

Questionnaire for the report of ESTONIA on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2019–2021

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Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not its experience in the application of the Convention.

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

Article 1

Definitions

I.1.1. Is the definition of the term “impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (vii)?

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences):

According to the Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (hereinafter referred to as *the Act*), “environmental impact” means any potential direct or indirect effect of a proposed activity or implementation of a strategic planning document on the environment, human health and well-being, cultural heritage or property (§ 2¹).

- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments:

I.1.2. Is the definition of the term “transboundary impact” for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as that contained in article 1 (viii)?

- (a) Yes, the same
- (b) Yes, with some minor differences (please explain the differences):
- (c) No, there are major differences (please explain the differences):
- (d) The term “transboundary impact” is not defined in the legislation

Your comments:

The Act does not include a separate definition of the term “transboundary impact”. It is interpreted based on the terms “environmental impact” and “significant environmental impact” used in the Act (in addition, also supporting guidance documents).

I.1.3. Please specify how the term “major change” is defined in your national legislation:

- (a) It is not defined
- (b) By using thresholds (Please explain: _____)
- (c) By using criteria (Please explain: _____)
- (d) On a case-by-case basis (Please explain: _____)

Your comments:

The Act does not include a separate definition of the term “major change”. The general rule for assessing environmental impact (when applying for the amendment of the development consent) is that the proposed activity (which is the reason for the amendment of the development consent) potentially results in significant environmental impact [§ 3 (1)].

Regarding mandatory EIA (i.e. activities with significant environmental impact), the Act includes provisions which deal with the situation of changing an activity or installation or expanding a building. EIA is mandatory if the change of the activity corresponds to the possible thresholds that have been set in the Act. If EIA is not mandatory, screening is used in relevant case. So the concept of “change in an activity or installation or the expansion of a building” – as the basis for mandatory EIA or screening – is stipulated in the Act (§ 6). This can be considered both as the approach of thresholds and criteria.

I.1.4. How do you identify the public “of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected”? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project
- (b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (c) By other means (please specify):

Also the potential environmental impacts (e.g. significance and extent) of the proposed project can be taken into consideration as the basis.

Your comments:

I.1.5. How do you determine the “significance” of the environmental impact of the activities falling within the scope of the Convention?¹ Please specify (more than one option may apply), providing relevant explanations:

- (a) By establishing threshold levels (please explain E.g. construction of a pipeline for the transport of gas, petroleum or chemicals, with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km, is under mandatory EIA)
- (b) By applying criteria related to the location of proposed activities (please explain E.g. when the proposed project is in the vicinity of a protected natural object – e.g. if the project may potentially significantly and adversely affect the protection purpose of a Natura 2000 site)
- (c) By applying criteria related to the nature of proposed activities (please explain E.g. installation of wind farms in water bodies is under mandatory EIA)
- (d) By applying criteria related to the size of proposed activities (please explain E. g. on land, the construction of a wind farm with more than five windmills with a total capacity of over 7.5 MWth is under screening)
- (e) By applying criteria related to the effects of proposed activities (please explain E.g. detailed list of screening criteria for the decision-maker)
- (f) Other (please explain):
- (g) It is not determined (please explain:)

Your comments:

For proposed activities listed in the Act and in terms of mandatory EIA and screening, various thresholds have been stipulated in the Act and in the related Government of the Republic regulation (screening) – as also described in this question. In case of mandatory EIA: the listed activities are considered as activities with significant environmental impact.

¹ Although the term “significance” is not explicitly defined in the Convention, appendix III thereto provides general criteria to assist in determining the environmental significance of activities not listed in appendix I.

In case of screening: the decision-maker has to carry out screening of whether the proposed activity has significant environmental impact (on the basis of screening criteria which include e.g. the nature and location of the proposed project, potential environmental impacts, etc).

I.1.6. Please clarify whether “cumulative impacts” are taken into account in transboundary procedures under the Convention in your national legislation and, if so, how:

- (a) Yes, the legislation provides for taking into account cumulative impacts:

Please explain:

According to the Act, the EIA programme (i.e. scoping document) and EIA report must contain information on the potential significant environmental impact of the proposed activity and its reasonable alternatives – this also includes relevant information in terms of cumulative impacts (i.e. cumulation of the impact with the impact of other activities). As the Party of origin, the EIA programme and report are sent to the affected Party/Parties which have indicated its intention to participate in the particular EIA procedure. Upon making the decision to grant or refuse to grant development consent, the decision-maker must take into account the results of the EIA and the environmental measures contained in the report. Therefore, cumulative impacts are also taken into account in transboundary procedures. In addition, cumulative impacts are part of screening criteria as well.

- (b) No, the legislation does not provide for taking into account cumulative impacts

Please explain:

Your comments:

Article 2 General provisions

I.2.1. Provide information on legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2 (2)):

- (a) Law on environmental impact assessment (please provide exact title/reference number/year/access link, if any):

Environmental Impact Assessment and Environmental Management System Act (22.02.2005, RT I 2005, 15, 87; access link of the English translation of the Act in force: <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/en/eli/ee/520012015014/consolide/current>)

- (b) Environmental impact assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify and provide title(s) of the related legislation):

- (c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/title/related articles/access links):

Detailed List of Areas of Activity Requiring Consideration of Need for Initiation of Environmental Impact Assessment (Government of the Republic Regulation, 29.08.2005, no. 224)

Detailed requirements for the contents of an environmental impact assessment report (Regulation of Minister of Environment, 1.09.2017, no. 34)

Detailed requirements for the contents of the preliminary estimate (i.e. screening document; Regulation of Minister of Environment, 16.08.2017, no. 31)

- (d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/title/related articles/access links):

- (e) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

The general requirements regarding administrative procedures are stipulated in the Administrative Procedure Act. The specific requirements concerning different development consents (e.g. application, issuing) are mainly stipulated in the respective pieces of

legislation. Of course, the legislation (the Act and the Government of the Republic regulation) has been amended multiple times since the entrance into force.

I.2.2. Is the list of activities referred to in appendix I to the Convention fully transposed into your country's national legislation?

(a) Yes. There is no difference, all activities referred to in appendix I are covered by national legislation

Please elaborate, as needed:

All activities listed in appendix I to the Convention are transposed in the national legislation. However, also additional specifications and/or thresholds have been used. For instance, appendix I of the Convention includes the activity *large-diameter oil and gas pipelines*, in the Act this project category has been specified according to the EIA Directive (*pipelines with a diameter of more than 800 mm and a length of more than 40 km*). See also answer to question I.1.5.

(b) No. Activities covered by national legislation differ slightly from the activities referred to in appendix I Please explain:

(c) No, there are gaps remaining in the list of activities in the national legislation

Please explain:

I.2.3. Indicate the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the environmental impact assessment procedure in your country. Please specify:

(a) There are different authorities at the national, regional and local levels

(b) Authorities are different for domestic and transboundary procedures

(c) Authorities are the same for domestic and transboundary procedures

Please name the authority/authorities and its/their responsibilities:

The decision-maker (i.e. the issuer of development consent) is the authority carrying out the EIA. As different development consents exist, then also the decision-makers vary – this depends on the particular proposed activity (e.g., in case of environmental permits the Estonian Environmental Board is the decision-maker). However, in this context, difference is not made based on domestic and transboundary procedures.

All transboundary impact assessment cases are coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment (e.g. point of contact and focal point; communication with the affected Party/Party of origin; sending/answering to the notifications; etc). For instance, as the Party of origin in a particular case the decision-maker can be the Estonian Environmental Board or the local authority, but the transboundary EIA procedure (i.e. communication with other countries) is coordinated by the Ministry of the Environment. Of course, this requires cooperation between the ministry and the respective decision-maker.

I.2.4. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary environmental impact assessment cases? If so, please name it:

(a) No

(b) Yes

If “Yes”, please clarify the type of information collected and provide access link, if available:

The Ministry of the Environment is the authority that collects relevant information on all the transboundary impact assessment cases (i.e. Estonia as Party of origin and Estonia as an affected Party).

Your comments:

Article 3 Notification

I.3.1. Article 3 (1) states that: “The Party of origin shall notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.” As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Parties?

- (a) During scoping
- (b) When the environmental impact assessment report has been prepared and the domestic procedure has started
- (c) After finishing the domestic procedure
- (d) At other times (please specify):

After initiation of EIA. According to the Act (§ 30), the Ministry of the Environment will send the notification to the affected Party as soon as possible, but not later than when the decision-maker gives notification of initiation of EIA in Estonia.

Your comments:

If the affected Party participates in the procedure, the EIA programme and EIA report are also sent to the affected Party as soon as possible, but not later than when the public display of the documentation commences in Estonia.

I.3.2. Please define the format of notification used in your country:

- (a) Notification is carried out using the tabular form in table 1 of decision I/4 on the format for notification adopted by the Meeting of the Parties at its first session (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 32 and table 1)
- (b) Notification is carried out in the form of a letter containing all information detailed in decision I/4 of the Meeting of the Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 34)
- (c) A combination of (a) and (b) above (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix, para. 35)
- (d) The country has its own format (please attach a copy)
- (e) No official format used

Your comments:

The letter of the Ministry of the Environment is used for notification. The structure of the letter is not fixed by the Act (yet minimum requirements on the content of the notification have been stipulated). However, in practice the notification letter includes the main aspects as the format for notification as decided by the MOP.

I.3.3. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3 (2))? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) Information on the proposed activity, including any available information on its possible transboundary impact (art. 3 (2) (a))
- (b) The nature of the possible decision (art. 3 (2) (b))
- (c) An indication of a reasonable time within which a response is required, taking into account the nature of the proposed activity (art. 3 (2) (c))
- (d) Relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments (art. 3 (5) (a))
- (e) Relevant information on the proposed activity and its possible significant adverse transboundary impact (art. 3 (5) (b))
- (f) Other (please specify):

Also a copy of the developer’s application for the development consent is sent.

Your comments:

Relevant additional information can also be included in the notification, e.g. if it is already available in the beginning of the EIA procedure.

I.3.4. Article 3 (3) requires that “The affected Party shall respond to the Party of origin within the time specified in the notification”. As a Party of origin, please indicate whether your country’s legislative or regulatory framework defines a time frame for response to the notification by the affected Party/ies and, if so, how:

- (a) No, the time frame is not specified in the national legislation
- (b) Yes, the time frame is specified in the national legislation

Please indicate the time frame or its range as per your national legislation, in weeks/days:

According to the Act, the affected Party is given at least 30 days as of the date of receipt of the notification concerning the initiation of EIA to respond to the notification.

- (c) The time frame is determined and agreed with each affected Party on a case-by-case basis

Please indicate the average time frame set on a case-by-case basis, in weeks/days:

Your comments:

Although the minimum time frame is specified in the Act, in practice usually the time frame of 60 days is provided to the affected Parties (i.e. following the principle of the Estonian-Finnish bilateral agreement on transboundary EIA).

I.3.5. Please specify the consequences should a notified affected Party not comply with the time frame for responding to the notification, as required by article 3 (3), and elaborate on the possibilities of extending the deadline:

Your comments:

According to the Act, if the affected Party fails to respond to the notification during the specified term, the respective specifications for EIA in transboundary context do not apply upon assessment of environmental impact.

However, if the answer delays only some days (and if the affected Party also informs us about that), the position of the affected Party is taken into account. Alternatively, a reminder can be sent to the affected Party (e.g. to the point of contact or focal point). So in practice the deadline could be extended (on a bilateral basis), but in this case the Ministry of the Environment should also inform (consult) the respective decision-maker and the developer.

I.3.6. Article 3 (8) states that: “The concerned Parties shall ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of ... the proposed activity”. Which of the following approaches do you use to achieve this goal? Please specify:

- (a) Informing the point of contact for the Convention listed on the Convention website²
- (b) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

The notification is sent to the point of contact and asked that also the comments which might be received from the authorities and the public are transmitted by the specified time.

In addition, for instance in the Estonian-Finnish bilateral agreement it is stipulated that the competent authority of the affected Party shall ensure that the authorities and the

² List available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

public in the areas likely to be affected are provided with possibilities to comment on the proposed activity (i.e. notification and EIA documentation stages).

I.3.7. On what basis does your country, as an affected Party, make the decision to participate (or not) in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure? Please specify:

- (a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for environmental impact assessment decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin
- (b) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities of the affected Party
- (c) Based on the opinion of the competent authorities and of the public of the affected Party
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

As a rule, the Ministry of the Environment carries out a comprehensive consultation procedure (i.e. informing about the submission of the notification by the Party of origin and publication of the received documentation). The opinions of the authorities and non-governmental organizations potentially concerned are asked (i.e. information letters are sent to them). Notice is also given in the official publication *Ametlikud Teadaanded* (i.e. electronic journal *The Official Announcements*).

All in all, the decision is made taking into consideration all the points listed in the question. However, e.g. there may be cases where opinions are not submitted by the authorities and/or the public.

I.3.8. Article 3 (5) (a) states that the Party of origin must provide affected Parties with “relevant information regarding the environmental impact assessment procedure, including an indication of the time schedule for transmittal of comments”.

How does your country, as a Party of origin, determine the time schedule referred to in article 3 (5) (a)? Please specify:

- (a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin
- (b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party/ies
- (c) A combination of (a) and (b) above. Please specify the rules and procedures of the Party of origin and the affected Party/ies that are applied in the combination:
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

As a rule, the rules and procedures of the Party of origin are followed: the national EIA procedure forms also the basis for the transboundary consultations. This is the general established practice. However, in this context also the requirements of the affected Party could be considered (e.g. by taking into account previous experiences e.g. in terms of time frames), where relevant.

Articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2) Public participation

I.3.9. Article 2 (6) of the Convention states that: “The Party of origin shall provide an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected to participate in relevant environmental impact assessment procedures and shall ensure that the opportunity provided to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that provided to the public of the Party of origin.”

How does your country’s environmental impact assessment legislation ensure that equivalent opportunities and rights to participate in the procedure are provided for the public of the affected Party?

- (a) As an affected Party:
- (i) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the Party of origin on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure
 - (ii) Specified in the national legislation as follows:

It is specified in the Act (§ 30) that the Ministry of the Environment must give notice of the publication of the EIA documentation sent by the Party of origin in the manner specified in the Act.

Your comments:

In this context, also the information from the Party of origin can be taken into account (e.g. the time frame of publication in the affected Party can be coordinated with the time frame of publication in the Party of origin). On a case-by-case basis, cooperation with the Party of origin can be done at the beginning of the transboundary procedure (e.g. when planning the procedure in terms of the publication time frames or format of documentation).

- (b) As a Party of origin:
- (i) Not specified in the national legislation; such equivalent opportunities and rights cannot be ensured in the procedure

Please explain:

- (ii) Not specified in the national legislation, but it is determined and agreed with the affected Party on a case-by-case basis at the beginning of the transboundary procedure
- (iii) Specified in the national legislation as follows:

It is specified in the Act (§ 30) that the Ministry of the Environment and the affected Party agree e.g. on informing the public and authorities of the affected Party, so that sufficient time is provided for them for submitting opinions on the EIA programme and report. So the affected Party is also provided with the possibility to react in this context.

Your comments:

As a general comment: there are no criteria limiting the participation of the public in the procedures, i.e. participation is open for all persons regardless e.g. the nationality or citizenship.

I.3.10. How can the public of your country, as an affected Party, express its opinion on the environmental impact assessment documentation of the proposed project further to articles 2 (6), 3 (8) and 4 (2)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By sending comments in writing directly to the competent authority of the Party of origin, or to the ministry responsible for environmental affairs/focal point in the affected Party

- (b) In a territory of the affected Party: by taking part in consultations [on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation] or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered
- (c) In a territory of the Party of origin: by taking part in consultations or a special event, where the opinions of the public are officially registered
- (d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

The common practice is that the competent authority of the affected Party arranges the publication (distribution) of the EIA documentation and the transmittal of comments from the public and the authorities to the Party of origin. In addition to public displays of the EIA documentation, also public hearings can be organized.

Article 4

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.4.1. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the environmental impact assessment documentation in accordance with article 4 (1)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By using appendix II
- (b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (c) By using the comments received from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise
- (e) By using other means (please specify):

The expertise of the licenced EIA leading expert (expert group).

Your comments:

According to the Act (§ 14), environmental impact is assessed or EIA is directed by a person who holds a licence for environmental impact assessment (i.e. EIA leading expert). The EIA documentation (i.e. programme and report) is prepared by the EIA leading expert (or an expert group under the supervision of the EIA leading expert) together with the developer. Also related provisions concerning the expert group and specialists in the EIA are stipulated in the Act.

I.4.2. Article 4 states that: “The environmental impact assessment documentation... shall contain, as a minimum, the information described in appendix II.” What quality control measures are provided for in the legislative or administrative framework of your country, as a Party of origin, to ensure sufficient quality of the documentation? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments
- (b) By using quality checklists based on the requirements listed in appendix II
- (c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms
- (d) Other (please specify):

As described in answer to question I.4.1., the EIA documentation is prepared by the EIA leading expert (expert group) together with the developer.

Your comments:

I.4.3. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II (b)?

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

As described in answer to question I.4.1., the EIA documentation is prepared by the EIA leading expert (expert group) together with the developer.

Your comments:

Reasonable alternatives depend on the particular project and its characteristics. The alternatives should meet the objectives of the project proposed by the developer, but also the “do nothing” alternative is included.

Article 5 Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.5. Does your national environmental impact assessment legislation provide for organizing transboundary consultations between the authorities of the Parties concerned?

- (a) Yes, it is obligatory
- (b) Yes, it is optional (please specify):
- (c) No, it does not have any provision on that

Your comments:

Article 6 Final decision

I.6.1. Please select from the list below the information that your country, as a Party of origin, in accordance with its legislative and administrative framework, should take due account of in the final decision on the proposed activity (art. 6 (1)):

- (a) Conclusions of the environmental impact assessment documentation
- (b) Comments received in accordance with articles 3 (8) and 4 (2)
- (c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5
- (d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations
- (e) Comments received from the affected Party/ies
- (f) Mitigation measures
- (g) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Upon making the decision to grant or refuse to grant development consent, the decision-maker must take into account the results of EIA and the environmental measures contained in the EIA report (§ 24). This includes the results of transboundary EIA if it is the case. In addition to the requirements concerning EIA in the Act, the requirements on the content of different development consents are regulated in the respective pieces of legislation regarding development consents. All in all, in the procedures for issuing development consents due account is taken of the elements listed in the question.

I.6.2. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6 (1))?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No Please explain the differences

Your comments:

I.6.3. According to article 6 (3): If additional information on the significant transboundary impact of a proposed activity, which was not available at the time a decision was made with respect to that activity and which could have materially affected the decision, becomes available to a concerned Party before work on that activity commences, that Party shall immediately inform the other concerned Party or Parties. If one of the concerned Parties so requests, consultations shall be held as to whether the decision needs to be revised.

Is there any regulation in your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6 (3)?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes, by legislation (please specify):
- (c) Yes, by other means (please specify):

Your comments:

The Administrative Procedure Act includes a related general provision that an administrative authority may resume administrative proceedings at the request of a person if, inter alia, new significant evidence in the matter becomes evident that was not available during the administrative proceedings. EIA procedure is part of the procedure for issuing development consent.

I.6.4. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1–22) and major changes thereto require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity in your legislative framework?

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

If “No”, please list those activities listed in appendix I or major changes thereto for which there is no requirement for a final decision. Please explain why those activities/major changes do not require a final decision in your national legislation.

Article 7

Post-project analysis

I.7. Is there any provision regarding implementation of post-project analysis in your national environmental impact assessment legislation (art. 7 (1))?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes Please specify:

Your comments:

According to the Act (§ 20), the EIA report must contain (inter alia) a description of the potential significant environmental impact arising from the proposed activity and its reasonable alternatives, and the relevant environmental measures. Environmental monitoring is included among environmental measures (§ 3³). The specifics regarding environmental monitoring are also stipulated in the relevant pieces of legislation regarding development consents.

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

I.8.1. According to article 8: “The Parties may continue existing or enter into new bilateral or multilateral agreements or other arrangements in order to implement their obligations under this Convention and under any of its protocols to which they are a Party. Such agreements or other arrangements may be based on the elements listed in appendix VI.”

Has your country established any bilateral or multilateral agreements to implement the Convention?

- (a) No
- (b) Yes Please specify with which countries:

Estonia has two bilateral agreements:

– Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Latvia on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary context (1997). Access link (in Estonian): <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/78665>;

– Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of Estonia and the Government of the Republic of Finland on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (2002). Access link (in Estonian and in English): <https://www.riigiteataja.ee/akt/110017>.

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of any such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

Your comments:

I.8.2. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

- (a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned
- (b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements
- (c) Harmonization of the Parties' policies and measures
- (d) Developing, improving and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis
- (e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the environmental impact assessment
- (f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities
- (g) Undertaking joint environmental impact assessment, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies
- (h) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

Institutional and administrative arrangements for carrying out transboundary EIA are the main issues which are covered in the bilateral agreements. The agreements primarily specify the different procedural stages of transboundary EIA and the responsibilities of the parties concerned (e.g. notification, EIA documentation, informing the public, joint EIA, tasks of the joint commissions).

Complimentary information related to legal implementation of the Convention

I.9.1. Please describe how the steps required under your national legislation for carrying out a transboundary procedure are interlinked with a domestic environmental impact assessment procedure in the lead-up to the final decision.

In doing so, please also describe differences between the steps (i.e. screening/scoping, preparation of the environmental impact assessment, consultation, public participation, making a final decision) of a domestic procedure and a transboundary procedure, if any:

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by a schematic flow chart showing these steps.

The conceptual structure of the EIA procedure

(with the summarized specifications for EIA in transboundary context, § 30 of the Act)

Application for a development consent – decision on EIA (mandatory or screening)

- If EIA is initiated and the proposed activity potentially results in significant transboundary impact, the decision-maker must immediately inform the Ministry of the Environment thereof. The Ministry of the Environment will notify, as soon as possible, the affected Party/Parties.

EIA programme stage (scoping)

- Consultations: if the affected Party participates in the EIA procedure, the Ministry of the Environment will forward the EIA programme to the affected Party.

EIA report stage

- Consultations: the Ministry of the Environment will forward the EIA report to the affected Party.

Decision on the development consent (granting or refusal to grant)

- Taking into account of the results of the EIA, including the results of transboundary consultations. If it has been agreed by the concerned Parties, then also the draft development consent is submitted to the affected Party for obtaining an opinion.
- The decision-maker must promptly inform the Ministry of the Environment of granting or refusing to grant the development consent. The Ministry of the Environment will inform the affected Party and will forward the respective decision.

Your comments:

In addition to the main approach (procedure) described above, since 2020 the Act includes a specification for an alternative approach (§ 26¹): the developer may apply for an EIA before the submission of an application for a development consent. However, the procedural stages of the EIA programme and report are the same.

I.9.2. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures for joint cross-border projects, the construction of nuclear power plants and/or their lifetime extension?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
(i) Special provisions: The bilateral agreements include a general provision	(i) Special provisions:	(i) Special provisions:

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
regarding joint EIA – this implies also to joint cross-border projects.	(ii) Informal arrangements: Please explain:	(ii) Informal arrangements: Please explain:
(ii) Informal arrangements: Please explain:		

Your comments:

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021³

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures, as described in part one), whether as a Party of origin or as an affected Party. The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Please therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention and innovative approaches to improving its application.

Part two also focuses on general issues arising from the sixth review of implementation of the Convention (2016–2018)^a and issues that have been identified as priorities by Parties in the 2021–2023 workplan.^b It also addresses the goals of the Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol that requires that the reviews of implementation be adapted, in particular, "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/32.

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

^c ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1, decision VIII/3–IV/3, annex, item II.A.9.

A. List of transboundary procedures initiated during the period 2019–2021

II.1. Please indicate, in the table provided in annex I to the present questionnaire, the total number of transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures initiated in the reporting period in relation to activities listed in appendix I to the Convention and in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party. Please also indicate the number and types of transboundary procedures related to activities not listed in appendix I that your country implemented in the reporting period as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, if any.

Your comments:

During the period 2019–2021, Estonia as Party of origin has notified neighbouring countries regarding seven EIA procedures (the affected Parties participate in four cases). Estonia as (potentially) an affected Party has received seven notifications (participation in two case). So the numbers in the table indicate the overall number of notifications that have been sent or have been received.

II. 2. Please list transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures referred to in question II.1. above using table 1 of annex II to the present questionnaire for procedures in which your country was a Party of origin and table (2) for procedures in which your country was an affected Party.

Your comments:

Concerning table 2 of annex II and the column „Starting date“ (When was the notification received), two dates have been indicated. For instance, “notification received: 22.03.2019(25.03.2019)” – the first date refers to the original date on the Party of origin’s notification, the second date in brackets refers to the date when the notification was registered in the official document management system of the Ministry of the Environment. So the dates

³ Part II of this questionnaire is not considered to be a reporting obligation according to the Convention. Parties are encouraged to share examples of good practice, subject to their capabilities and the availability of relevant data.

when the Party of origin has sent the notification and when the notification has been received/registered may differ. The documents on screening/scoping have been attached to the notifications.

II.3. According to paragraph 10 of decision VIII/5 of the Meeting of the Parties the project lists referred to in question II.2 above and annex II to the present questionnaire are to be posted on the ECE website. Should your country object to this, however, please indicate “Yes” and explain, as relevant:

(a) Yes (my country has an objection the compilation and posting of this information)

Please explain:

(b) No (no objection)

Your comments:

B. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2019–2021

Please share with other Parties your country’s experience of using the Convention in practice. When responding to each of the questions below, please provide one or two practical examples and/or describe your country’s general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others.

II.4. Please provide at least one example of the implementation of the Convention for an activity listed in appendix I to the Convention based on the template contained in annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments:

As an example, the EIA procedure of the Saare Wind Energy OÜ offshore wind farm project has been provided in annex III.

II.5. The Convention does not refer to the translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and to other language-related issues as important prerequisites for providing effective public participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary procedure. As an affected Party, please specify in which language(s) the environmental impact assessment documentation is made available for your own public to ensure effective public participation in transboundary procedures. (You may select several options, as needed):

(a) In the official language(s) of the country Please specify:

(b) Information in English is acceptable

(c) Please list other languages that fulfil the requirements of effective public participation in your country, if applicable:

Your comments

The general established practice is that the Party of origin sends the EIA documentation (full or relevant parts/summary) in English together with a summary in the respective national language – this documentation is made publicly available. In case of less voluminous documentation (particularly in case of EIA programme/scoping/consultation documentation), also the approach is used that in addition to the full documentation in English, also the full documentation in the respective national language is provided by the Party of origin. The approaches described previously are also used by Estonia as the Party of origin.

II.6. What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation of environmental impact assessment documentation and interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities, or during events organized within the public participation procedure, if applicable, and what solutions has it found?

(a) Experience with regard to translation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

(i) As a Party of origin:

Difficulties have not been experienced. According to the Act, the developer covers the expenses related to EIA. Therefore, it is important to draw the developer's attention early on the necessity to provide also the translations of the relevant documentation (including in the respective national language of the participating affected Party/Parties) – this also helps the developer to plan the overall procedure (including with regard to the costs).

(ii) As an affected Party:

Substantial difficulties have not been experienced. However, there can be cases where the summary documentation in the respective national language provided by the Party of origin may seem to be too concise (e.g. when comparing it to the full documentation in English). In this situation, the coordinating authority (the Ministry of the Environment) could arrange the additional translation if needed (this would also require additional time). In this context also the time frame for answering set by the Party of origin must be followed.

As a solution (in terms of translations, time frames and other practicalities): the approach where the Party of origin early/additionally consults the affected Party before the formal submission of the relevant documentation is recommended (if necessary). Furthermore, as a general conclusion and recommendation: communication and cooperation between the concerned Parties is the key to overcome potential difficulties.

(b) Experience with regard to interpretation during consultation meetings with authorities

(i) As a Party of origin:

As regards consultation meetings with authorities (both as a Party of origin or an affected Party), then generally English is the acceptable language for the participants. However, also interpretation could be provided (if needed).

(ii) As an affected Party:

(c) Experience with regard to interpretation during public participation-related events

(i) As a Party of origin:

(ii) As an affected Party:

If a public hearing meeting is planned to be organized (in addition to public display of the relevant documentation), then similarly the developer/Party of origin and the affected Party should early agree on the practicalities (e.g. dates, venue/rooms, what kind of interpretation method will be used, covering of costs, etc).

Practical example: although at a public hearing meeting of an EIA programme interpretation was provided by the developer, the participants preferred to discuss mainly in English. Nevertheless, the aspect of interpretation should be taken into account in organizing such meetings.

Your comments:

II.7. Which Party covers the cost of translation of environmental impact assessment documentation?

(a) As a Party of origin:

The Party of origin covers the cost of translation of the EIA documentation. However, the Party of origin may also send additional documentation (e.g. the reports of studies carried out as part of the EIA) which could be translated by the affected Party.

- (b) As an affected Party:

The Party of origin should cover the cost of translation of the EIA documentation. However, additional translations could also be arranged by the affected Party.

- (c) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

See also answer (comment) to question II.5.

II.8. What parts of the environmental impact assessment documentation does your country usually translate/require to be translated?

- (a) As a Party of origin:

The full EIA documentation or more frequently the relevant parts of the EIA documentation (including the chapter on transboundary impacts) are provided in English and summary documentation (non-technical summary) is provided in the national language of the affected Party/Parties.

- (b) As an affected Party:

The summary documentation (if needed).

Your comments:

In case where only one affected Party is participating in the EIA procedure, also the approach where the full EIA documentation is translated into the respective national language of the affected Party (i.e. without a translation in English) can be used. Practical example: such approach was applied regarding an EIA programme of an offshore wind farm project developed in Estonia (i.e. the full EIA programme was translated into Latvian). If the number of affected Parties is bigger (i.e. different languages), then usually the approach as described above is used.

II.9. Has the issue of translation been addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties?

- (a) Yes Please explain how it has been addressed:

- (b) No

Your comments:

The two bilateral transboundary EIA agreements of Estonia do not include concrete provisions regarding the issue of translation. However, the respective joint commissions have agreed that, as a rule, the EIA documentation in English together with a sufficient summary in the national language of the affected Party should be submitted by the Party of origin.

II.10. As a Party of origin, how and in which language do you usually provide environmental impact assessment documentation to the affected Party?

- (a) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into English

- (b) Selected parts of the documentation are translated in English
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected

The EIA documentation must contain, as a minimum, the information described in Appendix II of the Convention.

- (c) A full set of environmental impact assessment documentation is translated into the affected Party's language

(d) Selected parts of environmental impact assessment documentation are translated into the language of the affected Party
Please specify which parts are translated and how they are selected

The EIA documentation must contain, as a minimum, the information described in Appendix II of the Convention.

(e) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

See also answers to previous questions. Several options can be used in practice, taking into account the specifics of the particular case and also the stage of the EIA procedure.

In case of EIA report, more frequently selected parts of the documentation are translated into English (or into the affected Party's language). The required minimum information must be provided, however, usually more/additional information is included (e.g. the connection of the proposed project with national strategic planning documents).

II. 11. Please indicate how the costs of interpretation during the events organized within the public participation procedure are covered:

(a) By the developer: Please explain:

(b) By the Party of origin alone: Please explain

(c) By the affected Party alone: Please explain

(d) Shared by both Parties concerned upon an agreement:

(e) Please provide details of related agreements and considerations based on which the Parties concerned agreed to share the translation costs:

(f) Other (please specify)

Your comments:

Concerning interpretation, the general expectation is that the developer should cover the related costs. However, this can also be done – on a case by case basis – in cooperation between the developer/Party of origin and the affected Party. Of course, such issues should be agreed early in the procedure (as part of organizing such events).

In a wider context, understandably organizing such events requires cooperation (concerning the practicalities). Practical example: the room for the public hearing meeting of an EIA programme was provided by the Ministry of the Environment, the costs in terms of interpretation were covered by the developer.

II.12. Please describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations referred to in articles 2 (5), 3 (8), 4 (2) and 5 with regard to issues not covered above; for example, with regard to time frames for the duration of public participation and the consultation period and the need for additional information:

(a) As a Party of origin:

(i) Experience with public participation

Substantial difficulties have not been experienced. Estonia as the Party of origin provides to the affected Parties reasonable time frames that are in line with the general practice in the region (or even a bit longer time frames). Usually this means the time frame of at least two months (for answering to the notification and submitting comments regarding the EIA documentation). Thereby difficulties are usually not experienced.

(ii) Experience with consultations under article 5

Substantial difficulties have not been experienced. The same principles as described above should be followed (or adapted on a case by case basis). In addition to the common consultation formats, nowadays also video meetings are used.

- (b) As an affected Party:
- (i) Experience with public participation

Substantial difficulties have not been experienced. However, there can be cases where the time frames provided by the Party of origin might be too short for organizing effective public participation. It should be taken into account that the affected Party also needs some time to organize the publication of the EIA documentation (especially in cases where the documentation is very voluminous). At the same time, if the need for longer time frames/extension of the answering date occurs, then this can be communicated to the Party of origin and if possible, then usually the time frames will be extended to a certain extent.

As a solution, the recommended approach is that the Party of origin early/additionally consults the affected Party before the formal start of the respective stage of the EIA procedure (if necessary), e.g. concerning the planned time frames and the format of the EIA documentation that is going to be submitted. At the same time, where relevant, also the affected Party could early (e.g. at the notification stage) draw attention to the possible issues or aspects that the Party of origin should consider.

- (ii) Experience with consultations under article 5

Substantial difficulties have not been experienced.

Your comments:

II.13. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2019–2021:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

Please list the projects for which post-project analysis was carried out, describing challenges and lessons learned, if any:

Your comments:

II.14. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures in any of the categories of projects indicated below?

<i>Joint cross-border projects</i>	<i>Construction of nuclear power plants</i>	<i>Lifetime extension of nuclear power plants</i>
(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

If “Yes”, please describe what, in your opinion, made it successful, for example, means of cooperation (for example, contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (for example, translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.):

- (a) For joint cross-border projects:
- (b) For construction of nuclear power plants:
- (c) For lifetime extension of nuclear power plants:

You may also wish to describe the example using annex III to the present questionnaire.

Your comments:

II.15. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) for the information of Parties that, in your view, constitute good practice or lessons learned on various topics:

Your comments:

It is good practice when the Party of origin provides time frames which enable the affected Party to organize the public consultation in an effective manner (i.e. enough time is provided for the public and authorities to submit comments). In practice, this might not always be the case and therefore this should still be emphasized. Although this is not new practice, it is also constructive when the Party of origin provides already in the notification stage the (summary) translations of the relevant documentation.

The approach that the Party of origin sends the documentation in electronic format (instead or in addition to hard copies) is widely used in practice. Also the approach is used that the link of the dedicated webpage is sent. In this context, a practical observation: the Party of origin must also ensure that the electronic documentation is correct and can be downloaded from the webpage (so that there are no technical problems).

Concerning the content of EIA documentation, where relevant, it is recommended that the documentation also includes an overview of the feedback received from the affected Party (in the previous stage) and the responses thereto. For instance, if the EIA programme is also sent to the affected Party, the programme could include an overview of the feedback that might have been submitted at the notification stage – this is also reasonable in terms of the public consultation that is going to be organized for the programme. Such practical example is also described in Annex III of the questionnaire.

II.16. The Long-term strategy and the action plan for the Convention and the Protocol⁴ recommends enhancing the use of the networks of national focal points for administrative matters⁵ and points of contact for notification⁶ published on the website of the Convention. Does your country use the networks for contacting the affected Parties' authorities?

- (a) Yes, my country makes use of the networks
- (b) My country is aware of the networks but is not using them

Please explain why, and describe the alternative ways used by your country to identify which competent authority of the affected Party to contact:

Your comments:

Having the networks of national points of contact and focal points for the Convention is very reasonable and useful. Regarding cooperation, for instance in the Baltic Sea subregion the network also works well in practice (e.g. communication between the Parties; helps to solve potential issues quickly; etc). As a practical observation, it should be kept in mind that the contacts on the respective Convention's webpages should be up to date.

II.17. Please specify what quality control measures your country, as a Party of origin, applies to ensure sufficient quality of environmental impact assessment documentation and, in particular, that said documentation contains, as a minimum, information described in appendix II to the Convention.

Your comments:

See answers to questions I.4.1. and I.4.2.

⁴ ECE/MP.EIA/2020/3–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2020/3, item II.A.7.

⁵ List of Focal Points for Administrative Matters, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/focal-points-administrative-matters>.

⁶ List of Points of Contact regarding Notification, available at <https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment/points-contact-regarding-notification>.

II.18. Please specify whether alternatives are assessed in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how. If possible, provide at least one example of such assessment, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, or both

Your comments:

Reasonable alternatives are assessed in the EIA documentation (also the “do nothing” alternative is included). The methods of assessment (comparison of the proposed project and its alternatives) that are being used in practice vary: this depends on the particular project and its characteristics, the likely significant impacts, the particular expert group, the general practice (both national and international) of assessing the impacts of a specific project category, etc.

II.19. Please specify whether the following issues are considered in the environmental impact assessment documentation:

- (a) Biodiversity
- (b) Climate change
- (c) Circular economy
- (d) Sustainable Development Goal implementation
- (e) Smart and sustainable cities
- (f) Sustainable infrastructure
- (g) Renewables
- (h) Other issues not listed above (please specify):

Please provide at least one example of how one of the above-mentioned issues is addressed in the environmental impact assessment documentation:

For instance, wind farms are one project category to which the Convention is often applied. The necessity of wind farm projects are, inter alia, related to climate objectives with the purpose to increase the use of renewable energy sources and the general energy efficiency. So also the relevant issues are considered in the EIA documentation (e.g. the impact of the wind farm to biodiversity).

You may wish to use the template in annex III to the questionnaire.

Your comments:

The issues listed in the question are considered in the EIA documentation, however, this depends on the particular proposed project, the likely significant impacts and the relevance of the issues. For instance, the issues of biodiversity and climate change are usually always included, at the same time in a particular case the issues related to circular economy can also be relevant.

II.20. Please indicate whether, in your country’s practice, cumulative impacts are taken into account during the assessment under the Convention and, if so, how:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes

If “Yes”, please provide at least one example of how cumulative impacts are considered.

For instance, in case of a wind farm project, as part of the EIA cumulative impacts in relation to other relevant existing or planned projects are taken into account (e.g. cumulative impacts of similar projects on biodiversity, in terms of birds and bats and their migration corridors).

Your comments:

II.21. Please indicate whether health issues are taken into account in your country during the assessment under the Convention in practice and, if so, how:

- (a) No
(b) Yes

If “Yes”, please provide at least one example of how health issues are taken into account

For instance, in case of a wind farm project, as part of the EIA health issues like noise and vibration generated by the wind farm are taken into account (e.g. noise calculations).

Your comments:

II.22. Please indicate whether environmental impact assessments implemented in your country can be considered to have contributed to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals and their specific targets:

- (a) No, there is no evidence that environmental impact assessments contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals
(b) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals
(c) Yes, (certain) environmental impact assessments contributed somewhat to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals

If “Yes”, please list the most relevant Sustainable Development Goals⁷ (and their targets) and provide [at least one] example[s] of how environmental impact assessment has contributed to their attainment.

⁷ 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 Sustainable Development Goal targets 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 ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at

According to the Act, the purpose of EIA is, inter alia, to promote sustainable development. So EIA should and also EIA can be considered to have contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, EIA prevents, reduces and mitigates the significant environmental impacts of projects and thereby makes the projects more sustainable – thus contributing to sustainable development. However, the question is can this contribution be considered as “significant” or “somewhat”. Furthermore, also the number and content of the goals need to be taken into account.

In practice, it can be said that EIA mainly helps to contribute to the attainment of the goals directly related to “environmental issues” such as marine and terrestrial ecosystems (e.g. in terms of biodiversity, pollution, etc), climate change, water and health. As these issues are usually taken into account and assessed as part of EIA, therefore also more concrete connections exist in this regard (e.g. protection and sustainable use of ecosystems and species). Furthermore, EIA can contribute to several goals at a time, in a direct or more indirect way (also interconnections exist). However, this depends on the particular proposed project and also on the relationship with the goals (e.g. is it an infrastructure or energy project on land or in water body). In addition, it could be argued that the contribution of EIA to some goals might be rather minor, at the same time in a wider context EIA also helps to increase the general environmental awareness (which is also directly related to the goals).

Your comments:

C. Experience in using the available guidance documents in 2019–2021

IL23. Have you used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

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__Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Guidance on the applicability of the Convention to the lifetime extension of nuclear power plants (ECE/MP.EIA/2020/9)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Good Practice Recommendations on the Application of the Convention to Nuclear Energy-related Activities (ECE/MP.EIA/24)	I use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	
Revised Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context for Central Asian Countries (ECE/MP.EIA/28)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the document <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The document is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The document is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

<i>Title of guidance document</i>	<i>Use of guidance</i>	<i>Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance</i>
Guidance on Notification according to the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/12)	I use it <input type="checkbox"/> I do not use it <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please specify: (i) I am not aware of the guidance <input type="checkbox"/> (ii) The guidance is not relevant <input type="checkbox"/> (iii) The guidance is outdated and needs revision <input type="checkbox"/>	

Your comments:

Although several times the option “I do not use it” has been selected as the answer, then this does not automatically mean that the guidances are outdated or irrelevant (especially in terms of general application and taking into account the number of Parties). In addition, currently the guidances on nuclear energy-related activities/nuclear power plants are not used for their particular purposes. However, these guidances are helpful also in a wider context (e.g. by explaining the requirements of the Convention and providing practical recommendations that can be used also concerning other transboundary cases).

D. Clarity of the Convention

IL24. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either as a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes Please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear:

Your comments:

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

IL25. 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 Protocol and covered both the Convention and the Protocol:

(i) Yes

(ii) No

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

Your comments:

II.26. Through paragraph 4 of decision VII/4–III/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”.⁸ For the period 2021–2023, by paragraph 1 of decision VIII/1–IV/1, 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”.⁹

(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:

Estonia pledged 3 000 EUR for the period 2017–2020 (to be paid in three instalments of 1 000 EUR in 2017, 2018 and 2019). Contributions to the Convention's trust fund: 1 000 EUR in 2017 and 500 EUR in 2018.

(ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency:

Two contributions: 500 EUR and 2 000 EUR.

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:

1 000 EUR

No Please explain the reason:

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

Estonia has pledged 3 000 EUR for the period 2021–2023 (to be paid in three instalments of 1 000 EUR in 2021, 2022 and 2023).

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

Yes Please describe how:

Estonia, as one lead country in the Espoo Baltic Sea subregion for the period 2021–2023, organized the Baltic Sea subregion meeting 11 on 3 November 2021 (as a virtual meeting).

No Please explain the reason

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.27. Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals including wording suggestions) for how this report could be improved.

Annex I and annex II of the questionnaire ask for detailed information concerning the transboundary cases. It could be considered what is the added value of such specific information (dates and statistics), e.g. when comparing it to annex III regarding practical examples of application which contributes to sharing practical solutions and potentially also

⁸ ECE/MP.EIA/23/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/7/Add.1.

⁹ ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1–ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1.

innovative approaches. In addition, the number of cases (both as Party of Origin and affected Party) may vary considerably between the countries.

Also the volume of the questionnaire (number of questions) has increased notably – this could be reviewed.

Annex I

Number of transboundary procedures initiated by your country, as a Party of origin, and participated in, as an affected Party, in the reporting period

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
1.	Crude oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 metric tons or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.		
2. (a)	Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more;		
2. (b)	Nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors, including the dismantling or decommissioning of such power stations or reactors 1/ (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).		2
3. (a)	Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel;		
3. (b)	Installations designed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel; - For the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste; - For the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel; - Solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste; or - Solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site. 		
4.	Major installations for the initial smelting of cast iron and steel and for the production of non-ferrous metals.		
5.	Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20,000 metric tons finished product; for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 metric tons finished product; and for other asbestos utilization of more than 200 metric tons per year.		
6.	Integrated chemical installations.		

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
7. (a)	Construction of motorways, express roads 2/ and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports 3/ with a basic runway length of 2,100 metres or more;	1	1
7. (b)	Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road, would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.		
8.	Large-diameter pipelines for the transport of oil, gas or chemicals.		
9.	Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1,350 metric tons.		
10.(a)	Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of toxic and dangerous wastes;		
10.(b)	Waste-disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 metric tons per day.		
11.	Large dams and reservoirs.		
12.	Groundwater abstraction activities or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water to be abstracted or recharged amounts to 10 million cubic metres or more.		
13.	Pulp, paper and board manufacturing of 200 air-dried metric tons or more per day.		
14.	Major quarries, mining, on-site extraction and processing of metal ores or coal.	3	
15.	Offshore hydrocarbon production. Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 metric tons/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 cubic metres/day in the case of gas.		
16.	Major storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.		
17.	Deforestation of large areas.		
18.(a)	Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded);		
18.(b)	In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 per cent of this flow (transfers of piped drinking water are excluded).		
19.	Wastewater treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent.		

<i>Activities listed in appendix I to the Convention</i>		<i>No. of procedures as a PoO^a</i>	<i>No. of procedures as an AP^b</i>
20.	Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than: - 85 000 places for broilers; - 60 000 places for hens; - 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); - 900 places for sows.		
21.	Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.		
22.	Major installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).	3	4
<i>Activities not listed in appendix I for which your country implemented a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in the reporting period</i>			
1.	[add the activity]		
2.	...		

^a Party of origin.

^b Affected Party.

Annex II

A detailed list of the transboundary procedures in which your party participated as a Party of origin (table 1) and as an affected Party (table 2) in the reporting period

Table 1

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as a Party of origin

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column and feel free to add additional rows as needed

					<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available</i>			
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>	
1. Rail Baltica railway project: section „Pärnu–Estonia/Latvia border“	18.06.2019	Latvia (participates)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure	Date	Date from: to:	Date from: to:	Date	
2. Lagesoo peat extraction site	4.07.2019	Latvia (does not participate)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure					
3. Eesti Energia AS offshore windfarm project in the Gulf of Riga	7.02.2020	Latvia (participates) Lithuania and Finland (do not participate)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure					

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>
		Sweden (no answer)					
4. Tuuletraal OÜ offshore windfarm project in the Gulf of Riga	7.02.2020	Latvia (participates)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure				
		Finland and Sweden (do not participate)					
		Lithuania (no answer)					
5. Kiusumetsa sand quarry	21.05.2020	Latvia (does not participate)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure				
6. Marinova III dolostone quarry	11.06.2020	Russian Federation (no answer)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure				
7. Saare Wind Energy OÜ offshore windfarm project in the west coast of Saare county	9.07.2020	Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden (participate)	After the initiation of the EIA procedure				

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date, if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (date of the notification sent)</i>	<i>Affected Party/ Parties</i>	<i>Timing of the notification</i>	<i>Submission of the environmental report</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any</i>	<i>Public participation, (please also indicate the means, for example, written comments, events organized, etc.) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date of issue, if information is available)</i>
		Finland (does not participate)					

Table 2

Transboundary environmental impact assessment procedures as an affected Party

Please find below an example of expected types of answers in each column, and feel free to add additional rows as needed

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
1. Railway tunnel between Finland and Estonia	Notification received: 22.03.2019 (25.03.2019) Response sent: 7.06.2019	Finland	22.03.2019 (25.03.2019)				

<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>							
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
	(Estonia participates) Stage of the procedure - scoping						
2. Aflandshage offshore windfarm in Øresund, Denmark	Notification received: 18.10.2019 (21.10.2019) Response sent: 7.06.2019 (Estonia does not participate) Stage of the procedure - screening/ scoping	Denmark	18.10.2019 (21.10.2019)				
3. New nuclear power station at Sizewell C, Leiston, Suffolk, England	Notification received: 31.10.2019 (1.11.2019) Response sent: 9.12.2019	United Kingdom	31.10.2019 (1.11.2019)				

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available

Project name	Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification	Party of origin	When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?	Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)	Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)	Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any	Final decision (date when final decision was received)
	(Estonia does not participate) Stage of the procedure - screening						
4. Fortum Power and Heat Oy project to extend Loviisa nuclear power plant's lifetime in the southern Finland	Notification received: 26.08.2020 (28.08.2020) Response sent: 28.10.2020 (Estonia participates) Stage of the procedure - scoping	Finland	26.08.2020 (28.08.2020)				
5. Galatea-Galene offshore windfarm, Sweden	Notification received: 23.09.2020 (25.09.2020) Response sent: 28.10.2020	Sweden	23.09.2020 (25.09.2020)				

<i>Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available</i>							
<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
	(Estonia does not participate) Stage of the procedure - scoping						
6. Kattegatt Syd offshore wind farm, Sweden	Notification received: 24.02.2021 (26.02.2021) Response sent: 22.03.2021 (Estonia does not participate) Stage of the procedure - scoping	Sweden	24.02.2021 (26.02.2021)				
7. Installation and Operation of the Offshore Wind Farm of up to 700 MW Installed Capacity in Lithuania's Marine Territory	Notification received: 9.12.2021 Response sent: 2.02.2022	Lithuania	9.12.2021				

Please use as checkbox for referring to the progress and indicate the date if available

<i>Project name</i>	<i>Starting date (When was the notification received and at which stage of the procedure?) – Date of the response to the notification</i>	<i>Party of origin</i>	<i>When were the documents on screening and scoping received, if available?</i>	<i>Comments to the environmental report (date when comments were provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary consultations between authorities concerned, if any (time frame)</i>	<i>Public participation, indicating the means: for example, written comments, events organized,) if any</i>	<i>Final decision (date when final decision was received)</i>
	(Estonia does not participate) Stage of the procedure - scoping						

Annex III

Template to describe an example of application of a transboundary procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period

Please provide at least one example of application of a transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with the Convention in the reporting period using the template and reflecting on the priorities of the 2021–2023 workplan and the long-term strategy. Should you wish to share more examples, please copy the template, as needed.

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Please provide the following general information about the selected example:

1. Title of the transboundary procedure:

EIA of the Saare Wind Energy OÜ offshore wind farm project in the west coast of Saare county, Estonia

2. Party's role in the procedure and a list and roles of other Parties involved

Party of origin: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affected Party: <input type="checkbox"/>
Affected Party/ies: (please list) Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden	Party/ies of origin: (please list)

3. Duration and period of implementation:

Ongoing EIA procedure. The potentially affected Parties (Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Finland) have been notified in July 2020. The EIA programme has been sent to the affected Parties in April 2021. The EIA programme (scoping) stage has been completed by the developer in 2021: on the basis of the approved EIA programme, the EIA report (documentation) is prepared.

4. Stage(s)/step(s) of the procedure presented in this example:

The entire procedure

Notification (art. 3):

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 4):

Consultations of the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 5 (a)–(c))

Final decision (art. 6):

Post-project analysis (art. 7, if applicable)

Other , please specify: EIA programme stage.

II. BACKGROUND

Please provide a short description of the activity, the context of its development and general information about the environmental impact assessment procedure

The developer Saare Wind Energy OÜ is planning an offshore wind farm with a maximum of 100 wind turbines with a total capacity of up to 1400 MW in the western coast of Saaremaa in the territorial sea and a transmission system until connected to the general electricity system (transmission network). The developer is applying for the development consent named superficies license: the application proceedings of the superficies license and

EIA have been initiated in May 2020. The purpose of the EIA is to assess the environmental impacts that may result from the implementation of the proposed project and its alternatives.

III. PROCEDURE UNDER THE CONVENTION AND ELEMENTS OF GOOD PRACTICE

Please describe, in more detail, using the subsections below, the procedural step(s) considered to represent good practice and then explain why that is.

1. Notification (art. 3):

As described earlier, four potentially affected Parties have been notified. It is common practice that all the countries are provided with the same time frames and in practice Estonia uses the time frame of two months for the affected Parties to answer to the notification. However, it could be argued that this time frame should be applied only with the two countries which Estonia has bilateral agreements (i.e. a concrete requirement in the agreement or the joint commission under the agreement has agreed on such time frame). But this is not the case: the affected Parties are treated equally and the same time frames are provided for all.

As part of the documentation/information that is included to the notification, it is recommended that a more general map of the Party of Origin with the indication of the location of the proposed activity is also attached (e.g., in addition to a detailed map of the proposed activity). This might not always be the case in practice, however, this is reasonable as it gives a more general overview as well (also for the public), e.g. is the proposed activity located near the common borders – this technical recommendation is also followed by Estonia.

Regarding the EIA programme stage, the developer translated the programme in Estonian almost fully into English and also brief summaries in the languages of the three affected Parties (i.e. in Latvian, Lithuanian and Swedish) were provided. Furthermore, the documents also included tables with an overview of the feedback from the affected Parties at the notification stage and the developer's/experts' responses thereto. So this approach can be considered as good practice that also contributes to effective public participation in the affected Parties. The same approach is also planned at the EIA report stage (i.e. overview tables of the feedback from the affected Parties at the EIA programme stage together with the responses will be included in the report). This approach described previously is also used by other countries, however, this might not be the general practice.

2. Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 4):

In addition to the description above regarding the preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation, please indicate the following:

- (a) What alternatives were assessed and presented in the environmental impact assessment documentation?
 - (i) At what level of detail were the alternatives described?
 - (ii) What methods and/or assessment grids were used for the selection of the most reasonable alternative?
- (b) Whether the following issues were covered in the environmental impact assessment documentation and, if so, how:
 - (i) Biodiversity
 - (ii) Climate change
 - (iii) Circular economy
 - (iv) Sustainable Development Goal implementation
 - (v) Smart and sustainable cities

- (vi) Sustainable infrastructure
- (vii) Renewables
- (viii) Other issues not listed above:

3. Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation (art. 5 (a)–(c)):

4. Final decision (art. 6):

5. Post-project analysis (art. 7, if applicable):

IV. LESSONS LEARNED AND ADVICE TO OTHER PARTIES:

1. Please indicate:

Challenges in carrying out the procedure, if any, and how they were tackled

Lessons learned and advice to other Parties:

The lessons learned and good practice recommendations have been described in the previous question.

2. As relevant, please also refer to the contribution of the above application of environmental impact assessment procedure 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 Sustainable Development Goal targets 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 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__Sustainable_Development_Goal_Mapping.pdf.

For instance, the proposed project is related to climate objectives (e.g. as part of the EIA, also the impacts on climate change and local climate impacts are assessed).

**V. ANY OTHER INFORMATION NOT INCLUDED ABOVE
THAT YOU MAY WISH TO SHARE:**
