

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

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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 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...)

General information

The Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (200/2005), known as the SEA Act, and the Government Decree on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (347/2005), known as the SEA Decree, are the major pieces of legislation transposing the Protocol on SEA in Finland. The SEA Act and Decree ensure that the SEA is carried out for most of the plan and programme types referred to in Article 4 of the Protocol.

Provisions on strategic environmental assessments of land use plans (town and country planning plans) are included in the Land Use and Building Act (Act 132/1999) and Decree (895/1999). The impacts of all land use plans in Finland are assessed under the provisions of the Land Use and Building Act and Decree.

Besides the above-mentioned, there is also a general duty to investigate the environmental effects of plans and programmes that do not fall within the sphere of application of Article 4, but that may have likely significant environmental effects (section 3 of the SEA Act). This duty is more general in nature and it covers policies as well.

In the answers below:

- The blue colour is used to refer to the SEA Act and Decree and the strategic environmental assessments carried out in accordance with these statutes.
- The green colour is used to refer to the provisions in the Land Use and Building Act and Decree and the strategic environmental assessment of land use plans carried out in accordance with those provisions.
- *Black cursive is used when the answer covers both situations mentioned above or the answer is related to other issues.*

Article 3

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):

[SEA Act \(Act on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment \(200/2005\)\) \(link\)](#)

(b) Strategic environmental assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify, providing title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

[Land Use and Building Act \(132/1999\) \(link\)](#)

(c) Regulation (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

[SEA Decree \(Government Decree on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Government Decree on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment \(347/2005\)\) \(link\)](#)

[Land Use and Building Decree \(895/1999\) \(link\)](#)

(d) Administrative rule (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

Government's Decision on Impact Assessment in Legislative Drafting Guidelines (Ministry of Justice, Publication 2008:4). The Impact Assessment Guidelines supplement the Bill Drafting Instructions.

(e) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

See also the general information given 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:

Plans and programmes prepared for:

Agriculture [action programme according the Article 5 of the EU Directive 91/676/EEC, Finland's CAP strategic plan \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Forestry

Fisheries [Finnish Operational Program for the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Energy

Industry including mining

Transport [national transport system plan \(Highways Act \(503/2005\), section 15b\), transport system plan of the Helsinki Metropolitan Area \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Regional development [regional development programmes, Finland's EU structural fund programmes \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Waste management [regional waste plans \(after 1.12.2021 national waste plan\) \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Water management [river basin management plans, marine strategy document \(Act on the Organisation of River Basin Management and the Marine Strategy \(1299/2004\) sections 11 and 26b\), flood risk management plans \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Telecommunications

Tourism

Town and country planning [Regional land use plans, local master plans, local detailed plans \(Land Use and Building Act, section 9, Land Use and Building Decree, section 1\)](#)

Land use [national land use objectives \(SEA Decree , section1\)](#)

Other (including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4)), please list [nature conservation programmes \(SEA Decree, section 1\)](#)

Please explain:

References to the relevant legislation are provided after plans and programmes mentioned above.

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

The term is not defined further in the legislation but in the government bill on the SEA legislation there are some examples mentioned. According to the government bill a plan or programme would set the framework for development consent, for instance:

- *if the plan (or programme) is a prerequisite for starting the work on drafting the plan, or*
- *if the plan or the legislation concerning the plan includes a requirement to take the plan into account in the planning of future projects, or*
- *if the plan includes criteria or conditions which should be taken into consideration in the permit procedure.*

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:

[The terms are not interpreted further in the legislation. SEA is required for all land use plans including all changes of the plans.](#)

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

[It is not specified further in the legislation. SEA is required for all land use plans including all changes of the plans.](#)

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: [Regarding land use plans there is no screening situations, because SEA is required for all land use plans including all changes of the plans.](#)

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:

Authorities to be consulted are partly defined in the legislation (SEA Decree, section 3) and partly on case by case basis. Regarding land use plans there is no screening situations, because SEA is required for all land use plans including all changes of the plans.

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:

Regarding land use plans there is no screening situations, because SEA is required for all land use plans including all changes of the plans.

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.

Content of the environmental report is stipulated in the legislation. Besides that by using the comments from the concerned authorities and public and the own expertise of the authority responsible for drawing up the plan or programme.

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:

Authorities to be consulted are partly defined in the legislation (SEA Decree, section 5) and partly on case by case basis. The same principle applies to SEA of the land use plans.

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:

The comments are sent /the opinions are given to the authority responsible for a plan or programme.

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:

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): *Different guidelines, which include quality checklists, are available.*

Please explain:

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: **Public notices in printed media are required only if it is deemed necessary.**

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): “for a minimum of 30 days” (SEA Act, section 9)

For land use plans (a regional-plan, a local master plan and a local detailed plan): “a period of at least 30 days”. However, a proposal concerning an amendment of the local detailed plan whose impact is minor shall only be made available to the public for a period of at least 14 days.” (Land Use and Building Decree, sections 12, 19 and 27)

- (c) Other (please specify):

Please explain your selection:

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:
- (c) Other (please specify)

Please explain:

Authorities to be consulted are partly defined in the legislation and partly on case by case basis. Provisions with identical content in SEA Decree in relation to different stages on consultation: section 3 (screening), section 5 (scoping) and section 6 (consultation on environmental reports and draft plans or programmes).

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:
- (c) Other (please specify)

Please explain:

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) SEA Decree, section 6 “In addition to what is provided elsewhere, opinions on draft plans or programmes and environmental reports must be requested from the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and as necessary the relevant local health and environmental authorities and other

authorities acting in the area affected. Where a plan or programme in question with extensive regional reverberations or significance is concerned, the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health must also be consulted.”

“An opinion on a regional plan proposal shall be requested from: the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment; the local authorities concerned; regional councils whose areas border on the plan area; and other authorities and organizations important in terms of the regional plan, as necessary.

An opinion on a local master plan proposal shall be requested from: the regional council; the local authority whose areas the plan affects; and the Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and authorities and organizations important in terms of the regional plan, as necessary.

An opinion on a local detailed plan proposal shall be requested from: the regional council if the plan concerns issues addressed in the regional plan or which are otherwise regionally significant; Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment if the plan concerns national land use objectives, an area or feature significant in terms of nature or building conservation, or an area reserved in the regional plan for recreation or conservation; local authorities whose areas the plan affects; and other authorities whose sphere of activities the plan concerns and organizations important in terms of the plan, as necessary.” (Land Use and Building Decree, sections 13, 20 and 28)

(b) No

Please explain:

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

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

Please explain:

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 (land use plans)
- (b) When the draft plan or programme and the environmental report have been prepared (other plans and programmes)
- (c) At other times (please specify):

Please explain: Regarding the land use plans the notification is formally done (finalized) later when the documents required under article 10 (2) (a) have been finalized.

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:

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:

There is a 60-day time frame for the affected Party from when the draft plan or programme and environmental report are received for the Party to indicate that it wishes to enter into consultations concerning the matter. When beginning consultations, arrangements must be agreed on for allowing the authorities and the public in the state in which significant environmental effects are likely to take place to express their opinions within a reasonable timeframe. (SEA Act, section 10).

In land use planning there is a 30-day time frame for the affected Party to indicate that it wishes to enter into consultations concerning the matter. When beginning consultations, arrangements must be agreed on for allowing the authorities and the public in the state in which significant environmental effects are likely to take place to express their opinions within a reasonable timeframe. (Land Use and Building Act, section 206 b.)

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:

Detailed arrangements must be agreed between the Parties at the beginning of the consultation (see the comments above in answer I.10.3.).

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:

In accordance with SEA Act, section 11

(1) The environmental report and as far as possible the opinions referred to in sections 8 and 9 and the results of discussions between states under section 10 must be taken into account when a plan or programme is being prepared.

(2) Decisions to approve a plan or programme or the plan or programme itself must include the following:

- 1) a justified opinion on how the environmental report, the opinions referred to in sections 8 and 9 and the results of the discussions between states in accordance with section 10 have been taken into account, and an outline of how these and various environmental considerations have affected the content of the plan or programme and the choice between the various alternatives, and
- 2) an outline of the monitoring referred to in section 12.

The Land Use and Building Decree sets requirements for the content of plan statement of each type of land use plan. The plan statement must include information on the issues mentioned in article 11(1) and on how they have 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:

When a plan or programme is approved, information on the decision must be provided in addition to what is provided elsewhere, and the decision and the plan or programme must be made publicly available. What is provided in section 62a of the Administrative Procedure Act applies to making documents available and providing information on them. The decision and the plan or programme and environmental report must be delivered to the Finnish Environment Institute for information purposes and they must also be made public in electronic form if possible (SEA Act, section 11).

Information on the approval of a plan or programme must be submitted to the centre for economic development, transport and the environment without delay. Information on decisions must also

be submitted to the relevant local authorities and other authorities that have been consulted in the process. (SEA Decree, section 8.)

Decisions to approve a plan are presented publicly in the same way that municipal notices are published in the municipality. The local authority must immediately send the decision regarding the plan for information purposes to the authorities. (Land Use and Building Act 132/1999, section 200.)

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:

Section 8 of the SEA Decree requires that the information on the approval of a plan or programme must be submitted without delay to the affected party and that the plan or programme and the decision to approve the plan or programme are made available to the affected party.

Section 206 c of the Land Use and Building Act includes a similar requirement for the land use plans.

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:

Section 12 of the SEA Act requires that the authority responsible for plans or programmes must ensure that the implementation of plans and programmes falling within the sphere of environmental assessment and resulting significant environmental effects are monitored, in order to be able to take action to prevent or reduce harmful environmental effects where necessary.

In land use planning the monitoring is usually done when a plan needs to be changed. At that time, the extent to which the plan has been or has not been implemented is evaluated. In accordance with the Land Use and Building Act (section 60), the local authority is responsible for assessing whether the local detailed plan is up-to-date.

The Finnish environmental administration maintains, develops and distributes data from environmental information data systems, spatial information systems and remote sensing datasets. For instance, environmental and geographical information services are available free of charge to the general public and to other users through the "OIVA" service.

Documents related to the planning process are public documents according to Finnish law. The Act on the Openness of Government Activities (621/1999) is applied to the official documents. The principle is that all official documents are in the public domain, unless specifically otherwise provided (section 1).

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:

The SEA Act also includes a general duty to investigate the environmental effects of plans and programmes that do not fall within the sphere of application of Article 4, but that may have likely significant environmental effects (section 3 of the SEA Act). This duty is more general in nature and it covers policies as well.

The environmental impacts of the legislation are assessed during the preparation process as a part of the wider impact assessment. On 1 November 2007, the Finnish Government adopted new Impact Assessment Guidelines upon the presentation by the Ministry of Justice (Ministry of Justice, Publication 2008:4). The Impact Assessment Guidelines supplement the Bill Drafting Instructions.

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

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

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.

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.

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 type="checkbox"/> Please explain:	(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input type="checkbox"/> Please explain:
(b) No (no objection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(b) No (no objection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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

- (c) Coordination with other sectors/i.e. avoiding overlaps or discrepancies
- (d) Environmental and health benefits
- (e) Other

Please provide your comments:

I.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):

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: -

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

SEA procedures are carried out in accordance with relevant legislation and the different likely significant environmental, including health, effects and related issues are dealt and examined within the framework of individual planning situations and in the manner required by them. Relevant issues and tasks related to this are, e.g. the determination of the scope of the environmental report, content of the environmental report, carrying out the public participation and consultations with relevant authorities, are carried out in accordance with relevant legislation (these tasks are in many respects described in the first part of this report). There is also a guides on SEA available to those who make environmental assessments. The guides aims to support the making of quality environmental assessments. Specific practical guide on social and health impact assessment is also available.

- (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.)

Circular economy, Energy transition, Sustainable infrastructure:
Northern Ostrobothnia Climate Roadmap – Towards a carbon neutral Northern Ostrobothnia (regional plan) and a related SEA

'The roadmap provides guidelines for the development of the operating environment so that the sector's developer organisations can allocate their resources correctly. Companies make their own strategic decisions on the development and renewal of their business operations, taking into account the opportunities provided by the operating environment and the high level of RDI support available. Businesses are key players and guided by consumers. The achievement of climate objectives requires a strong link between business, new industries and business opportunities as well as climate action. By developing the operating environment, taking into account the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts, climate change mitigation is both possible and an opportunity.'

(https://www.pohjois-pohjanmaa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Northern-Ostrobothnia-Climate-Road-Map-2021_2030_A63eng.pdf)

Circular economy, Energy transition, Sustainable infrastructure:

Northern Ostrobothnia Climate Roadmap – Towards a carbon neutral Northern Ostrobothnia (regional plan) and a related SEA

'The roadmap provides guidelines for the development of the operating environment so that the sector's developer organisations can allocate their resources correctly. Companies make their own strategic decisions on the development and renewal of their business operations, taking into account the opportunities provided by the operating environment and the high level of RDI support available. Businesses are key players and guided by consumers. The achievement of climate objectives requires a strong link between business, new industries and business opportunities as well as climate action. By developing the operating environment, taking into account the environmental, economic, social and cultural impacts, climate change mitigation is both possible and an opportunity.'

(https://www.pohjois-pohjanmaa.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Northern-Ostrobothnia-Climate-Road-Map-2021_2030_A63eng.pdf)

(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)

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

Monitoring of the environmental effects is usually arranged as a part of the more extensive monitoring of the implementation of the plan or programme. Monitoring may also coincide with the regular revision of the plan or programme.

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

Finland considers that the translation of documents is an important prerequisite, especially for the participation of the public. As a Party of origin Finland tends to provide adequate material in the language of the affected Party. We hope to receive reciprocal treatment as an affected Party. Early cooperation between the points of contacts of the affected Party and the Party of origin are important for facilitating translations. As Finland is bilingual, some material also needs to be available in Swedish in addition to Finnish. In northern Finland Sámi is also used.

- (ii) Other issues *No remarks.*

- (b) What elements of the environmental report and other documentation does your country usually translate as a Party of origin? The draft plan or programme and the environmental report, or parts of them are been be translated into the relevant languages.

- (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

-
- (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_Apriil2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__SDG_Mapping.pdf.

- (ii) Yes (please indicate how):

The Ministry of the Environment organises the public display of the documents and gives the public and authorities the possibility to provide comments and statements in accordance with the section 10 a of the SEA Act.

(d) What has your country's experience been of the effectiveness of public participation?
There are usually several written opinions from the public of the other country. The effectiveness of public participation is seen in that those who feel their livelihood or other interests will be affected submit written opinions or propose changes. However, not many comments have been submitted.

(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):

D. Experience regarding guidance in 2019–2021

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

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:

There is no need to use ECE's guidance documents in practical application of the SEA, because the existing national guidelines (in Finnish) that take into account the national legislation and specificities are better and easier to use.

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

Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:

- (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:

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:	1		1		
Forestry:					
Fisheries:	1		1		
Energy:					
Industry including mining:					
Transport:	1		1		
Regional development:	30		1		
Waste management:	1		1		
Water management:	29		1		
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:	3500	300 local master plans, 3200 local detailed plans	8 regional plans	Average 22 months / median 12 months (for local detailed plans)	
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:	6	4	2		
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:					
Town and country planning:	2	1	1		
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);

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- (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.