

Questionnaire for the report of Austria on the implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the period 2019–2021

Information on the focal point for the Protocol

1. Name and contact information:

Ursula Platzer-Schneider
Espoo Point of Contact
Federal Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology
Stubenbastei 5, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
ursula.platzer@bmk.gv.at

Information on the point of contact for the Protocol

2. Name and contact information (if different from above): ----

Information on the person responsible for preparing the report: [see above](#)

3. Country:
4. Surname:
5. Forename:
6. Institution:
7. Postal address:
8. Email address:
9. Telephone number: [+43 1 71100 612115](#)
10. Date on which report was completed: [14 March 2022](#)

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 its experience in the application of, the Protocol.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the text of the Protocol (for example, Strategic Environmental Assessment Law of the Republic of ..., article 5 (3) of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 3

General information given by Austria:

In Austria the requirements of the SEA Protocol (and SEA Directive) have been implemented by integrating them into existing Acts or into newly established Acts both at federal and state level. Due to the Austrian constitution, the legislative and executive competencies are shared between the federal and the state level (in all there are nine states in Austria). For example legislation on mining and forestry matters are federal competences, whereas spatial planning and nature conservation matters are legislative responsibilities of the states. Thus, there are SEA relevant plans and programmes both at federal (e.g., the Federal Waste Management Plan) and state level (e.g. the regional waste management plans). That is why no sole SEA Act has been passed in order to transpose the SEA Protocol (and SEA Directive), whereas many existing Acts were amended or revised accordingly and some new Acts have been passed. In total, there are about 39 implementation Acts plus several ordinances. The various implementation Acts may fairly differ from each other depending on the existing (or not existing) planning Acts. The following answers try to cover all these different implementation Acts. Due to AT implementation of the SEA Protocol AT is not in the position to quote individual specific requirements. Therefore a SEA list regarding the implementation Acts including the existing guidance is enclosed. The relevant information regarding implementation and more can also be found on the SEA website: implementation acts and concerned plans and programmes at federal level: [Bundesebene \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](http://strategischeumweltpruefung.at), at state level: [Landesebene \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](http://Landesebene (strategischeumweltpruefung.at)), national and international Guidance Materialien und Leitfäden (strategischeumweltpruefung.at), SEA collection SUP-Beispiele (strategischeumweltpruefung.at)

General provisions

I.3. According to article 3 (1) of the Protocol: "Each Party shall take the necessary legislative, regulatory and other appropriate measures to implement the provisions of this Protocol within a clear, transparent framework." Please provide the main legislative, regulatory and other measures your country has adopted to implement the Protocol (art. 3, (1)) (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Law on strategic environmental assessment (please provide exact title/reference number/year/access link, if any): [see enclosed list and links above](#)
- (b) Strategic environmental assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify, providing title/reference number/year/access link, if any): [see enclosed list and links above](#)
- (c) Regulation (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any): [see enclosed list and links above](#)
- (d) Administrative rule (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

(e) Other (please specify): [see enclosed list and links above](#)

Please explain: [see explanation above](#)

Article 4

Field of application concerning plans and programmes

I.4.1 Which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (2)–(4) of the Protocol are set out in your country’s legislation?

List the types of plans and programmes that require strategic environmental assessment in your country’s legislation and provide references to the relevant legislation: [see enclosed list and links](#)

Plans and programmes prepared for:

Agriculture

Forestry

Fisheries

Energy

Industry including mining

Transport

Regional development

Waste management

Water management

Telecommunications

Tourism

Town and country planning

Land use

Other (including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4)), please list

Please explain: [The enclosed SEA list and links contain the plans and programme types covered by the requirements of the SEA Protocol and refer to the respective laws at federal and state level.](#)

I.4.2. Explain how you define whether a plan or programme “set the framework for future development consent” (art. 4 (2)):

No explicit definition is foreseen. The wording is interpreted as plans and programmes containing criteria or conditions which guide the way the consenting authority decides on an application for development consent.

I.4.3. Explain how the term “plans and programmes ... which determine the use of small areas at local level” (art. 4 (4)) is interpreted in your country’s legislation:

In general the type of plans and programmes which may determine the use of small areas or to which minor modifications are possible are specified in the relevant regulations. For some of these identified plans and programmes for example thresholds in combination with other criteria like specific determinations of land use are laid down. The criteria for defining small areas at local level or minor modifications are determined in the relevant implementation Acts or in additional ordinances.

I.4.4. Explain how you identify in your legislation a “minor modification” to a plan or programme (art. 4 (4)):

Usually the respective Act specifies the plan or programme type to which minor modifications are possible. In addition, for some of these identified plans or programmes the specific regulations define different thresholds depending on the determination of land use. Some provinces provide explanations in guidance.

Article 5 Screening

I.5.1 According to article 5 (1): “Each Party shall determine whether plans and programmes referred to in article 4, paragraphs 3 and 4, are likely to have significant environmental, including health, effects either through a case-by-case examination or by specifying types of plans and programmes or by combining both approaches.”

How do you determine which plans and programmes referred to in article 4 (3)–(4) should be subject to a strategic environmental assessment? 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) above
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

In most of the cases the legislation determines the types of pp according to Art. 4 para 3 and 4. In addition, criteria or thresholds in relation to certain determinations of land use were laid down in specific ordinances. Some of the ordinances contain also checklists, tables, etc.

I.5.2. According to article 5 (2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during screening.

Please explain whether your legislation provides for consultation with environmental and health authorities at the screening stage and, if so, how.

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

Please explain: The different regulations determine the environmental including health authorities.

I.5.3. According to article 5 (3): “To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned in the screening of plans and programmes under this article.”

Please indicate whether you provide opportunities for the public concerned to participate in screening of plans and programmes in your legislation and, if so, how.

No

Yes

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending written comments to the relevant authority
- (b) By completing a questionnaire
- (c) By taking part in a public hearing
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain: [In some cases there is the possibility to comment the outcome of the screening by the public.](#)

Article 6 Scoping

I.6.1 According to article 6 (1): “Each Party shall establish arrangements for the determination of the relevant information to be included in the environmental report in accordance with article 7, paragraph 2.”

Please explain how you determine the relevant information to be included in the environmental report.

[The scoping report is either carried out by the planning/SEA authority or by a commissioned consultant. There is usually a scoping report. The scoping report includes as a minimum an outline of the information which will be included in the environmental report. The outline of the information follows the requirements of annex IV SEA Protocol. Guidance is available to support the determination of the relevant information to be included in the environmental report. Guidance is listed on the website: \[Scoping - Untersuchungsrahmen festlegen \\(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\\)\]\(#\) or so-called Praxisblätter Materialien und Leitfäden \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](#)

I.6.2. According to article 6 (2), each Party shall ensure that the environmental and health authorities are consulted during scoping.

Please explain whether your country’s legislation provides for consultation with environmental and health authorities at the scoping stage and, if so, how.

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

Please explain: [The different regulations determine how environmental including health authorities are involved. Usually they have the possibility to comment, in addition scoping meetings or workshops may be conducted.](#)

I.6.3 According to article 6 (3): “To the extent appropriate, each Party shall endeavour to provide opportunities for the participation of the public concerned when determining the relevant information to be included in the environmental report.”

Please indicate whether your country’s legislation provides opportunities for the public concerned to participate in scoping of plans and programmes and, if so, how.

No

Yes

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending written comments to the relevant authority
- (b) By completing a questionnaire
- (c) By taking part in a public hearing
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain: [In some cases there is the possibility to comment the outcome of the scoping by the public.](#)

Article 7 Environmental report

I.7.1. According to article 7 (2): “The environmental report shall, in accordance with the determination under article 6, identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental, including health, effects of implementing the plan or programme and its reasonable alternatives.”

How do you determine “reasonable alternatives”? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (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) above
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain: [There is neither a definition of reasonable alternatives nor a requirement regarding the number. It is decided on a case by case basis. Alternatives can cover different sites, technologies, design of measures/activities or various combinations of measures. The zero alternative has to be elaborated in addition to the reasonable alternatives. Guidance on how to elaborate alternatives is available \[Materialen und Leitfäden \\(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\\)\]\(#\) , also a SEA Praxisblatt on alternatives has been elaborated \[Materialen und Leitfäden \\(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\\)\]\(#\)](#)

I.7.2. According to article 7 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that environmental reports are of sufficient quality to meet the requirements of this Protocol.”

How do you ensure that quality of the reports is sufficient? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that 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):

Please explain: [Different guidance and SEA Praxisblätter aim to ensure the quality of the reports. Manuals contain checklists. In addition, SEA examples are being collected. For this collection quality check lists are sent out to the SEA authorities. The collected SEAs are made public available via the website, see also introductory remarks. \[SUP-Beispiele \\(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\\)\]\(#\)](#)

Article 8

Public participation

I.8.1. According to article 8 (2): “Each Party, using electronic media or other appropriate means, shall ensure the timely public availability of the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”

How do you notify the public and make the draft plans and programmes and the environmental report available? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Through public notices in printed media
- (b) Through electronic media
- (c) Placing copies in public offices for the public
- (d) Through other means:

Please explain:

I.8.2. According to article 8 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that the public concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations, is identified for the purposes of paragraphs 1 and 4.”

How do you identify the public concerned? 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 explain:

I.8.3. According to article 8 (4): “Each Party shall ensure that the public referred to in paragraph 3 has the opportunity to express its opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report within a reasonable time frame.”

How can the public concerned express its opinion on the draft plan and programme and the environmental report? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending comments to the relevant authority/focal point
- (b) By completing a questionnaire
- (c) By taking part in a public hearing
- (d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

I.8.4. According to article 8 (4): “The public [concerned, including relevant non-governmental organizations] has the opportunity to express its opinion ... within a reasonable time frame.”

Do you have a definition (for example, a number of days) in your legislation of the term “within a reasonable time frame”? Please specify:

- (a) No, it is defined on a case-by-case basis
- (b) Yes (please provide the definition):
- (c) Other (please specify):

Please explain your selection: [Most of the implementation Acts define for each PP type the time frame \(e.g. number of weeks or number of days\) for the commenting period. The authorities responsible may prolong the time period.](#)

Article 9

Consultation with environmental and health authorities

I.9.1. According to article 9 (1): “Each Party shall designate the authorities to be consulted which, by reason of their specific environmental or health responsibilities, are likely to be concerned by the environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plan or programme.”

How are the environmental and health authorities identified? Please [specify](#):

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

Please explain: [The legislation at federal and state level lay down the specific requirements. The environmental including health authorities cover all the relevant issues determined in Art. 2 para 7.](#)

I.9.2. According to article 9 (4): “Each Party shall determine the detailed arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities referred to in paragraph 1.”

How are the arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities determined? Please [specify](#):

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

Please explain: [The legislation at federal and state level lay down the specific requirements. In general sends the SEA/planning authority the documents to the environmental including health authorities. The authorities have a certain time frame in which they may send written comments.](#)

I.9.3. According to article 9 (3): “Each Party shall ensure that the authorities referred to in paragraph 1 are given, in an early, timely and effective manner, the opportunity to express their opinion on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report.”

Does your national legislation call for consultations with environmental and health authorities?

- (a) Yes (please refer to specific provisions and provide citations in order to clarify the issue) [X](#)
- (b) No

Please explain: [As mentioned in the introduction AT has about 39 implementation Acts regarding the SEA Protocol \(see SEA list and links\). The legal requirements can be found in the concerned 39 regulations at federal and state level. We are not in the position to quote all individual requirements. The regulations with the specific requirements can be found on the website \[www.strategischeumweltpruefung.at\]\(http://www.strategischeumweltpruefung.at\), see also introductory remarks.](#)

I.9.4. How can the environmental and health authorities express their opinion?

- (a) By sending comments [X](#)

-
- (b) By completing a questionnaire
- (c) In a meeting
- (d) By other means (please specify)

Please explain: [In some cases in addition to sending comments informal meetings take place.](#)

Article 10

Transboundary consultations

I.10.1. According to article 10 (1): “Where a Party of origin considers that the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have significant transboundary environmental, including health, effects or where a Party likely to be significantly affected so requests, the Party of origin shall as early as possible before the adoption of the plan or programme notify the affected Party.”

As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party?

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

Please explain: [According to Art. 10 SEA Protocol the notification has to include the environmental report and the draft plan or programme. In some cases the possibly affected Party is informed before the official notification is sent.](#)

I.10.2. According to article 10 (2): “[The] notification shall contain, inter alia:

- (a) **The draft plan or programme and the environmental report including information on its possible transboundary environmental, including health, effects; and**
- (b) **Information regarding the decision-making procedure, including an indication of a reasonable time schedule for the transmission of comments.”**

As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification? Please specify:

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

Please explain: [Usually, the information required by Art. 10 para 2 is sent, sometimes, if available, additional information is included.](#)

I.10.3. According to article 10 (2): “The notification shall contain, inter alia: ... an indication of a reasonable time schedule for the transmission of comments.”

As a Party of origin, does your legislation indicate a reasonable time schedule (in days, weeks, months) for the affected Party? Please specify:

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

If “Yes”, please explain whether that schedule contains individual time frames for a response to the notification and for provision of comments and specify those in days, weeks, months, as relevant:

I.10.4. According to article 10 (3)–(4), when the affected Party expresses its wish to enter into consultations before the adoption of the plan or programme, the Parties concerned shall enter into consultations further to detailed arrangements agreed by them with a view to ensuring that the public concerned and the authorities in the affected Party are informed and given an opportunity to forward their opinion within a reasonable time frame.

How do the Parties agree on detailed arrangements?

- (a) Following those of the Party of origin
- (b) Following those of the affected Party
- (c) On a case-by-case basis
- (d) In accordance with existing arrangements (for example, bilateral agreement)
- (e) Other (please specify):

Please explain: [Austria follows the principle laid down in Art. 2 para 6 Espoo Convention, which determines that the public and authorities in the affected Parties shall be given equal opportunities provided to the public and authorities in the Party of origin.](#)

Article 11 Decision

I.11.1. According to article 11 (1): “Each Party shall ensure that when a plan or programme is adopted due account is taken of: (a) [t]he conclusions of the environmental report; (b) [t]he measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate the adverse effects identified in the environmental report; and (c) [t]he comments received in accordance with articles 8 to 10.”

Please specify how your country ensures that due account is taken of:

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

Please explain: [The different legal implementations of the SEA Protocol oblige the authorities concerned to take the outcome of the SEA into account. The authority has to describe in a written summary how the SEA \(environmental report, comments, mitigation measures, monitoring measures and the reasons for adopting the plan or programme in the light of the alternatives\) has been taken into account.](#)

I.11.2. According to article 11 (2): “Each Party shall ensure that, when a plan or programme is adopted, the public, the authorities ... and the Parties consulted ... are informed, and that the plan or programme is made available to them together with a statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into it, how the comments received ... have been taken into account and the reasons for adopting it in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered.”

How and when do you inform your own public and authorities?

- (a) Pursuant to national legislation (please refer to specific provisions and provide citations in order to clarify the procedure followed):
- (b) Other (please specify):

Please explain: [As mentioned in the introduction AT has about 39 implementation Acts regarding the SEA Protocol \(see SEA list and link\). The legal requirements can be found in the concerned 39 regulations at federal and state level. We are not in the position to quote all individual requirements. The regulations with the specific requirements can be found on the website \[www.stratregischeumweltpruefung.at\]\(http://www.stratregischeumweltpruefung.at\), see also introductory remarks.](#)

I.11.3. Does the information provided to the public and authorities include?

- (a) Plan or programme:
- (b) Statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme, and how the comments received have been taken into account:
- (c) The reasons for adopting the plan or programme in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered:

I.11.4. How do you inform the Parties consulted (art. 11 (2))?

- (a) By informing the point of contact
- (b) By informing the contact person of the ministry responsible for strategic environmental assessment, 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: [If the affected Party has nominated a contact person for the transboundary SEA, this contact person will be informed. It will be the Espoo Point of contact which receives the information if no contact person for transboundary SEA procedures has been nominated.](#)

Article 12

Monitoring

According to article 12 (1)–(2): “1. Each Party shall monitor the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes.

...

2. The results of the monitoring ... shall be made available ... to the authorities ... and to the public.”

I.12. Describe the legal requirements for monitoring the significant environmental, including health, effects of the implementation of the plans and programmes:

[The legal requirements for monitoring follow the requirements of Art. 12 SEA Protocol. Usually, the planning authorities are responsible for monitoring. The responsibility may also be influenced by the type of monitoring measure or monitoring regime. Depending on the type of plan or programme some implementation Acts determine in which existing monitoring framework the monitoring has to be carried out. Monitoring guidance including a checklist is available \[Materialen und Leitfäden \\(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\\)\]\(#\)](#)

Article 13

Policies and legislation

According to article 13 (1): “Each Party shall endeavour to ensure that environmental, including health, concerns are considered and integrated to the extent appropriate in the preparation of its proposals for policies and legislation that are likely to have significant effects on the environment, including health.”

I.13. Does your country have national legislation on the application of principles and elements of the Protocol as regards policies and legislation? Please specify.

- (a) Yes (please specify which articles of the Protocol apply):

(b) No

Please explain: Laws and ordinances at national level and have to undergo an impact assessment for laws, regulations, etc. The impact assessment covers impact on environment, consumer protection policy, overall economy, etc. If the law or regulation is likely to have a significant impact on the environment (e.g. impact dimensions "air or climate", "water"...), a more in-depth assessment is carried out with further detailed questions.

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021¹

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Protocol (not your country's procedures, as described in part one). The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have 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 and innovative approaches to improving its application. Parties' reporting also provides useful information to other countries within and beyond the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) region that facilitates their efforts to implement and accede to the Protocol.

Part two also focuses on issues identified in the third review of implementation^a by Parties and those issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan.^b It also addresses the objectives of the Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol related to: "Adapting the reviews [of implementation] to maximize their usefulness as a source of information, highlight progress achieved, draw attention to areas that need improvement, disseminate best practice..."^c

^a United Nations publication, ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/14.

^b ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/2–IV/2.

^c Ibid., decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A. 9.

A. Some specific questions related to domestic and transboundary implementation in the period 2019–2021

II.1. Does your country's strategic environmental assessment documentation always include specific information on health effects? Please specify:

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

In the scoping phase the environmental including health effects as defined in art 2 para 7 are examined and the relevant information to be included in the environmental report is determined. In the scoping possible health issues as all the other aspects are checked. Based on the outcome of the scoping phase the environmental documentation is established. Nevertheless, the drafting of the environmental documentation follows a flexible approach taking up issues which have not been relevant at the scoping phase due to new developments or new information.

II.2. Does your country's strategic environmental assessment 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 X (same approach as II.1)

¹ Part II of this questionnaire is not considered to be a reporting obligation according to the Protocol. Parties are encouraged to share examples of good practice, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant data.

B. Example of application of the Protocol in your country during the period 2019–2021

II.3. Please provide, using the table provided in annex I to this questionnaire, the (approximate) number of domestic strategic environmental assessment procedures initiated during the 2019–2021 period, list them grouped by the sectors listed in article 4 (2), and indicate their average duration and costs.

Austria does not have a central SEA register. Only a very rough estimation can be given on the sectors and numbers. No information is available on average duration and costs.

Land use planning, local level: 560, state level: 30

Water at federal level: 3

Energy (state level): 1

Transport (federal level): 3

EU funding programmes: 14

II.4. Please provide the (approximate) number of transboundary consultations referred to in article 10 of the Protocol that your country, during the reporting period, initiated, as a Party of origin, and participated in, as an affected Party. Please use the table in annex II to this questionnaire listing the transboundary procedures grouped by the sectors listed in article 4 (2), indicating their average duration.

Transboundary SEAs: approx. 5 (4 nuclear, 1 transport).

II.5. Do you have a register of the domestic and transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures (cases) that can be accessible for other Parties to consult, as needed?

<i>Domestic procedures</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures</i>
(a) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(b) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(b) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If so, please provide the access link to the register:	If so, please provide the access link to the register:

II.6. According to paragraph 10 of decision IV/5 on reporting and review of implementation of the Protocol,² the lists of domestic and transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures included in the responses to questions II.3 and II.4 of the questionnaire are to be posted on the ECE website. Should your country object to this, however, please indicate “Yes” in the table below and explain, as relevant:

<i>Domestic procedures (list provided under question II.3 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures (list provided under question II.4 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>	
(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please explain: AT does not have a central register, the information is	

² ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.3.

<p>Please explain: AT does not have a central register, the information is might lead to misleading conclusions.</p> <p>(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>might lead to misleading conclusions.</p> <p>(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
--	--	--

C. Experience with the strategic impact assessment procedure in 2019–2021

II.7. Please list the benefits of strategic environmental assessment that are identified by your country:

- (a) Cost effectiveness
- (b) More focused and informed planning
- (c) Coordination with other sectors/i.e. avoiding overlaps or discrepancies
- (d) Environmental and health benefits
- (e) Other

Please provide your comments: One benefit is the early involvement of environmental authorities in the planning process.

II.8. Has your country experienced substantial difficulties in interpreting particular terms contained in (or particular articles of) the Protocol?

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

The requirements of the Protocol have been implemented. Some difficulties may occur in the practical application of the Protocol, e.g. the determination of contents and level of detail for the environmental report, also finding reasonable alternatives. The timing of the SEA may also be sometimes an issue.

II.9. Please indicate how your country overcomes these difficulties, if any. Please provide examples that may include, among other things, working with other Parties to find solutions or using existing guidelines or fact sheets:

Guidance, collection of SEA examples, fact sheets and information exchange within the authorities, SEA website www.strategischeumweltpruefung.at

II.10. With regard your country’s experience with domestic and/or transboundary procedures:

- (a) Please describe your country’s procedures for ensuring that the health aspects are properly incorporated into the environmental report and that the health authorities are consulted as provided for in article 3

The requirements of the SEA Protocol relating the involvement of the environment including health authorities have been implemented in the SEA regulations.

- (b) To contribute to the sharing of knowledge and experience on themes outlined in the workplan for 2021–2023, please provide at least one example of your country’s application of strategic environmental assessment in one or several of the following areas:

Biodiversity

Circular economy

Energy transition

Development cooperation

Smart and sustainable cities

Sustainable infrastructure

Maritime spatial planning

(When describing your experience, please indicate the name of the plan/programme subject to strategic environmental assessment, provide background information or describe the context in which the document has been developed, describe the stages of the procedure and other issues of interest for other Parties. Please flag good practice, and/or lessons learned, referring, as relevant, to the contribution of the above application of strategic environmental assessment towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals or climate objectives. When providing an example, you may also make use of the template in annex III to the present questionnaire.)

Examples can be found on the SEA website, including fact sheets, which give an overview of the individual plan or programme. The examples are sent in on a voluntary basis. For orientation a list of good practice criteria for all SEA steps has been elaborated and can be found on the SEA website: [SUP-Praxis in Österreich \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](http://SUP-Praxis.in.Oesterreich.at)

(c) Please indicate whether strategic environmental assessments implemented in your country can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments somewhat contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

No, there is no evidence that strategic environmental assessment contributes to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals in practice

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals³ (and their targets) and provide an example(s) of how strategic environmental assessment has contributed to their achievement.

³ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

(a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);

(b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);

(c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);

(d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)

(e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);

(f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);

(g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);

It is assumed that SEA contributes to sustainable development. To which extent and in which area would need to be assessed in each SEA.

II.11. Please indicate whether your country has been carrying out monitoring according to article 12.

- (a) No
(b) Yes

If so, please specify types of plans or programmes subject to the monitoring according to article 12, citing good practice examples or elements of good practice (for example, consultation or public participation), if available

Plans and programmes for which an SEA are carried out are subject to monitoring. The monitoring depends on the type of plans and programmes. Guidance is available [Materialen und Leitfäden \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](#)

II.12. With regards to your country's experience with transboundary procedures, in response to each of the questions below, please either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country's general experience. You might also want to include examples of lessons learned in order to help others. Please detail:

- (a) What difficulties has your country experienced and what solutions has it found?
(i) Translation and interpretation
(ii) Other issues [Notification \(e.g.\)Timing of notification or notification only by request](#)
- (b) What elements of the environmental report and other documentation does your country usually translate as a Party of origin?

[Party of origin: Usually, Austria translates the draft pp and the environmental report or parts of the environmental report \(e.g. Non-technical summary\) into the language of the affected Party. Affected Party: Austria requests the documents in German; if it doesn't receive any translation Austria arranges for it itself. Sometimes Austria accepts documents in English.](#)

- (c) As an affected Party, please specify whether and how your country has ensured the participation of the public concerned and the authorities pursuant to article 10 (4):
(i) No
(ii) Yes (please indicate how): [Austria follows the principle laid down in Art. 2 para 6 Espoo Convention, which determines that the public and authorities in the affected Parties shall be given equal opportunities provided to the public and](#)

-
- (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
(i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
(j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);
(k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
(l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).
For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org/net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16_SDG_Mapping.pdf.

authorities in the Party of origin. In practice every Austrian can send a comment, which is passed on the Party of origin.

(d) What has your country's experience been of the effectiveness of public participation? The participation of the public depends on its interest in the specific transboundary procedure. In many cases the interest of the public at the plan or programme level is less than at the project level. For certain nuclear plans or programmes the interest is high.

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

(i) No

(ii) Yes (please describe):

The AT Espoo Point of Contact has no information.

D. Experience regarding guidance in 2019–2021

II.13. Has your country used in practice the following documents:

The Austrian authorities have been informed during the annual SEA working group which consists of members of SEA authorities from both the federal and state administration including the Environmental Ombudsmänner. The group meetings take place regularly in order to exchange SEA related information and experience. The Manuals are also made available on the SEA Website [Materialien und Leitfäden \(strategischeumweltpruefung.at\)](http://strategischeumweltpruefung.at)

There is no information available on the actual use of the documents. Probably they have not been used too much since they seem to be quite extensive and don't take the Austrian planning situation into account.

Good Practice Recommendations on Public Participation in Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2014/2)

Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (ECE/MP.EIA/17)

Yes

No

Please specify reasons for not using the Good Practice Recommendations:

(i) Lack of awareness about the document

(ii) The document is not relevant

(iii) The document is outdated and needs revision

Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the Good Practice Recommendations:

Yes

No

Please specify reasons for not using the Manual:

(i) Lack of awareness about the document

(ii) The Manual is not relevant

(iii) The Manual is outdated and needs revision

Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the Resource Manual:

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

II.14. Please indicate whether the information regarding contributions to the trust fund was already provided by your country in the responses to the questionnaire concerning the Convention and covered both the Convention and the Protocol:

- (i) Yes
- (ii) No

If your response is “No”, please provide the information regarding the contributions to the trust fund below.

II.15. Through paragraph 4 of decision VII/4–III/4 on budget, financial arrangements and financial assistance,⁴ applicable for the period 2017–2020, the Meetings of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol jointly “Urge[d] all Parties to contribute to ensuring sustainable funding of activities and an equitable and proportionate sharing of the financial burden among the Parties.” For the period 2021–2023, by paragraph 1 of decision VIII/1–IV/1⁵, regarding funding of the adopted workplans, the Meeting of the Parties decided that: “All the Parties have a duty to contribute to the sharing of the costs that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget.”

(a) Please indicate whether your Government contributed to the funding of the workplans during the reporting period, indicating also the currency and the amount of the contribution:

- (i) My Government made a multi-year contribution for the period 2017–2020 , 18.000 USD, annually 6000 USD

Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:
The contribution was given annually within the period.

- (ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (iii) Individual contribution in 2020:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (iv) Individual contribution in 2021:

Yes Amount and currency:

No Please explain the reason:

- (v) Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023

(b) Did your country make in-kind contributions in the reporting period?

Yes Please describe how: [in relation to nuclear issues, see Espoo questionnaire](#)

No Please explain the reason

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.16. Please provide suggestions for how this report could be improved:

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1.

⁵ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1.

Annex I

List and number of domestic strategic environmental assessment procedures initiated in the reporting period

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Agriculture:					
Forestry:					
Fisheries:					
Energy:					
Industry including mining:					
Transport:					
Regional development:					
Waste management:					
Water management:					
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:					
Land use:					
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):					

* The information provided constitutes:

Statistical data

Estimates

** Once the need for strategic environmental assessment is determined

Your comments:

Annex II

List and number of transboundary strategic environmental assessments in the reporting period

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Agriculture:					
Forestry:					
Fisheries:					
Energy:					
Industry including mining:					
Transport:					
Regional development:					
Waste management:					
Water management:					
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:					
Land use:					
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):					

Annex III

Template for describing a good practice example of implementing a strategic environmental assessment at the national level or in a transboundary context

I. General information

1. Title of plan/programme
2. Authority responsible for the plan's/programme's development
3. Nature of the related strategic environmental assessment procedure:
 - (a) Domestic
 - (b) Transboundary
4. Please indicate which stage(s)/step(s) of the strategic environmental assessment procedure is/are considered to represent good practice:

The entire procedure

Screening (art. 5)

Scoping (art. 6)

Environmental report (art. 7)

Public participation (art. 8)

Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9)

Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

Decision (art. 11)

Monitoring (art. 12)

5. Please indicate to which topic(s) of the 2021–2023 workplan the example is related:

Biodiversity

Circular economy

Development cooperation

Energy transition

Smart and sustainable cities

Sustainable infrastructure

II. Background

Please provide a short description of the plan/programme, the context of its development and general information about the strategic environmental assessment

III. Procedure under the protocol on strategic environmental assessment and elements of good practice

Please describe, in more detail, the procedural step/steps that is/are considered to represent good practice and then explain why that is:

III.1. Field of application (art. 4)

III. 2. Screening (art. 5)

III. 3. Scoping (art. 6)

III.4. Environmental report (art. 7)

III.5. Public participation (art. 8)

III.6. Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9)

III.7. Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

III.8. Decision (art. 11)

III.9. Monitoring (art. 12)

IV. Lessons learned and advice to other parties:

IV.1. Please indicate:

- (a) Challenges in carrying out the procedure, if any, and how those were tackled
- (b) Lessons learned

IV.2. As relevant, please also refer to the contribution of the above application of strategic environmental assessment towards the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals¹ or climate objectives.

¹ In 2017, the Meetings of the Parties acknowledged that the Convention and, in particular, the Protocol, contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1, decision VII/7–III/6, Minsk Declaration, para. 7). Selected examples of targets of the Sustainable Development Goals that strategic environmental assessment could help to implement include the following (see informal document to the fifth meeting of the Working Group (Geneva, 11–15 April 2016):

- (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);
- (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);
- (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)
- (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
- (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
- (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
- (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
- (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
- (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);

-
- (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
 - (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).
For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org/net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__SDG_Mapping.pdf.