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Priority areas and remaining challenges for enhancing the SEA and EIA system in Azerbaijan

Moderated by

Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, MENR, National coordinator to UNECE Espoo Convention and

Mr. Michal Musil, International expert to UNECE

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Priority areas and remaining challenges in Azerbaijan

- **Raising awareness about SEA/EIA, especially in the regions** - Regions are lacking on SEA information, Planning organizations, city executive authorities have poor practice on SEA
- **Increasing the EIA/SEA quality/establishing criteria** – weak screening and scoping stage for SEA by project proponents and planning authorities, no criterias and environmental checklists envisaged for the activities listed in Annex 1 of EIA law, including the activities not listed in the Annex 1 or for strategic document types
- **Increasing human resources** - poor human resources on SEA comparing to EIA, especially in government organization that affect the quality of SEA in the country
- **Increasing the coordination and control by MENR** – poor control by regional branches MENR on EIA/SEA results (somehow also related to human resources and coordination)
- **Limited access to SEA/EIA information** - availability of communication tools and web data base is poor in the regions

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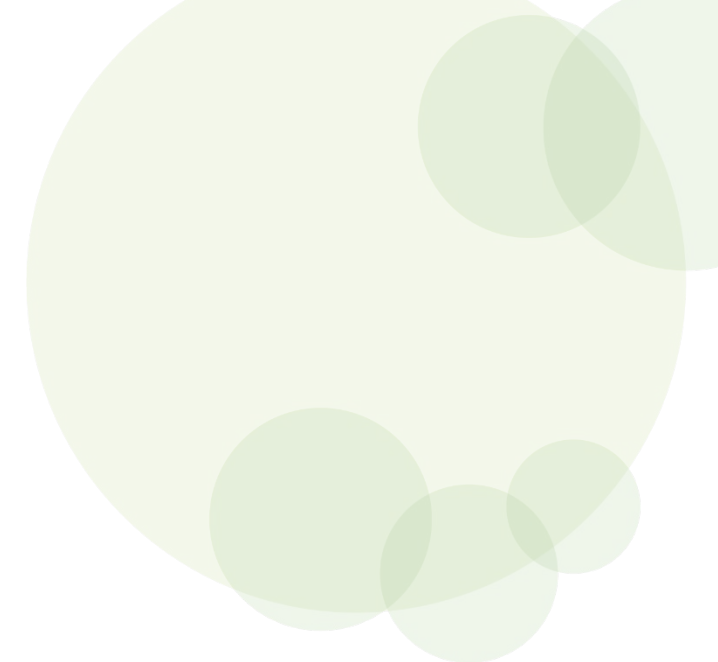
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Typical challenges and practical steps on SEA

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- **SEA Screening** (To determine if whether SEA is required for a specific Plan, Program, Policy... (PPP))
- Not all PPPs automatically require SEA, but only if they meet certain criteria.
 - Administrative / technical criteria
 - Significance of likely environmental effects

Criterion 1	Is the plan or programme (or the modification to it) required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?
Criterion 2	Is the plan or programme subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority or prepared by an authority for adoption, through a formal procedure, by a parliament or a Government?
Criterion 3	Is the sole purpose of the plan or programme to serve national defence or civil emergencies, or is it a financial or budget plan or programme?
Criterion 4	Is the plan or programme being prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry including mining, transport, regional development, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use?
Criterion 5	Does the plan or programme set the framework for future development consent for projects requiring EIA ?
Criterion 6	Does the plan or programme determine the use of a small area at a local level or is it a minor modification to a plan or programme?
Criterion 7	Is the plan or programme likely to have significant environmental effects?





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Linking SEA with the elaboration of the Plan (PPP)

- Each PPP-making process is different
- Optimal points for entry of SEA into PPP-making processes cannot be established without detailed knowledge of specific PPP-making systems
- SEA needs to align to the planning process (both formal or informal decision-making steps)
- SEA shall make use and contribute to any environmental analyses normally performed within specific PPP-making process (avoid duplicity work)
- SEA shall play a role in consultations with environmental & health authorities within PPP making (if they exist)

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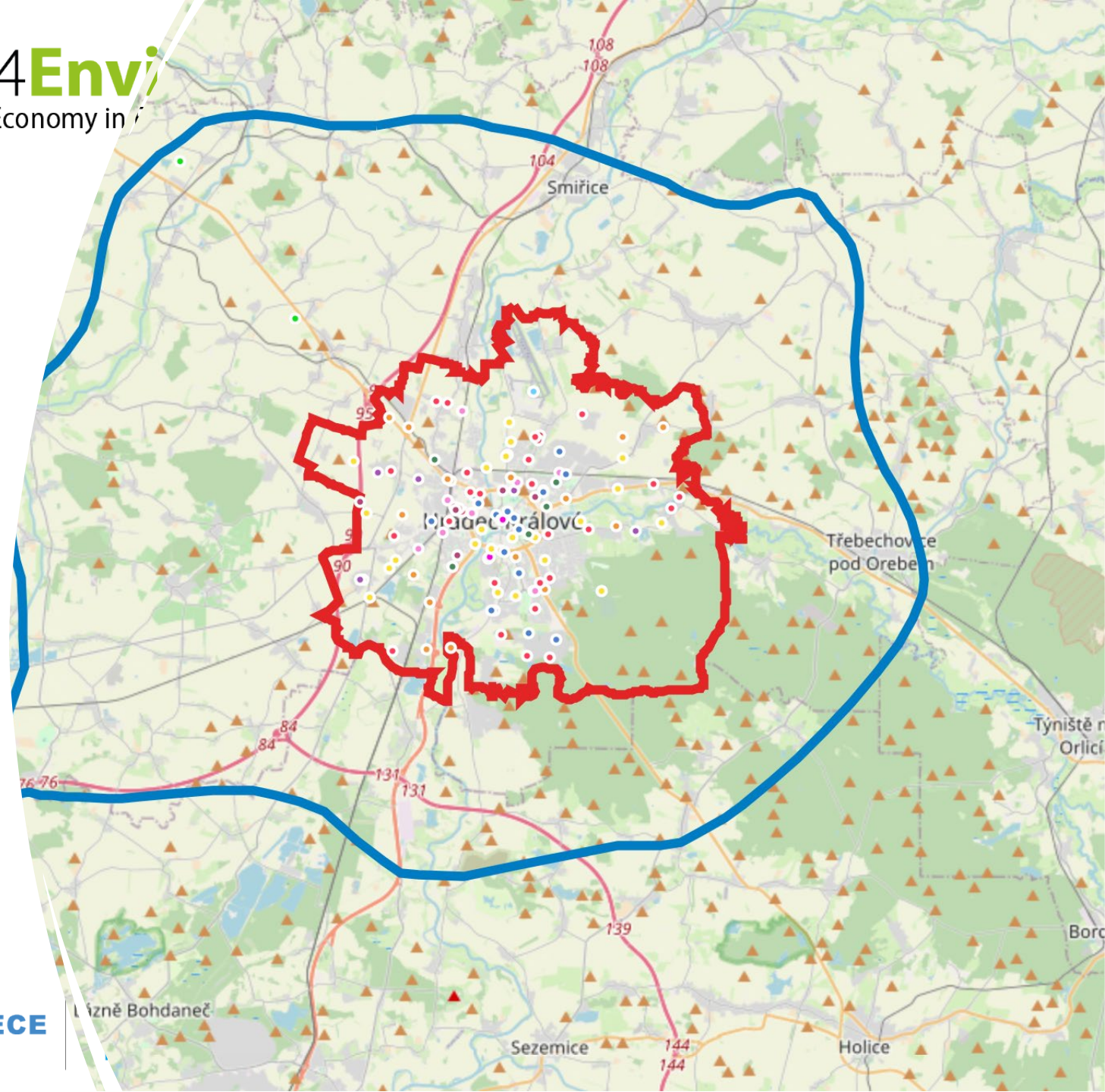


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Typical issues – insufficient understanding to the Program/Plan

- Were the linkages between the plan under assessment and other existing plans (or major projects) identified and described?
- Was the territorial scope of SEA (i.e., area to be likely affected by the plan) defined?
- Does the Plan contain specific projects (which would not take place without the Plan)?



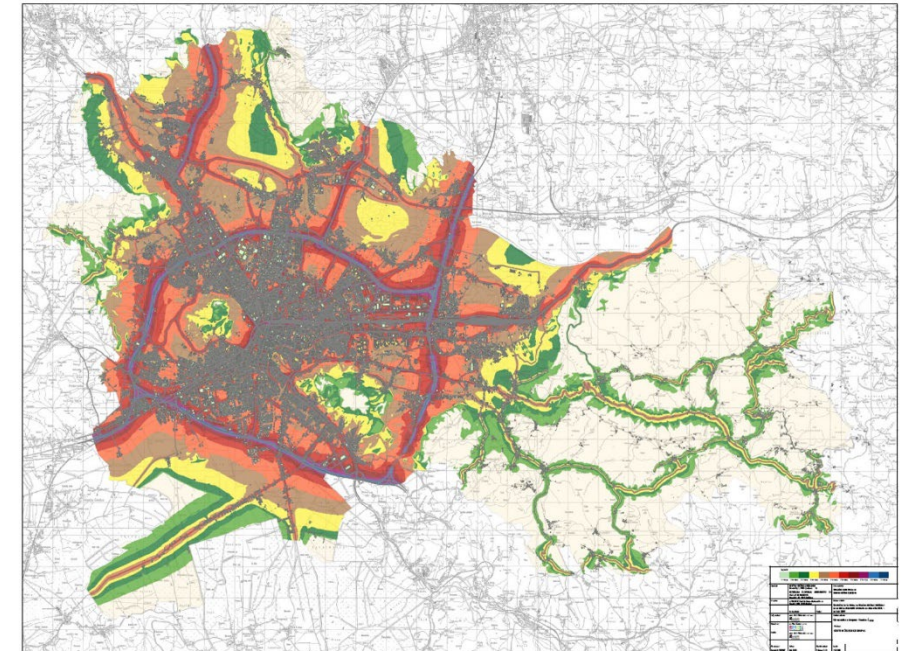
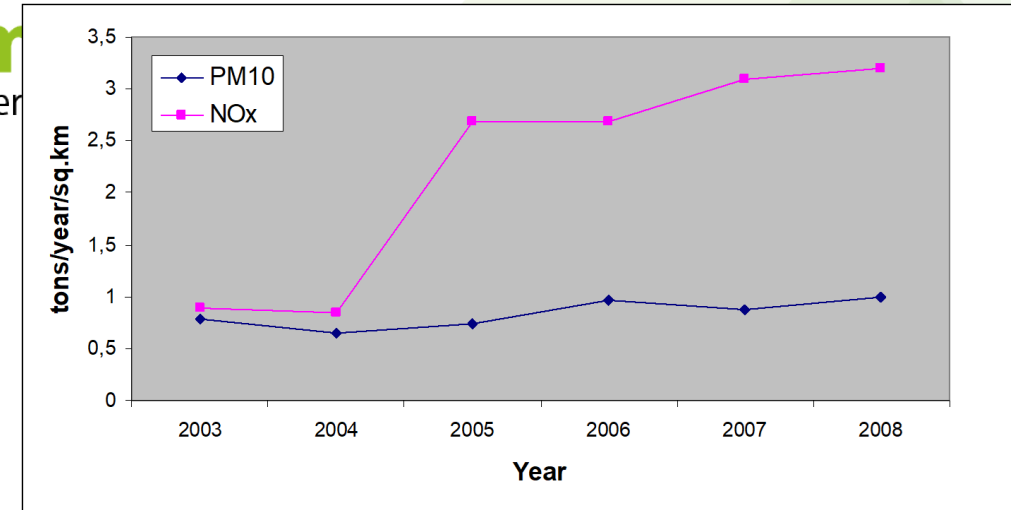


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Typical issues – Meaningful Baseline analysis

- Were the past trends for the key environmental issues analyzed?
- If so, were the main drivers (i.e., factors influencing trends) identified?
- Was the future evolution of the key environmental issues without the plan's implementation analyzed?
- Were possible limitations regarding the data and information availability (including their availability in the national, district / municipal authorities) and related potential uncertainties in analyses described?



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Typical issues – description of impacts

- Were all types of effects considered i.e., direct and any indirect, secondary, positive and negative, cumulative?
- Were impacts quantified where possible?
- Was impacts' evaluation substantiated by calculations, examples, references to literature etc.?

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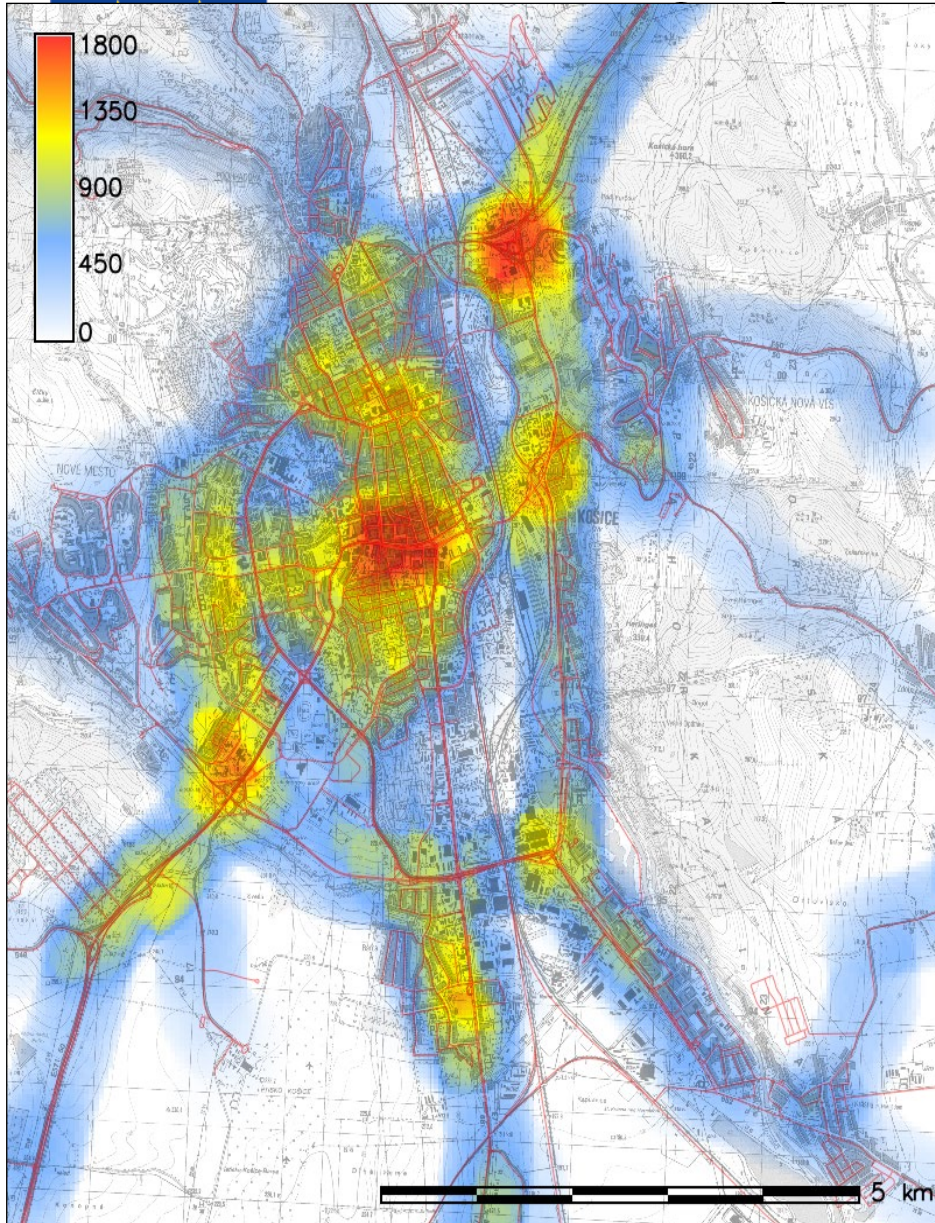
Approach to impact assessment – air quality

Scenario	NO _x	NO ₂	PM ₁₀	PM _{2,5}	B(a)P
	t/year	t/year	t/year	t/year	g/year
Zero	785	194	374	120	715
Active	646	163	375	116	609
Difference	-139	-31	1	-5	-106
	-18%	-16%	0,3%	-3,8%	-15%

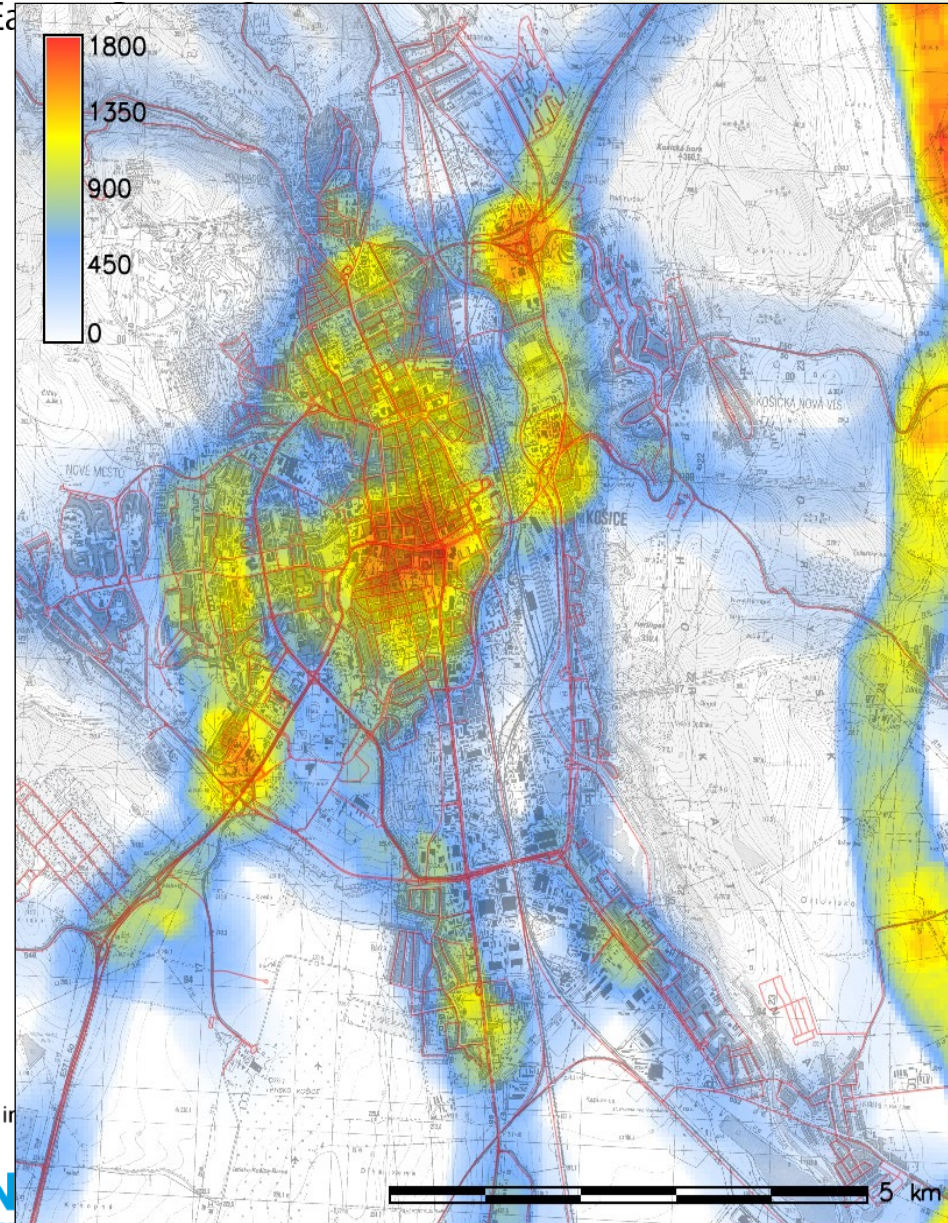
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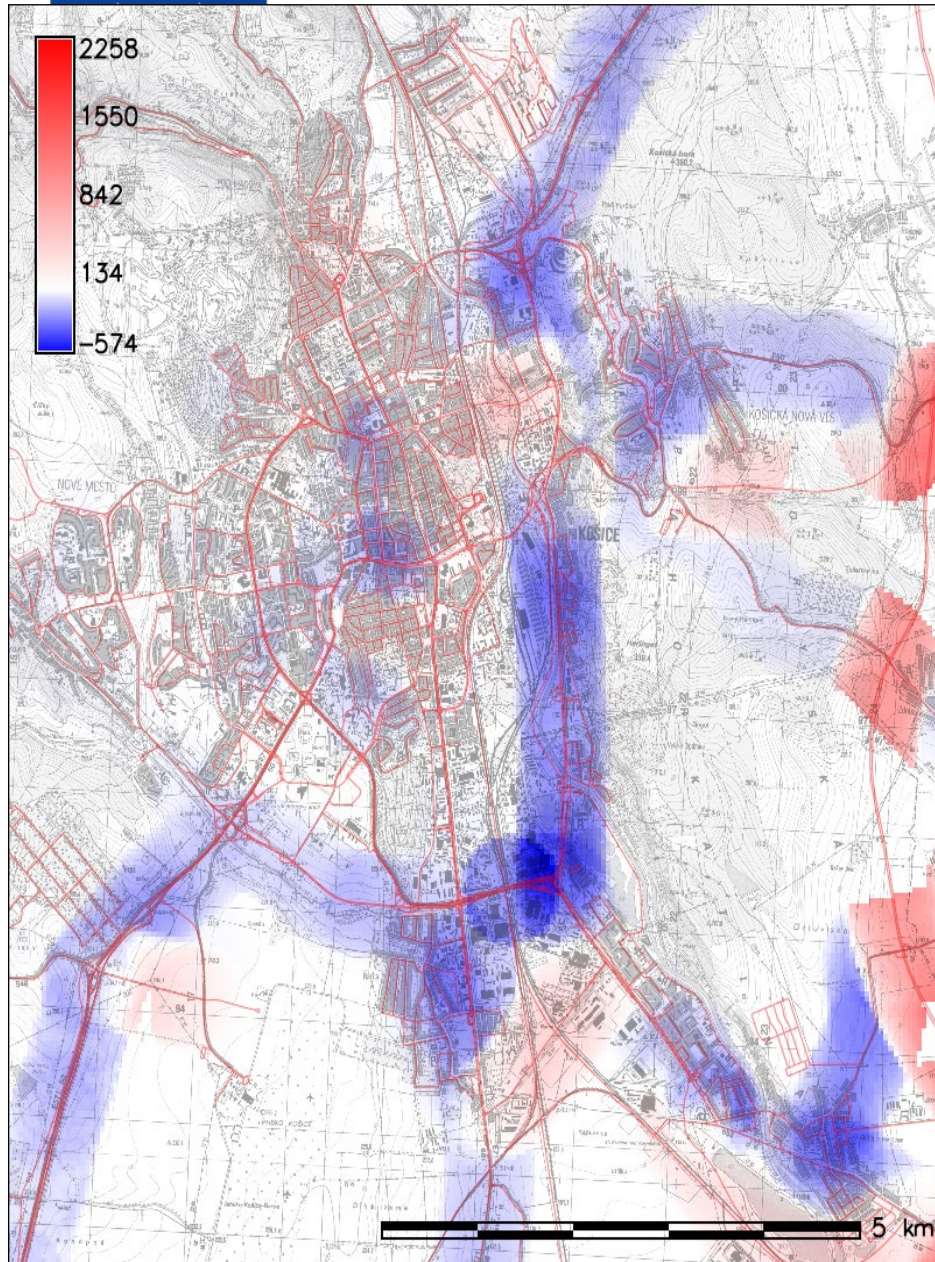
Emisná hustota PM_{2.5} - nulový variant (kg/rok/ha)



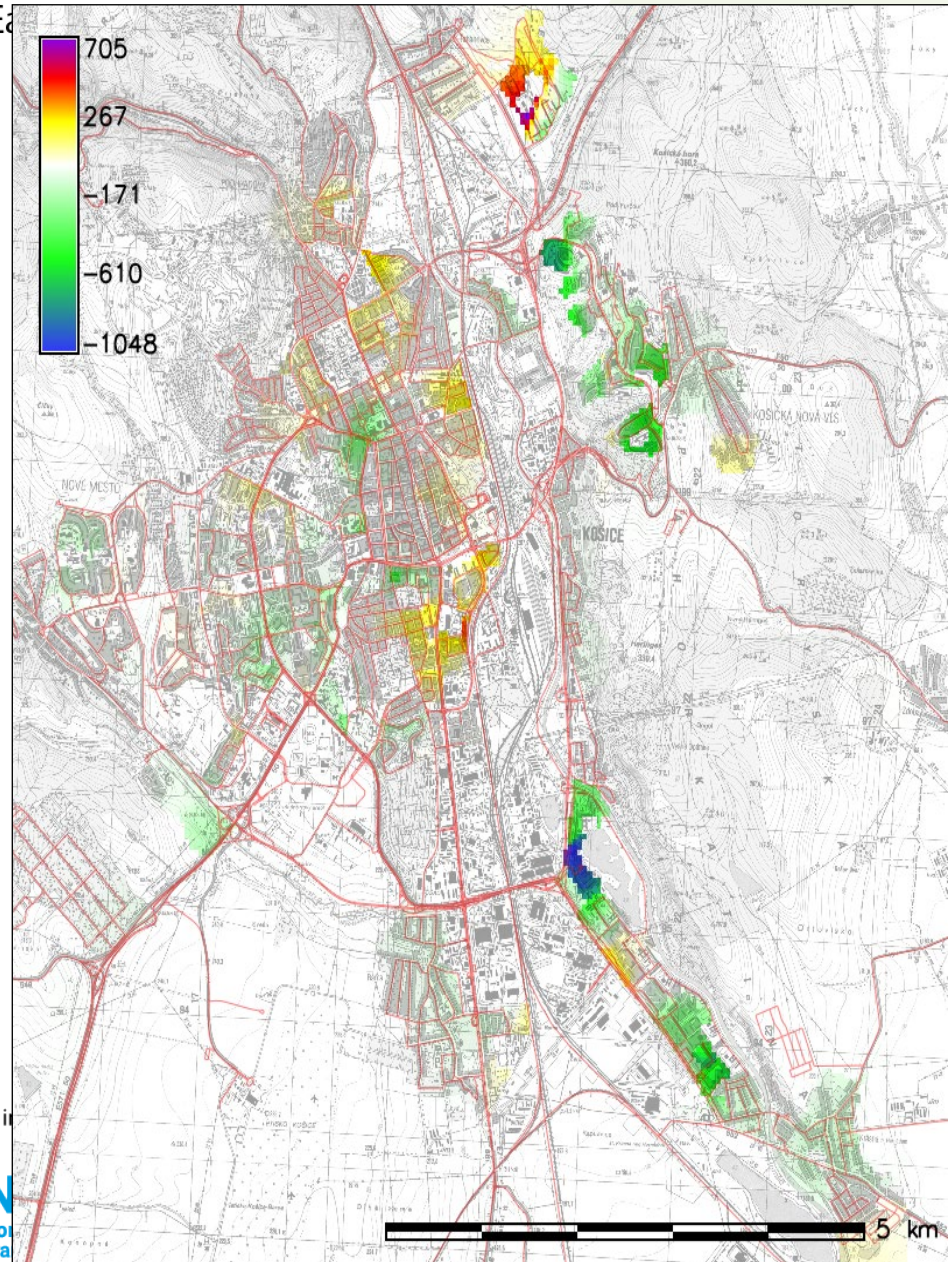
Emisná hustota PM_{2.5} - návrhový variant (kg/rok/ha)



Emisná hustota PM_{2.5} - rozdielová mapa (kg/rok/ha)



Emisná hustota PM_{2.5} - rozdielová mapa (kg/rok/ha).(obyv/ha)





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Typical issues – Alternatives

- Have any proposed mitigation strategy's negative impacts been described?
- Is it clear if the Initiator has made a binding commitment to implement the mitigation proposed or acknowledged that the Mitigation Measures are just suggestions or recommendations?
- Have the responsibilities for the implementation of mitigation, including roles, responsibilities, and resources, been clearly defined?

Impact / risk	INITIAL PROPOSAL						OPTION 1						OPTION 2	
	Sanitary landfill - Vasov Do (Berane)		Sanitary landfill - Budoš (Nikšić)		Sanitary landfill - Duboki Do (Herceg Novi)		Sanitary landfill - Bijelo Polje (Ramčina, Zaton)		Sanitary landfill - Budoš (Nikšić)		Sanitary landfill - Duboki Do (Herceg Novi)		Sanitary landfill - Bijelo Polje (Ramčina, Zaton)	
	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident	Reg. operation	Accident
Air														
Climate factors														
Water														
Land, soil														
Biological and landscape diversity														
Population, public health														
Cultural heritage														
Material assets														

Environmental issue	Zero alternative	Alternative with 40 % co-fianancing	Alternative with 65 % co-fianancing	Justification for preferred alternative
Emissions of greenhouse gases and climate change	-		+	
Air qulaity	-		+	
soil	-		+	
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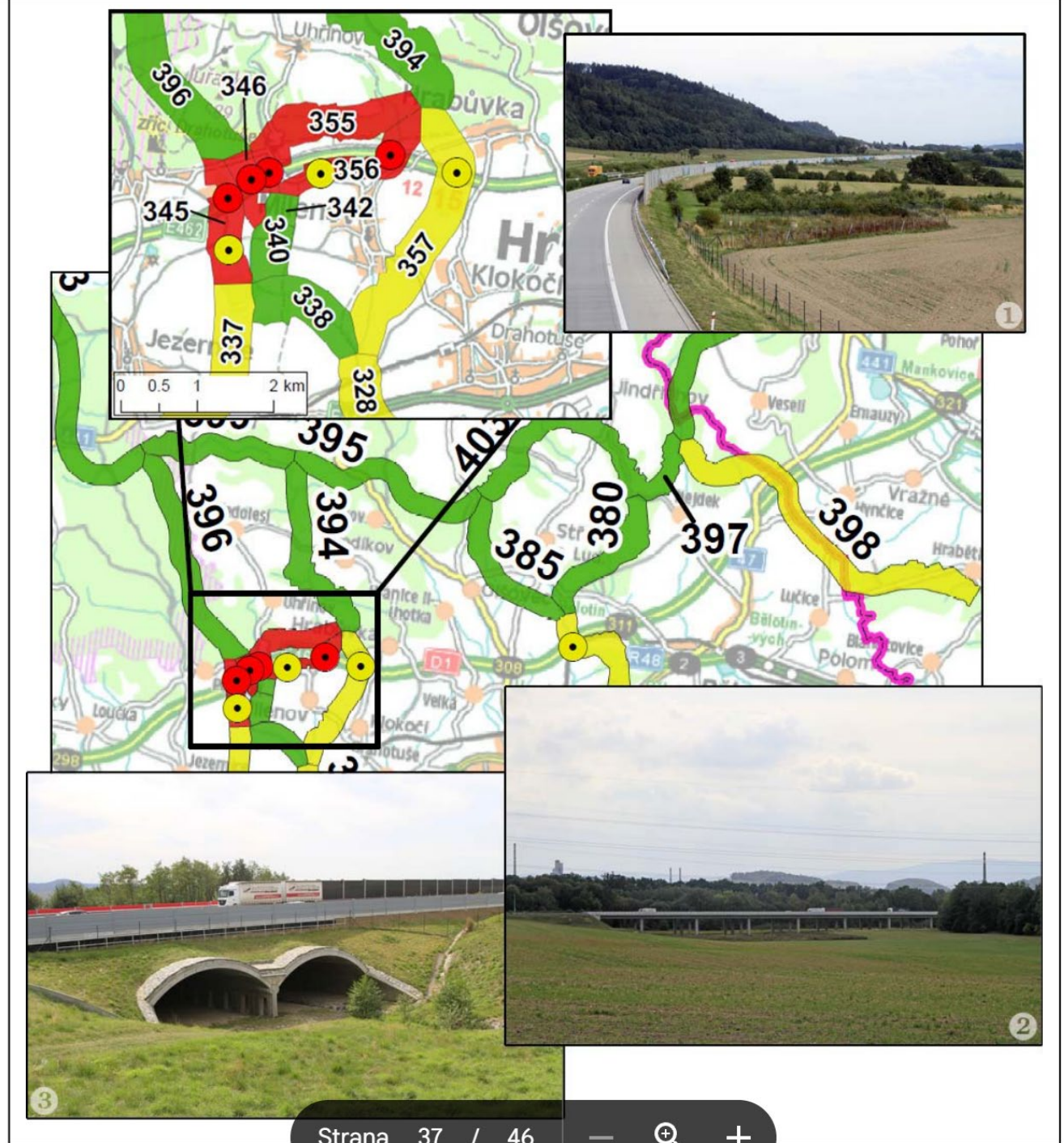


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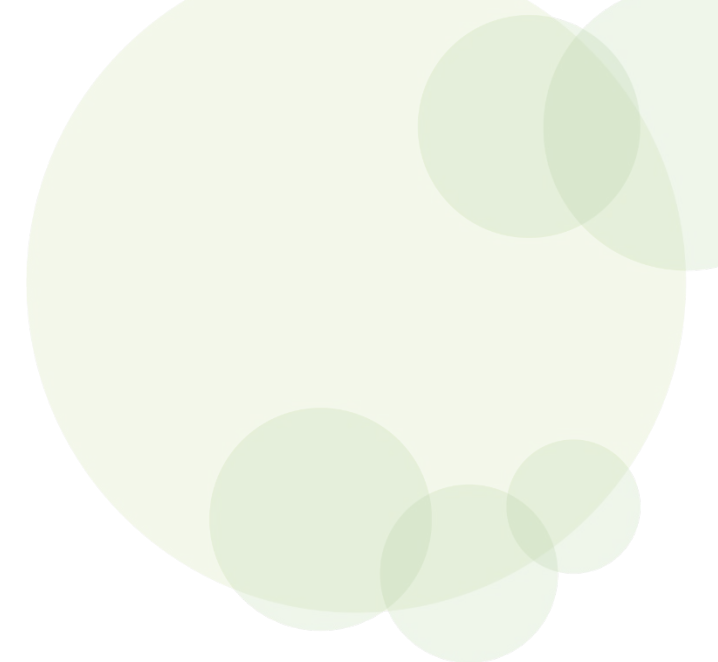
Typical issues – mitigation and monitoring

- Are mitigation measures clearly linked to identified negative impacts – i.e., is it clear which negative effects of the PP will be mitigated by a given measure?
- Was responsibility for implementation of mitigation measures assigned?





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Arranging for SEA

Tendering SEA services

- ToR needs to specify
 - Steps and timeline of the PPP elaboration
 - Expected inputs by the SEA team
- Important to agree and specify with the SEA and planning team on:
 - Provision for gathering of data
 - Feedback of the assessment results i.e. optimizing the PPP based on the SEA inputs
 - Consultations with other relevant authorities and public

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Arranging for SEA

General tasks for SEA team

1. To propose scope of SEA
 - Key issues (optimally in cooperation with the planning team)
 - Approach to assessments of priority issues (based on data and resources available)
 - Consultations
2. To manage assessment and to provide inputs to the planning process
 - Baseline analysis, evaluation of likely effects etc.
3. To facilitate consultations on specific issues of interest
4. To compile SEA Report
5. To prepare feedback on comments obtained
6. To fine-tune outcomes of the SEA and recommendations for decision-making

Overall coordination of SEA process???

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Costs of SEA

General tasks for SEA team

Costs largely depend on

- How detailed is PP and number of its alternatives
- Data availability
- Length of the planning process
- Scope of expertise needed
- Scope of consultations with stakeholders

Most SEAs require 70-80 person-days to complete (UK study)

Czech survey: about 50% of SEAs required about 2 – 10 person days time allocation from the planning authority side

Subsequent SEAs are less costly

- build on previous experience
- may require only standard analytical work & process management

Costs for SEA are marginal compared with costs of P/P implementation!!!

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SEA Quality control

Who?

- Developer/Planning agency
- EIA/SEA experts
- Environmental and health authorities
- Special institutions
- Ad-hoc bodies (expert missions, independent experts)
- Public

What?

- Reports
- Procedural aspects (e.g. public participation)

When?

- Scoping
- Draft EA report
- + throughout EA process (internal quality control)

How?

- Quality criteria
- Forms
- Licensing systems

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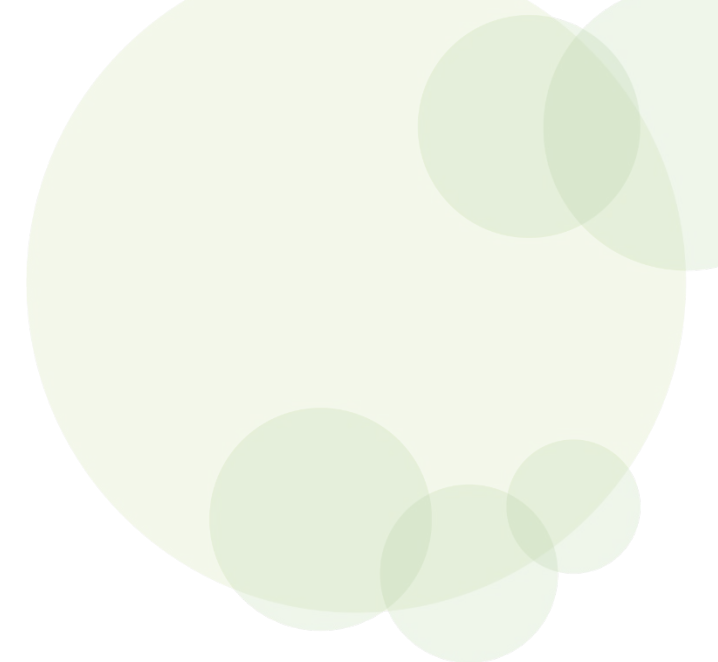
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Thank you!



Azərbaycan Respublikası
Ekologiya və Təbii Sərvətlər
Nazirliyi

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