



# Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

## Subregional cooperation and capacity-building

Working Group on EIA and SEA, 11th meeting  
Geneva, 19-21 December 2022

Jiří Dusík and Daniela Addis  
Support team to the Espoo Convention Secretariat



**UNECE**

# Draft Assessment Report on identifying synergies and possible future cooperation activities in marine regions

## Assessment Report



(a) Initially evaluates the coherence of the RSCs' environmental assessment provisions and practice with the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol

(b) Identifies selected provisions and recommendations of relevance developed under the respective RSCs coherent with the Espoo Convention and the SEA Protocol, including more details and/or good practice elements (see Annex)

(d) Proposes further implementation steps and key items to be discussed

(c) Specifies information gaps, development needs and proposes focus areas and activities for future cooperation

You are invited to comment on the draft assessment report and provide advice on its further development, focusing on the proposed possible cooperation activities in marine regions for the period 2024–2026 and beyond, indicating priorities, proposing further activities and volunteering to contribute to and/or fund their implementation; to indicate relevant experience that could be included in the collection of case studies.



#### **IV. FOCUS AREAS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION AND FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION STEPS**

- 1. Information-sharing**
- 2. Collection and dissemination of good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas**
- 3. Strengthening implementation of existing environmental assessment provisions under the relevant regional sea treaties**
- 4. Pilot projects**
- 5. Information sharing on the potential for cumulative impacts**
- 6. Long-term coordination/cooperation opportunities**

# 1. Information-sharing

## EIA and SEA



- a) sharing relevant information and meeting invitations for further dissemination to the relevant networks of Parties and stakeholders under the respective instruments
- b) UNECE secretariat creates a dedicated page on its website; the RSCs/bodies secretariats provide a link to that webpage from their respective websites
- c) coordination and sharing information on the application and effectiveness of TbEIA or SEA in marine regions nationally and internationally
- d) Regular meetings between the Espoo Contact Points in the respective marine regions: e.g. as currently done in the Baltic Sea Subregion
- e) RSC/Bodies organizing additional events/discussions within their future activities and meetings to explore the application of TbEIA or SEA
- f) establishing voluntary/informal practical arrangements to (voluntarily) inform the concerned RSC secretariats/bodies of any relevant TbEIA or SEA conducted in their respective marine regions

## 2. Collection and dissemination of good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas

### EIA and SEA



- a) providing information on examples illustrating good environmental assessment practices in marine and coastal areas in the application of EIA and SEA provisions
- b) making use of the good practice recommendations and guidelines developed under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol, RSC and/or EU or UNECE system to strengthen the consideration of coastal and marine environmental protection in the relevant environmental assessment processes

### 3. Strengthening implementation of existing EA provisions under the relevant RSC

#### EIA and SEA



- a) RSC/bodies periodically critically evaluate the implementation of their relevant provisions related to TbEIA and SEA and identify areas for further improvements and/or assistance
- b) exchanging experience on compliance matters related to TbEIA or SEA through the participation of the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Implementation Committee of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol to a meeting of the corresponding bodies under the RSC that address compliance/implementation of their relevant provisions
- c) establishing bilateral and/or multilateral cooperation arrangements between the Espoo Convention parties and non-parties for the application of to TbEIA or SEA
- d) providing Parties with legislative assistance or capacity-building support for strengthening/aligning national regulatory frameworks with the respective treaty obligations on TbEIA or SEA and supporting their practical implementation

## 4. Transboundary EIA or SEA pilot projects in marine regions

### EIA and SEA



- a) Pilot transboundary projects to facilitate engagement and to help to build trust between the concerned countries, in particular in the following fields:
  - maritime/marine spatial plans (on country or sub-regional levels, e.g., Western Mediterranean)
  - offshore hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation
  - offshore renewable energy
  - pipelines and high-voltage power-lines
  - LNG terminals
  
- b) Pilot projects implemented subject to the availability of resources or conducted via bilateral donor arrangements and be facilitated by the Espoo Convention secretariat

## 5. Information sharing on the potential for cumulative impacts

### EIA and SEA



- a) Parties and relevant intergovernmental mechanisms under RSC/bodies identify the emerging cumulative impacts and cross-border issues through:
- regional or sub-regional scale assessments exploring the potential cumulative effects of the planned development of offshore renewable energy resources
  - analyses of evolving baseline trends and impacts of development projections under the business-as-usual scenarios in the relevant assessment reports that the RSC/bodies prepare



## 6. Long-term coordination/cooperation opportunities

### EIA and SEA



- a) Coordination among Parties to the RSC/bodies and to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol in developing approaches for the assessment of the potentially significant adverse impacts (of plans, programmes, or activities) on the marine environment
- b) Exploring options for the harmonisation of procedures and assessment methods, sharing information on marine environmental policy innovations that may be relevant for EA



# CASE STUDIES



**UNECE**

# EIA studies template

## EIA and SEA



### BACKGROUND

#### PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESPOO CONVENTION

- (a) EIA procedure and determination of the likely significant adverse transboundary impact (article 2(2), 2(5), Appendix I and Appendix III)
- (b) Notification of affected Parties (articles 2(4) and 3)
- (c) EIA Documentation (articles 4, 2 (11) and appendix II)
- (d) Consultations with affected Parties (article 5)
- (e) Public Participation (articles 2(6), 3(8), 4(2))
- (f) Final Decision on the proposed activity (article 6)
- (g) Post-project analysis (article 7 and Appendix 7)

#### BENEFITS OR INTERESTING FEATURES

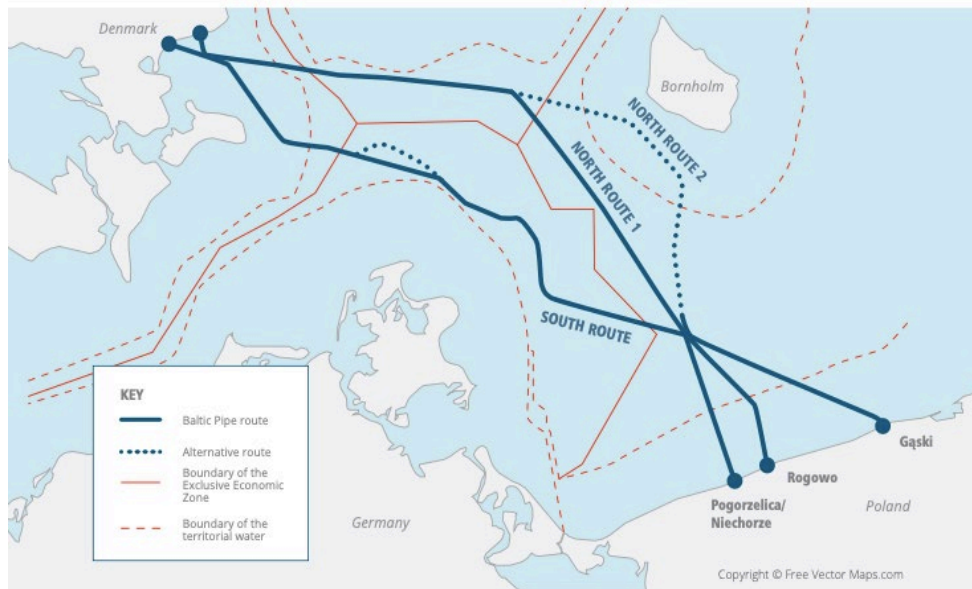
#### USEFUL LINKS

# EIA Case studies

## EIA and SEA



### BALTIC PIPE



Schematic overview map. Source: GAZ-SYSTEM

### SAARE WIND ENERGY OFFSHORE WIND FARM IN ESTONIA



# SEA studies template

## EIA and SEA



## BACKGROUND

### PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESPOO CONVENTION

- (a) SEA procedure used (article 4) and screening (article 5)
- (b) Scoping (article 6)
- (c) Environmental report (article 7, annex IV)
- (d) Public Participation (article 8) and consultation with environmental and health authorities (article 9)
- (e) Transboundary consultations (article 10)
- (f) Decision (article 11)
- (g) Monitoring (article 12)

## BENEFITS OR INTERESTING FEATURES

## USEFUL LINKS

# SEA Case studies

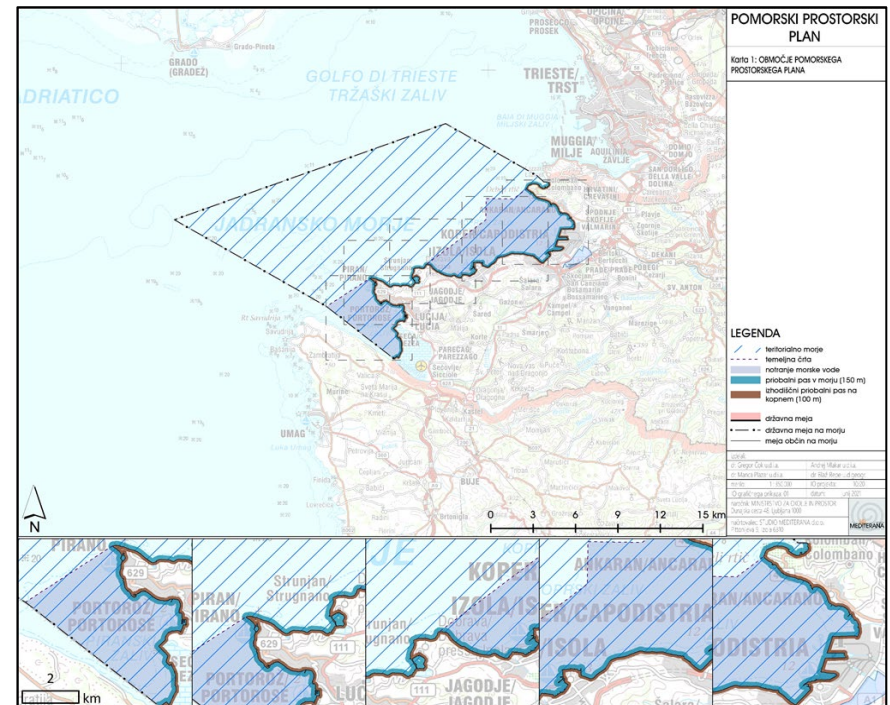
## EIA and SEA



### Maritime Spatial Plans of Polish Sea Areas



### Maritime Spatial Plans of Slovenia





# NEXT STEPS



**UNECE**

# Determining priority activities

## EIA and SEA



RSC Secretariats asked to indicate:

- any specific focus areas and activities for potential future cooperation
- if they could be supported through any already planned or approved activity under their workplans
- if they intend to elaborate any proposals for the potential future cooperation activity(ies) that could be considered either within their future workplans or during the elaboration of the workplan of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol for 2024-2026

It would be useful to have the same information from the Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol:

- Indicate priorities,
- Propose specific activities, and
- If they could implement them and/or support their implementation



# Suggestions for priority activities from the RSCs

## EIA and SEA



Example – OSPAR Secretariat:

ICG-ORED (OSPAR correspondence group working on offshore renewables), would like to have a better understanding of the application and effectiveness of the Espoo Convention provisions: **it might be useful to have a presentation at the spring ICG-ORED meeting, and discuss/collect feedback on the extent to which Parties have applied ESPOO provisions and consulted on transboundary effects**

OSPAR Contracting Parties could share outputs from the work of ICG-ORED to conduct a pilot assessment of the cumulative effects of offshore wind development on birds. **Due in early 2024 – but an update could be presented during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Technical Coordination Meeting 6–7 July 2023 (TBC).**

OSPAR Contracting Parties would be interested in exchanging examples of good practices that could deep seabed mining projects and their potential transboundary effects

# Thank you!

