

THE UNECE CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS (AARHUS CONVENTION)

TASK FORCE ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION

ELECTRONIC INFORMATION TOOLS: CASE STUDY BY SLOVAKIA

Information System – Environmental Impact Assessment

(<https://www.enviroportal.sk/en/environmental-impact-assessment>)

I. Description

▪ **Brief description:**

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) in the Slovak Republic has been carried out since 1994. EIA is considered to be one of the main instruments of international environmental and sustainable development policy. EIA and SEA documentation is published electronically on the website of the competent authority administering a complex information system (IS). It is available to the general public. Online access to all documents is guaranteed under the EIA/SEA law.

- **2. Type:** [governmental, non-governmental, municipal, other]
governmental

- **3. Scope:** [international, sub-regional, national, local]
national, interstate

- **4. Working language(s):**
Slovak language, partially English

- **5. Target users:**
competent authority, departmental authority, authorising authority, public, public concerned, NGOs, businesses, stakeholders and public administration

- **6. Starting year:**
2006

- **7. Budget and funding source:**
31 200 € (including staff cost), The Slovak Ministry of the Environment

▪ **8. Contact:**

Ing. Katarína Kováčová
Ing. Andrea Saxová
Slovak Environment Agency
Tajovského 28, 975 90 Banská Bystrica
eia@sazp.sk
+421 48 4374 163

II. Implementation

▪ 9. Policy, legal and institutional context:

National legal framework

9.1. The Act no. 24/2006 Coll. on Environmental Impact Assessment¹

9.2. The Decree of Ministry of Environment SR no. 113/2006 Coll., establishing the details on professional competence for the purposes of environmental impact assessment²

EU legal framework

9.3. The Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive)³

9.4. Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment⁴

9.5. Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014 amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment⁵

International legal framework

9.6. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)

9.7. The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention of Economic Commission UN on the Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (SEA Protocol)

9.8. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

▪ 10. Partner organizations involved:

Slovak Ministry of Environment – coordinator

Slovak Environment Agency – administrator, technical support

▪ 11. Stakeholders involved, their expected benefits:

Authorities concerned, process participants

▪ 12. User needs and methods of their assessment:

Slovak Environment Agency is responsible for the organization of workshops for IS's users, suggestions for improvement from participants are integrated into IS.

The IS reflects changes in national and EU law.

▪ 13. Technology choice:

Oracle, PHP Symphony

Technological solution provides easy access to all tools for users and web administrator.

The displayed documents are in pdf, doc and rtf formats.

¹ <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2006/24/20190101>

² <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2006/113/20060301>

³ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX%3A32001L0042>

⁴ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32011L0092>

⁵ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32014L0052>

III. Evaluation

- **14. Results:**
Approximately 50 000 views per month (source: google analytics).
- **15. Efficiency gains:**
Successful implementation of national and EU law.
- **16. Risks:**
The need to ensure compatibility with:
 1. Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and repealing Directive 95/46/EC⁶
 2. The Act no. 18/2018 Coll. on personal data protection⁷
- **17. Challenges encountered (please indicate resolved or not):**
It is expected that a new law on EIA that will change some issues in the information system will be adopted in the future. Data gathered by this system will be used in EU reporting.
- **18. Lessons learned:**
Some changes in the IS to comply with the requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 were made last year. However, they did not affect the quality and availability of data.
- **19. Conditions for successful replication:**
The IS of Environmental Impact Assessment is connected with IS of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control. Replication possibilities have not been studied.
- **20. Overall assessment of the tool:**
The IS of EIA is a part of the web portal Enviroportal, which is the most visited website on environment in Slovakia. It serves as a basic platform for publishing informational systems' outputs and it provides reliable information as well as quality-assured data updated on a daily basis.

The public has demonstrable interest in the information on EIA. This website provides access to all relevant information, such as basic information about the topic, national and EU legislation, documents, conventions, register of authorized persons, links and contacts to other institutions dealing with assessment. Detailed description of EIA and SEA processes and instructions on the public's involvement in the EIA and SEA processes are published on the website as well.
The online service "Ask your question" enables direct interaction between the public and our experts with respect to the questions concerning EIA. Some of the questions and answers are published online but the majority is solved by e-mail and phone.
The IS is updated on a daily basis and the public can be informed about changes in IS by the means of notification service.
The EIA and SEA process documentation is published in electronic form on the website, which makes it is easily accessible to the general public. Comprehensive

⁶ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=celex%3A32016R0679>

⁷ <https://www.slov-lex.sk/pravne-predpisy/SK/ZZ/2018/18/20180525>

documentation is archived for at least 15 years from the end of assessment process by respective authorities, mostly by the Ministry of Environment and district offices.