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Main steps in EIA: EIA report and its quality analysis

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Training Workshop on EIA in the Republic of Moldova

28 February 2024

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Purpose

- EIA report shall ***identify, describe and evaluate*** the likely significant direct and indirect impacts of the planned activity on the relevant factors (Art. 10.2.1) and has to be ***reliable, accurate, complete and up-to-date***
- EIA report
 - Summarizes all analyses, findings and conclusions
 - Should reflect feedback from consultations from previous EIA stages
 - Is a subject to public consultations and of the quality control
 - Is a basis for issuing the decision on environmental agreement

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Preparation of EIA report

- Preparation of EIA report has to be ensured (financed) by the initiator and the report has to be prepared by the experts with qualification stipulated by the EIA Law
- Preparation of EIA report usually involved a team of experts
- EIA report has to follow the conclusions of the EIA program
- EIA program is essential basis for preparing the EIA report
- Preparation of EIA report requires sufficient time to carry out all necessary field surveys, measurement and related analyses

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Information to be included in EIA report

- a) description of the ***location of the planned activity*** and description of the physical ***characteristics of the entire planned activity***, including, if applicable, the necessary demolition works, as well as land use requirements during the construction and operation stages
- Rather initial characteristics of the location
 - Consideration of associated facilities
- b) description of the ***main characteristics of the operational stage*** of the planned activity, in particular the production processes (energy required and energy used, nature and quantity of materials and natural resources used, including water, land, soil and biodiversity)
- Information on construction and decommissioning stages + associated facilities

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Information to be included in EIA report

- c) estimation, depending on type and quantity, of residues and potential emissions (pollution of water, air, soil and subsoil, noise, vibrations, light, thermal and radioactive radiation, etc.), as well as the quantities and types of residues produced during **construction and operation** of the planned activity;
- d) description of the **current state of the environment** (the baseline scenario) and description of **its likely evolution** if the planned activity is not implemented, to the extent that natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed by making reasonable efforts, based on the available information and scientific knowledge about the environment
 - **Key section for further assessment of the likely impacts!**

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 - **Key section for further assessment of the likely impacts!**
 - Linked to section f)

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Information to be included in EIA report

- e) description of reasonable alternatives studied by the initiator + indicating the main reasons underlying the choice made, including a comparison of environmental impacts;
 - Certain discussion on alternatives often precedes the EIA
- f) description of the factors likely to be affected by the planned activity
 - Focus on the factors identified by the EIA program
 - Qualitative and quantitative description
- g) description of the potential significant impacts on the environment
 - Significancy, duration reversibility
 - Direct and indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative impacts

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Information to be included in EIA report

- h) methods used + difficulties in compiling the information + main uncertainties
 - **Very important section for effective public consultations!**
- i) description of measures expected to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, compensate for the **significant negative impact** on the environment
 - Environmental monitoring and management plan
- j) likely significant negative impact on the environment, determined by the vulnerability of the planned activity to the ***risks of major accidents and/or disasters + measures to prevent or minimize the significant negative impact*** on the environment of such events, as well as details regarding the level of ***preparedness and the proposed response to such emergency situations***;

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Information to be included in EIA report

- k) post-project analysis and monitoring measures;
 - Environmental monitoring and management plan
- l) graphic information: maps, figures and diagrams;
 - **Important for effective public consultations!**
- m) contact details of the experts involved in the preparation of the report, the date of preparation of the report, the declaration on honour on fulfilment of the requirements provided for in paragraph (3), as well as their signatures;
- n) a non-technical summary
 - **Important for effective public consultations!**
- o) references and sources of information

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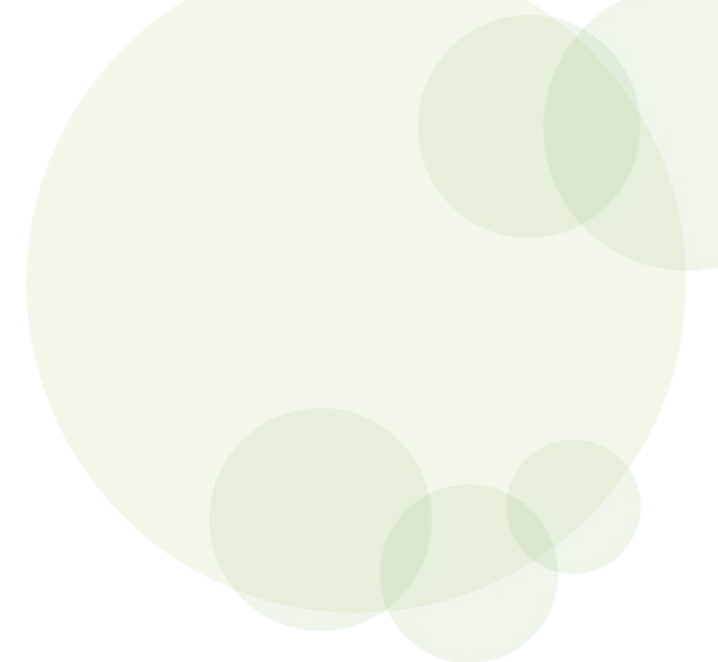


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Good EIA report

- ***Is reliable, accurate, complete and up-to-date***
- Is well-readable, clear and understandable
- Contains all relevant information and data
- Clearly summarizes main findings and conclusions

Only such EIA report allows for effective consultations!

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Quality analysis

- Technical Commission analyses the quality of EIA report, taking into account:
 - a) content of EIA program;
 - b) comments and proposals received from the public concerned;
 - c) requirements on the content of EIA report;
 - d) results of public debates, including in a transboundary context
 - e) submission of studied alternatives and the reasons for choosing one of them;
 - f) presentation of the graphic information: maps, figures and diagrams;
 - g) the need to carry out or not out the post-project analysis.

Guidelines on Quality Control of EIA Documentation for the Republic of Moldova,
Including Guidance for the Transboundary EIA process (UNECE, August 2023)

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Recommended steps in quality analysis

1. quick formal compliance check
2. substantial quality review, based on EIA report review check list, structured along seven sections
 - Description of the project,
 - Description of the environmental and social factors likely to be affected by the project,
 - Description of the likely significant effects of the project,
 - Consideration of alternatives,
 - Description of mitigating measures,
 - Description of monitoring measures, and
 - Quality of presentation and non-technical summary.

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EIA Report components	Present/ satisfactory covered
Compliance with the requirements under Article 10 ² for the content of the environmental impact assessment report;	
A description of the location of the planned activity and a description of the physical characteristics of all planned activities	
A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the proposed activity, in particular, the production processes (energy requirements and energy used, nature and quantity of materials and natural resources used)	
an indication, depending on the type and quantity, of potential residues and emissions	
A description of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and a description of its likely development in the event that the proposed activity does not occur	
A description of reasonable alternatives (in terms of concept, technology, location, size, and scale of the proposed activity) studied by the initiator	
A description of the factors that may be affected by the proposed activity foreseen in Art. 4 para 1 from Law 86/2014 on EIA	
A description of the significant potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity	
A description or evidence of the predictive methods used to identify and assess significant environmental impacts, including details of the difficulties encountered	
A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce, or possibly compensate for significant adverse environmental impacts	
Justification for the need to conduct or not to conduct a post-project analysis and a description, if necessary, of the proposed monitoring measures and the indicators	
Contact information for the experts involved in compiling the report and indication of their areas of expertise, the date of compilation of the report, a self-declaration of compliance with the qualification requirements, and their signatures;	
A non-technical summary	
A list of references indicating the sources used	
Compliance of the EIA Report with the respective environmental impact assessment program (i.e.,)	
Comments on compliance (i.e., consideration of alternatives, scope of assessment, applied methods, etc.)	
Other considerations (e.g., previous procedural omission)	
Comments, e.g., other reasons for outright rejection of the EIA Report (if any)	
Result of the formal compliance check	
Comments (i.e., reasons for rejections, request to complete minor omission, etc.)	Accepted for TC quality review. X Returned for revisions



No.	Review question	Relevant?	Adequately addressed?	What further information is needed?
SECTION 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT				
The Objectives and Physical Characteristics of the Project				
1.1	Are the Project's objectives and the need for the Project explained?			
1.2	Is the programme for the Project's implementation described, detailing the estimated length of time (e.g., expected start and finish dates) for construction, operation, and decommissioning? (this should include any phases of different activity within the main phases of the Project, for example, construction and operation phases of a road or bridge construction)			
1.3	Have all of the Project's main characteristics (purpose, technology, capacity, etc.) been described?			

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Thank you for your attention!

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