



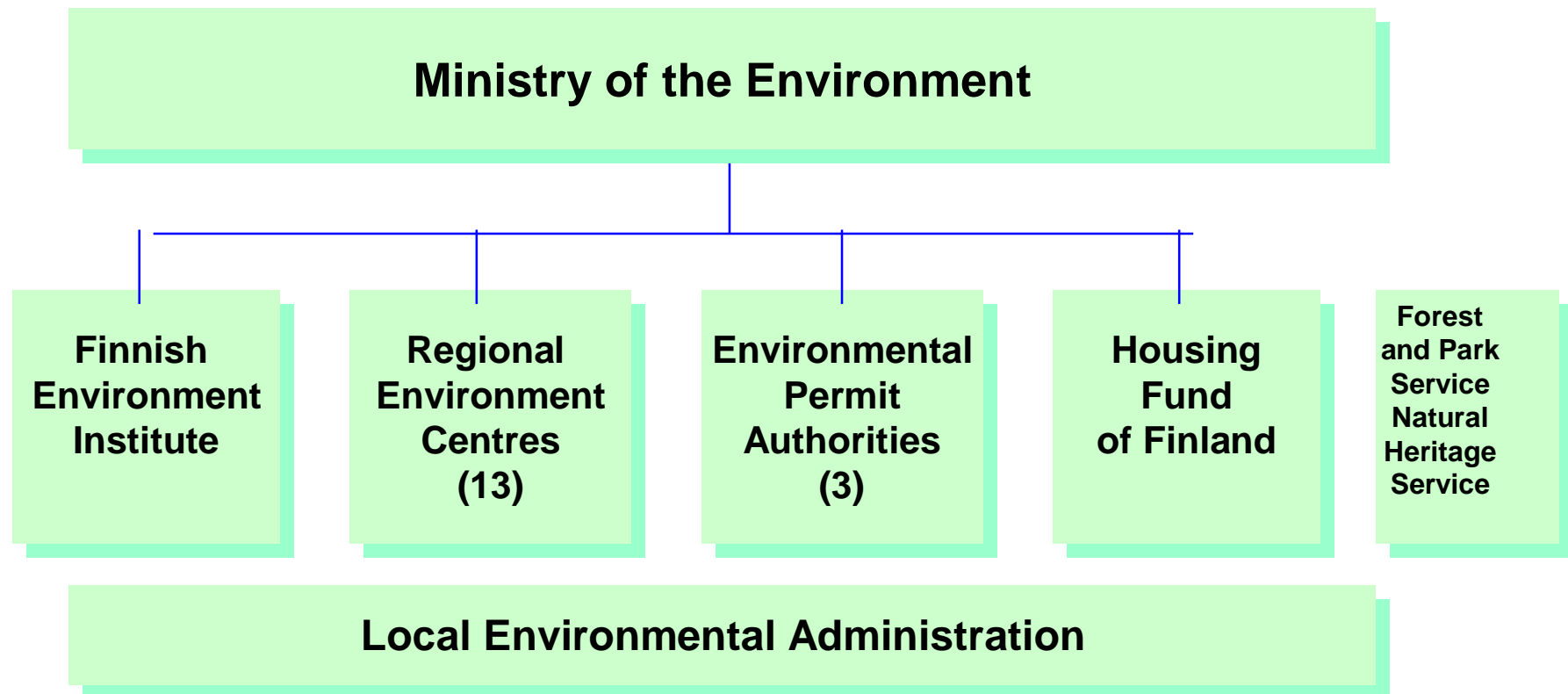
UUSIMAA REGIONAL
ENVIRONMENT CENTRE

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT = EIA

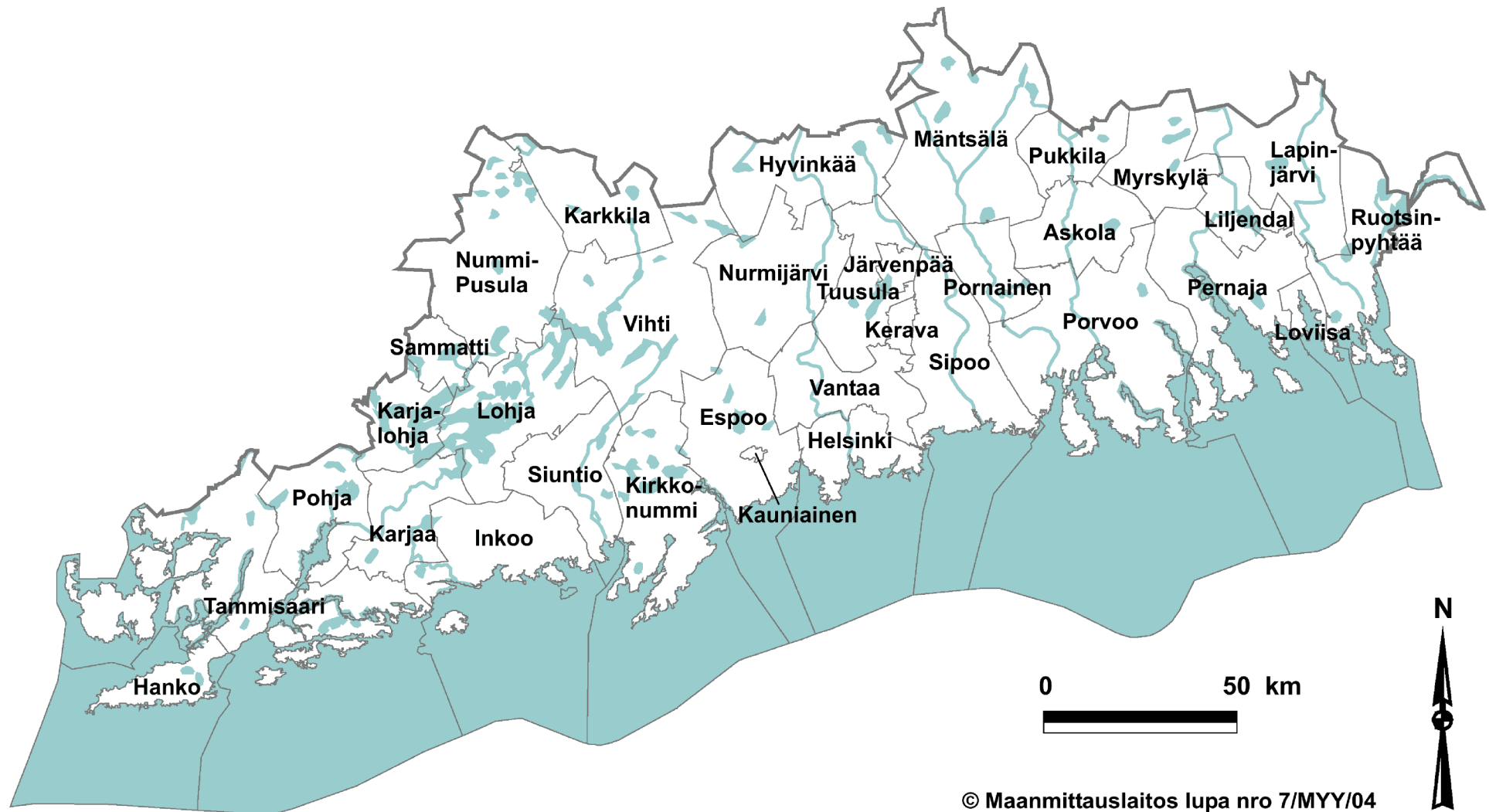
Senior adviser Satu Pääkkönen

12.10.2006

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- **Finnish Environmental Administration**



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- **The municipalities within the Uusimaa
Regional Environment Centre area of operation**



- Background of EIA in Finland

- European Union

- EIA directive (85/377/EEC)

- Act on EIA Procedure (468/1994)

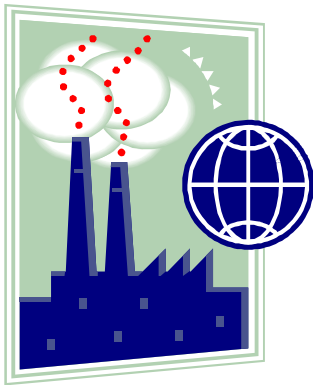
- Change to Act in 1999 and latest Act on EIA in 2006 (**458/2006**)

- Decree on EIA Procedure (792/1994)

- Change to Decree in 1995, 1999 and latest Decree on EIA in 2006 (**713/2006**)

- Aim of EIA

Y To further the assessment of environmental impact in planning and decision making



Y At the same time to increase the information available to citizens and their opportunities to participate

- Levels of EIA

- Projects

- Plans, programmes and policies

- Land use planning

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- ## Basis of the Finnish EIA

Y Developer is responsible for the assessment and investigations

Y EIA is not a decision making procedure

Y Transparent procedure and public participation

Y Coordination authority guides and supervises the procedure



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- When is EIA needed?

Y Decree on EIA Procedure:

- List of projects with threshold values (oil refineries, power plants, pulp, paper and board mills, harbour projects, motorways, railways, airports, waste management, transmission lines, major poultry- and pig-farming facilities,...)

Y Act on EIA Procedure:

- In individual cases by the decision of the Regional Environment Centre

- Two main stages



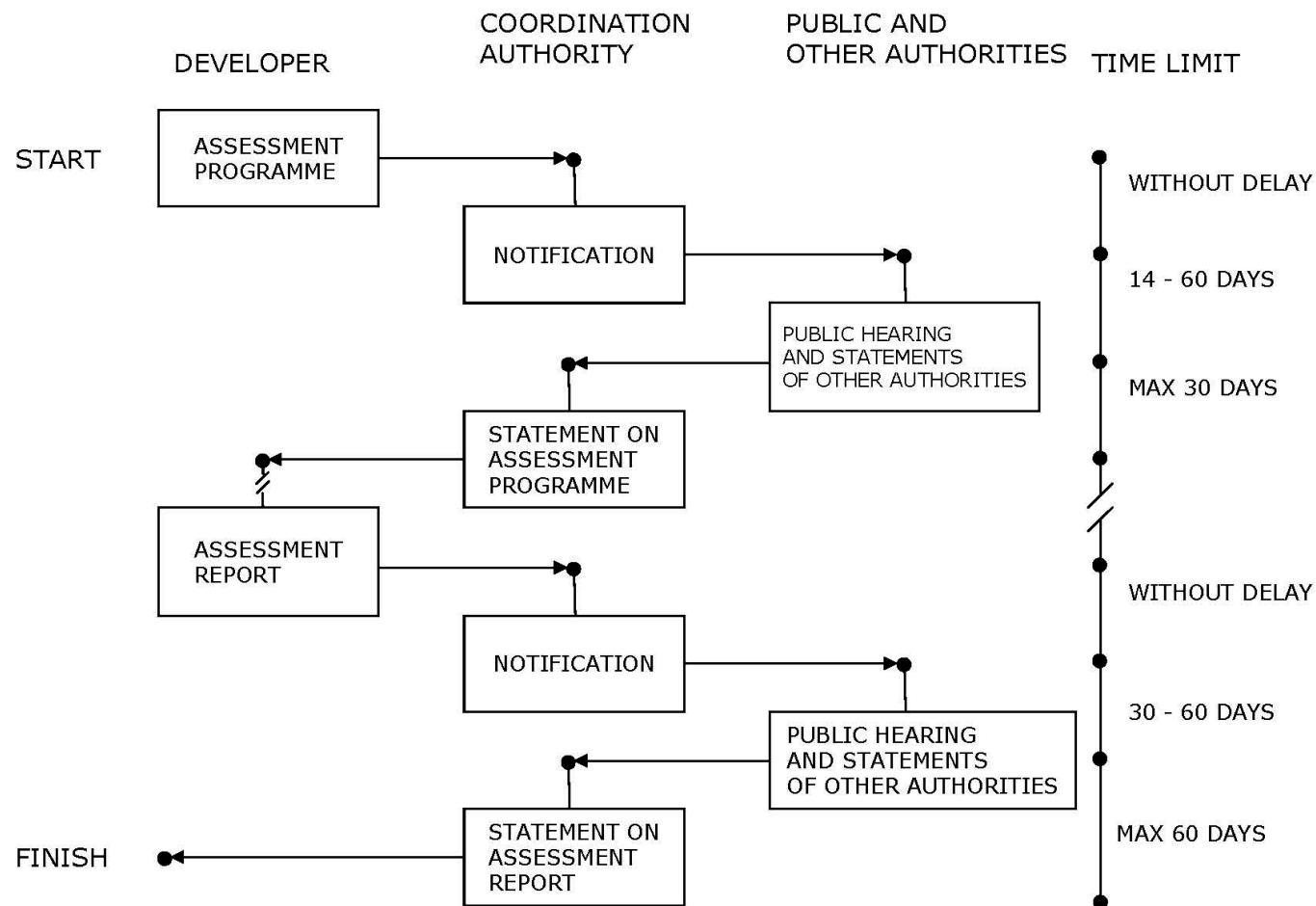
- The assessment programme

- alternatives for implementing the project
- the plan for the necessary investigations
- arrangements for the assessment procedure

- The assessment report

- the main characteristics and technical solutions of the project and its various alternatives
- comprehensive evaluation of their environmental impact
- a proposal for action to prevent and mitigate adverse environmental impact

- EIA procedure and time limits in Finland



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- ## Wide definition of environmental impact

Direct and indirect effects inside and outside Finnish territory of a project or operations on

- human health, living conditions and amenity,
- soil, water, air, climate, organisms and biological diversity,
- the community structure, buildings, landscape, townscape and cultural heritage,
- utilization of natural resources and
- interaction between the factors referred to

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- Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context, UNECE (=United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

= The Espoo Convention

- came into force in 1997
- The general obligation of states to notify and consult each other on projects that are likely to have a significant adverse environmental impact across borders
- If a project prepared in Finland is likely to have significant environmental impacts in a territory of another country, Ministry of Environment is responsible for informing and consulting the affected country
- In cases where Finland is affected, the Ministry communicates the Finnish views to the other state
- Finland and Estonia have established a bilateral agreement



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- Act and Decree on the Assessment of the Authorities' Plans, Programmes and Policies on the Environment

Y SEA Act (200/2005) and SEA Decree (347/2005)

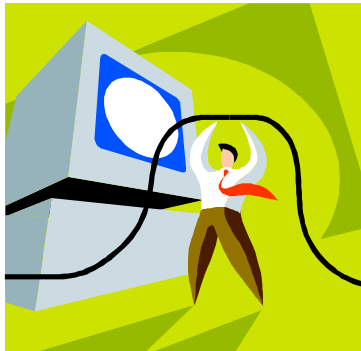
Y Entered into force on 1.6.2005



- Objective of the SEA Act

- To promote the assessment of environmental impacts and their consideration in preparing and approving plans, programmes and policies of the authorities
- To improve the availability of information to the public and the opportunities for public participation
- To promote sustainable development
- Concerns only a limited number of plans and programmes

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- Plans and programmes always requiring environmental assessment
 - National land use guidelines
 - Regional waste management plans
 - Nature conservation programmes
 - Regional development programmes
 - Transport plans for the Helsinki Metropolitan Area



- Exceptions

Y In some cases application of environmental assessment on the basis of screening

Y Some exceptions to the scope of application

- budget or financing plans and programmes
- plans or programmes drawn up solely for the purposes of national defence or civil emergency