

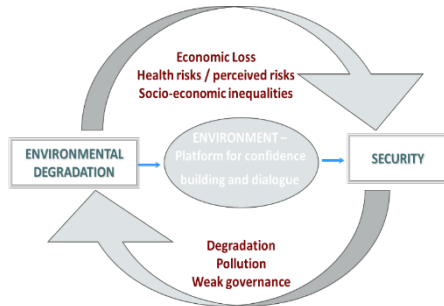
# OSCE cooperation activities in support of EIA/SEA

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*1<sup>st</sup> Subregional Meeting on Environmental Assessments in a  
Transboundary Context - Mediterranean Sea  
(Rome, 28-29 May 2024)*

# What is the OSCE

- The **Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe** is the world's largest regional security organization
- The OSCE has a comprehensive approach to security encompassing **three dimensions**
- **57 participating States (\*)**
- **13 Field operations** in South- Eastern Europe, Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia



## Economic-Environmental Dimension

Key Objective: Enhanced security and stability through international co-operation on economic and environmental issues

*(\*) +6 Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation: Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia*



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# Good Environmental Governance

Good Environmental Governance has been part of the OSCE political commitments starting from the **1975 Helsinki Final Act**. Several other key documents explicitly refers to good governance in environmental matters



Close co-operation with governmental authorities, UNECE, UNEP, UNDP, international organizations, civil society, NGO, the business community and others.

Support the pSs in the implementation of **Multilateral Environmental Agreements** (Water Convention, Espoo Convention, Aarhus Convention...)



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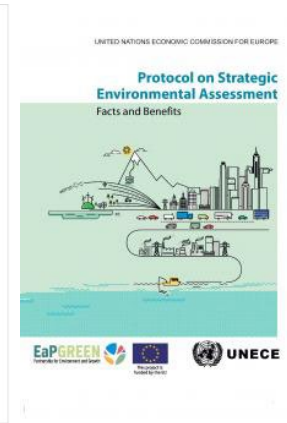
# The Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA

## *UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment*

The UNECE Espoo Convention was negotiated in late 1980s, adopted and signed in Espoo (Finland) in 1991.

It entered into force in 1997 with 16 Parties, currently it has **45 Parties**

**Key principles:** the Parties shall take all appropriate and effective measures to prevent, reduce and control **adverse transboundary environmental impact** from proposed activities; EIA prior to a decision to authorize or undertake a proposed activity



The Protocol on **Strategic Environmental Assessment** widens the scope of the Espoo Convention by ensuring that individual Parties analyse the environmental effects of proposed plans, programmes and strategic actions at the earliest stages and integrate the findings into decision-making



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# Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA

## Selected elements in pictures

Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context



- Set of drawings in a cartoon style aimed to illustrate the **spirit of the Convention and its Protocol**
- Raising **awareness** on key areas of their applications and basic obligations
- Explanation of **functioning and benefits**

[www.osce.org/occea/488110](http://www.osce.org/occea/488110)

*Available in English, Russian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, Tajik, Uzbek, and Turkmen languages*



# Publication and video on the “Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)”



The brochure:

- **Introduces the SEA procedure** as set out in the Protocol with reference to its provisions.
- Presents **benefits** of SEA while **rectifying misconceptions** regarding this procedure.
- Provides background information on the origins of SEA, and **practical examples** of the implementation of SEA.

The video:

- is a short and visually attractive introduction to SEA as outlined in the UNECE Protocol on SEA. The video presents SEA process, its benefits and its potential as a **tool for greening economies**



*The material is available in English, Russian, Kazakh, Tajik, Uzbek and Turkmen languages*

# Activities in South-Eastern Europe



- **Consultative meetings** on EIA and SEA in South-Eastern Europe (Vienna, Dec. 2021 and Dec. 2023)
- Participation of National Focal Points from the countries interested by the **Bucharest Agreement**



**Action plan** to support effective application of transboundary EIA and SEA procedures in the South-Eastern European countries (updated May 2024)



**Tips & Tools** for effective transboundary Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment

# The Aarhus Centres network

*“..new institutions, such as the “Aarhus Centres” established in several countries, have been created to realize its goals.”*  
UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan’s welcoming message to the II MoP of the Aarhus Convention in Almaty (2005)



Since 2002, the **Aarhus Centres assist governments** in fulfilling the requirements of the UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and **assist the citizens** in understanding and exercising their rights

50+ Aarhus Centres in:

- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan
- Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine
- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia
- Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, North Macedonia

<https://aarhus.osce.org>



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# Establishment of MEPIELAN Aarhus Centre

*MEPIELAN: Mediterranean Programme for International Environmental Law and Negotiation (Athens, Greece)*

Purpose: *To promote and effectively implement the Aarhus Convention regime at national and regional (Mediterranean) level, and, at the same time, to foster innovation in fiduciary governance of sustainability at all levels through building participatory democracy for environment and energy, in order to effectively and comprehensively protect the continuity of interests of present and future generations*



- Operationally linked to the **Aarhus Centres Network** coordinated by the **OSCE**
- Cooperates with **UNECE Aarhus Convention Secretariat** to bolster the implementation of the Convention
- Works with the **UNEP/MAP Secretariat** to advance Aarhus Convention in the Mediterranean and further contribute to the “Mediterranean Accession Agenda to the Aarhus Convention”



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# THANK YOU

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