

Questionnaire for the report of FINLAND on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2016–2018

Information on the focal point for the Convention

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Part one

Current legal and administrative framework for the implementation of the Convention

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not experience in the application of the Convention.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the Convention text (e.g., EIA Law of the Republic of ..., art. 5, para. 3, of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 1 Definitions

I.1. Is the definition of impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1?:

(a) Yes

(b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details): Definition is broader. Also biological diversity, urban structure, townscape and utilization of natural resources are included.

(c) No (please provide the definition):

(d) There are no definitions of impact in the legislation

Your comments:

I.2. Is the definition of transboundary impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1? Please specify each below.

(a) Yes

(b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details):

(c) No (please provide the definition):

(d) There are no definitions of transboundary impact in the legislation

Your comments:

I.3. Please specify how major change is defined in your national legislation:

The mandatory list of projects include also alterations to projects equivalent in size to projects included in the list. A change to an activity is always considered "major", when the threshold of the mandatory list is exceeded. These changes are included in the mandatory list of projects.

Additionally screening through case-by-case examination of those projects not included in the mandatory list of projects include material alteration to a completed project that will likely have significant environmental impact, also taking into account the cumulative impacts of different projects. Screening decisions are in principle made by the

regional environmental authorities according to the screening criteria. Therefore if any other change is considered major with having significant adverse impact, the competent authority makes a decision to apply the assessment procedure to this individual activity.

I.4. How do you identify the public concerned? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project
- (b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (c) By other means (please specify): Identifying the area likely to be affected and making the information available to all members of the public within that area and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned. If someone outside that area can identify themselves as concerned the interpretation has been flexible.

Your comments: The information is available online to all.

Article 2 General provisions

I.5. Provide legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2, para. 2):

- (a) Law on EIA:

Act on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (2017). (Original act 1994, amended 1999 and 2006).

- (b) EIA provisions are transposed into another law(s) (please specify):

The permitting legislation include provisions on taking the EIA into account in decision making (e.g. Environmental Protection Act, Water Act, Land Use and Building Act, Nuclear Energy Act, Act on the Safety of the Handling of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives, Highway Act, Railway Act, Aviation Act, Act on the Redemption of Immoveable Property and Special rights, Mining Act)

- (c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/name):

Government Decree on Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure (2017) (original decree enacted in 1994)

- (d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/name):

- (e) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.6. Please describe any differences between the list of activities in your national legislation and appendix I to the Convention, if any:

- (a) There is no difference, all activities are transposed in the national legislation as is

- (b) It differs slightly (please specify): The Finnish list of EIA projects includes all the projects mentioned in appendix I to the Convention. Additionally it includes the amended list of projects of the second amendment.

Your comments:

I.7. Identify the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the EIA procedure in your country (please specify):

- (a) There are different authorities at national, regional, local levels
- (b) They are different for domestic and transboundary procedures
- (c) Please name the responsible authority/authorities:

Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment are the competent authorities for the domestic EIA procedure. In nuclear energy projects, the competent authority is the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

The Ministry of the Environment is in charge of the transboundary part of the EIA procedure (Point of Contact).

- (d) There is no single authority responsible for the entire EIA procedure:

Your comments:

I.8. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary EIA cases? If so, please name it:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please specify): The EIA competent authorities: Centres for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment and the Ministry of Employment and the Economy.

Your comments:

I.9. How does your country, As a Party of origin and as an affected Party, ensure that the opportunity given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to the one given to the Party of origin's public, as required in article 2, paragraph 6 (please explain):

The process of public participation can be discussed with the Point of Contact of the affected Party before the notification is sent if the procedure is not already a common practice due to several transboundary procedures. The principle is to provide the affected Party with the same length of public hearing period as that of the Party of origin. Relevant material on the project and its transboundary impact is provided to the affected Party for public comment in the language of the affected Party.

Bilateral agreement with Estonia has specific articles on arranging the public participation in the affected Party.

Article 3 Notification

I.10. As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party (art. 3, para. 1)? Please specify:

- (a) During scoping
- (b) When the EIA report has been prepared and the domestic procedure started
- (c) After finishing the domestic procedure
- (d) At other times (please specify):

Your comments:

I.11. Please define the format of notification:

- (a) It is the format as decided by the first meeting of the Parties in its decision I/4 (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix)
- (b) The country has its own format (please attach a copy)
- (c) No official format used

Your comments: It is more common to use a combination of a notification letter with scoping document (EIA Programme), which together contain the content covered in article 3 of the Convention.

I.12. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3, para. 2)? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) The information required by article 3, paragraph 2
- (b) The information required by article 3, paragraph 5
- (c) Additional information (please specify):

Your comments: The EIA Programme (Scoping document) is appended to the notification and relevant parts concerning the transboundary EIA are translated.

I.13. As a Party of origin, does your national legislation contain any provision on receiving a response to the notification from the affected Party in a reasonable time frame (art. 3, para. 3, “within the time specified in the notification”)? Please specify:

- (a) National legislation does not cover the time frame
- (b) Yes, it is indicated in the national legislation (please indicate the time frame):
- (c) It is determined and agreed with each affected Party case by case in the beginning of the transboundary consultations (please indicate the average length in weeks):

Your comments:

The time frames are set according to the EIA Act, where specific time frame for the national EIA has been set (30-60 days for public and authorities to comment and after that 1month for the authority to give a statement on the scoping document and 2 months for giving the reasoned conclusion on EIA documentation). Usually the answer is requested one to two weeks after the end of the public hearing period to give the affected Party time to collect the submitted comments and prepare a summary of these comments.

Please specify the consequence if a notified affected Party does not comply with the time frame, and the possibility of extending a deadline:

Responses have usually been received on time. If no answer is given within deadline, a request is always sent to find out if not giving an answer really means not participating in the transboundary procedure.

If an affected Party asks for an extension of a deadline, it is usually granted within the time frame of the national procedure. The competent authority's statement and reasoned conclusion are stipulated by legislation so there is a limit for extending the deadline.

I.14. How do you inform the public and authorities of the affected Party (art. 3, para. 8)? Please specify:

(a) By informing the point of contact to the Convention listed on the Convention website¹

(b) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.15. On what basis is the decision made to participate (or not) in the transboundary EIA procedure as an affected Party (art. 3, para. 3)? Please specify:

(a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for EIA decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin

(b) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities of the affected Party

(c) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities and that of the public of the affected Party

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: According to the EIA Act the Ministry of the Environment is the competent authority in Convention's transboundary procedure. In principle the Ministry decides on participation based on views expressed in the opinions and statements of the public and the concerned authorities.

I.16. If the affected Party has indicated that it intends to participate in the EIA procedure, how are the details for such participation agreed, including the time frame for consultations and the deadline for commenting (art. 5)? Please specify:

(a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin

(b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party

(c) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Articles 3.8 and 4.2

Public participation

I.17. How can the public express its opinion on the EIA documentation of the proposed project (art. 5)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

As a Party of origin

(a) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point

(b) By taking part in a public hearing

(c) Other (please specify):

As an affected Party

(d) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point

(e) By taking part in a public hearing

¹ List available from http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm.

(f) Other (please specify):

Your comments: Is the reference to article 5 correct in this question? The first question referencing “*as a Party of origin*” is a bit unclear –does it actually refer to art 2.2.

I.18. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of a public hearing on the territory of the affected Party in cases where your country is the country of origin:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

There is a provision giving the affected public an opportunity to participate into the EIA. If this question refers to a specific public hearing event (a public meeting), there is no such provision. Such hearings (or rather information meetings) have been arranged by the request of the affected Party. Public hearing is not a term used in the Convention.

I.19. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of public hearings in cases where your country is the affected Party:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

There is a provision giving the affected public an opportunity to submit comments on the documents relating to the EIA received from the Party of origin. If this question refers to a specific public hearing event (a public meeting), there is no such provision. Such hearings (or rather information meetings) have been arranged on a case by case basis. Public hearing is not a term used in the Convention.

Article 4

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.20. How do you ensure sufficient quality of the EIA documentation As a Party of origin? Please specify:

(a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments

(b) By using quality checklists

(c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.21. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the EIA documentation in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

(a) By using appendix II

(b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable

(c) By using the comments from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable

(d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise

(e) By using other means (please specify):

Your comments:

The content needs to comply with competent authority statement on the EIA scoping document. That statement takes into account the comments received from the authorities and the public.

I.22. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II, paragraph (b)?

(a) On a case-by-case basis

(b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify):

(c) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

EIA Decree stipulates the inclusion of alternatives in the following way: alternatives to carrying out the project, one of which is the no-action alternative.

Article 5

Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.23. Does your national EIA legislation have any provision on the organization of transboundary consultations between the authorities of the concerned Parties? Please specify:

(a) Yes, it is obligatory

(b) No, it does not have any provision on that

(c) It is optional (please specify):

Your comments:

Article 6

Final decision

I.24. Please indicate all points below that are covered in a final decision related to the implementation of the planned activity (art. 6, para. 1):

(a) Conclusions of the EIA documentation

(b) Comments received in accordance with article 3, paragraph 8, and article 4, paragraph 2

(c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5

(d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations

(e) Comments received from the affected Party

(f) Mitigation measures

(g) Other (please specify):

I.25. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6, para. 1)?:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

I.26. Is there any regulation in the national legislation of your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6, paragraph 3?:

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify): General provisions are stipulated in the Administrative Judicial Procedure Act.

Your comments:

I.27. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1-22) require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity?:

(a) Yes

(b) No (please specify those that do not):

Your comments:

I.28. For each type of activity listed in appendix I that does require a final decision, please indicate the legal requirements in your country that identify what is regarded as the "final decision" to authorize or undertake such an activity (art. 6 in conjunction with art. 2, para. 3), and the term used in the national legislation to indicate the final decision in the original language:

The "final decision" is a permit for implementation of a project or any other comparable decision. All projects listed in Appendix 1 require a decision.

1. Crude oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tonnes or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

(*=*ympäristölupa*)

2. (a) Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

(b) nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).

-permitting procedure in accordance with Nuclear Energy Act (*ydinenergiain mukainen lupamenettely*)

3. (a) Installations for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuel;

(b) Installations designed:

- For the production or enrichment of nuclear fuel;

- For the processing of irradiated nuclear fuel or high-level radioactive waste;

- For the final disposal of irradiated nuclear fuel;

- Solely for the final disposal of radioactive waste; or
- Solely for the storage (planned for more than 10 years) of irradiated nuclear fuels or radioactive waste in a different site than the production site.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Nuclear Energy Act (*ydinenergiain mukainen lupamenettely*)

4. Major installations for the initial smelting of cast iron and steel and for the production of non-ferrous metals.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20,000 metric tons finished product; for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 metric tons finished product; and for other asbestos utilization of more than 200 metric tons per year.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

6. Integrated chemical installations.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Act on the Safety of the Handling of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives (*vaarallisten kemikaalien ja räjähteiden käsittelyn turvallisuudesta annetun lain mukainen lupamenettely*)

7. (a) Construction of motorways, express roads

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Highway Act (*maantielain mukainen lupamenettely*)

and lines for long-distance railway traffic

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Railway Act (*ratalain mukainen lupamenettely*)

and of airports with a basic runway length of 2,100 metres or more.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Aviation Act (*ilmailulain mukainen lupamenettely*)

- (b) Construction of a new road of four or more lanes, or realignment and/or widening of an existing road of two lanes or less so as to provide four or more lanes, where such new road, or realigned and/or widened section of road, would be 10 km or more in a continuous length.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Highway Act (*maantielain mukainen lupamenettely*)

8. Large-diameter pipelines for the transport of oil, gas or chemicals.-permitting procedure in accordance with the Act on the Redemption of Immoveable Property and Special rights (*lupamenettely, josta on säädetty laissa kiinteän omaisuuden ja erityisten oikeuksien lunastuksesta*)

9. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1,350 tonnes.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

10. (a)Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of toxic and dangerous wastes.

-environmental permit * in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

(b) Waste-disposal installations for the incineration or chemical treatment of non-hazardous waste with a capacity exceeding 100 metric tons per day.

-environmental permit * in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

11. Large dams and reservoirs.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

12. Groundwater abstraction activities or artificial groundwater recharge schemes where the annual volume of water to be abstracted or recharged amounts to 10 million cubic metres or more.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

13. Pulp, paper and board manufacturing of 200 air-dried metric tons or more per day.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

14. Major quarries, mining, on-site extraction and processing of metal ores or coal.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Mining Act (*kaivoslain mukainen lupamenettely*)

15. Offshore hydrocarbon production..

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

Extraction of petroleum and natural gas for commercial purposes where the amount extracted exceeds 500 metric tons/day in the case of petroleum and 500 000 cubic metres/day in the case of gas.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

16. Major storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Act on the Safety of the Handling of Dangerous Chemicals and Explosives (*vaarallisten kemikaalien ja räjähteiden käsittelyn turvallisuudesta annetun lain mukainen lupamenettely*)

17. Deforestation of large areas.

-permit for landscape work according to Land Use and Building Act in areas with land use plans (*maankäyttö- ja rakennuslain mukainen maisematyölupa*)

18. (a) Works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where this transfer aims at preventing possible shortages of water and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 100 million cubic metres/year; and

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

(b) In all other cases, works for the transfer of water resources between river basins where the multi-annual average flow of the basin of abstraction exceeds 2 000 million cubic metres/year and where the amount of water transferred exceeds 5 per cent of this flow.

In both cases transfers of piped drinking water are excluded.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Water Act (*vesilain mukainen lupa*)

19. Waste-water treatment plants with a capacity exceeding 150 000 population equivalent.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

20. Installations for the intensive rearing of poultry or pigs with more than:

- 85 000 places for broilers;

- 60 000 places for hens;

- 3 000 places for production pigs (over 30 kg); or

- 900 places for sows.

-environmental permit* in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act

21. Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV or more and a length of more than 15 km.

-permitting procedure in accordance with the Act on the Redemption of Immoveable Property and Special rights (*lupamenettely, josta on säädetty laissa kiinteän omaisuuden ja erityisten oikeuksien lunastuksesta*)

22. Major installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms).

- permitting procedure according to Land use and Building Act (*rakennuslupa, toimenpidelupa*)

Your comments:

Article 7

Post-project analysis

I.29. Is there any provision regarding post-project analysis in your national EIA legislation (art. 7, para. 1)?:

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify the main steps to be taken and how the results of it are communicated):

Your comments:

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

(a) Agreements

I.30. Does your country have any bilateral or multilateral agreements based on the Convention (art. 8, appendix VI)?:

(a) No

(b) Yes Please specify with which countries: Estonia:
https://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/database/Estonia-Finland_agreement_2002.pdf

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

I.31. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

(a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned

(b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements

(c) Harmonization of the Parties' policies and measures

(d) Developing, improving, and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis

(e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the EIA

(f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities

(g) Undertaking joint EIA, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies

(h) Other, please specify: *Some specific project types included*

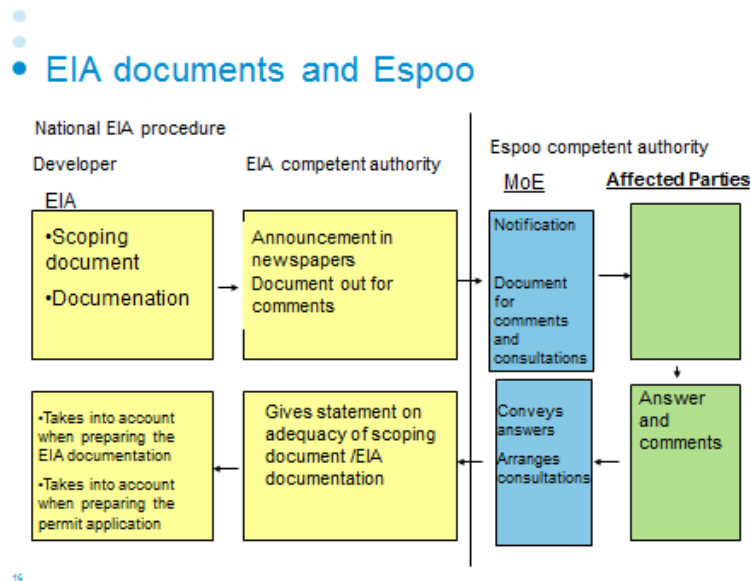
Your comments:

(b) Procedural steps required by national legislation

I.32. Please describe how the steps required for a transboundary EIA procedure under your national legislation correlate to domestic EIA in the lead-up to the final decision. If there are differences in the procedures for screening/scoping or for preparation of the environmental impact assessment and consultation, please specify.

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by providing a schematic flowchart showing these steps.

Your comments: (MoE= Ministry of the Environment)



I.33. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects (e.g., roads, pipelines)?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify):

(i) Special provisions:

(ii) Informal arrangements: Case by case arrangements agreed with Parties of origin.

Your comments: *In the bilateral agreement between Finland and Estonia, Article 14 gives the competent authorities the possibility to agree to carry out a joint EIA within the*

framework of the national legislation. The Finnish-Estonian Commission on EIA (which is the joint body of the Agreement) may propose possible activities for joint EIAs to the competent authorities. The Commission has an advisory role.

I.34. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for nuclear power plants (NPPs)?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify):

(i) Special provisions:

(ii) Informal arrangements: Case by case planning of the transboundary procedure.

Your comments: Generally normal provisions apply to all transboundary EIA procedures.

Part two

Practical application during the period 2016–2018

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures described in part one), whether As a Party of origin or affected Party. The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice. The goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Parties should therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention and innovative approaches to improve its application.

II.1. Does your country object to the information on transboundary EIA procedures that you provide in this section being compiled and made available on the website of the Convention? Please specify (indicate "yes" if you object):

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

1. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2016–2018

Cases during the period 2016–2018

II.2. If your country's national administration has a record of transboundary EIA procedures that were under way during the reporting period, in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party, please list them in the tables II.2 (a) and II.2 (b) below (adding additional rows as needed).

Table II.2 (a)

Transboundary EIA procedures: As a Party of origin

| Project name | Starting date (date notification sent) | Affected Party/ Parties | Timing of the notification (screening, scoping or preparation of the EIA documentation) | Length of the main steps in months | | | Final decision (date of issuing, if information is available) |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Submission of the environmental report | Transboundary consultations (expert), if any | Public participation, including public hearing, if any | |
| 1. Fenno voima Spent nuclear fuel encapsulation plant and final dispos | 22 June 2016 | Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Russia, Norway | Scoping | Pending | Pending | Notified countries were given 5 months to answer the notification and arrange public participation, i.e. by 24 November 2016 | No |

| Project name | Starting date (date notification sent) | Affected Party/ Parties | Timing of the notification (screening, scoping or preparation of the EIA documentation) | Length of the main steps in months | | | Final decision (date of issuing, if information is available) |
|--------------------|--|-------------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | Submission of the environmental report | Transboundary consultations (expert), if any | Public participation, including public hearing, if any | |
| <i>al facility</i> | | | | | | | |
| 2. | | | | | | | |
| 3. | | | | | | | |
| 4. | | | | | | | |
| ... | | | | | | | |

Your comments:

Please share with other Parties your country's experience of using the Convention in practice. In response to each of the questions below, either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country's general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others.

II.3. The Convention does not mention the translation of EIA documentation as an important prerequisite for the participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary EIA procedure. Please explain:

(a) How has your country addressed the issue of the translation of EIA documentation?

As Party of origin: Translation is often settled between the Points of Contacts. The need for translation varies from case to case. The material provided for public is translated into the language of the affected Party. In some cases the whole EIA report may be translated into English or in the language of the affected Party. As Finland is bilingual, some EIA documents are available in Swedish in addition to Finnish. In the north, Sámi languages are also used. Early cooperation between the Points of Contacts of the affected Party and the Party of origin are important for facilitating translations.

Receiving courtesy translation for answers written in national language is highly appreciated.

(b) What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation and interpretation, both as a Party of origin and as an affected Party, and what solutions has it found?

Party of origin: Quality control is important but as translations are provided by the developer quality can only be stressed. It is challenging to ensure technical and professional vocabulary translations into the various affected party languages.

(c) Which Party covers the cost of translation of EIA documentation?

- (i) As a Party of origin: Party of origin (developer covers the costs)
- (ii) As an affected Party: Party of origin

(iii) Other, please specify:

(d) What parts of the EIA documentation does your country usually translate?

(i) As a Party of origin: The material provided for public (sufficient information on projects and its transboundary impacts), or a non-technical summary is translated into the language of the affected Party. In some cases the whole EIA report may be translated into English or in the language of the affected Party.

(ii) As an affected Party: The translations are normally provided by the Party of origin.

(e) Please indicate whether and how the issue of translation is addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties.

In the bilateral agreement with Estonia it is agreed that the documentation is provided in “languages mutually agreed by the competent authorities of the Parties, in accordance with the guidelines established by the Commission”.

(f) As a Party of origin, in which language do you usually provide EIA documentation to the affected Party?

(i) English

(ii) The affected Party’s language

(iii) Other (please, specify) The EIA documentation in Finnish/Swedish is provided if the whole documentation is not translated into English.

(g) As an affected Party, from which language do you usually translate?

(i) English

(ii) Language of the Party of origin

(iii) Other (please, specify) The documents are usually provided in Finnish or Swedish by the Party of origin.

(h) Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations under article 5, for example with regard to timing, language and the need for additional information.

-

(i) As a Party of origin:

Experience with public participation Nothing special to note.

Experience with consultations under article 5 No consultations have taken place during this period.

(ii) As an affected Party:

Experience with public participation Nothing special to note.

Experience with consultations under article 5 No consultations have taken place during this period.

- (i) Please describe how the costs of interpretation during the hearings are covered:
- (ii) By the Party of origin:
- (iii) By the affected Party:
- (iv) Shared by both Parties concerned:
- (v) Developer:
- (vi) Other, please specify

II.4. Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during transboundary public participation (expert consultation, public hearing, etc.), including on issues of timing, language and the need for additional information: **No specific difficulties.**

II.5. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects or that of an NPP?:

(a) Yes

(b) No

II.6. If you answered yes to question II.5, please provide information on your country's experiences describing, for example, means of cooperation (e.g., contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (e.g., translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.):

(a) For joint cross-border projects:

(b) For NPPs:

II.7. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) that, in your view, constitute good practice: **No specific examples.**

II.8. Would your country like to introduce a case in the form of a Convention "case study fact sheet"?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please indicate which cases):

II.9. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2013–2015:

(a) No

(b) Yes (please indicate which projects, along with the challenges in implementation and any lessons learned):

2. Experience in using the guidance in 2016–2018

II.10. Has your country used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

(a) Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7):

No

Yes (please provide details): **This document is fairly old and therefore not in "every-day" use anymore.**

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

(b) Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix):

No

Yes (please provide details): **This document is fairly old and therefore not "every-day" use anymore as such.**

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

(c) Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8):

No

Yes (please provide details): This document is fairly old and therefore not in “every-day” use. It is worth mentioning though that much of content has been put into general practice as goes with the other guidances as well. If a tricky issue comes along we will look for the advice from the guidance.

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance: [A review to define need for an update.](#)

3. Clarity of the Convention

II.11. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either As a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes (please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear):

4. Suggested improvements to the report

II.12 Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals) for how this report could be improved.

[The questions concerning public hearings/public participation should be amended to reflect the terms used in the Convention.](#)