

# Activities under the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA

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# Latest activities on cooperation in marine regions



- Organization of **subregional meetings to promote cross-country exchange** on topics of interest for the Parties
- **Feasibility study** to:
  - A. Map out synergies between Espoo Convention and its Protocol and other regional sea conventions
  - B. Identify benefits for possible future cooperation activities between the Espoo Convention and its Protocol and other regional sea conventions
- **Joint technical meetings** with Parties and regional seas conventions' secretariats to discuss and develop feasibility study
- **Final report** with identified synergies and a **vision for “way forward”** and its benefits
- Collection of case studies on **good practices** (in progress)



## Focus areas for future cooperation and further implementation steps

- **Information sharing** – e.g. joint organization of meetings to develop robust networks for improving informal exchange of information
- Collection and dissemination **of good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas** – Parties encouraged to provide examples and make use of good practice recommendations
- **Strengthening implementation of existing EA provisions** under relevant regional sea treaties – reviews of implementation may highlight areas where assistance can be useful.  
Compliance/implementation committees can exchange experience

# Focus areas for future cooperation and further implementation steps



- **Pilot projects** – legislative assistance, awareness raising, trust- building between countries
- **Specific activities on cumulative impacts** – e.g. analysis of baseline trends, regional or sub-regional scale assessments
- **Long-term coordination/cooperation opportunities** – coordination between Espoo Convention Parties and Parties to regional sea conventions, harmonization of procedures and assessment methods

# Decision of the Meetings of the Parties on cooperation in marine regions, December 2023



- **Welcomed past activities** - report and case studies illustrating good practice and lessons learned in the application of the Convention and the Protocol
- Agreed to include in 2024-2026 selected activities on cooperation in marine regions
- Requested the Bureau and the WG to recommend possible further activities for the workplan of 2027-2029
- Affirmed importance of **coordinated international cooperation** among countries, partner organizations, ECE and other MEAs, international financial institutions within and beyond the ECE region
- Called on Parties to promote **effective and coordinated application of the provisions of the Convention and the Protocol** to plans and programmes, as well as, to the extent appropriate, to policies and legislation that may have an impact on marine regions, including in the framework of regional sea conventions and regional commissions

# Decision of the Meetings of the Parties on cooperation in marine regions, December 2023



- Encouraged States not yet Parties to the Convention and the Protocol to **implement their principles** and, as relevant, take steps towards accession
- Invited United Nations organizations and other relevant intergovernmental, as well as non-governmental organizations, to continue to facilitate the application of the principles of Convention and the Protocol in marine regions
- Encouraged **international financial institutions and bilateral aid agencies** to ensure that their environmental assessment procedures are consistent with the Convention and the Protocol, in relation to their strategic planning and to investment projects affecting the marine environment

## Future activities for 2024-2026



- **Baltic region** – organize up to 3 subregional meetings on cooperation on the Convention and the Protocol on topics of interest for the Parties. Representatives of regional sea conventions can be invited
- **Mediterranean region** – organize up to 3 subregional meetings on cooperation on the Convention and the Protocol to informally exchange information about forthcoming or ongoing transboundary EIAs and SEA procedures of projects, plans and programmes related to the Mediterranean Sea and coastal areas – discuss topics of interest for the Parties

➤ We are today at our first one!



## Future activities for 2024-2026



- **Marine regions** – enhance synergies and coordination with relevant activities of regional sea conventions and bodies:
  - At national level
  - Bilaterally
  - During relevant meetings and activities
- Create a dedicated **webpage** on the ECE treaty websites with links to the websites of relevant regional sea conventions and to relevant information on cooperation in marine regions
- Prepare **fact sheets** describing good practices in the application of the Convention and the Protocol in marine and coastal areas
- Provision of **legislative assistance** or capacity-building support to beneficiary countries, as required, to align legislation and practice with the Convention and the Protocol, including **pilot projects**

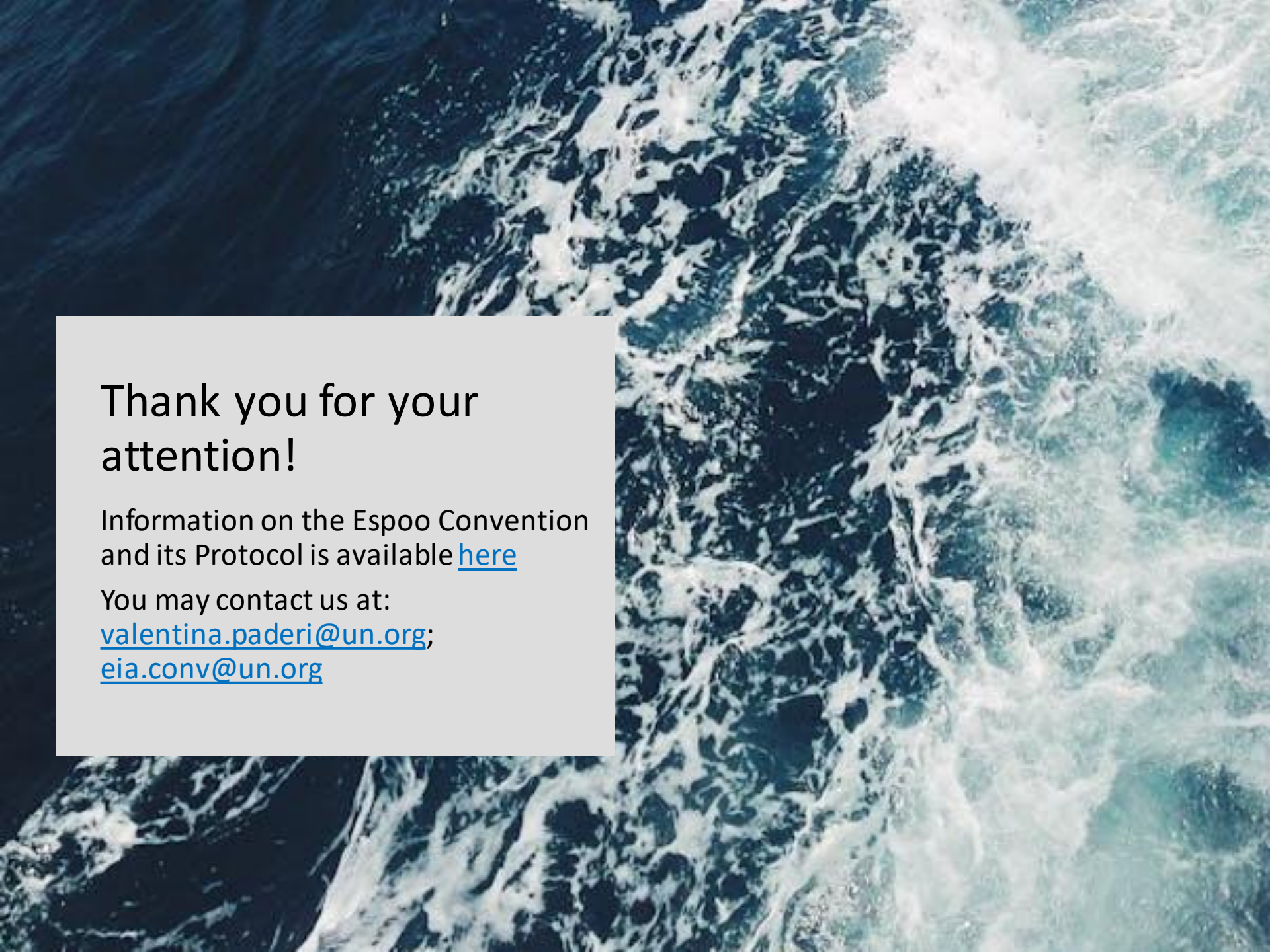


# Future activities for 2024-2026 – capacity building



Strengthen links between Parties' relevant bilateral capacity-building and awareness-raising activities (e.g. assistance by Parties' environmental and development agencies in ECE region and beyond) with activities such as:

- **Pilot implementation of SEA or transboundary EIA procedures** to a plan or project to be identified by the beneficiary countries – hands-on learning for implementing those procedures, with built-in training
- **Training** (including train the trainers) workshops on practical treaty application
- National events to **raise awareness** of sectoral authorities and other relevant actors on the need for and benefits of effective implementation of SEA or transboundary EIA legislation
- **National issue-or sector-specific guidance**

An aerial photograph showing the white, frothy wake of a ship moving through dark blue ocean water. The wake is a prominent, turbulent trail of white foam that tapers off into the distance.

Thank you for your  
attention!

Information on the Espoo Convention  
and its Protocol is available [here](#)

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