



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## Consultative meeting on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in South-Eastern Europe

5 December 2023

Hofburg Palace, room 532  
Vienna

<https://osce-org.zoom.us/j/99509871557>

Meeting ID: 995 0987 1557

Passcode: 68700431

### Purpose and objectives

The purpose of the consultative meeting is to facilitate the implementation of the Espoo Convention, the Protocol on SEA and the Bucharest Agreement in the region through the effective application of transboundary SEA and EIA procedures.

The objectives of the meeting have been defined as follows:

- To strengthen knowledge and capacities of National Focal Points on transboundary consultations in EIA and SEA;
- To identify challenges and gaps of the countries related to the transboundary consultations and procedures in EIA and SEA, as well as to the ratification of relevant agreements;
- To address differences in implementation practices at national level;
- To facilitate the establishment of a network of the National Focal Points to the Espoo Convention;
- To promote actions to facilitate consultations and share of information, as well as to coordinate transboundary EIA and SEA procedures more effectively.

### Agenda

Moderator: Mr. Christian Melis, Environmental Governance Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

08:30 – 09:00	Registration of participants	
09:00 – 09:15	Introduction to the initiative	Ms. Elisabeth Losasso, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA Ms. Sylvie Goyet, Deputy Co- ordinator, Head of the Environmental Activities, Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities

09:15 – 09:45	Background and context: overview of the previous activities and outputs	Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
09:45 – 10:45	<p>The update on the situation in the region, Part I</p> <p>Presentations of the countries (max. 10 minutes per country) on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Status of application of the transboundary SEA and EIA procedures;</li> <li>• Progress made since the last meeting in 2021 (e.g. regarding the bilateral agreements, legislation amendments, implementation of the Action Plan, etc.);</li> <li>• Existing challenges regarding transboundary consultations;</li> <li>• Needs and actions to facilitate transboundary consultations more effectively in future;</li> </ul>	Facilitated by Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15– 12:15	The update on the situation in the region, Part II	Facilitated by Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
12:15 – 12:45	Challenges and needs regarding the transboundary consultations – a view of the UNECE secretariat of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA	Ms. Elisabeth Losasso, Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:45	Case examples of transboundary consultations	Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
14:45 – 15:15	Action plan to support effective application of transboundary EIA and SEA procedures in the South-Eastern European countries – status of implementation and necessary updates	Facilitated by Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break	
15:45 – 16:15	Discussion on the practical “tips & tools” for improving the application of SEA and EIA environmental impact assessment at transboundary level in South-Eastern Europe	Facilitated by Mr. Martin Smutny, International consultant to OSCE
16:15 – 16:30	Next steps and closure of the meeting	Mr. Christian Melis, Environmental Governance Officer, Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities