



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Session 5

## Health in Strategic Environmental Assessment

Thomas B Fischer  
Ben Cave

Second Subregional Workshop on the  
Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment and  
Transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

The 2003 (Kiev) Protocol on  
**Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
states that

“environmental, including health,  
considerations are thoroughly taken into  
account in the development of plans and  
programmes”. (art. 1(a))

+

Provides for “Consultation with  
environmental and health authorities”  
(art.9)

## Guidance and draft documents

2020

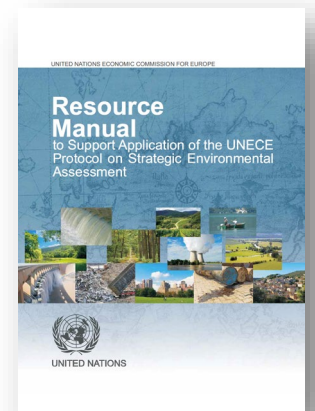


Draft guidance on  
assessing health impacts  
in strategic environmental  
assessment (SEA)

[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG.9\\_2020/Final\\_documents/2004508E.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG.9_2020/Final_documents/2004508E.pdf)

2011

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/resource-manual-support-application-sea-protocol>



Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

# Headline good practice recommendations

- Consider WHO definition of health (use, as appropriate, on a voluntary basis)
- Aim at a good health alignment
- Consider bio-physical environmental and, as appropriate, associated economic and community / social determinants of health
- Use assessment questions based on health objectives
- Be clear about trade-offs
- Build public health capacity and inter-sectoral working

Action implemented by:





Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

According to its article 1, the objective of the Protocol is to provide for *a high level of protection of the environment, including health*.

Appropriate consideration of the overlapping activities of health protection, health promotion, disease prevention and health services.

Action implemented by:

6/28/2022



**THE WORLD BANK**  
BRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

4



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

With regards to, environment, including health, the Protocol's art.7 and annex IV require the inclusion into the environmental report of the relevant

- baseline and its likely evolution;
- characteristics, problems and objectives;
- measures to prevent, reduce or mitigate any significant adverse effects;
- monitoring measures; and
- likely significant transboundary effects

Action implemented by:

6/28/2022



**THE WORLD BANK**  
BRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

5



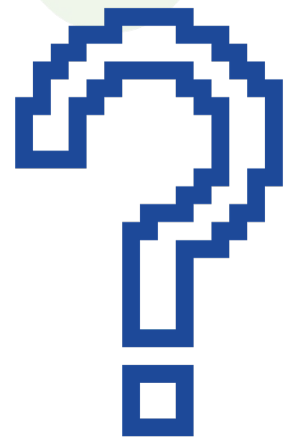
Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Key questions to guide the consideration of health

In the long-term (without short-term detriment), which option is best in terms of:

- Creating (bio-physical) environmental conditions that support good health in people
- Supporting people to lead healthy lifestyles
- Narrowing health inequalities
- Creating safe and cohesive communities
- Increasing socio-economic conditions for good health
- Enabling people to access good quality health care



Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Article 11 (2) of the Protocol requires that, when reaching a decision on a plan or programme, a statement be provided, summarizing how environmental, including health, considerations have been taken into account, including the consultation responses from environmental and health authorities and the public

Action implemented by:

6/28/2022

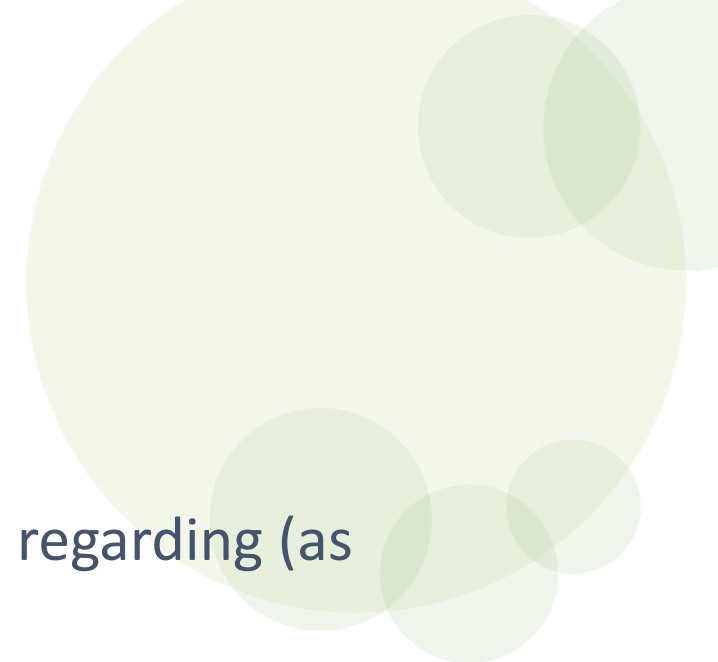


**THE WORLD BANK**  
BRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP

7



Funded by  
the European Union



## Public participation (art. 8)

- early, timely and effective

## Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9) regarding (as appropriate):

- Health protection, health promotion, disease prevention and health services
- Health information systems
- Social participation and health communication
- Preparedness for public health emergencies
- Governance
- Research

## Decision making

Action implemented by:

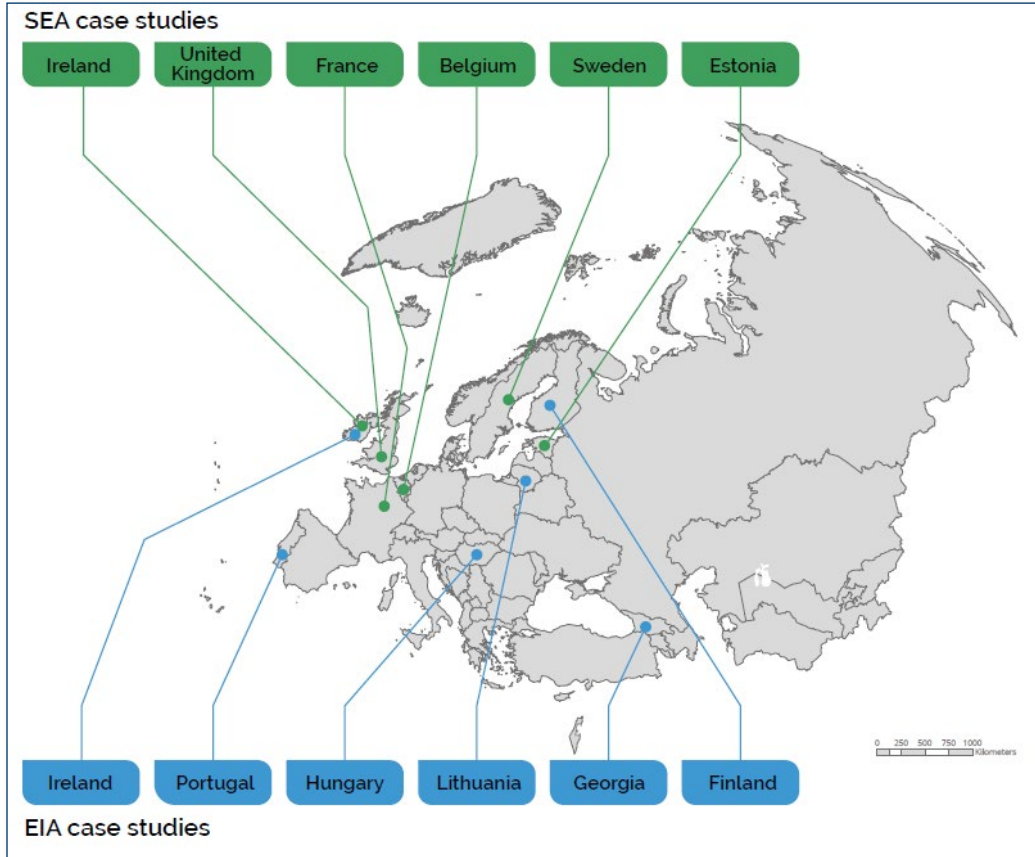




Funded by the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



World Health Organization  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

## Learning from practice

Case studies of health in strategic environmental assessment and environmental impact assessment across the WHO European Region

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL  
Environmental Assessment and Management RESEARCH CENTRE

WHO Collaborating Centre on Health in Impact Assessments

This systematically conducted review of over 333 SEA and EIA cases in the WHO European Region shows that while about 80% of assessments pursue a narrow, biophysical interpretation of health, around 10% consider wider determinants when defining health, and another 10% consider wider determinants of health in the actual assessment.

<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/353810>

Data Source: World Health Organization.  
Map Production: Public Health Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), World Health Organization

Action implemented by:



THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

## The case studies

**SEAs**

Belgium	Estonia	France	Ireland	Sweden	UK

**EIAs**

Finland	Georgia	Hungary	Ireland	Lithuania	Portugal

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

<b>Title of assessment</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Assessment of Põlva municipality master plan - 2017</b>
<b>Country/region</b>	Estonia
<b>Administrative level</b>	Municipal
<b>Assessment level</b>	<b>Plan</b>
<b>Sector</b>	Urban development
<b>Assessment done by</b>	A private sector consultancy
<b>Main health determinants discussed</b>	Radon, air quality, noise, climate change, walking and cycling, social aspects of the green network, recreation and healthy lifestyles
<b>Signatory to Protocol on SEA</b>	21 May 2003
<b>Ratification of Protocol on SEA</b>	<u>12 April 2010</u>
<b>EU ratification of Protocol on SEA</b>	12 November 2008
<b>Protocol on SEA in force</b>	11 July 2010
<b>EU SEA Directive implementation</b>	21 July 2004

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

## An example of health in *Environmental Impact Assessment*

<b>Title of assessment</b>	E60 Highway - 2019
<b>Country/region</b>	Georgia
<b>Administrative level</b>	Municipal
<b>Assessment level</b>	Project
<b>Sector</b>	Transport
<b>Assessment done by</b>	A private sector consultancy
<b>Main health determinants discussed</b>	Air quality, noise, occupational health and safety, worker–community interactions, in-migration, lifestyles and behaviours, health-care resources, community severance, road safety, emergency response times and economic benefits
<b>EU EIA Directive implementation</b>	Not applicable because Georgia is not an EU member state. EIA is required by Georgia’s Environmental Assessment Code (aligned with the EU EIA and SEA Directives, UNECE Protocol on SEA and the Espoo Convention) as well as the Safeguard Policy Statement of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# Questions from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova ...

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Methodologies to assess impacts on human health

- Depends on contextual aspects:
  - Requirements and assessment traditions of a country /region
  - Sector of application (e.g. spatial / land use, transport, energy, waste)
  - Decision tier (i.e. policy, plan or programme)
  - Administrative level (e.g. national, regional, local)
- Institutional capacity to deliver suitable methodologies effectively depends on the skills, resources and time available

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Methodologies to assess impacts on human health

The methods can be

- descriptive : indicator-based, checklists [e.g. health hazards based], impact matrices;
- analytical : scenario analyses, overlay maps, multi-criteria analyses, modelling, analogues / case comparisons, trend analyses, qualitative and quantitative risk assessments, use of causal pathways
- involvement (consultation) based: visioning exercises, workshops and expert surveys, collective expert judgements, surveys of health risk assessments.

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

# Coordination between health and environmental authorities

- Spain
  - Two regions with HIA requirements (Basque country and Andalucía); here health authorities 'naturally' engage with SEA; in other regions (e.g. Catalunya), there is political will, hence co-ordination is wanted and is pushed, with the help of e.g. public health research institutes
- Wales
  - Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) plays pivotal role

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



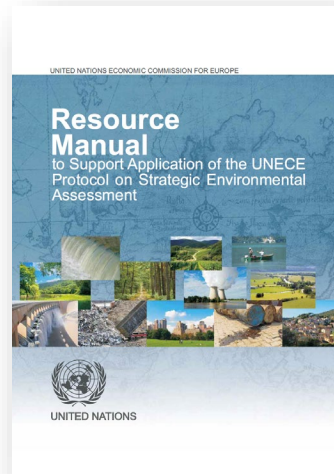


Funded by  
the European Union

## Documents prepared/being prepared under the Protocol on SEA for the assessment of health and involvement of health authorities in SEA

2011

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/publications/resource-manual-support-application-sea-protocol>



2020



Draft guidance on assessing health impacts in strategic environmental assessment (SEA)

[https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG.9\\_2020/Final\\_documents/2004508E.pdf](https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/WG.9_2020/Final_documents/2004508E.pdf)

Action implemented by:



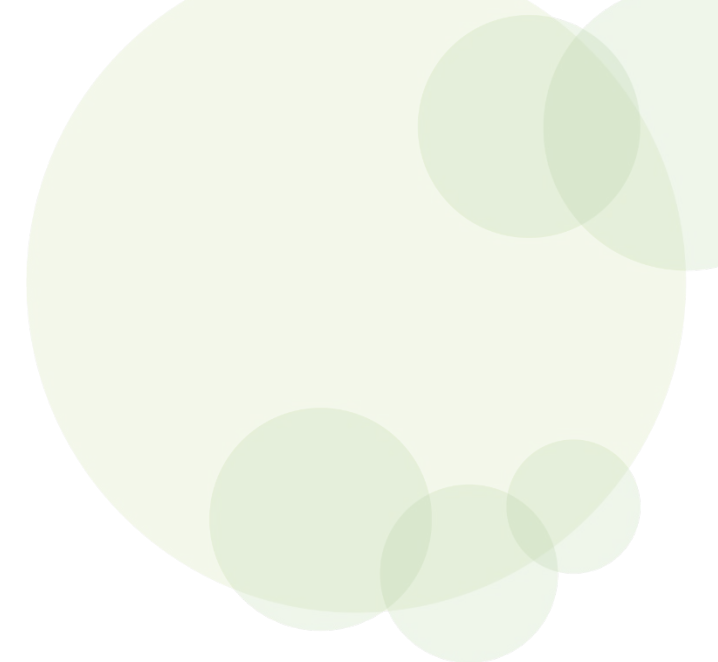
**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP



Funded by  
the European Union

# EU4Environment

Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries



# Thank you!

Action implemented by:



**THE WORLD BANK**  
IBRD • IDA | WORLD BANK GROUP