



UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE



# Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

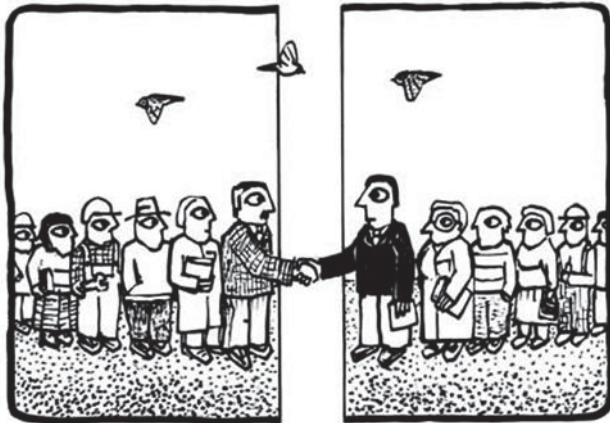
[www.unece.org/env/eia](http://www.unece.org/env/eia)





# Espoo Convention vs. Protocol

- Espoo Convention (EIA) – transboundary impacts of projects



- SEA Protocol – strategic level, assessment of plans & programmes within a state, with consideration of transboundary effects being secondary





UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION  
FOR EUROPE



# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment





# Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

- The Protocol was adopted by an Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, held on 21 May 2003 during the Ministerial "Environment for Europe" Conference (Kyiv).
- Entered into force in 11 July 2010.
- Now has 26 Parties, any Member State of the United Nations may accede.





# Objectives

- To provide for a high level of protection of the environment by:
  - **Ensuring** that environmental, including health, considerations are thoroughly taken into account **in the development of plans and programmes**
  - **Contributing** to the consideration of environmental, including health, concerns **in the preparation of policies and legislation**
  - Establishing clear, transparent and effective **procedures** for strategic environmental assessment
  - Providing for **public participation** in SEA
  - **Integrating** by these means environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed **to further sustainable development.**





# Procedure

- Determination of whether SEA is required under the Protocol
- Determination of the scope of the Environmental report (and thus of the assessment)
- Preparation of Environmental report
  - Analyze the context & baseline
  - Contribute to the development & comparison of alternatives
  - Complete the environmental report
- Consultation with relevant authorities and the public
- Inputs into decision-making
- Environmental monitoring of implementation





# Benefits

- High level of environmental protection
- Better planning and programming
- More efficient decision-making
- Identification of new opportunities for development
- Preventing costly mistakes
- Strengthened governance
- Transboundary cooperation
- Climate change adaptation





# Cost of SEA

- SEA of regional & local land-use planning usually increased planning costs by 5-10%
- Main costs during initial applications of SEA, subsequent SEAs less costly
- Costs marginal compared with costs of implementation of the plan or programme







# Work under the Convention and the Protocol

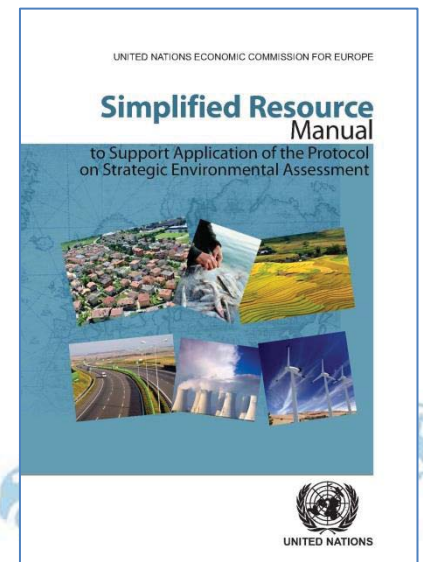
- Meetings of the Parties adopt workplans for intersessional periods (3-4 years), and monitor their implementation
- Assisted by Bureau, Working Group on EIA, Implementation Committee
- Activities are demand driven or compliance related
  - **Compliance & implementation**
  - **Subregional cooperation & capacity-building**
  - **Exchange of good practices**
  - **Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol**





# Technical assistance

- Technical advice
  - Reviews of legislation, legal drafting
- Pilot projects
  - EIA Kyrgyzstan-Kazakhstan (mining)
  - EIA Belarus-Lithuania (hydroelectric power plant)
- Sub-regional workshops: exchanges of experiences
- Training on SEA
- Guidance documents





# Cooperation with the Russian Federation

The workplan 2014-2017  
'Pre-accession legislative assistance'

- Participation of representatives of the Russian Federation in the SEA study tour to Czech Republic (1-5 December 2014)
- Legal advice and a round-table to support development of legislative framework for application of SEA (December 2014 – February 2015)
- Support for pilot application of SEA in Zabaikalsky Region (March – December 2015)





# For more information

- **Visit our website:**  
[www.unece.org/env/eia](http://www.unece.org/env/eia)

- **Or email:**  
[eia.conv@unece.org](mailto:eia.conv@unece.org)

