Effective notification and time frames for public participation related to specific activities

- The Swedish system
Background

• A long tradition of public participation in decision-making processes, even before the Aarhus Convention and the EIA Directive (2011/92/EU)

• Permit processes involve
  • consultations with the public before a permit application is submitted to the permit authority
  • the publication of notice of the application and the gathering of opinions from the public
  • a public meeting before the permit authority
  • a notice publishing the ruling of the permit authority
Info and time-frames for early consultations

• Consultations has to be held well in advance of submitting the permit application and preparing the environmental impact assessment report

• Before early consultations, the developer has to provide information about inter alia the anticipated environmental impact

• How the public concerned is notified before early consultations is flexible but individual contact is to be the first choice
How information is given (art. 6, para 2)

- The public is informed through public notice according to the Swedish Environmental Code (on a public website and in a local newspaper)

- The public concerned is also informed individually

- The application including the environmental impact assessment report have to be available at the decision-making authority and at a keeper of the file, e.g. in a municipal office near the place where the activity is to be conducted
Time-frames (art. 6, para 3)

- The public should be given a reasonable time-frame at a minimum of 30 days to comment on the application and the environmental impact assessment report.
Thank you!