

**Questionnaire for the report of LITHUANIA on the implementation of
the Protocol on Strategic Environmental
Assessment in the period 2013–2015**

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Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Protocol

In this part, please describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Protocol. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not experience in the application of the Protocol.

Article 3

General provisions

I.1. Please provide the main legislative, regulatory and other measures you have adopted in your country to implement the Protocol (art. 3, para. 1) (more than one option may apply):

(a) Law on SEA (please indicate number/year/name):

(b) SEA provisions are transposed into another law(s) (please specify): *Requirement to carry out SEA for certain plans and programs is transposed in the umbrella legislation, namely the Law on Environmental Protection of the Republic of Lithuania and Law on Territorial Planning of the Republic of Lithuania.*

(c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/name): *Detailed requirements are set in the:*

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of August 18, 2004, No. 967 on the Approval of the Regulations of Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment. These Regulations were amended by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 23 December, 2014, No 1467 on the amendment of the Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of August 18, 2004, No 967 on the Approval of the Regulations of Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment. These amendments entered into force on January 1, 2015.

Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of September 18, 1996 No. 1079 on the Approval of the Regulations on Public information, consultation and participation in decision-making on territorial planning. These regulations were amended by Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of December 18 2013 No. 1267.

Order of the Screening for the Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment (adopted by the Decision of the Minister of Environment of August 27, 2004 No DI-456).

Order of Public Participation in the Procedures of the Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment and Informing the Assessment Stakeholders and Member States of the European Union (adopted by the Decision of the Minister of Environment of August 27, 2004 No DI-455 and revised in 2015).

Order of Determination of Significant Impact on Established and Potential Natura 2000 Territories of Implementation of Plans or Programs and Proposed Economic Activity

(adopted by the Decision of the Minister of Environment of May 22, 2006 No D1-255.

(d) Administrative rule (please indicate number/year/name):

(e) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 4

Field of application concerning plans and programmes

I.2. List the types of plans and programmes that require SEA in your legislation:

Until 31 December, 2014 legislation provided the requirements for obligatory assessment of the effects of the following plans and programs:

1. Plans and programs which are prepared for industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management, waste management, territorial planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity of the Republic of Lithuania;

2. Comprehensive territorial planning documents of a national, regional and district levels and major changes of these documents;

3. Plans and programs, implementation of which is related to established or potential „Natura 2000“ territories or to the environment within a vicinity of such territories, and institution responsible for organization of protection and management of such territories determines that pursuant to the provisions of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC, implementation of such plan or programme (separately or in combination with other plans and programs) might have significant effects to the established or potential „Natura 2000“ territories;

4. Plans and programs for which a decision regarding obligatory assessment is made during the screening procedure.

It should be noted that SEA legislation is not applied (and hence SEA procedures are not carried out) for preparation and approval of:

1. Plans and programs the sole purpose of which is to serve national defense or manage civil emergency situations;

2. Plans and programs the sole purpose of which is to plan finances and (or) budget;

3. Territorial detailed plans, which are prepared, approved and adopted according to a simplified order, as stated in The Law on Territorial Planning, and Rules on Preparation of Detailed Plans, approved by the Ministry of Environment;

4. Plans and programs, the purpose of which is to solve nature or heritage protection management issues, and which does not set framework for economic activity projects to be approved by environmental authorities;

5. Plans and programs co-financed under certain European Council Regulations.

Since January 1, 2015 legislation provides the requirements to perform SEA in the cases of:

1. preparation of a plan or programme intended for the development of industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management, waste management, preparation of a special territorial planning document, detailed plan or land management project which sets the framework for the development of the economic activities listed in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity (hereinafter referred to as “the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity”) and which is prepared for an area of more than 10 square kilometres;
2. preparation of a substantial change to the plan or programme referred to in subparagraph 1;
3. preparation or change of a comprehensive plan;
4. implementation of a plan or programme related to the Natura 2000 sites or the areas surrounding the Natura 2000 sites and the State Service for Protected Areas under the Ministry of Environment (hereinafter referred to as “the State Service for Protected Areas”) determines, according to the procedure established by the Minister of Environment, that implementation of such a plan or programme (separately or together with other plans or programmes) may have significant consequences on the Natura 2000 sites. The surrounding area of the Natura 2000 sites shall be a location of implementation of the plan or programme directly bordering with the Natura 2000 site or being close to it, provided that it is likely due to natural relations between locations or due to the extent of economic activity that the implementation of the proposed plan or programme may adversely affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 site or the natural habitats or species protected within the site;
5. during the screening, a decision regarding whether a plan or programme requires assessment is made.

According to the national legislation requirements of SEA shall not apply for the preparation and approval of:

1. plans and programmes which are intended only for the purposes of national defence or the management of emergencies;
2. plans and programmes which are intended only for drawing up finances and (or) budget;
3. nature management plans of the protected areas and the areas of the European ecological network Natura 2000 (hereinafter referred to as “the Natura 2000 sites”) as well as plans or programmes, which are intended only for the management of an area in terms of nature and heritage protection;
4. detailed plans within that part of the municipality where the assessment of the general comprehensive plan of the part of the municipality was carried out, provided that no other quantitative and qualitative environmental impact, except that which was initially assessed, was planned;
5. plans for the use of subterranean resources when the planned deposits of underground resources are provided for in the solutions of another plan or programme, for which assessment procedures have been carried out.

I.3. Explain how you define whether a plan or programme “set the framework for future development consent” (art. 4, para. 2):

There is no special definition or interpretation of “setting the framework for future development consent of projects” in the Lithuanian legislation. Potential significance of the effects of plans or programs on the environment are determined by their types (sectors) and relation to future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Law on

Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity of the Republic of Lithuania. In other words, if a plan or program under preparation will potentially set the framework for future development consent of several projects of the same economic activity or several types of economic activities, listed in Annexes I or II to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity of the Republic of Lithuania, SEA is obligatory.

Other plans and programs which set the framework for future development consent of economic activities projects to be approved by environmental authorities (i.e. if implementation of a plan or program foresees an economic activity, for which any type of permission from environmental authorities is required. It should be noted that the scope of this provisions extends beyond the types of economic activities, listed in Annexes I or II to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity of the Republic of Lithuania).

I.4. Explain how the terms “plans and programmes ... which determine the use of small areas at local level” (art. 4, para. 4) are interpreted in your legislation:

“Small areas at local level” is defined in Lithuanian legislation as 10 square kilometres.

I.5. Explain how you identify in your legislation a “minor modification” to a plan or programme (art. 4, para. 4):

“Minor modification” is interpreted in Lithuanian legislation as non-substantial change, when objectives and tasks of the plan or programme are not changed.

When deciding whether the change of a plan or programme is substantial or non-substantial, the organizer may consult with the competent authorities.

Article 5 Screening

I.6. How do you determine which other plans and programmes should be subject to a SEA as set out in article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, in accordance with article 5, paragraph 1? Please specify:

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) By specifying types of plans and programmes
- (c) By using a combination of (a) and (b)
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

The combination of case-by-case examination and specifying types of plans and programmes approaches is used for identification of plans and programmes to which SEA procedures should be applied.

Until 31 December, 2014 legislation provides the requirements for the screening for the strategic assessment of the effects of plans and programs on the environment in order to decide if a certain plan or program shall be subject to the assessment for the following plans and programs:

1. Plans and programs referred to in paragraphs 1 and 2 above ((1) Plans and programs which are prepared for industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management, waste management, territorial planning

or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity of the Republic of Lithuania and (2) Comprehensive territorial planning documents of a national, regional and district levels and major changes of these documents), which determine the use of small areas at local level as well as minor modifications to such plans and programs.

2. Other plans and programs that set the framework for future development consent of economic activities projects to be approved by environmental authorities.

Since January 1, 2015 legislation provides the requirements for the screening for the strategic assessment of the effects of plans and programs on the environment in order to decide if a certain plan or program shall be subject to the assessment for the following plans and programs:

1. a plan or programme intended for the development of industry, energy, transport, telecommunications, tourism, agriculture, forestry, fishery, water management, waste management, territorial planning, which sets the framework for the development of the economic activities included in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity and which are prepared for an area of 10 square kilometres or less;

2. a non-substantial change (or, in the case of a territorial planning document, a specification, provided that it sets the framework for the development of the economic activities included in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity) to the plan or programme referred to in subparagraphs 6.1 or 10.1 of the Procedure. When deciding whether the change of a plan or programme is substantial or non-substantial, the organizer assessing entities;

3. a correction of a comprehensive plan, provided that it sets the framework for the development of the economic activities included in Annexes 1 and 2 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment of the Proposed Economic Activity;

4. other plan or programme, setting the framework for the development of the economic activity, whose implementing projects will have to be approved by an institution responsible for environmental protection, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by legislation.

I.7. Do you provide opportunities for the public concerned to participate in screening and/or scoping of plans and programmes in your legislation (art. 5, para. 3, and art. 6, para. 3)?:

No

Yes (please specify (more than one option may apply)):

(a) By sending written comments to the competent authority

(b) By sending written comments to the local municipality

(c) By providing answers to a questionnaire

(d) By taking part in a public hearing

(e) By sending written comments to the consultants/SEA experts or persons preparing the plans and programmes

(f) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 6 Scoping

I.8. How do you determine what is the relevant information to be included in the environmental report, in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2 (art. 6, para. 1)?:

Scoping document of the SEA is prepared whenever the SEA of a certain plan or program is required in accordance with provisions of the Regulations of Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment.

The Scoping document includes such information:

- 1. Short description of a plan or program, in case of territorial planning – description of the concept directions and their alternatives, main objectives and relations with other plans and programs;*
- 2. Short description of the territories that might be significantly affected;*
- 3. Identification of environmental components and effects that will be assessed;*
- 4. Identification of methods that will be used for forecasting and assessment of the effects.*

The organizer prepares the assessment report in accordance with Annex IV of the Protocol, Annex I Directive 2001/42/EC and the scoping document.

Article 7 Environmental report

I.9. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in the context of the environmental report (art. 7, para. 2)? Please specify:

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):
- (c) By using a combination of (a) and (b)
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Lithuanian legal acts do not provide definition of “reasonable alternative”, but they require supplying a description of alternatives and reasons for selection such alternatives of plans or programmes. The Manual for Strategic Environmental Assessment contains an explanation that in describing the analysed alternative for the plan or programme and specifying the reasons for its selection it is essential to state how environmental aspects have determined the selection of such alternative and how in each case of analysed alternative the environmental aspects, plan or programme effects (direct, indirect, long-term, cumulative, etc.) have been taken into consideration. There are no special requirements, like on how many alternatives should be considered in performance of any strategic environmental assessment, although the so-called “do nothing” alternative must be considered in any case.

I.10. How do you ensure sufficient quality of the reports? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures it includes all information required under annex IV as a minimum before making it available for comments
- (b) By using quality checklists
- (c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms

(d) Other (please specify): *There is a mechanism established in the Regulations on the SEA to ensure quality of the SEA report. The competent authorities responsible for the environmental protection, health protection, protection of culture heritage according to their competence and State Service for Protected Areas, municipality for the territory of which the plan or programme is being prepared and the municipality bordering with the territory planned examine the SEA report and draft plan or program (in case of territorial planning – Report and planning concept directions) and in written form provide their conclusions regarding the draft plan or program or concept directions, the quality of the assessment and SEA report to the organizer of a plan or program or to his consultant.*

Your comments:

Article 8

Public participation

I.11. How do you ensure the “timely public availability” of draft plans and programmes and the environmental report (art. 8, para. 2)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Through public notices
- (b) Through electronic media
- (c) Through other means (please specify):

Your comments:

According to the Law on Territorial Planning and Governmental Order on Regulations on Public information, consultation and participation in decision-making on territorial planning, depending on the level and type of the plan, draft plans and environmental reports should be made public in the planning organizer or his authorized person head offices and on the websites of state institutions and on the Information System of State Supervision of the Preparation of Territorial Planning Documents and the Process of Territorial Planning, in the announcement boards of the elderships located on the territory being planned.

I.12. How do you identify the public concerned (art. 8, para. 3)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the plans and programmes
- (b) Based on the environmental effects (significance, extent, accumulation, etc.) of the plans and programmes
- (c) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (d) By other means (please specify):

Your comments:

I.13. How can the public concerned express its opinion on the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report (art. 8, para. 4)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending comments to the relevant authority/focal point
- (b) By providing answers to a questionnaire
- (c) Orally

(d) By taking part in a public hearing

(e) Other (please specify): *The public concerned can express its opinion on the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report by sending comments to the organizer of the preparation of plan or programme or orally during the public hearing.*

Your comments:

I.14. Do you have a definition in your legislation of the term “within a reasonable time frame” (art. 8, para. 4)? Please specify:

(a) No, the time frame is determined by the number of days fixed for each commenting period

(b) No, it is defined case by case

(c) Yes (please provide the definition):

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 9

Consultation with environmental and health authorities

I.15. How are the environmental and health authorities identified (art. 9, para. 1):

- (a) On a case-by-case basis:
- (b) As defined in the national legislation:
- (c) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

I.16. How are the arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities determined (art. 9, para. 4):

- (a) On a case-by-case basis:
- (b) As defined in the national legislation:
- (c) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

I.17. How can the environmental and health authorities express their opinion (art. 5, para. 2, art. 6, para. 2, and art. 9, para. 3):

- (a) By sending comments
- (b) By providing answers to a questionnaire
- (c) In a meeting
- (d) By other means (please specify)

Your comments: *The environmental and health authorities can express their opinion by providing comments to the organizer of preparation of the plan or programme on the SEA report and on the draft of plan or programme.*

Article 10

Transboundary consultations

I.18. As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party (art. 10, para. 1)? Please specify:

- (a) During scoping
- (b) When the draft plan or programme and the environmental report have been prepared
- (c) At other times (please specify):

Your comments:

When in the beginning of the drafting of a plan or programme or in the course of its assessment, it becomes clear to the organizer that the plan or programme that is prepared in the Republic of Lithuania may have significant effects on the environment of another European Union Member State or a foreign state, non-European Union Member State, which has joined the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the organizer of the preparation of the plan or programme supplies to the Ministry of Environment the information about the plan or programme under preparation and the potential significant

effects on environment of its implementation. The Ministry of Environment, having examined the information supplied by the organizer decides whether to initiate a transboundary consultation process. The Ministry of Environment, having decided to initiate a transboundary consultation process on the basis of the information supplied by the organizer of the preparation of the plan or programme notifies the European Union Member State or foreign state of the plan or programme under preparation.

I.19. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 10, para. 2)? Please specify:

(a) The information required by article 10, paragraph 2

(b) The information required by article 10, paragraph 2, plus additional information (please specify):

Your comments:

As the affected Party is notified during the scoping phase and the draft programme and EIA report is not available at this stage, according to the legal requirements information about the plan or programme under preparation, the potential significant environmental effects of its implementation, information on the nature of the decision planned to be adopted, the period within which the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected may notify of its willingness to participate in the assessment process are provided in the notification.

The draft environmental report and the draft programme are submitted to the affected Party if the affected Party expressed its willingness to participate in the assessment process. Such information is submitted to the affected Party well in advance before the adoption of the plan or programme in order to ensure enough time for consultations with affected Party. National legislation specifies that a plan or a programme shall be approved or adopted only after completion of the transboundary consultations.

I.20. As a Party of origin, does your legislation indicate a reasonable time frame for the transmission of comments from the affected Party (art. 10, para. 2)? Please specify:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please indicate how long):

Your comments: *The Ministry of Environment, having decided to initiate a transboundary consultation process, indicates in the notification the period within which the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected may notify of its willingness to participate in the assessment process.*

If the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected does not reply within the period specified in the notification or informs that it will not be participating in the assessment process, the assessment shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of national legislation.

Having obtained a response from the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected about its willingness to participate in the assessment process, the Ministry of Environment shall present the information (environmental report and draft plan or programme) to the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected and shall indicate a time limit within which the European Union Member State or a foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected may submit its proposals. The duration of the time limit has to be sufficiently long to allow time to include into the assessment report the proposals or additional information submitted by the European Union Member State or foreign state that is likely to be significantly affected, before adopting and (or) approving the plan or programme or, in the case of preparation of a territorial planning document when a concept being prepared, before the adoption of the concept or approval of the concept by the organizer or, in the case of a concept not being prepared, before adoption of the territorial planning document.

I.21. If the affected Party has indicated that it wishes to enter into consultations, how are the detailed arrangements, including the time frame for consultations, agreed (art. 10, paras. 3 and 4)? Please specify:

- (a) Following those of the Party of origin
- (b) Following those of the affected Party
- (c) Other (please specify):

Your comments: *Combination of rules and procedures of the Party of origin and of the affected Party is used when deciding on the details of the transboundary procedure and consultations.*

Article 11 Decision

I.22. When a plan or programme is adopted, explain how your country ensures, in accordance with article 11, paragraph 1, that due account is taken of:

- (a) The conclusions of the environmental report
- (b) Mitigation measures
- (c) Comments received in accordance with articles 8 to 10

The definition of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is transposed into national legislation. SEA covers description and assessment process of potential environmental effects of implementation of certain plans and programmes, during which strategic environmental assessment documents are prepared, consultations are carried out, results of assessment and consultations are taken into consideration before adoption and (or) ratification of plan and programme, information related to adoption and (or) ratification of the plan and program is provided.

The organizer of preparation of a plan or program, whilst preparing the final draft of a plan or program and before making a decision to approve and (or) ratify the plan or program or whilst presenting plan or program for ratification according to Lithuanian legislation, (in territorial planning – during selection of a preferred alternative in the concept phase) takes into account information, provided in the Report, the conclusions of the stakeholders of the Assessment and the proposals of the public, as well as the results of transboundary consultations (if such take place). In cases when implementation of a plan or program may have negative significant effects on the already established or potential “Natura 2000” territories, the organizer of preparation of a plan or program shall follow the conclusion of the institution responsible for protection and management of protected territories concerning possibility to adopt or approve this plan or program.

The organizer of preparation of a plan or program shall present, according to the procedure established by legislation, the report on evaluation of conclusions of the competent authorities and the report on evaluation of proposals of the public, together with the draft plan or programme or the draft solutions of a territorial planning document, to the institution approving the plan or programme, in the case of assessment of a territorial planning document involving preparation of a concept – to the institution adopting or approving the concept or, when a concept is not to be prepared, to the institution approving the territorial planning document.

I.23. How and when do you inform your own public and authorities (art. 11, para. 2)?:

After approval and (or) ratification of the plan or programme the organizer of preparation of a plan or program informs the public, the competent authorities participating in the SEA process and the affected Parties which have participated in transboundary consultations (if such took place). Requirements for the informing procedures and contents are in detail described in the Order of the Minister of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania of August 27, 2004, No. D1-455 on the Approval of the Regulations of Public Participation in the Procedures of the Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment and Informing the Assessment Stakeholders and Member States of the European Union.

The organizer of preparation of a plan or program informs the public about decision taken by announcing in the mass media the following information:

1. Who and when approved the plan or program;

2. When in the institution of the organizer of preparation of a plan or program the public can get acquainted in detail with the plan or program as approved, motivation for selecting a certain alternative, the measures for monitoring the effects of implementation of a plan or program as well as information about how environmental issues were integrated into plan or program, how information presented in SEA report was considered, conclusions of competent authorities participated in the SEA process, public proposals and results of transboundary consultations (if such took place).

The organizer of preparation of a plan or program informs (in a written form) the competent authorities who participated in the SEA process about the decision that was made, presents a report on evaluation of the conclusions of authorities and on evaluation of

the proposals from the public. Provides information when it is possible in the institution of the organizer of preparation of a plan or program to get acquainted in detail with the information mentioned in point 1 and 2.

I.24. How do you inform the public and authorities of the affected Party (art. 11, para. 2)? Please specify:

- (a) By informing the point of contact
- (b) By informing the contact person of the ministry responsible for SEA, who then follows the national procedure and informs his/her own authorities and public
- (c) By informing all the authorities involved in the assessment and letting them inform their own public
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 12 Monitoring

I.25. Describe the legal requirements for monitoring the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes adopted under article 11 (art. 12, paras. 1 and 2):

Usually a monitoring of objectives and measures foreseen in the document is being performed after a plan or program is approved, i.e. after a certain period of time (or periodically) it is investigated if measures foreseen in the planning document are implemented properly. The type of monitoring directly depends on the type of plan or program and the chosen assessment approach. If the chosen approach was objective led assessment, then the monitoring should be focused on the question how implementation of the plan or program is influencing the chosen environmental and sustainable development objectives.

In general, the organizer of preparation of the planning document during the process of SEA, namely during the procedures of consultations with relevant state and municipal institutions should request from these institutions to indicate what monitoring information they will be able to provide based on the monitoring program included in the SEA report.

Monitoring program also should contain the duration and frequency of monitoring actions and indicate who is responsible both for carrying out monitoring and for remedial actions (e.g. to amend the planning document by foreseeing additional or more effective measures to prevent, reduce and compensate significant adverse effects on the environment).

According to the Regulations of Strategic Assessment of the Effects of Plans and Programs on the Environment, monitoring of the effects of implementation of plans and programmes is performed at national, municipal and company levels according to the order defined by the Law on Environmental Monitoring, while the organizer of preparation of the planning document is responsible for remedial actions if the monitoring institution informs the organizer that there are certain negative significant effects related to implementation of specific planning document solutions.

Part two Practical application during the period 2013–2015

In this part, please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Protocol (and not your country's procedures, which were described in part one). The focus of this section should be on identifying good practices as well as difficulties encountered in applying the Protocol in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Protocol in your country and innovative approaches to improve its application.

II.1. Does your country object to the information on SEA procedures provided in this section being compiled and made available on the website of the Protocol? Please specify (indicate "yes" if you object):

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

1. Consideration of health effects

II.2. Does your SEA documentation always include specific information on health effects? Please specify:

(a) Yes

(b) No, only when potential health effects are identified

Specific information on public health effects are provided in the reports, when they are identified as significant.

2. Domestic and transboundary implementation in the period 2013–2015

II.3. Does your SEA documentation always include specific information on potential transboundary environmental, including health, effects? Please specify:

(a) Yes

(b) No, only when potential transboundary effects are identified

3. Cases during the period 2013–2015

II.4. Please provide the (approximate) number of transboundary SEA procedures initiated during the period 2013–2015 and list them, grouped by the sectors listed in article 4, paragraph 2:

During the period 2013-2015 there were initiated 3 transboundary SEA procedures for territorial plans prepared for the parts of the territory of Lithuania:

1) Transboundary SEA procedures for the European gauge railway line between Kaunas and the Lithuania-Latvian border.

2) Transboundary SEA procedures for the Upgrading of the Comprehensive plan of the territory of the Republic of Lithuania by marine areas.

3) *Transboundary SEA procedures for the Special territorial plan for the “Section of gas interconnection Poland-Lithuania located within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania”.*

4. Experience with the strategic impact assessment procedure in 2013–2015

II.5. Has your country experienced substantial difficulties in interpreting particular terms (or particular articles) in the Protocol?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please indicate which ones):

II.6. How does your country overcome the(se) problem(s), if any, for example by working with other Parties to find solutions? Please provide examples:

II.7. With regard your country’s experience with domestic procedures, in response to each of the questions below, either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country’s general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others. Please detail:

(a) Has your country carried out monitoring according to article 12 and, if so, for what kinds of plans or programmes (cite good practice cases or good practice elements (e.g., consultation or public participation), if available)?:

Monitoring of effects on the environment of implementation of plans and programmes (subject to SEA) are integrated into existing monitoring mechanism and being performed on a national, municipality level and the economic entity level in accordance with the procedure established in the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Environmental Monitoring in order to identify in a timely manner the unforeseen adverse effects on the environment and take appropriate action to rectify the existing situation.

(b) Would your country like to present a case to be published on the website of the Convention and its Protocol as a “case study fact sheet”?:

- (i) No
- (ii) Yes (please indicate which ones):

II.8. With regard your country’s experience with transboundary procedures, in response to each of the questions below, either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country’s general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others. Please detail:

(a) What difficulties has your country experienced in relation to translation and interpretation, and what solutions has your country applied?:

Substantial translation and interpretation problems have not been identified.

(b) What does your country usually translate as a Party of origin?:

Summary of the SEA report.

(c) Has your country carried out transboundary public participation according to article 10, paragraph 4?:

- (i) No

- (ii) Yes (please indicate how):

The Party of origin (in this case Lithuania) provides non-technical summary of the SEA report in English to the affected Party, which makes the document available to its public. Under the request of the affected Party, Party of origin (in this case Lithuania) during the public hearing and or transboundary consultation meeting in the affected Party presents the plan or programme and its SEA report, participates in the discussions and answers the questions.

(d) What has been your country's experience of the effectiveness of public participation?:

(e) Does your country have examples of organizing transboundary SEA procedures for joint cross-border plans and programmes?:

- (i) No

- (ii) Yes (please describe):

Special territorial plan for the "Section of gas interconnection Poland-Lithuania located within the territory of the Republic of Lithuania" is a part of the bilateral project with Poland. Despite bilateral aspect, taking into account the project administration differences in the countries, the project is being carried out in separate parts of each country separately, the SEA procedures are being carried out separately too according to national legislation, however both Parties share the relevant information in order to ensure that the alternatives chosen by both sites ensure the integrity of the project.

5. Experience regarding guidance in 2013–2015

II.9. Are you aware of any use in your country of the online *Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment* (ECE/MP.EIA/17)?¹:

(a) No:

(b) Part of it (Please specify): *the parts of the guidance containing possible practical considerations are used for organisation of transboundary consultations.*

(c) Yes (please describe your experience):

Your comments on how the Guidance might be improved or supplemented:

6. Awareness of the protocol

II.10. Does your country see a need to improve the application of the Protocol in your country?:

(a) No:

(b) Yes Please describe how your country intends to improve application of the Protocol:

7. Suggested improvements to the report

II.11. Please provide suggestions for how this report may be improved:

¹ Available from http://www.unep.org/env/eia/pubs/sea_manual.html.