



Reflections and lessons learned from the RDP 14-20 - SEA process in Spain



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Red2Red: Who are we?

A CONSULTING COMPANY BASED IN MADRID WITH A HISTORY OF 20 YEARS AND A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM OF 50 EMPLOYEES

Planning support



Support mainly to the public administration (regional and national) for the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of plans and programmes.

<https://red2red.net/es/consultoria-sector-publico/>

SEA and European funding



Since 2006 we have participated in the strategic environmental assessment of several plans, mainly linked to European funds: EAFRD and ERDF.

Sustainable Development Goals



Several works linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. Currently, we are supporting several regions and the Spanish government in the re-launch of Agenda 2030 linked to the SDG.

Outline

1.

Introduction:
Red2red
experience

2.

Main difficulties
and challenges

3.

Lessons learnt
and proposals
for the future



1. Introduction: Red2red experience.



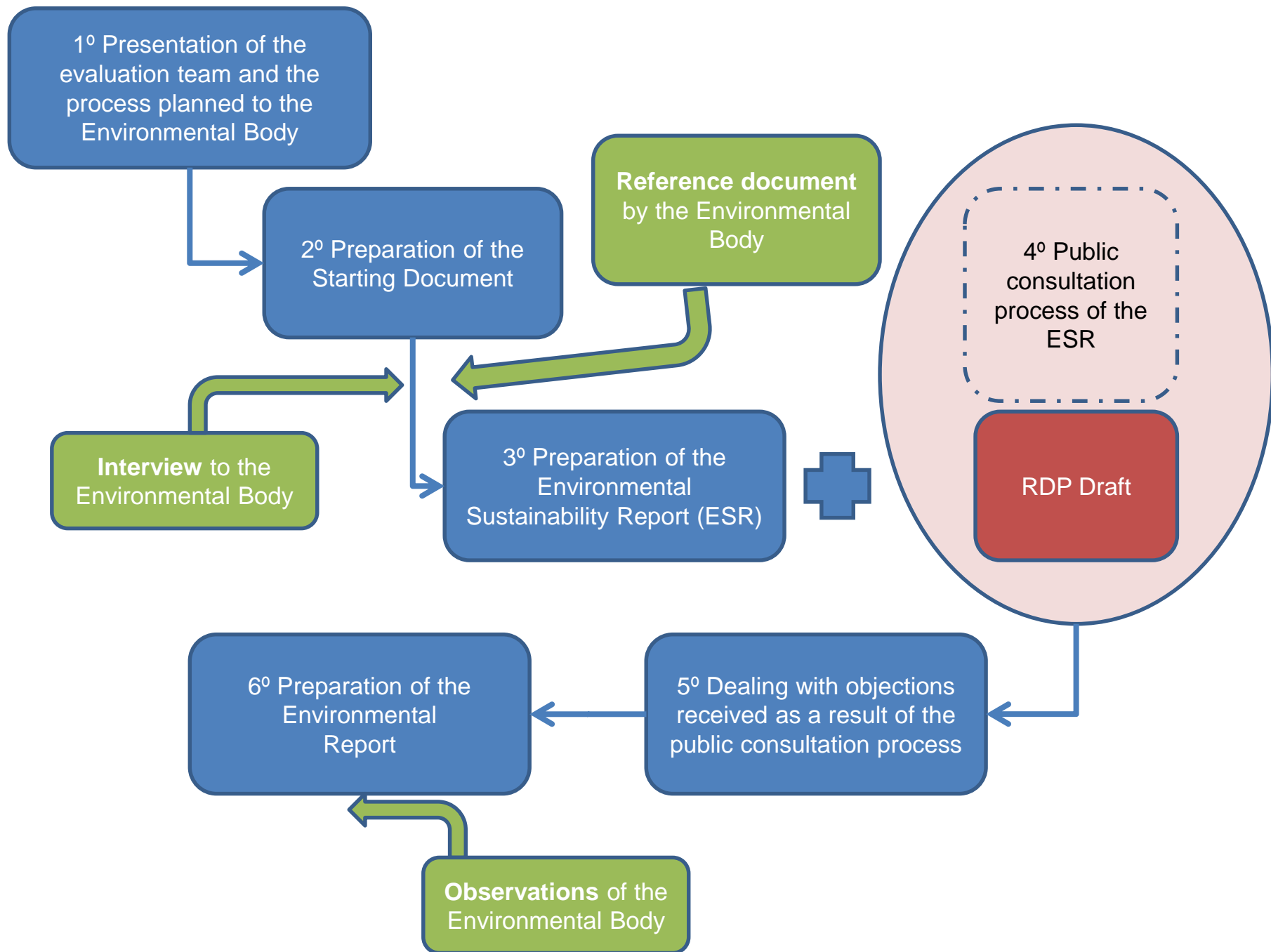
Introduction: Red2Red experience at RDP 14-20 SEA



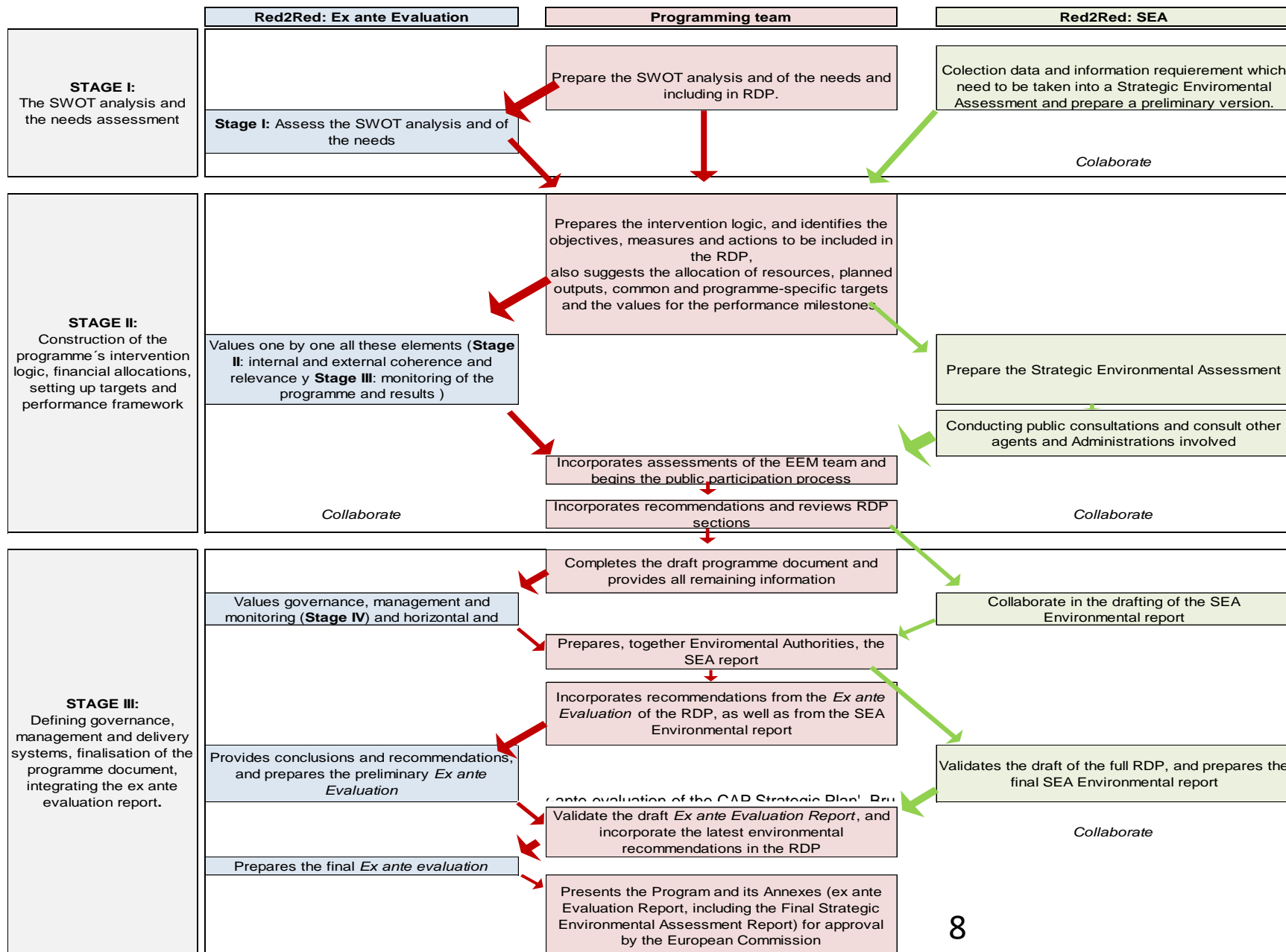
- **5 RDP SEA** Andalucía, Murcia, Galicia, Islas Baleares and Navarra.
- **SEA** as part of Ex-Ante Evaluation .
- **Two years of work:** between July 2013 to July 2015.

Introduction: Red2Red experience at RDP 14-20 SEA

- Modification of the legal basis in Spain. Specific legal basis by region.
- **Important differences between processes:**
 - ✓ Allocated resources.
 - ✓ Relationship between management authorities RDP and environmental authorities.
 - ✓ Capacity / requirements of the environmental bodies.
 - ✓ Degree of participation in public consultation.
 - ✓ The organization of the process itself.



INTERWINED and ITERATIVE process:



2. Main difficulties and challenges

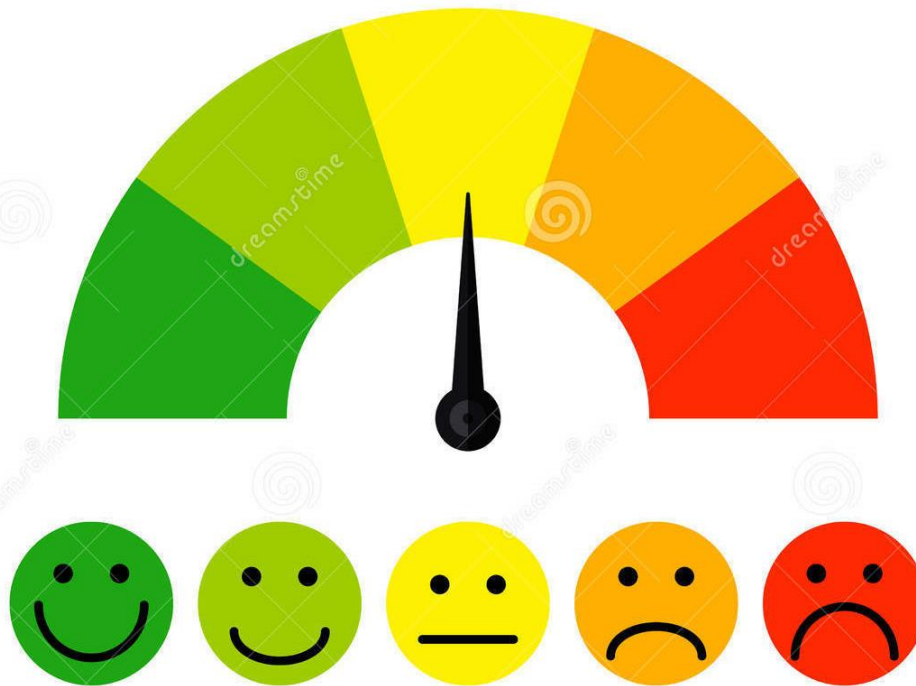


Reflections and self-evaluation after completion:

What **difficulties** did we encounter? To what extent were the process and the results obtained considered **appropriate**?

Have the **objectives pursued** by the SEA been met? Has it been possible to **integrate sustainability criteria** into strategic decision-making linked to the RDP? To what extent?

General degree of satisfaction? = medium



+ Positive:

- ✓ Environmental issues present throughout the process.
- ✓ A formal public consultation process was articulated.
- ✓ Changes to the programmes were included.

- Negative:

- Formal and bureaucratic exercise: fulfilling an obligation, more than a tool for the work and for reflection
- Limited depth of analysis.
- Complexity in the analysis of alternatives.
- RDP public consultation is a very incipient document

Main difficulties:

1. Limited resources:

Minimum resources needed for formal compliance with the process

Do the RDP MA find the process is useful as to invest more in it?

2. Very complex PDR programming process:

Any additional process/complexity is conceived as a threat

3, Technical difficulties in transposing the legal provisions: SEA inspired by Impact Assessment, related to projects with a specific location, the RDP (strategic, yet undefined where and how possible actions are materialized).

Special difficulties in the definition of alternatives.



Main difficulties:



4. Limitations of the environmental authorities:

They do not have the time and resources to analyse the Programmes in depth: Guidelines are often generic and not very well adapted to each Programme.

Their recommendations/corrective measures do not have a follow-up.

There is no effective environmental monitoring and evaluation during the implementation of the RDP.

5. Relationship between actors and organisation of the process:

- Influence of the relationship between the authority in charge of the RDP and the environmental authority can be more or less collaborative /existing hierarchy.

- External evaluation teams, but financed by the RDP authority.

What information is shared with them? When does the process start?

Consultation process is not limited to environmental issues, it deals with everything taking advantage of the process, given the lack of participation in other planning phases.

3. Lessons learned and proposal for the future



Questions for future processes:

How could the SEA move from an obligation to a working tool, a reflection tool that the actors involved in the RDP find useful?

How could the processes and its results be improved?

How could the efforts made in the SEA be consolidated in the actual implementation of the Plan/Programme?



PAC post 21 in Spain



- From 18 Ex ante + SEA to only one
- From 2º pillar SEA, to the whole CAP SEA.
- Environmental body = national one, MITECO, powerful ministry
- Status:

❖ **Process initiated:** Starting document presented in February 2020

❖ **Definition of the scope:** consultations in place with administrations

<https://www.mapa.gob.es/es/pac/post-2020/>

Proposals to tackle difficulties:

Difficulty = limited resources

Proposal = reinforce the usefulness of the process

From a bureaucratic obligation/process to producing a tool for work and for reflection, that is useful for decision making

How to achieve it?

From a bureaucratic obligation/process to producing a tool for work and for reflection, that is useful for decision making

How to achieve it?

Training / communication of programme authorities / practical demonstration

Advancing in environmental awareness: enabling context

➡ Usefulness to ensure adequate alignment with SDGs and Green Deal

Towards an empowerment evaluation

Evaluation team with a training perspective. Increase the capacity of program stakeholders to plan, implement and evaluate their own programs

From a bureaucratic obligation/process to producing a tool for work and for reflection

How to achieve it?

Evaluation teams : independent, but close

- ❖ Strengthen independence: contracting of evaluation team by the Environmental Authority?
- ❖ Proximity with programming team is needed
One aim, two perspectives: although evaluation team is **external**, both teams, program designers and evaluators, work together with the same objective: to achieve the best possible RDP

Mixed evaluation team

- The external perspective of evaluation team enriches the process.
- Active involvement of MA in evaluation process improves results

More future proposals:

It is necessary to advance in a **better definition of the alternatives:**

- At what level?
- What issues?

Avoiding a formal and useless exercise

Proposal:

To choose some **key issues** for debate related to the Programme and **focus** on the analysis of those issues, visualizing possible scenarios. This exercise should be done to **provide information that will facilitate decision making**, not when decisions have already been made

More future proposals:

Ensure that there is future environmental evaluation and monitoring:

A monitoring and evaluation plan is required with commitments, allocation of resources, and someone responsible for implementation and verification

Investments and infrastructure will be subject to environmental impact

What about the support calls?

Articulate a process of brief SEA evaluation before publication?

Thank you for your attention

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