

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

Information on the focal point for the Protocol

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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...)

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):
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- (b) Strategic environmental assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify, providing title/reference number/year/access link, if any):
Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection (paras 43-44)
(<https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=99500053.tv>)
- (c) Regulation (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):
Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.) on the environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes (<https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0500002.kor>)
Government Decree No. 132/2010 (IV. 21.) on the announcement of the protocol adopted on May 21, 2003 in Kiev on strategic environmental assessment related to the Convention on environmental impact assessment in a transboundary context done at Espoo (Finland), on February 26, 1991. (<https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a1000132.kor>)
- (d) Administrative rule (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any):
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- (e) Other (please specify):
—

Please explain:

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?

Generally, all plans and programmes which are likely to have a significant impact on the environment, including those co-financed by the EU, and in connection with the amendments of these.

Furthermore, plans and programmes are scope of the Protocol where the following criteria met:

- a) prescribed by statutory provision, or decreed by Parliament, the Government or the local authorities, and
- b) drawn up or adopted by an administrative body, or by a non-administrative body discharging administrative duties by authorization conferred under an act of Parliament or Government Decree, or by a local self-government body (so called “administrative agency”), or those presented by the Government to Parliament.

(Reference to the legislation: *para 43 (4) of the Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection*)

List the types of plans and programmes that require strategic environmental assessment in your country's legislation and provide references to the relevant legislation:

Strategic environmental assessments are *always compulsory* in case of the following plans and programmes:

- a) Based of provisions of *para 1 (2a) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)* and listed in Annex 1. of that piece of legislation, strategic environmental assessments are always compulsory for plans and programmes on the field of
 - regional plans
 - settlement-structure plans, local construction codes and zoning maps applicable for the whole settlement
 - the National Development Plan and its operative programmes
 - national and regional waste management plans
 - mid-term plans of agricultural policies
 - national water management concept and national programmes
 - catchment area management plan
 - national or local road network development plans
- b) Strategic environmental assessments are also compulsory in case of plans and programmes not included in the above list, but prepared for the purposes of *agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, traffic, waste management, water management, electronic telecommunication, tourism, regional development* – as also listed in the questionnaire below –, which set the framework for future development consents by the authorities for activities or facilities listed in the Appendix 1. or 3. of the legislation on environmental impact assessments independently of the threshold values and territorial restrictions laid down therein.
(Reference to the legislation:
 - *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
 - legislation on environmental impact assessments, which appendices are referred above: <https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0500314.kor>)
- c) Furthermore, a strategic environmental assessment must be carried out for each plan and programme without limitations on volume and scope that may have significant adverse impacts
 - on Natura 2000 areas (Reference to the legislation: *para 1 (2 bba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*) or
 - on water bodies designated under the *Government Decree on certain rules of river basin management* or on registered protected areas (Reference to the legislation: *para 1 (2 bbb) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*).

Plans and programmes prepared for:

Agriculture *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*

Forestry *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Fisheries *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Energy *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Industry including mining *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Transport *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Regional development *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Waste management *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Water management *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Telecommunications *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Tourism *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Town and country planning *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*
Land use *para 1 (2 ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*

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

The necessity of environmental assessments should be determined on a *case-by-case basis* for the following plans and programmes, meaning that *at least the screening is compulsory* in the following cases, *however*, if the opinions of the environmental and health authorities require, the whole strategic environmental assessment should be carried out:

- regulatory plans, or local construction codes prepared for a part of a settlement
- other plans and programmes that determine the use of small areas at local level;
- a minor amendment to a plan or programme, that requires a compulsory strategic environmental plan before adoption;
- plans and programmes, which set the framework for future development consents by the authorities for activities or facilities involving environmental uses.

(Reference to the legislation: *para 1 (3) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*)

Please explain:

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

A plan or programme setting the framework for future development consents for activities or facilities that are listed in Appendix 1 or 3 of *Government Decree No. 314/2005 (XII. 25.) on environmental impact assessment and on integrated environmental usage permitting process*, (<https://net.jogtar.hu/jogszabaly?docid=a0500314.kor>), which is a specific piece of legislation on environmental impact assessments. In these cases, at programme level, the strategic environmental assessment is compulsory and independent of the threshold values and territorial restrictions at project level laid down in the *Government Decree No. 314/2005 (XII. 25.)*.

Plans and programmes setting framework for future development consents for activities or facilities are including provisions or conditions to be compulsorily applied, or criteria to be compulsorily considered during the authorisation procedure, in particular as regards the location, nature, size and operational conditions, the direct use of or load to or other uses of natural resources, or require the implementation of any such activities, or influence the implementation opportunities, particularly the location, nature, size and operational conditions of such activities, or the direct use of or load to or other uses of natural resources by such activities in other ways (by facilitating, encouraging or restricting them).

(Reference to the legislation: *para 1 (2ba) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*)

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 regulations do not define these terms, yet at the same time - corresponding to the goals of the Protocol’s provisions regarding this definition – Hungarian legislation does stipulate the

environmental assessment of plans and programmes which *use of small areas at local level* (e.g. amendments of the settlement development plans in relation to sub-areas).

According to *para 1 (3a) of Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*, regulatory plans, or local construction codes prepared for a part of a settlement, or other plans and programmes for which a strategic environmental assessment is compulsory and which determine the use of small areas at local level, the necessity of environmental assessment may be decided based on the case-by-case determination of the significance of the likely environmental impact.

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

There is no exact definition of minor modifications in Hungarian legislation, and it is not specifically stipulated what should be considered as an insignificant or minor modification with regards to certain plans.

However, *para 1 (3b) of Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)* has a clear provision on the followings: in the case of a proposed minor amendment to a plan or programme which was subject to an environmental assessment at the time of its adoption, the need for a new environmental assessment in relation to the amendment shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

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:

See details and references to the relevant legislation at answer given to Question I.4.1. above.

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:

Annex III of the Government Decree No. 2/2005. (I. 11.) on strategic environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes lists all authorities having assigned privilege by the legislation to comment the screening, scoping documents and the environmental report of certain plan/programmes according to plans and programmes.

According to the types and levels of a plan/programme (e.g. national, regional, local) , different competent authorities are responsible for carrying out the strategic environmental assessment procedure in Hungary. However, there is no difference for domestic and transboundary procedures in this regard.

In case of nationwide strategic environmental assessment procedures – and by request of the regional and local environmental and health authorities in case of regional and local level of plans and programmes –, the transboundary procedure is coordinated by the Ministry of Agriculture using – and taking advantage of – the network of the national contact points' network of the Convention and Protocol.

Annex III of Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11.) contains the list of bodies in charge of environmental protection and their competences. The authorities participate in the procedures on a request basis.

I. In the case of plans and programmes prepared by national bodies

I.1. Authorities should be involved in every case:

- a) as regards environment, nature and landscape protection:
the national authority for the environment and nature protection, and the National Meteorological Service for air pollution protection;
- b) as regards environmental and urban health:
the National Chief Medical Officer;
- c) as regards protection of forests, soils, and the quantitative protection of arable lands and agri-environmental affairs:
the Minister responsible for forestry, soil protection, land conservation and agri-environmental protection;
- d) as regards the protection of waters:
National Directorate General for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of the Interior

I.2. Authorities should be involved when affected:

- a) as regards the protection of geological values and mineral reserves:
the Minister in charge of mining affairs;
- b) as regards the protection of the natural resources of natural health resorts:
the Government Office of Budapest
- c) as regards the protection of cultural heritage (protection of monuments, archaeology):
the Minister in charge of cultural heritage protection;
- d) as regards the protection of the built environment:
the Minister in charge of construction affairs;
- e) as regards chemical safety:
the National Chief Medical Officer;
- f) as regards the prevention of major industrial accidents:
the National Directorate General for Disaster Prevention, Ministry of the Interior

II. In the case of plans and programmes prepared by other than national bodies for regional/community level

II.1. Authorities should be involved in every case:

- a) as regards environmental protection:
the environmental protection authority;
- b) as regards nature and landscape conservation:
the relevant National Park Directorate(s) and the Nature Conservation Authority;
- c) as regards environmental and urban health:
the Budapest/county government offices acting in their capacity as public health authorities.
- d) as regards the protection of the quality and quantity of surface water and groundwater:
the water protection and water management authority.

II.2. Authorities should be involved when affected:

- a) as regards local environmental protection and nature conservation:
notary of the local government of the settlement;

- b) as regards the protection of the built environment:
the Budapest/county government office acting as a public chief architect;
- c) as regards the protection of forests:
the county government office acting as an authority for forestry;
- d) as regards soil protection:
the county government office acting as an authority for soil protection;
- e) as regards the quantitative protection of arable lands:
the Budapest/county government office acting as an authority for land protection,
- f) as regards the protection of geological values and mineral reserves:
the Authority for the Supervision of Regulated Activities;
- g) as regards the protection of the natural resources of natural health resorts and spas:
the Government Office of Budapest, acting in its public health function;
- i) as regards the protection of cultural heritage (protection of monuments, archaeology):
the Budapest Government Office, and if exclusion criteria are met, the Minister in charge of the cultural heritage protection;
- j) as regards chemical safety:
the National Chief Medical Officer;
- k) as regards the prevention of major industrial accidents:
the county/Budapest directorate of emergency management.

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 (However there are several opportunities for the public to take part in the planning procedure including all (a)-(c) options listed below, see explanation below.)

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:

Screening and scoping have the same procedural requirements with regard to public involvement. See also answer given to Question I.6.3 below.

Public is informed of the scoping report by announcing it after the scoping procedure.

During screening only the opinion of bodies in charge of environmental protection needs to be acquired, and a decision is taken on the way of public involvement/information during scoping.

The public concerned is not necessarily be involved directly in the determination of the necessity of conducting a strategic environmental procedures for plans and programmes under the effective legal regulations, the scoping report referring to the contents of the environmental evaluation and the contents have to be made available for the public according to the provision of the *para 5 (2) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*.

However, at the planning process of a plan or programme, outside the strategic environmental procedure, there are several opportunities for the public to communicate their opinion and make remarks by directly communicating with the developer during the planning phase involving all a-c) options given to the multiple choice question of I.5.3 above.

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.

Relevant information should be included in the Environmental Report on the detailed list of *Annexes II. and IV. of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)* being in line with criteria and points listed in Annex IV of the Protocol. Furthermore, comments from the concerned authorities received in the scoping phase of the procedure are also taken into account.

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:

Screening and scoping have the same requirements for involvement of environmental and health authorities, see in details at answer given to Question I.5.2 above.

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 (However there are several opportunities for the public to take part in the planning procedure including all (a)-(c) options listed below, see explanation below.)

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:

Screening and scoping have the same procedural requirements with regard to public involvement as well. *See also answer given to Question I.5.3 above.*

The public concerned is not necessarily be involved directly in the determination of the scoping procedure of strategic environmental procedures for plans and programmes under the legal regulations in force, public is informed of the scoping report by announcing it after the scoping procedure. However, at the planning process of a plan or programme, outside the strategic environmental procedure, there are several opportunities for the public to communicate their opinion and make remarks by directly communicating with the developer involving all a-c) options given to the multiple choice question of I.6.3 above.

Furthermore, the finalised scoping report referring to the contents of the environmental evaluation and the contents has to be made publicly available according to the provision of the *para 7 (5) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*.

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):

The general requirements for the scope of environmental evaluations defined in the effective legal regulations include the brief description of the plan or programme and the alternatives considered during preparation as follows: summary description of the objectives and scope of the plan or programme with special emphasis on the parts relevant for the preparation of the environmental evaluation, relationship with other plans or programmes, justification of the selection of the given alternatives together with a brief description of the review that it is based on.

The summary drawn up after the approval of the plan or programme contains the arguments for the approval mentioning among others why the particular alternative was selected out of all considered sensible versions of the programme or plan.

(Reference to the legislation:

- *Annex 4. points 2 and 3 of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*,
– *para 11 (b) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*)

- (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):

Please explain:

In line with *para 8 (1) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*, Environmental Report should be prepared by authorised experts licenced by the authorities. All available information from earlier or still continuing planning activities concerning the expected environmental impacts of the given plan or programme, may be used for the preparation of the Environmental Report. Content and the level of details of the Environmental Report are determined by the scoping, and the developer duly takes into consideration the opinions of the environmental and health authorities previously acquired.

If the bodies in charge of environmental and health protection are not satisfied with the Environmental Report or they are of the opinion that the plan or programme is incompatible with the National Programme for Environmental Protection in force, the developer should have arranged a consultation with the environmental and health authorities to discuss the necessary modifications. All remarks and opinions (including unsolved as well, if at all remains after the discussion) need to be listed and attached to the draft when submitted for adoption.

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:

According to the *para 8 (3b) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*, the publication has to be published in one national or local newspaper or on the website of the developer. If the public concerned is limited to one particular part of a settlement, the customary local means of publication (i.e. placing copies in public offices) also suffice. Furthermore, means of information other than publication may also be used, e.g. the official newsletter of the developer.

In practice, announcement on the website of the developer as well as in several social media platforms are the most common ways to inform the public on the strategic environmental assessment procedure.

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:

During the establishment of the precise content and level of detail (content) of the Environmental Report, the developer defines what groups of the public may be concerned, and also defines the method of informing those concerned.

Please explain:

Para 2 (a-c) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.) defines *public concerned* as follows: it means natural persons, legal entities or organisations without legal entity that

- a) are or may be affected by the decision on the plan or programme requiring environmental assessment, in particular because of its effects on the environment, and

- b) have an interest with regard to the decision on the plan or programme requiring environmental assessment, in particular, that are environmental or other non-governmental organisations whose activities are affected by the said decision, and
- c) are otherwise defined as affected by developers, or the plans or programmes.

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):

By sending comments to the developer directly.

Please explain:

Upon the publication of the Environmental Report, the developer has to make suggestions as to the method of informing the public and acquiring their comments, i.e. in what form and by what deadline the public concerned can make their comments.

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):

Environmental Assessment: timeframe for providing comments by authorities and the public should not be shorter than 30 days (*para 8 (3a) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*).

- (c) Other (please specify):

Please explain your selection:

The time frame is determined by the number of days fixed for each commenting period. Legislation defines 3 time frames in the procedure: 1. screening, 2. scoping (both are set only for authorities), 3. environmental assessment (for authorities and for the public)

Screening (*applicable only for authorities responsible for environment and health*): maximum 15 days, during which they are requested to have a position whether the plan/programme or its modification requires an SEA procedure to be conducted – as defined by *para 4 (4) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*

Scoping (*applicable only for authorities responsible for environment and health*): timeframe for providing comments by authorities should not be shorter than 30 days – as defined by *para 7 (3) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*.

Environmental Assessment: timeframe for providing comments by authorities and the public should not be shorter than 30 days (*para 8 (3a) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*). A deadline of at least 30 days following the receipt of the request of opinion or its publication needs to be ensured for the public to submit their opinion and comments. The regulation sets a minimum time frame, but the preparer may in his own discretion, and subject to his own considerations set a longer deadline, if he regards such necessary.

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:

Please see answer given to the Question I.5.2.

Environmental and health authorities are the same in screening, scoping and environmental assessment of the strategic environmental assessment procedure.

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:

Environmental and health authorities are defined in Appendix No. III. of the *Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)* and detailed in answer to Q.I.5.2 above.

Screening (para 4 (2) of the *Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*)

~ determining case-by-case the necessity of an SEA procedure to be conducted

For the purpose of decision-making, the developer shall place a request for the opinion of the environmental and health authorities.

Based on the criteria listed in *Annex II. of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*, environmental and health authorities shall assess the potential health and environmental effects of the draft plan and programme with regard to the potential for significant environmental effects in the fields of protection of the environment or nature conservation under their jurisdiction and take their position on the necessity of conducting the SEA procedure.

Scoping (para 7 (1) of the *Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*)

In order to finalise Scoping Report with regard to its specific contents and the level of detail according to the *Annex IV. of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.)*, the developer shall place a request for opinion of the environmental and health authorities as soon as the necessary information becomes available to it and shall fix a deadline for formulating the opinion, which should not be less than 30 days.

In order to ensure that the opinion is suitably founded, the developer shall provide all available information including

- all information required in the procedural leg on determining the necessity of the SEA procedure as detailed above;
- a description of the situation, in particular information of environmental relevance;
- a description of the potential directions of development;
- an assessment of the potential for significant adverse transboundary environmental effects arising from the Plan or Program.

Environmental assessment (Para 8 (3a) of the Government Decree No. 2/2005 (I. 11.))

Developer shall submit the full text draft documentation of the Plan or Program together with the Environmental Report and request opinions of the *environmental and health authorities* and – as stipulated in *para 44 (2b) of the Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection* – of the *National Environmental Council* on the Environmental Report and on the draft Plan or Program in line with *para 43 (6a) of the Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection*.

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)

(b) No

Please explain:

Please see details in answer to Question I.9.2. above.

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

(b) When the draft plan or programme and the environmental report have been prepared

(c) At other times (please specify):

Please explain:

At the same time when the domestic public consultation starts on the draft plan or programme and on the Environmental Report.

If SEA legislation is not known or known to have been changed recently in the potentially affected Party/ies, a preliminary correspondence is also carried out between the national contact points of the potentially affected Party/ies to inform the Party/ies about the future notification to be sent and to get information on the requirements for effective procedure to conduct (e.g. information on language versions acceptable for announcement for the public).

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):
 - the full text version of the draft of the plan or programme,
 - the Environmental Report,
 - the description of the decision-making process,
 - information that Hungary as Party of origin ensures public participation of the affected Party to the strategic environmental assessment procedure of the plan or programme as it does to its own public,
 - a request to the affected Party to inform Hungary within a set deadline whether it intends to hold consultations in regard of significant transboundary environmental impacts caused by the implementation of the plan or programme, or wish to receive information about measures planned to reduce or prevent these impacts.

Furthermore, in case there are additional background information with regard to the draft plan and programme and Environmental Report, these documents are also forwarded or linked along with the notification for the affected Party’s best understanding.

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):

At least a 30-day time interval is set by the legislation for providing comments for the domestic leg of the procedure, and it is understood for the transboundary procedures as well.

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:

In practice, it is usually determined case by case between the Parties along with the notification. The Parties mutually agree on the deadline in written form. Usually 45-50 days are set to ensure 30 days net time interval for providing equal possibilities in sending comments of the public and environmental and health authorities of the affected Party as well, or it could be even longer if the Party requests so.

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 99%

- (b) Following those of the affected Party
- (c) On a case-by-case basis 1%
- (d) In accordance with existing arrangements (for example, bilateral agreement)
- (e) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

In case of the affected Party indicates within the previously set time frame or after the modification of such that it wishes to engage into consultations, Parties agree on the duration and means of the consultations following the rules of the Party of origin in terms of the public announcement and other deadlines.

In 99% of the cases, it follows the procedure of the Party of origin, however, in a few cases the affected Party may indicate to follow its own legislation and Hungary accepts this request – especially in cases when the time schedule is set longer for the public announcement in the affected Party’s legislation –, so the rules are determined on a case-by-case basis.

In the course of the consultations, Parties also agree on the manner of informing the environmental and health authorities and the public concerned of the affected Party, and on how they will ensure opportunities to them for expressing their opinion within a reasonable deadline.

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:

All these topics are compulsory parts or chapters of the adopted SEA documentation including the Environmental Report and plan and programme document, and it is required by the legislation in force to make these information available to all those who took part in the procedure, i.e. environmental and health authorities and the public including participants in the transboundary procedure as well.

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:

Based on the provisions of the *para 11 (a-b) of the Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11)*, after the plan or program was adopted, it should be made available for the public and authorities along with

a summary including the arguments on the alternatives, comments received and handled during the adoption and the monitoring steps. This summary is to be sent to the environmental and health authorities as well as announced to the public as well, indeed, in case of transboundary procedure, it is sent by the national contact point of the Party of Origin to his/her counterpart in potentially affected Parties.

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:

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:

Para 11 (b) of the Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11) has a clear provision on it as follows:

The plan or programme should include measures for the monitoring of the significant environmental impacts arising from the implementation of the plan or programme.

The monitoring measures include, in particular:

- an identification at an early stage of unforeseen adverse impacts during the preparation of the plan or programme;
- an identification of the actions to be taken in case adverse impacts occur;
- making the findings of the monitoring available to bodies in charge of environmental protection and the public.

If necessary, the existing detection, measuring and monitoring network/systems may be used, and the existing provisions on monitoring already in force or a revision of the plan or programme may be applied for the purposes of the monitoring.

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):

*Para 43 (1) of the Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection stipulates that the drafters of bills and other legislation – including statutory acts, government decrees, ministerial decrees and decisions that might have impact on the environmental components, the quality of the environment or human health in connection with the environment – as well as national and regional concepts and policies related to the protection of the environment, shall assess and evaluate the effects of proposed measures on the environment and shall summarize them in a document called *assessment analysis*.*

*Furthermore, para 44 (1) of the Act LIII of 1995 on the General Rules of Environmental Protection prescribes that the *assessment analysis* shall cover the following in particular:*

- a) the extent to which the planned regulations and measures influence or may improve the state of the environment;
- b) the potential damage to the environment or population if the planned measures are not implemented;
- c) the extent to which the conditions in Hungary are adequate for introducing the planned measures;
- d) the extent to which government agencies are prepared to implement the planned measures;
- e) whether the state, financial, organizational and procedural conditions for implementing the planned measures exist;
- f) the extent to which the proposal represents deviation from the solutions generally adopted internationally.

The National Environmental Protection Council shall receive the drafts and assessment analysis for at least a thirty-day evaluation before they are submitted to the competent agency.

- (b) No

Please explain:

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.

Hungary does not have a central register on domestic strategic environmental assessment procedures.

Annex I. summarises and refers only to the strategic environmental assessment procedure of the nationwide plans and programmes initiated during the 2019-2021 period, where the Ministry of Agriculture has been involved as one of the environmental authorities – in line with the provisions of *Annex III. of the Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11)*. There is however, no information available on average duration and costs of these procedures.

In case of regional and local (municipal) plans and programmes, regional and local environmental and health authorities are involved in the procedure, and therefore, there is no information available on sectors and numbers, as well as on average duration and costs either.

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.

Hungary does not have a dedicated central register on transboundary SEA procedures.

The following Governmental websites list information for the public is available in case Hungary is an affected Party:

- procedures up to 2019:
<https://2015-2019.kormany.hu/hu/foldmuvelesugyi-miniszterium/hirek/strategiai-kornyezeti-vizsgalati-ugyek>
- procedures from 2020:
<https://kormany.hu/agrarminiszterium/kornyezetugy>
where “*Stratégiai környezeti vizsgálati ügyek*” should be chosen from the top down menu bar

Transboundary SEA procedures of the country level plan and programmes are always coordinated by the national contact points, therefore we can report it in the national reporting, however, information on the regional/local level transboundary procedures are not available as regional and local (municipal) environmental and health authorities are involved in the procedure. Thus, Annex II. refers only to the numbers and sectors of the transboundary SEA procedures of country level plan and programmes.

No information is available on average duration and costs either in any of the procedures, this information is held by developers.

a) As Party of Origin:

Two transboundary SEA procedures initiated between 2019-2021.

– Danube Inland Navigation Development Plan

Potentially affected Parties where notification has been sent: Serbia, Croatia, Slovak Republic

Actively participated Parties: Croatia, Slovak Republic

– National Port Development Master Plan

Affected Party: Slovak Republic

b) As affected Party:

Hungary participated in **12** transboundary SEA procedures between 2019-2021.

Party of Origin: Romania

- Energy Strategy of Romania 2020-2030 with an outlook to 2050
- National Strategy on Medium and Long-Term on the Safe Management of Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste
- Development Plan of the National Gas Transmission System 2021-2030

Party of Origin: Slovak Republic

- Bratislava Mobility Plan
- Integrated Infrastructure Operational Programme - modification
- Komarno Port Master Plan
- Sustainable Tourism Development Plan

Party of Origin: Ukraine

- Transport Strategy 2050

Party of Origin: Slovenia

- Spatial Development Plan 2050
- National Energy and Climate Plan

Party of Origin: Serbia

- Spatial Plan 2021-2035

Party of Origin: Austria

- Vienna (goods terminal 1,435 / 1,520 mm and line)- State border at Kittsee ”(Vienna-Kittsee in short) – railway modification plan

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: See answer given to Question II.4. above

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: There is no central register for domestic	Please explain: There is no central register for

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

<p>strategic environmental assessment procedures, numbers provided in the national reporting are only an estimate, and therefore, the information might lead to misleading conclusions.</p> <p>(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures, numbers provided in the national reporting are only an estimate, and therefore, the information might lead to misleading conclusions.</p> <p>(b) No (no objection) <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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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
 - Early awareness in the population (public/NGOs) on the future development of the region
 - Early involvement of environmental authorities in the planning process
 - To use the SEA documentation including conclusion of the environmental assessment as a background information in the EIA process at project level.

Please provide your comments:

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):

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:

N/A

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

Please see answers given to Question I.5.2, as well as to Questions I.9.1-I.9.4. above.

- (b) To contribute to the sharing of knowledge and experience on themes outlined in the work plan 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.)

- (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);
 - (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

There has not been any dedicated assessment carried out in Hungary yet to see whether or not the supposed relationship exists, therefore, no detailed information is available on the topic.

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

- (a) No

There is usually no exact information on it in practice, legislation in force ensures the monitoring obligation as well.

- (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

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

Translation and interpretation are key elements of the strategic environmental assessment procedures: public of the affected Party should be offered the same rights as the Hungarian public provided with in harmony with the legal provisions of the Protocol and the Convention as well as in line with the national legislation in force. It also covers the possibility of commenting in the national language, which Hungary always keeps in mind during the strategic environmental assessment procedures.

In general, in case *Hungary is a Party of Origin*, it provides always the full text documentation to the potentially affected Party/ies. To be cost effective and to speed up the process, Hungary's choice is to translate the draft plan or programme and the Environmental Report to each affected Party's language for easier commenting – unless the potentially affected Party/ies request differently. Sometimes the full documentation has to be translated into 2-3 or even 7 languages depending on the plan/programme and how many neighbouring Parties are affected or want to be part of the procedure. Translation is always arranged by the developer as part of the procedure. It is a significant burden to the plan owner to prepare these language versions, however, it can definitely speed up the SEA process, and after all it is always evaluated as a highly positive effort in cost-benefit analysis.

In case *Hungary is an affected Party*, sometimes strategic environmental assessment documentation is provided in English or in Hungarian (or both). Taking into account the arguments detailed above, English version is not enough for an effective public participation in Hungary. Hungary kindly requests the Party of origin to provide the same as it offers to the affected Parties. Usually we have set these issues with the Parties involved in the beginning of the procedure (with the notification or within the reply of the notification in a couple of rounds of corresponding).

In the reply to the notification, Hungary usually explains that public participation is compulsory in any transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures in Hungary, which means that documentation in Hungarian language shall be available for the public for commenting in order to ensure equal possibilities. Therefore, we kindly inform

http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Infominal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16__SDG_Mapping.pdf

the Party of origin that the Hungarian procedure can only start with Hungarian documentation (a copy of the draft plan or programme and the relevant Environmental Report). In case the Party of origin will provide these documents only in English or other language, it will definitely prolong the procedure on Hungarian side with the necessary timescale of the translation. After this explanation, usually Parties of origin provide the needed documentation in Hungarian language as well in order to speed up the procedure.

As a recent practice, usually neighbouring countries are already aware of this demand of Hungary (i.e. to announce the full documentation in national language for the public). To speed up the process – which is also a key element of the procedure for the Party of Origin – they provide the documentation in Hungarian.

Theoretically – as it has never happened so far –, when Hungarian documentation is not provided, Hungary is about to agree with the Party of origin to arrange translation shared. In these cases, it is the Ministry for Agriculture of Hungary that should arrange the shared translation of the available documentation to Hungarian.

There is usually only written consultation conducted in the course of the transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedure, therefore no interpretation issue has arisen so far.

(ii) Other issues

- (b) What elements of the environmental report and other documentation does your country usually translate as a Party of origin?

According to the effective legal regulations, the draft plan or programme and the entire Environmental Report need to be translated, and provided to the affected Parties.

- (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):

By public announcement on the website dedicated to transboundary SEA cases, as well as by direct contact with them listed in the national legislation via national contact point. *See link provided in answer to Question II.4.*

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

Usually it is effective both as Party of origin and affected Party; however the number of comments always depends on the topic of the plan or programme.

- (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):

Concluded SEA procedures of Cross Border Cooperation Programmes (5 procedures)

–HU-SK-RO-UA INTERREG NEXT 2021-2027 Programme

SEA procedure with Slovak Republic, Romania, Ukraine,

Place of the Joint Secretary: Budapest, Hungary

– AT-HU INTERREG NEXT 2021-2027 Programme

SEA procedure with Austria,

Place of the Joint Secretary: Vienna, Austria

– HU-SRB INTERREG NEXT 2021-2027 Programme

SEA procedure with Republic of Serbia

Place of the Joint Secretary: Budapest, Hungary

– INTERREG Central Europe Programme
SEA procedure with 14 involved Parties
Place of the Joint Secretary: Vienna, Austria

– INTERREG Europe Programme
SEA procedure with 15 involved Parties
Place of the Joint Secretary: Lille, France

Initiated in 2021 and still ongoing procedures of the Cross Border Cooperation Programmes (2 procedures)

– RO-HU INTERREG NEXT 2021-2027 Programme
SEA procedure with Romania
Place of the Joint Secretary: Bucharest, Romania

– HU-SK INTERREG NEXT 2021-2027 Programme
SEA procedure with Slovak Republic
Place of the Joint Secretary: Budapest, Hungary

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)

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:

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 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
Please indicate when the contribution was provided (year), amount and currency:
- (ii) Individual contribution in 2019
Yes Amount and currency: USD 4,000
No Please explain the reason:
- (iii) Individual contribution in 2020:
Yes Amount and currency: USD 4,000
No Please explain the reason:
- (iv) Individual contribution in 2021:
Yes Amount and currency: USD 4,000
No Please explain the reason:
- (v) Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023
The same contribution is planned for the next intersessional period as well (USD 4,000/year)
- (b) Did your country make *in-kind contributions* in the reporting period?
Yes Please describe how:
Providing a member to the Implementation Committee since 2014
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:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Forestry:	N/A		5	3-5 mths	N/A
Fisheries:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Energy:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Industry including mining:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Transport:	N/A		8	3-5 mths	N/A
Regional development:	N/A		14	3-5 mths	N/A
Waste management:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Water management:	N/A		8	3-5 mths	N/A
Tele-communication:	N/A		5	3-5 mths	N/A
Tourism:	N/A		7	3-5 mths	N/A
Town and country planning:	N/A		6	3-5 mths	N/A
Land use:	N/A		5	3-5 mths	N/A
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:

Column No.1: Total number of procedures cannot be determined without having information on the number of local-level procedures.

Column No.2: see explanation in answer to Question II. 3

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:	N/A		3	3-5 mths	N/A
Industry including mining:					
Transport:	N/A		5	3-5 mths	N/A
Regional development:					
Waste management:	N/A		1	5 mths	N/A
Water management:					
Telecommunication:					
Tourism:	N/A		1	4 mths	N/A
Town and country planning:	N/A		2	3-5 mths	N/A
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:

Column No.1: Total number of procedures cannot be determined without having information on the number of local-level procedures.

Column No.2: see explanation in answer to Question II. 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.