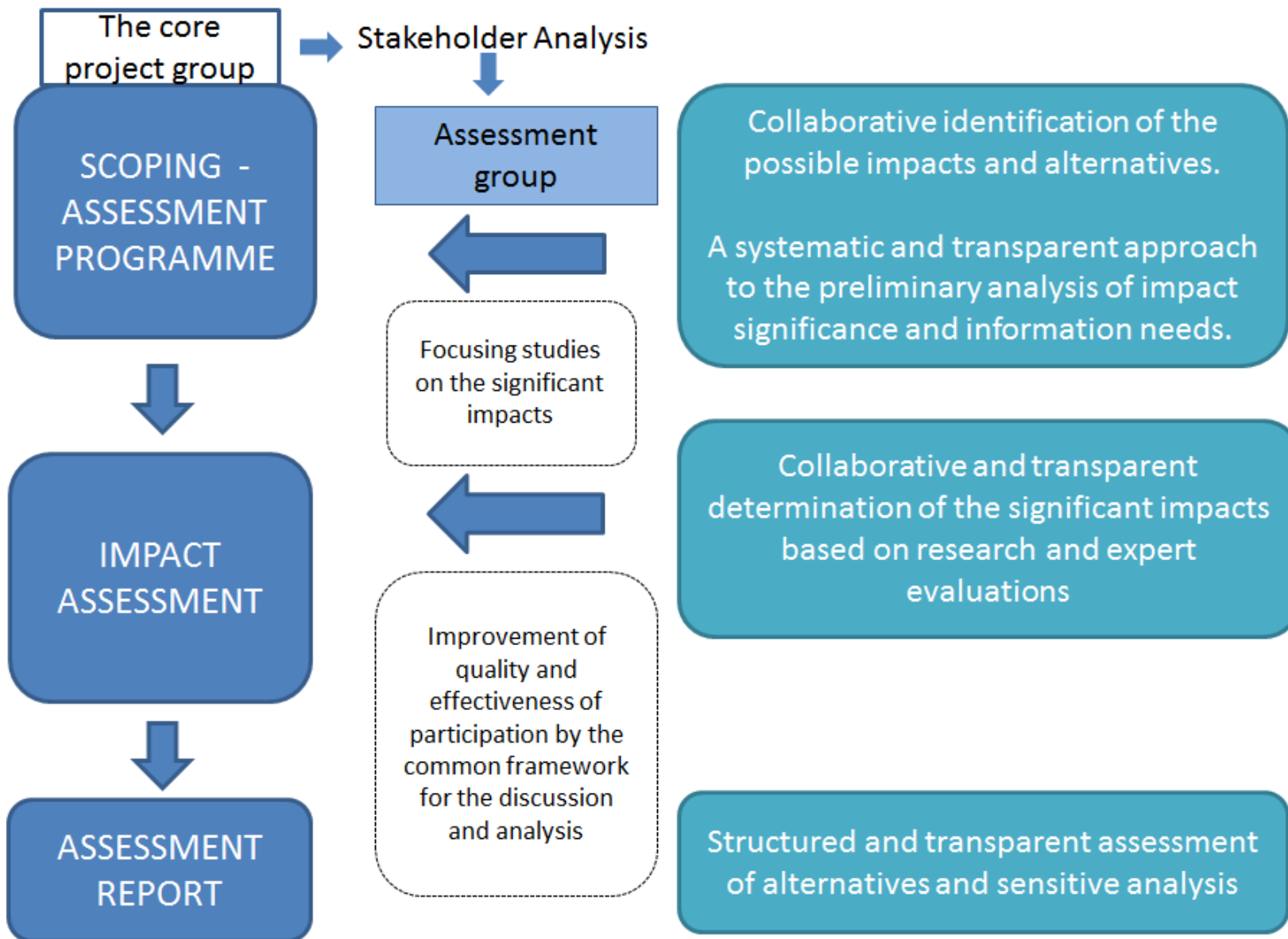




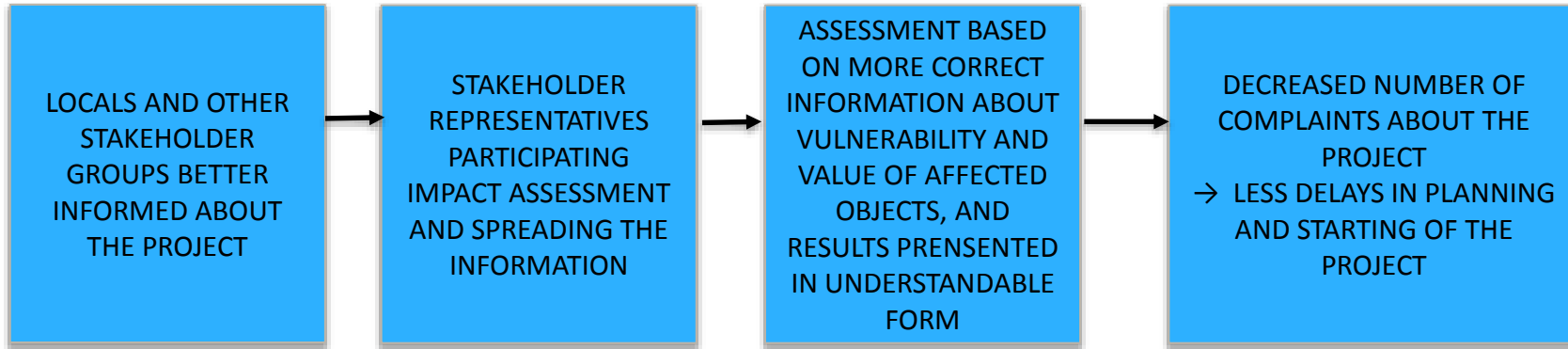
NON-TRANSPARENT AND UNCLEAR EIA PROCESS



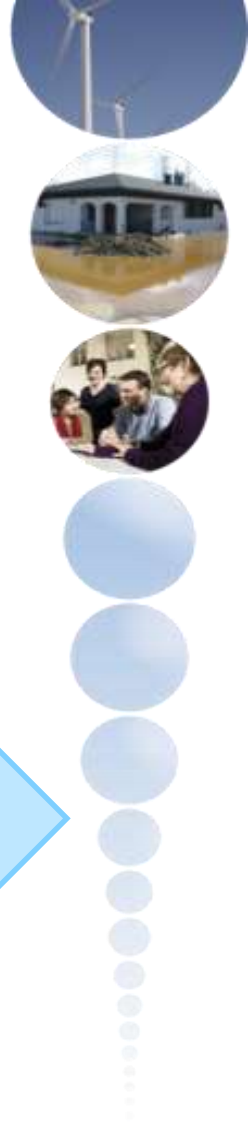
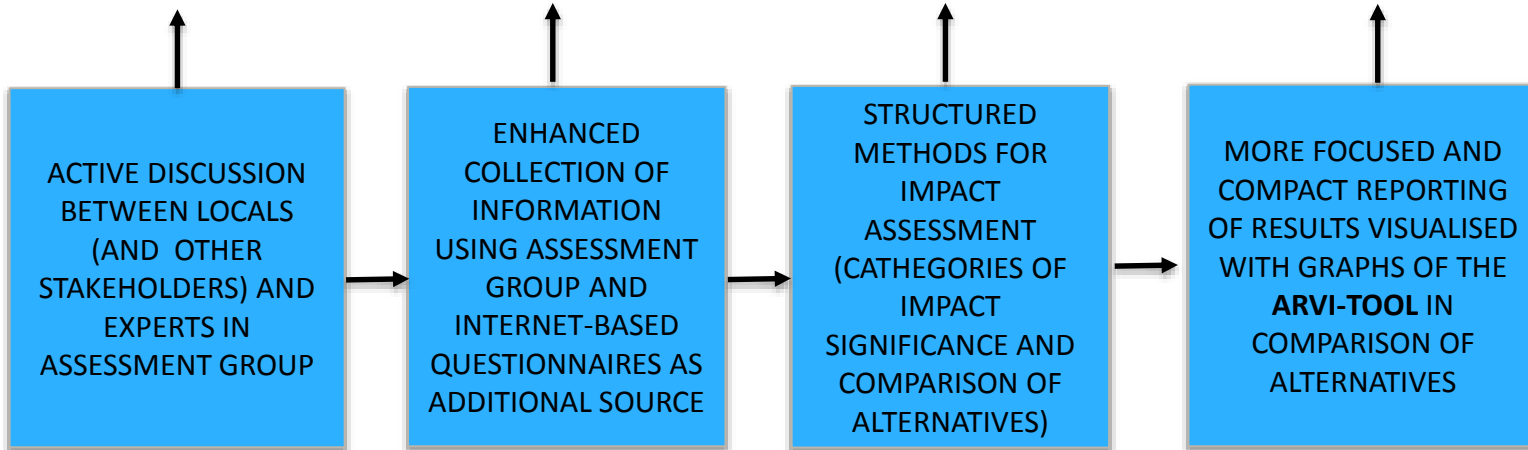
The IMPERIA approach



The IMPERIA approach



MORE TRANSPARENT AND CLEAR EIA PROCESS



What does it cost? And is it worth it?

The assessment group approach

- ⌘ Example: Estimated costs in large wind park EIA
 - ⌘ About 50 hours extra work including the assessment group meetings, their preparation and analyses of the results
 - ⌘ Travelling costs to 6 extra meetings
- ❖ Locals and other stakeholders participating the group felt positive about the openness and quality of discussions
- ❖ Developer got valuable information about local conditions and open channel for further discussions with local governance
- ? How many members from which groups?
- ? How many meetings? How long should the activity continue?
- ? What about those not participating?



IMPERIA

IMPERIA
LIFE11
ENV/FI/905

imperia.jyu.fi

What does it cost? And is it worth it?

Map-based internet questionnaires (HARAVA)

- ⌘ Map-based HARAVA is provided by government of Finland in relation to project promoting use of digital services for the public, use of questionnaires may cost
 - ⌘ Amount of comments may be large and spatial data needs time and skills to analyse them
 - ❖ Increases the opportunities of public to involve EIA process providing new way especially for younger people
 - ❖ Questionnaires are easy to formulate for different project types
 - ?
- Are all people ever in the digital era?



What does it cost? And is it worth it?

Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) approach

- \$ Planning public participation and learning the methods takes some extra time
- ❖ Was very beneficial in broad scale plans and SEA bringing new insights and structure to the construction and evaluation of alternatives
- ❖ Gives the public better opportunities to involve
- ? Works well with neutral consultant in municipal and other public projects, how about others?



What does it cost? And is it worth it?

ARVI tool

- \$ Filling the forms and teaching the personnel to use ARVI takes extra time, which decreases as the use becomes more common
- ❖ Gives easy-read tables about severity of impact, estimate of vulnerability of affected components and impact significance for all impacts
- ❖ Includes reasoning for all judgements of impact significance
- ❖ Can be used for comparison of alternatives
- ? Results seem to be objective, but can't always be
- ? Some impacts are difficult to categorize



What does it cost? And is it worth it?

The IMPERIA approach in general

- ⌘ Costs are going down as the use of methods become common, continuous training and further development are still needed
- ❖ If the goal of more transparent EIA with compact and clear EIS is reached, the approach is worth the time and money as the process goes more fluently and conflicts with public decrease



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Ministry of the Environment

