

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

Information on the focal point for the Protocol

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Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Protocol

In this part, please describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Protocol. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not its experience in the application of, the Protocol.

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

Article 3

General provisions

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

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

Due to Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, the international law applies directly. Due to this fact we are reporting the main legislative measure to all provision:

Zakon o ratifikaciji Protokola o strateški presoji vplivov na okolje h Konvenciji o presoji čezmejnih vplivov na okolje (Official Journal RS – Mednarodne pogodbe, št. 1/10), ang. Act ratifying the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context.
<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1006>

(b) Strategic environmental assessment provisions are transposed into another law/other laws (please specify, providing title/reference number/year/access link, if any): Art. 77 -87of the Environmental Protection Act/ Zakon o varstvu okolja (Official Journal RS, 44/22)
<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8286>

(c) Regulation (please indicate title/reference number/year/access link, if any): Decree laying down the content of environmental report and on detailed procedure for the assessment of the effects on certain plans and programmes on the environment/ Uredba o okoljskem poročilu in podrobnejšem postopku celovite presoje vplivov izvedbe planov na okolje (Official Journal RS, 73/05 in 44/22 – ZVO-2)
<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=NAVO607>

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

Rules on the assessment of the acceptability of effects caused by the execution of plans and activities affecting nature in protected areas/Pravilnik o presoji sprejemljivosti vplivov izvedbe planov in posegov v naravo na varovana območja (Official Journal RS, 130/04, 53/06, 38/10 in 3/11)

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=PRAV5539>

(e) Other (please specify): -

Please explain: -

Article 4

Field of application concerning plans and programmes

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

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

Plans and programmes prepared for:

Agriculture -Yes

Forestry -Yes

Fisheries - Yes

Energy - Yes

Industry including mining - Yes

Transport - Yes

Regional development – Yes, for regional spatial planning.

Waste management Yes

Water management - Yes

Telecommunications - Yes

Tourism Yes

Town and country planning - Yes

Land use - Yes

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

Please explain: Art.77, paragraph 2 Environment Protection Act list plans and programmes, which are subject of SEA, if they are approved by national or local competent authorities.

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

Art 77, paragraph 2 defines that SEA is needed for plans and programmed, which set the framework for future development consent. The activities for which future development consents is needed are defined in Decree on activities affecting the environment that require an environmental impact assessment - Uredba o posegih v okolje, za katere je treba izvesti presojo vplivov na okolje (Official Journal RS, 51/14, 57/15, 26/17, 105/20 in 44/22 – ZVO-2).

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED6527>

Art. 77 of National Protection Act define that if the plan and programme present the framework for activities affecting the environment, which are list in this decree, the SEA is obligated. SEA is also obligated, if there is effect to the biodiversity protected areas (Natura 2000, if it meets the criteria from Rules on the assessment of the acceptability of effects caused by the execution of plans and activities affecting nature in protected areas.

Art. 77 of National Protection Act also open possibility that SEA is proceed for other plans, if the ministry, responsible for environment, find the possible environmental effects on the base of the criteria listed in Art.2 of the Decree on criteria for determining the likely significance of environmental effects of certain plans, programmes or other acts and its modifications in the environmental assessment procedure/ Uredba o merilih za ocenjevanje verjetnosti pomembnejših vplivov izvedbe plana, programa, načrta ali drugega splošnega akta in njegovih sprememb na okolje v postopku celovite presoje vplivov na okolje (Official Journal RS, 9/09 in 44/22 – ZVO-2).

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=URED5016>

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

Art.127 of the Spatial Management Act/ Zakon o urejanju prostora (Official Journal RS,199/21) define the use of detailed local implementation plan.

Art. 128, paragraph 1 define the exemption from SEA for such detailed municipality implementation plans.

<https://www.uradni-list.si/glasilo-uradni-list-rs/vsebina/2021-01-3971/zakon-o-urejanju-prostora-zurep-3>

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

Art. 141 and 142 defines technical improvements of the Spatial management Act as minor modification: <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO8249>

**Article 5
Screening**

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

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

- (a) On a case-by-case basis
- (b) By specifying types of plans and programmes
- (c) By using a combination of (a) and (b) above
- (d) Other (please specify): -

Please explain:

Art. 77 of Environment Protection Acts define the specific types of plans and programmes, which are matter of SEA if:

- plan present the framework for development consent,
has possible effects to Natura 2000 european ecological network,
has other possible significant environmental effects.

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

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

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

Please explain:

Environmental Protection Act, Art. 80, paragraph 2 defines the obligation for consultation with environmental and health authorities in screening. It gives 21 days’ time to the authorities for preparation of written statement.

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

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

No

Yes

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

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

Please explain: Art. 77, paragraph 6 of the Environmental Protection Act define the obligation that the screening decision needs to be published on official web page.

Article 6 Scoping

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

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

Art 78, paragraphs 1 and 2 determine that SEA report needs to include all relevant information and best available knowledge.

Art. 6, paragraph 1-4 of the Decree laying down the content of environmental report and on detailed procedure for the assessment of the effects on certain plans and programmes on the environment define all context of SEA report.

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=NAVO607>

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

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

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

Please explain:

Art. 79 of Environmental Protection Act prescribe Scoping as possible action. It is recommended for more complex plans and programmes. On the base of screening decision, SEA team prepare the information, data and essential substantive areas of SEA report and send to the ministry, responsible for conducting SEA, for its approval. In the case that scoping is started the Art. 79, paragraph prescribes that ministry consults all responsible ministries and organisations, responsible for environment, nature conservation, climate change, natural resources, cultural heritage, landscape and health protection. The consulted authorities are obligated to prepare their written opinion on scoping proposal or propose additional information or data to be considered in SEA report and send it to the ministry, responsible

for conducting SEA in 18 days. After consultation with ministries and organisations, the ministry, responsible for environment confirm the Scoping report or ask for improvements in written letter.

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

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

No

Yes

Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By sending written comments to the relevant authority

(b) By completing a questionnaire

(c) By taking part in a public hearing

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain: Art. 43, paragraph 1-4, of the General Administrative Procedure Act define the possibility for public concerned to be included into any administrative procedure.

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1603>

Article 7 Environmental report

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

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

(a) On a case-by-case basis

(b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify): Spatial management Act

(c) By using a combination of (a) and (b) above

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

Art.94, paragraph 1 of the Spatial management Act prescribes Study of alternatives for national planning acts.

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

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

(a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures that it includes all information required under annex IV as a minimum before making it available for comments

(b) By using quality checklists

(c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms

(d) Other (please specify):

Please explain:

Article 8

Public participation

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

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

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

Please explain:

Art. 15 of the Environment Protection Act defines that all environmental data are public.

Art. 74, paragraph 1-5 define public participation, the way of publishing and 30 days for public comments

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

How do you identify the public concerned? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the plans and programmes
- (b) Based on the environmental effects (significance, extent, accumulation, etc.) of the plans and programmes
- (c) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (d) By other means:

Please explain: Art. 74 of the Environmental Protection Act.

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

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

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

Please explain: Art. 74, paragraph 4

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

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

- (a) No, it is defined on a case-by-case basis
- (b) Yes (please provide the definition): 30 days
- (c) Other (please specify):

Please explain your selection: Art. 74, paragraph 3 of the Environmental Protection Act.

Article 9

Consultation with environmental and health authorities

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

How are the environmental and health authorities identified? Please specify:

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

Please explain: Ministry, responsible for environment consults all responsible ministries and organisations, responsible for environment, nature conservation, climate change, natural resources, cultural heritage, landscape and health protection. The consulted authorities are obligated to prepare their written opinion on scoping proposal or propose additional information or data to be considered in SEA report and send it to the ministry, responsible for SEA in 21 days. They have to be taken into account when preparing the final draft and before the approval of environmental acceptability.

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

How are the arrangements for informing and consulting the environmental and health authorities determined? Please specify:

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

Please explain: Detailed arrangement are prescribed in Art 80 of Environmental Protection Act. All responsible ministries and organisations, responsible for environment, nature conservation, climate change, natural resources, cultural heritage, landscape and health protection needs to be consulted. The consulted authorities are obligated to prepare their written opinion on scoping proposal or propose additional information or data to be considered in SEA report and send it to the ministry, responsible for SEA in 21 days.

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

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

- (a) Yes (please refer to specific provisions and provide citations in order to clarify the issue)

Art. 80, paragraph 3 of the Environmental Protection Act.

- (b) No

Please explain: Art. 80, paragraph 2, Ministry for environment is obligated to consult ministries and organisation within the 21 days.

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

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

Please explain: Art. 80, paragraph 2 defines that written comment needs to be send to the ministry, responsible for the environment.

Art. 80, paragraph 3 prescribes that ministry needs to inform planning authority on comments send by ministries and organisations, responsible for the environment, nature conservation, natural resources, cultural heritage, landscape and public health.

Article 10 Transboundary consultations

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

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

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

Please explain: For the Annex I of the SEA Protocol we inform the affected party as early as possible, in scoping phase, after the information is prepared in such a quality, that it is possible to translate.

Art. 10, paragraph 1, Act ratifying the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1006>

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

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

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

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

Please explain:

Art. 10, paragraph 1, Act ratifying the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. <http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1006>

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

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

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please indicate how long): 30 days

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

Art. 82, paragraph 1, Additional time is proposed for SEA report comment and public consultation, including 30 days for public.

Art. 82, paragraph 3: 60 days for comments.

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

How do the Parties agree on detailed arrangements?

- (a) Following those of the Party of origin
- (b) Following those of the affected Party
- (c) On a case-by-case basis
- (d) In accordance with existing arrangements (for example, bilateral agreement)
- (e) Other (please specify): It is agreed in advance between the focal points taking into account complexity of plan and its transboundary effects and based by SEA Protocol and SEA Directive.

Please explain: Art. 82, paragraph 3 of the Environmental Protection Act.

Article 11 Decision

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

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

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

Please explain: In line with Art. 84 of the Environmental Protection Act, the comments are taken into account, so that they are analysed by SEA report experts and ministries, and written answers are prepared for each of the comment. When the comments recommend additional

mitigation measures, they are discussed and taken into account in the SEA acceptability decision as a condition.

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

How and when do you inform your own public and authorities? Just after issuing the environmental acceptability decision.

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

(b) Other (please specify):

Please explain: Article 85, paragraph 1 of Environmental Protection Act prescribes the obligation for preparation of information about the accepted plan or programme. The plan or programme authority have to inform all ministries and organisations (paragraph 1) and affected party (paragraph 3).

The information from Art. 47(2) must consist of description:

1. how environmental conditions and measures are taken into account,
2. how conditions and opinions from SEA are taken into account,
3. reasoning why certain alternative have been chosen in relation to alternatives,
4. description of environmental monitoring.

The environmental acceptability decision is sent to the affected Party and announced on the web page.

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

(a) Plan or programme:

(b) Statement summarizing how the environmental, including health, considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme, and how the comments received have been taken into account:

(c) The reasons for adopting the plan or programme in the light of the reasonable alternatives considered:

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

(a) By informing the point of contact

(b) By informing the contact person of the ministry responsible for strategic environmental assessment, who then follows the national procedure and informs his/her own authorities and public

(c) By informing all the authorities involved in the assessment and letting them inform their own public

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 12

Monitoring

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

...

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

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

Art. 96 of the Environmental Protection Act defines monitoring of plans and programmes and in Art. 48 set the condition: “If the ministry on the base of environmental monitoring finds out that unpredictable environmental damage appear, the ministry has to inform the planning authority and ask to stop the damage or reduce effects. “

<http://www.pisrs.si/Pis.web/pregledPredpisa?id=ZAKO1545>

Article 13

Policies and legislation

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

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

- (a) Yes (please specify which articles of the Protocol apply):
- (b) No

Part two

Practical application during the period 2019–2021¹

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (a) Yes

It is obligation under the Art. 3 of Governmental decree. "Uredba o okoljskem poročilu in podrobnejšem postopku celovite presoje vplivov izvedbe planov na okolje (Uradni list RS, št. 73/05 in 44/22 – ZVO-2), ang. Decree laying down the content of environmental report and on detailed procedure for the assessment of the effects on certain plans and programmes on the environment."

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

II.2. Does your country's strategic environmental assessment documentation always include specific information on potential transboundary environmental, including health, effects? Please specify:

- (a) Yes

- (b) No, only when potential transboundary effects are identified

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

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

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

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

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

<i>Domestic procedures</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures</i>
(a) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(b) No <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) No <input type="checkbox"/>
If so, please provide the access link to the register: https://www.gov.si teme/celovita-presvoja-vplivov-na-okolje/	If so, please provide the access link to the register: https://www.gov.si teme/cezmejna-presoja-vplivov-na-okolje/

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

<i>Domestic procedures (list provided under question II.3 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>	<i>Transboundary procedures (list provided under question II.4 and link to register referred in question II.5, if provided)</i>
(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input type="checkbox"/> Please explain: (b) No (no objection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(a) Yes (my country has an objection to the compilation and posting of this information) <input type="checkbox"/> Please explain: (b) No (no objection) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

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

(a) Cost effectiveness (no data)

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

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

Please provide your comments:

Benefit is more transparent planning, more focus on environment, supporting development of alternatives, mitigation measures, higher public acceptance.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Screening: Ministry, responsible for environment is consulting health authorities before issuing screening decision. The health authorities have 21-day time for presenting the written opinion. Sometimes the additional in-person or on-line consultation are done, to better integrate the opinion into the screening decision.

2. Scoping: The health authorities are consulted in Scoping stage. (18 days)

3. Environmental report: The health authorities are consulted also in the quality assessment stage, after receiving the SEA report from planning authority. (21 day)

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

Biodiversity

Circular economy

Energy transition

Development cooperation

Smart and sustainable cities

Sustainable infrastructure

Maritime spatial planning

Good practice example:

The name of the plan/programme: Transboundary SEA for Maritime spatial plan of the Republic of Slovenia https://dokumenti-pis.mop.gov.si/javno/veljavni/PPP2192/1/English/MSP_Slovenia.pdf

We present the first Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) which was conducted in 2021 in line with SEA Directive for the Maritime Spatial Plan of Slovenia (MSP). It was prepared based on Directive 2014/89/ EU establishing a framework for maritime spatial planning, the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean and the Slovenian Spatial Management Act (ZUreP-2). The main objectives were sustainable spatial development, maritime activities, and the use of sea resources.

SEA was conducted in multistage consultation process with authorities and public, municipalities and transboundary procedure with Italy and Croatia in less than two years.

The paper is published:

<https://huszpo-konferencija.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/ZBORNIK-SAZETAKA-2022-digitalna-verzija.pdf>

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

Yes, (certain) strategic environmental assessments significantly contributed to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal in specific to 3,6,14, 15. Most contribution were on the field of good quality drinking water, preventing population from the floods and biodiversity goals.

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

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

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

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

- (a) **Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);**
 - (b) **Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);**
 - (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
 - (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)
 - (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
 - (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
 - (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
 - (h) **Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);**
 - (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
 - (j) **Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);**
 - (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
 - (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).
- For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at

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

- (a) No
- (b) Yes :

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

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

- (a) What difficulties has your country experienced and what solutions has it found?
- (i) Translation and interpretation NA
- (ii) Other issues NA
- (b) What elements of the environmental report and other documentation does your country usually translate as a Party of origin?
- Abstract and transboundary chapter
- All SEA report
- (c) As an affected Party, please specify whether and how your country has ensured the participation of the public concerned and the authorities pursuant to article 10 (4):
- (i) No
- (ii) Yes (please indicate how): Authorities are always consulted, and public has the right to comment. Plan and SEA report are always published on the web page.
- (c) What has your country's experience been of the effectiveness of public participation?
- Public is more interested in planning and programming phase. For intensive public involvement, more administrative capacities is needed.
- (e) Does your country have examples of organizing transboundary strategic environmental assessment procedures for joint cross-border plans and programmes?
- (i) No Cross borders plans are consulted on both sides, in both Parties procedures, so there is no need for additional consultation.
- (ii) Yes (please describe): -

D. Experience regarding guidance in 2019–2021

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

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

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

Yes

Yes

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

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

No

Please specify reasons for not using the Good Practice Recommendations:

(i) Lack of awareness about the document

(ii) The document is not relevant

(iii) The document is outdated and needs revision

Your comments and/or suggestions for improving or supplementing the Good Practice Recommendations: Just adding good practice.

No

Please specify reasons for not using the Manual:

(i) Lack of awareness about the document

(ii) The Manual is not relevant

(iii) The Manual is outdated and needs revision

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

E. Contributions to the funding of the workplans

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

(i) Yes

(ii) No

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

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

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

(i) My Government made a multi-year contribution for the period 2017–2020

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

(ii) Individual contribution in 2019

Yes Amount and currency: 3000 USD

No Please explain the reason:

(iii) Individual contribution in 2020:

Yes Amount and currency: 3000 USD

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

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

No Please explain the reason:

(iv) Individual contribution in 2021:

Yes Amount and currency: 3000 USD

No Please explain the reason:

(v) Please indicate any plans of your country to contribute for the period 2021–2023: 3000 USD

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

Yes Please describe how: Contribution on the workshop good practice in transboundary cooperation for SEA for maritime spatial planning

No Please explain the reason

F. Suggested improvements to the report

II.16. Please provide suggestions for how this report could be improved: No suggestion. We would prefer that Q are the same for longer period. Changing Q each period does not help in better implementation.

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

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Agriculture:	1		1	2	
Forestry:					
Fisheries:					
Energy:	1			1	
Industry including mining:	1			1	
Transport:	4			4	
Regional development:	0				
Waste management:	0				
Water management:	1			1	
Telecommunication:	0				
Tourism:	0				
Town and country planning:	80				
Land use:	100				
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):					

* The information provided constitutes:

Statistical data

Estimates

** Once the need for strategic environmental assessment is determined

Your comments:

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

<i>Sector</i>	<i>Total number or an estimate*</i>	<i>Number of local-level procedures</i>	<i>Number of national-level procedures</i>	<i>Estimated average duration of the procedure,** months, if available</i>	<i>Average costs (also as percentage of the total costs for preparation of a plan/programme), euros and (percentage), if available</i>
Agriculture:	00				No data
Forestry:	00				
Fisheries:	00				
Energy:	2		2	24	No data
Industry including mining:	00				
Transport:	1			1	
Regional development:	00				
Waste management:	00				
Water management:	1			1	
Telecommunication:	00				
Tourism:	00				
Town and country planning:	00				
Land use:	00				
Other, including those falling under article 4 (3)–(4):	00				

Annex III

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

I. General information

1. Title of plan/programme Maritim Spatial Plan
2. Authority responsible for the plan's/programme's development: Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning, Spatial planning Directorate
3. Nature of the related strategic environmental assessment procedure:

(a) Domestic

(b) Transboundary

4. Please indicate which stage(s)/step(s) of the strategic environmental assessment procedure is/are considered to represent good practice:

The entire procedure

Screening (art. 5)

Scoping (art. 6)

Environmental report (art. 7)

Public participation (art. 8)

Consultation with environmental and health authorities (art. 9)

Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

Decision (art. 11)

Monitoring (art. 12)

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

Biodiversity

Circular economy

Development cooperation

Energy transition

Smart and sustainable cities

Sustainable infrastructure

II. Background

Please provide a short description of the plan/programme, the context of its development and general information about the strategic environmental assessment (already on web page of Espoo convention)

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

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

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

SEA, Maritime spatial planning, port activities

III. 2. Screening (art. 5)

Screening: biodiversity, water quality, bathing waters, Natura 2000, cultural heritage.

III. 3. Scoping (art. 6)

Scoping was prepared by proponent, all ministries and organisations participated.

III.4. Environmental report (art. 7)

The quality was assessed by the ministry, responsible for environment and all ministries and organisation and two times improved, so all confirmed the quality.

III.5. Public participation (art. 8)

Public participation was active, presentations were given among municipalities.

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

Consultations were effective, the most active consultation was with nature conservation and cultural heritage. Ministries and organisations send the opinions on time.

III.7. Transboundary consultations (art. 10)

Transboundary consultation with Italy and Croatia, was done by post in written form. The documents were translated to Croatian language and to English.

III.8. Decision (art. 11)

Decision together with adopted plan was published and sent to all Parties involved in the SEA procedure and transboundary.

III.9. Monitoring (art. 12)

Monitoring was proposed, discussed and accepted.

IV. Lessons learned and advice to other parties:

- Consult neighbouring countries as soon as possible.
- Prepare transparent evaluation matrix to present evaluation in SEA Report to the ministries and organisations and public.
- In complex plan the recommended consultations method is written opinion and consultation on proposed measures with all ministries and organisations involved.
- The quality of SEA Report is essential to have short procedure (1,5 year).
- The SEA report should be prepared by interdisciplinary team, with very skilled and experienced experts.

IV.1. Please indicate:

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

Challenge was administrative capacities of all ministries and organisations involved and very complex management of the SEA process.

- (b) Lessons learned :

Good scoping with different authorities involved is important for quality of SEA Report.

It is important to give enough time for public participation, and extend timing, if needed.

SEA Report translation quality is essential for bilateral understanding and technical consultation.

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

SEA for maritime spatial plan contributed to:

- (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).

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

- (a) Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (targets 3.9 and 3.d);
 - (b) Sustainable Development Goal 6 – Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (targets 6.3, 6.5–6.6 and 6.a–6.b);
 - (c) Sustainable Development Goal 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (targets 7.2 and 7.a);
 - (d) Sustainable Development Goal 8 – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (target 8.4)
 - (e) Sustainable Development Goal 9 – Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation (targets 9.1 and 9.4);
 - (f) Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (targets 11.3–11.4, 11.6 and 11.a–11.b);
 - (g) Sustainable Development Goal 12 – Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (targets 12.2 and 12.4–12.5);
 - (h) Sustainable Development Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (targets 13.1–13.3);
 - (i) Sustainable Development Goal 14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development (target 14.1);
 - (j) Sustainable Development Goal 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (targets 15.1 and 15.4);
 - (k) Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (targets 16.6–16.7 and 16.10);
 - (l) Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (targets 17.13 and 17.16–17.17).
- For more details see informal document ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2016/5/INF.16, available at http://staging2.unece.org.net4all.ch/fileadmin/DAM/env/cia/documents/WG2.5_April2016/Informal_document_16_ece.mp.eia.wg.2.2016.INF.16_SDG_Mapping.pdf.

