

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on
Access to Information, Public Participation
in Decision-making and Access to Justice
in Environmental Matters

Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making

Seventh meeting

Geneva, 15-16 December 2016

Selected extracts from National Implementation Reports¹

Background Paper

Prepared by the secretariat

This background paper directs participants to selected sections of the national implementation reports submitted by Parties, relating to items 2 and 3 of the agenda of the seventh meeting of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making under the Aarhus Convention. Specifically it lists the information provided by Parties with respect to public participation in decision-making for sustainable development as well as public participation in decision-making related to changes to or extensions of existing activities and in a transboundary context. Reference to the relevant articles of the Convention is made where appropriate.

Participants are invited to consult this document in advance of the meeting in order to gain an overview of items to be considered under agenda items 2 and 3, the challenges encountered by the Parties in implementation, and to discuss good practices and further needs to be addressed under the auspices of the Task Force on Public Participation in Decision-Making.

¹ This document was not formally edited.

NIR: country, year	Subject matter	Extract from NIR
Relevance to Convention's text: Article 6, paragraph 10		
Cyprus, 2005	Change, extension	Decisions on whether to permit specific activities are subject to the provisions of the Law on the Assessment of the Impacts on the Environment from Certain Projects (57(I)/2001). According to this the projects listed in Annex I, which is similar to Annex I of the text of the Aarhus Convention, are subject to an environmental impact assessment study. Projects listed in Annex II are subject to a preliminary environmental impact report to decide whether to permit the project or whether a full study is required prior to taking a decision. This Law is now in the process of being amended to include more detailed provisions on public participation, in accordance with the relevant EU Directive (2003/35/EC). (...) (j) According to the proposed amendment to Law 57(I)/2001, Annex I will be extended to include any change to or extension of any of the projects listed in the Annex, where such a change or extension in itself meets the thresholds, if any, set out in this Annex. In such a case, the proposed change or extension is subject to an environmental impact assessment study and the provisions set out above regarding public participation will apply. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.29)</i>
Italy, 2005 / 2008 / 2011	Change	If a change leads to a substantially different activity, a new EIA procedure (including public participation) has to be carried out to change existing activities already subject to an EIA, Legislative Decree 372/99 on Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) (i.e. the transposition of EC Directive 96/61 into national law) foresees an equivalent procedure for public participation when issuing "integrated environmental authorization". <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.10)</i>
Poland, 2005 / 2008	Change	Public participation is required whenever an EIA report or integrated permit is required. An EIA report is required in case of any changes to the installation that will cause an increase in emissions of no less than 20 per cent or an increase in the consumption of raw materials, other materials, or fuels and energy of no less than 20 per cent. Integrated permits have to be renewed periodically. Meanwhile, any significant changes to the installation also require the renewal of the permit. In both cases, public participation is obligatory; <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.17 and paragraph 99 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/POL)</i>
Cyprus, 2008 / 2011	Change, extension	In the new Law, annex I was extended to include any change to or extension of any of the projects listed in the annex, where such a change or extension in itself meets the thresholds, if any, set out in this annex. In such a case, the proposed change or extension is subject to an environmental impact assessment study and the provisions set out above regarding public participation will apply. <i>(See paragraph 75 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/CYP)</i>
Italy, 2008	Change	If a change leads to a substantially different activity, a new EIA procedure (including public participation) has to be carried out to change existing activities already subject to an EIA. <i>(See paragraph 92 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/ITA)</i>
Kyrgyzstan, 2008	Change	Under the current legislation on State environmental appraisals, if any changes are introduced into the project by the initiator of the activity or during its implementation, such changes are subject to a second State environmental appraisal, and another public discussion may also be held; everything depends on the nature of the changes introduced.

		On the initiative of Independent Environmental Assessment, an NGO, a government decision transferring Chatyr-Kul from the category of specially protected territory to the category of a fishing area was rescinded. After public intervention, on 25 July 2005, Government Decision No. 310 was issued on the attribution to Chatyr-Kul of the status of an international water and wetlands preserve; at the same time, Government Decision No. 694 of 4 November 2003 on the transfer of Chatyr-Kul into the category fishing waters of State significance was repealed. On 23 February 2006, the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention) assigned Ramsar site number 1588 to Chatyr-Kul. The repeal of the decree led to a court case, during which civil society once again had to defend public environmental interests in law enforcement bodies and in the courts. The director of the Issyk-Kul State Reserve authorized the construction of a road through the Reserve. On the basis of a complaint lodged by Independent Environmental Assessment, criminal proceedings were initiated for violation of the national legislation. <i>(See paragraphs 138 and 139 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/KGZ)</i>
Malta, 2008	Change	The kinds of changes in operating conditions of an activity falling within the scope of this paragraph that qualify as significant (and therefore lead to a new decision-making procedure where public participation should be provided for) are regulated by the Development Planning Act. <i>(See paragraph 79 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/MLT)</i>
Slovakia, 2008	Change	With regard to changes in the operating conditions of an activity falling within the scope of paragraph 1 of article 6 qualify as significant and therefore lead to a new decision-making procedure where public participation, the Administrative Rules provide for possibilities to appeal again a decision with a view to modify or cancel it or in cases where changes have occurred in the operating conditions. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/SVK)</i>
Serbia, 2011	Update, change, extension	<p>-Article 3. Law on Environmental Impact Assessment specifies that an environmental impact assessment is carried out in case of planned projects and projects being implemented, changes in technology, reconstruction, extension of capacity, termination of operations, and the removal of projects that may have significant impact on the environment. The procedure defined by law accordingly applies to projects that involve changes in technology, reconstruction, extension of capacity, termination of operations, etc.</p> <p>- Please, refer also to Articles 18, 28 of the Law on Environmental Impact Assessment</p> <p>- Article 18 of the Law on Integrated Environmental Pollution Prevention and Control defines the review procedure and the situations when a review procedure is carried out. The procedure itself is the same as when granting a permit. <i>(See NIR)</i></p>
Kyrgyzstan, 2011	Change	<p>Under the current legislation on state environmental audits, if any changes are introduced into the proposal by the initiator of the activity or during the activity's implementation, such changes are subject to a second state environmental audit, and another public discussion may also be held; everything depends on the nature of the changes introduced.</p> <p>On the initiative of the NGO Independent Environmental Expertise, a government decision transferring Chatyr-Kul from the category of specially protected territory to the category of a fishing area was rescinded. <i>(See paragraphs 196 and 197 of NIR)</i></p>
Lithuania, 2011	Change	(...) Chapter XI "Information of the Public" of the procedure approved by Order No. 620 of 5 December 2002 of the Minister of Environment (Official Gazette, No. 15-634, 2003; No. 64-2913, 2003) in line with the provisions of

		Directive 1999/13/EC provides that regional environmental protection departments must ensure that at least applications for authorisation for new installations that use solvents or for substantial changes of those installations are made available for an appropriate period of time to the public, to enable it to submit proposals before regional environmental protection departments reach a decision. (...) (<i>See NIR</i>)
Poland, 2011	Change	Conducting a strategic environmental impact assessment is also required for changes to already approved document, which ensures a possibility of public re-participation. (<i>See paragraph 108 of NIR</i>)
Romania, 2011	Reconsideration, update, change	MO 135/84/76/1284 provides that when the public authority revises a decision taken, public participation is included. Art. 47 provides as follows: “(1) Reviewing the screening decision, environmental permit or Natura 2000 approval is done by the issuing environmental authority by taking the following steps: [...] b) Drawing-up the public announce, in accordance with annex 21; c) Publishing the announce on the website and authority’s news board; d) Sending the public announcement to the project owner in order to be published in the national or local mass-media, its website and the identification board on the investment site (<i>See NIR</i>)
Spain, 2011	Modification, change	The modifications and changes to the characteristics and circumstances in which a project that falls within the scope of application of an EIA (article 3 of RLD 1/2008), in accordance with the basic regulation of the State, is always subject to a screening procedure (Group 9.k) of Annex II and articles 16 and 17 of the same regulation), in order to determine the possible existence of significant impacts. The channel of public participation has already been mentioned in this procedure. (<i>See paragraph 96 of NIR</i>)
Sweden, 2011	Reconsideration, update, change	When the conditions for an activity that has a permit are reconsidered or updated , largely the same rules about environmental impact statements and consultations apply as to an application for a new permit. If a change in conditions means that human health or the environment may be affected, the application is regularly published in local newspapers so that the public is aware of the application and can submit views on it. Public participation is therefore guaranteed in the same way for an update and for a new activity. However, if the operator applies for an update on his own initiative, an environmental impact statement is not formally required. (<i>See paragraph 73 of NIR</i>)
Cyprus, 2014	Reconsideration, update, change, extension	Measures taken to ensure that when a public authority reconsiders or updates the operating conditions of an activity the provisions for public participation are applied as appropriate Any change to or extension of any of the projects listed and which meets the thresholds, if any, set out in the Annex is subject to an environmental impact assessment study and the provisions set out above regarding public participation will apply. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Serbia, 2014	Reconsideration, update, change	-Article 3. LEIA specifies that an environmental impact assessment is carried out in case of planned projects and projects being implemented, changes in technology, reconstruction, extension of capacity, termination of operations, and the removal of projects that may have significant impact on the environment. The procedure defined by law accordingly applies to projects that involve changes in technology, reconstruction, extension of capacity, termination of operations, etc. - Please, refer also to Articles 18, 28 of the LEIA - Article 18 of the LIPPC defines the review procedure and the situations when a review procedure is carried out. The

		procedure itself is the same as when granting a permit. <i>(See NIR)</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2014	Reconsideration, update, change, extension	<p>In accordance with Article 94(3) and 95(3) LoPN RS, the public are informed about ecology permit revision. In accordance with Article 5(6) of the Regulation for revision procedures and renewal of ecology permits („Official Gazette RS“ 28/13) procedure on issuing ecology permits is followed in case there are significant changes in operating process of the plants. In FBiH and BD, establishment of regulations treating the revision of environment/ecology permits is underway.</p> <p>The procedure of issuing water/legal act is implemented in cases of altering the water/legal act of the FBiH and the RS procedure. The correlation between the procedure of extension and revision of water use permit and of the procedure relating the participation of public in the process has not been defined. <i>(See NIR)</i></p>
Czech Republic, 2014	Change	In the Czech system of law this provision concerns particularly a change of an issued decision in a procedure; the former procedure participants may participate in such procedure with all rights as were their rights applicable to the former decision-making. <i>(See NIR)</i>
Malta, 2014	Reconsideration, update, change	The kinds of changes in operating conditions of an activity falling within the scope of this paragraph that qualify as significant (and therefore lead to a new decision-making procedure where public participation should be provided for) relate to land-use and are regulated by the Environment and Development Planning Act, 2010 (Cap. 504). In addition, a change in operating conditions of IPPC installations requires a modification of the permit, which in turn requires public consultation procedures as regulated by the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations, 2002 (LN 234/02, as amended). <i>(See NIR)</i>
Poland, 2014	Change	Conducting environmental impact assessment in the frameworks of which public participation takes place is also required for changes of decisions on environmental conditions. <i>(See paragraph 123 of NIR)</i>
Romania, 2014	Reconsideration, update	<p>MO 135/84/76/1284 of 2009, provides that, when the public authority revises a decision taken, public participation must be included. Thus, Article 47 provides that:</p> <p>“(1) Reviewing the screening decision, environmental permit or Natura 2000 approval, is done, by the issuing environmental competent environmental authority by taking the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - within 10 days of the decision to revise, going through the following procedural steps: recording mentions and/or amending the initial content of the document issued by the competent environmental authority or rejection of the application, as applicable; - drawing -up the public announcement, according to the template provided in Annex No. 21; - publication of the announcement on its own website and posting at its offices; - transmission of the public announcement drafted according to the template provided in Annex No. 22 to the developer, for publication within 3 days, in the national or local media, at its offices and on its website, as well as on the investment identification board mounted on the site. <p>The interested public may send to the competent environmental authority comments/opinions/observations regarding the decision of the competent environmental authority within 10 days of this posting.</p> <p>Within 5 days of the deadline provided under para. (2) expiry, the competent environmental authority shall conduct the following activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - review the justified comments/opinions/observations of the interested public;

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - send to the project titleholder the revised screening decision/ environmental agreement. Natura 2000 endorsement for rejection of the application, as applicable. "(See NIR)"
Spain, 2014	Modification, change	The modifications and changes to the characteristics and circumstances in which a project that falls within the scope of application of an EIA or IEA, in accordance with the basic regulation of the State, is always subject to a screening procedure in order to determine the possible existence of significant impacts. The channels of public participation has already been mentioned in this procedure. (See paragraph 116 of NIR)
Sweden, 2014	Reconsideration, update	When the conditions for an activity that has a permit are reconsidered or updated , largely the same rules about environmental impact statements and consultations apply as to an application for a new permit. If a change in conditions means that human health or the environment may be affected, the application is regularly published in local newspapers so that the public is aware of the application and can submit views on it. Public participation is therefore guaranteed in the same way for an update and for a new activity. However, if the operator applies for an update on his own initiative, an environmental impact statement is not formally required. (See NIR)
France, 2005	Transboundary	<p>In 1999 the research department of the Ministry of Ecology and Sustainable Development launched a research programme entitled "Coordination, decision-making and environment"; the issue of public participation in the process of decision-making or the implementation of public policy had emerged as a priority from a survey carried out in 1998. The aim is to analyse experiments carried out over the past three decades in order to obtain results which will serve as a basis for training for all those concerned.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>(b) The notice of public inquiry includes most of this information (cf. article 12 of the Decree of 23 April 1985), in particular on the proposed activity (a), the nature of the decisions to be adopted and the proposed procedure (d). For identification of the public authority responsible for taking the decision (c), the information is not available in the notice but in the inquiry file. Information on the environment (d) (vi) and on any transboundary impacts of the project (e) is contained in the impact assessment attached to the public inquiry file; (See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.8)</p>
Hungary, 2005	Transboundary	The environmental inspection process also allows for public participation. The environmental inspection process concerning various plans and programmes is provided for by the Environment Act. The environmental inspection includes drawing up an environmental assessment, requesting opinions from administrative bodies responsible for the protection of the environment, observations from the public concerned, and, in case of significant transboundary impacts, consultations with the country concerned, and takes the results of these into consideration when elaborating the plan or programme. Details of the inspection process will be regulated in a government decree to be adopted shortly. The Environment Act ensures that the public can participate in the environmental inspection and express its opinion, and calls decision-makers to consider opinions expressed in reaching their decisions. (See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.25)
Kyrgyzstan, 2005 / 2011 / 2014	Transboundary	<p>(a) Kyrgyzstan applies the provision of the Convention concerning public participation in decisions on whether to permit proposed activities listed in the annex. The procedures are laid down in the national legislation referred to above. Moreover, Kyrgyzstan, being a Party to the Espoo Convention, also applies its corresponding provisions with respect to objects having a transboundary impact. (See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.13)</p>
Republic of Moldova, 2005	Transboundary	<p>In the event of the public becoming involved in the preparation of laws, regulations and decisions concerning projects at national level or with transboundary implications or other laws and regulations, the central environment agency must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform the public, through the media, of the commencement of the process of preparation of the text in

		<p>question;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organize working groups (opinion polling teams) that include representatives of the NGOs and the public; - Organize, where necessary, sociological surveys to determine the topicality of and need for the legislation to be prepared; - Invite representatives of the media to meetings of the working groups, thereby ensuring the transparency of the proceedings; - Forward the corresponding draft documents to the NGOs and other interested authorities for signature; - Organize press conferences, round tables, and television and radio broadcasts for the purpose of explaining the gist of the legislation; - Study requests and proposals deserving of attention and change, where necessary, the content of the drafts in preparation; <p>After the documents prepared have been approved by the higher authorities or published in the Official Monitor, take steps to draw them to the attention of the public by holding press conferences, round tables, briefings, etc. (<i>See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.19</i>)</p>
Lithuania, 2005	Cross-border	<p>The Description of the Procedure for Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment of Plans and Programmes approved by Government Resolution No. 967 (2004) ensures that consultations with the public are held and their results, as well as those of other procedures available to the public, taken into account, and that the public is able to participate in the assessment of alternatives in territorial planning documents and other plans and programmes. The developer of the plan or programme must inform the public of the decision. If a SEA is not carried out, the developer must inform the public of where the reasoning for such a decision can be found. The developer must consult with the public and make available the report and draft plan or programme and, where alternatives for the territorial planning documentation are assessed, the report and alternatives prepared during the conceptual planning stage. The developer must also inform the public of the decision made and specify where the plan or programme adopted is available; of the planned monitoring measures for its implementation impacts; a brief description of the way in which the environmental issues are reflected in the plan or programme; the way in which information in the assessment report was taken into consideration during the decision-making process; the conclusions of the assessment and proposals put forward by the public; the way in which the results of cross-border consultations, if any, were taken into consideration during the decision-making process; and the reasons explaining the choice of a given alternative. (<i>See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.15</i>)</p>
Relevance to Convention's text: Article 6 paragraph 2		
Germany, 2008 / 2011	Transboundary	<p>The consultation process is fleshed out in more detail in, for example, Article 10 (3) and (4) BImSchG in conjunction with Articles 8 to 12 of the Ninth Ordinance implementing the Federal Immission Control Act, and in Article 9 UVPG, which makes reference to Article 73 VwVfG. The process is illustrated as follows with reference to these norms. The competent authority must first give public notice of the project in the area where the installation is to be constructed (see, for example, Article 10 (3), first sentence BImSchG in conjunction with Article 8 (1), first sentence of the Ninth Ordinance implementing the Federal Immission Control Act, and Article 9 (1a) UVPG). In this notice, the public must be provided, in particular, with the following information: details of the application and the project, the type of possible decision, the competent authority, the procedure envisaged, and details of the time period for public discussion and deadlines for the lodging of objections, and on transboundary consultation among the authorities and the public (see Article 9 (1) of the Ninth Ordinance implementing the Federal Immission Control Act, and Article 9 (1a) and (1b))</p>

		UVPG). (See paragraph 46 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/DEU)
Germany, 2008 / 2011 / 2014	Transboundary	<p>Under the SEA provisions in the UVPG, public consultation is undertaken in a manner similar to that applying to EIAs (Article 14i UVPG makes reference to Article 9 UVPG); the same applies to transboundary public consultation (Article 14j UVPG makes reference to Article 9a UVPG). (See paragraph 61 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/DEU)</p> <p><i>[“(1) The competent authority shall hear the public on the project’s environmental impacts on the basis of the documents presented pursuant to Article 6. The hearing procedure shall be conducted pursuant to the requirements of Article 73 paras 3 to 7 of the Act on Administrative Procedures (Verwaltungsverfahrensgesetz). If the developer alters the documents required pursuant to Article 6 in the course of the procedures, the public need not be heard a second time as long as no additional or other significant effects on the environment are to be feared.</i></p> <p><i>(2) The competent authority shall make available the decision on the approval of the project and the grounds for decision to those concerned, where names are known, and those on whose objections a decision was made. If the project is dismissed those concerned whose names are known and those who made objections shall be informed.</i></p> <p><i>(3) Notwithstanding paras 1 and 2 the public shall be involved in the advance procedure by</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. the project being announced publicly,</i> <i>2. the documents required pursuant to Article 6 being made available for inspection for a reasonable period of time,</i> <i>3. an opportunity being given for the public to express its opinion,</i> <i>4. the public being informed about the decision.</i> <p><i>Involving the public does not constitute legal claims. Pursuit of claims in subsequent approval procedures shall not be affected.” (Art. 9 UVPG)]</i></p>
Greece, 2008	Transboundary	<p>In general, the EIA procedure is carried out at the central, regional and local authority levels for large, medium and small-scale projects, respectively. EIA is a two-stage process that involves the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Screening and scoping (carried out as a preliminary EIA procedure, at the end of which the public is informed of the outcome); - Submission of application (including the Environmental Impact Survey) to the competent environmental authority; - Quality review of the submitted documentation; - Consultation with other relevant authorities and public participation (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary); - Opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period; - Issuance of EIA decision (“decision for approval of environmental terms”); - Publication of decision, so that the public is informed. (See paragraph 95 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC) <p>EIA studies are announced publicly to the competent Prefecture Councils. The official opinions on the preliminary environmental assessment and evaluation and on the decisions of environmental terms approval are also notified to the above competent Prefecture Councils. The preliminary environmental estimation and evaluation (PEEE) is a first opinion of the administration and it is not binding. In addition, the text of PEEE is publicized (for public information only) by the competent Prefecture Council. A similar public announcement is also provided to the authorities of a neighbour EU</p>

		Member State (transboundary consultation) when there are possible environmental impacts of the assessed activities. Environmental NGOs, local representatives and local competent bodies, as well as any person, can submit comments either to the Prefecture Council or to the competent public authority respectively. (<i>See paragraph 97 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC</i>)
Greece, 2008	Transboundary	<p>In particular, a consultation process was followed on the respective SEA studies for the three Special Frameworks of Spatial Planning on Renewable Energy Sources, Industry and Tourism. In general, the SEA procedure takes place on the central level for national, interregional and regional plans and programmes and on a regional level for local (prefecture and inter-prefecture) plans and programmes, and entails the following steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optional scoping; - Screening (public is informed of outcome); - Submission of application (including the Strategic Environmental Impact Study (SEIS)) to the competent environmental authority; - Quality review of the submitted documentation; - Consultation with other relevant authorities and public participation (these take place concurrently and include transboundary consultations when necessary); - Opinions sent to competent authority within specified time period; - Issuance of SEA decision, which includes monitoring measures; (para. 109) - Publication of the decision, so that the public is informed. <p>(<i>See paragraph 109 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/GRC</i>)</p>
Latvia, 2008	Transboundary	<p>Public involvement is prescribed by the EPL, the Law on Pollution, the EIAL, CM Regulation No. 157 “Procedure for Strategic Assessment of Environmental Impact” of 23 March 2004, CM Regulation No. 87 “Procedure for Assessment of Environmental Impact of Proposed Activity” of 17 February 2004, CM Regulation No. 91 “Procedure for Issue of Proposed Activity’s Technical Regulations by Regional Environmental Board When No Environmental Assessment Is Required” of 17 February 2004, CM Regulation No. 294 “Application Procedure for A, B and C Category Polluting Activities and Issue of A and B Category Polluting Activities Permits” of 09 July 2002, CM Regulation No. 455 “Assessment Procedure of Impact on European Specially Protected Nature Territories (NATURA 2000)” of 06 June 2006, CM Regulation No. 686 “Regulations on Contents and Preparation Process of Specially Protected Nature Territories’ Nature Protection Plan” of 9 October 2007, CM Regulation No. 883 “Municipality Territorial Planning Regulations” of 19 October 2004, the Territorial Planning Law, CM Regulation No.394 “Railway Construction Regulations” of 2 December 1997, CM Regulation No. 331 “Proposed Construction Public Discussions Procedure” of 22 May 2007 (see below, as well as the above-mentioned acts referred to with respective number). National legislative acts also regulate cases, when proposed activities have a potential transboundary impact. (<i>See paragraph 108 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/LVA</i>)</p>
Sweden, 2008	Transboundary	<p>Under the rules in the Environmental Code, anyone who intends to conduct an activity that requires a permit or a decision on permissibility has to consult with the country administrative board, the supervisory authority, and individuals who are likely to be particularly affected. The corresponding process is also guaranteed in transboundary contexts. (...)</p> <p>(<i>See paragraph 65 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/SWE</i>)</p>
Albania, 2011	Transboundary	The objective of the Project is to strengthen the Albanian institutions and civil society capacities to implement the

		<p>Aarhus convention. The Project's components are: (1) Strengthening institutional capacity and legal framework; (2) Dissemination of knowledge, training, and information and (3) Increasing transparency and accountability with specific objectives to:</p> <p>(i) Build and/or improve the capacity of the Aarhus Center, the regional environmental agencies, civil society, and other stakeholders in understanding the AaC requirements and in implementing an updated local AaC Strategy and Action Plan. (ii) Enhance the interaction between the civil society and public authorities with respect to public participation and access to justice in government decision-making regarding national, and transboundary environment matters, fostering improved compliance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. (iii) Improve civil society's watchdog role, by engaging them in a constructive manner with environment related Government of Albania (GoA) planning processes, through improved monitoring of guidelines and requirements set forth in the Convention. (<i>See NIR</i>)</p>
Albania, 2011	Transboundary	<p>Article 39 stipulates that the Ministry of Environment should grant equal opportunities to all the parties to become acquainted with the documents submitted by the applicant. In respect of the above-mentioned, as a member of the Espoo Convention, in the national legislation drafted in implementation of the requirements of this Convention, Albania has foreseen also the right of the neighbouring countries' public participation (DMC No. 1429, dated 29. 01. 2009, "On the endorsement of the rules and procedures for the assessment of activities and projects with considerable adverse impact on the environment of the neighbouring countries," par. 4), in the event of activities with a transboundary impact. (<i>See NIR</i>)</p>
Montenegro, 2011	Transboundary	<p>(...) Article 24 defines availability of information, or that "the strategic environmental impact assessment report, results of participation of authorities and organisations and the public concerned and other states in case of transboundary impacts shall make integral parts of the documentation basis of plans or programmes. The competent authority responsible for preparation of plans and programmes shall also provide for the access to data referred to in paragraph 1 of this Article after the adoption of plans and programmes, under the conditions set forth by the Law." (...) (<i>See NIR</i>)</p>
Poland, 2011	Transboundary	<p>In the context of the provisions of this article it is worth complementing the material with the information relating to the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, which was ratified by Poland in 1999 (Journal of Laws of 3 December 1999), which points to the need to conduct public consultations in the exposed country, in the case of projects that may have transboundary impact. (<i>See paragraph 26 of NIR</i>)</p>
Poland, 2011	Transboundary	<p>Under the Law on Public Access to Information on environment and its protection, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment, the authority preparing a draft document requiring public participation, without delay, makes a public announcement about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the accession to the preparation of the draft document and its subject; - the opportunities to get acquainted with the necessary documentation of the case and the location at which it is available for inspection; - the possibility to submit comments and motions; - how and where to submit comments and motions, pointing at least a 21-day deadline for their submission; - the authority competent to examine the comments and motions; - the proceeding on transboundary environmental impact if it is conducted. <p>(<i>See NIR</i>)</p>

		<p>Necessary documentation of the case includes draft document or its objectives and annexes required by the policies and other bodies standpoints, if they are available within the time limit for submitting comments and motions.</p> <p>Under the Law on Public Access to Information on the environment, before issuing or amending the decision requiring public participation, the authority competent to make the decision, without delay, makes a public announcement about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the accession to project's environmental impact assessment; - the initiation of the proceeding; - the subject of the decision to be issued in the case; - the authority competent to issue decisions, and the bodies competent to issue opinions and make arrangements; - the opportunities to get acquainted with the necessary documentation of the case and the location at which it is available for inspection; - the possibility to submit comments and motions; - how and where to submit comments and motions, pointing at least a 21-day deadline for their submission; - the authority competent to examine the comments and motions; - the date and place of an administrative proceeding open to the public, if it is conducted; - the proceeding on transboundary environmental impact if it is conducted. <p>Necessary documentation of the case includes: request for a decision along with the required annexes, as well as the provisions required by the policies of the authority competent to issue decisions and standpoints of other bodies, if they are available within the time limit for submitting comments and motions. <i>(See paragraphs 95 and 96 of NIR)</i></p>
Serbia, 2011	Transboundary	<p>Article 24 stipulates that the strategic assessment report and the results of participation of the authorities, organisations and public concerned and other states in the cases of transboundary impact shall become an integral part of the documentation that provides the basis for plans and programmes. The competent planning authority shall provide access to the data referred to in Paragraph 1 of this Article after the adoption of plans and programmes, under the conditions set forth by law.<i>(See NIR)</i></p>
Sweden, 2011	Transboundary	<p>Under the rules in the Environmental Code, anyone who intends to conduct an activity that requires a permit or a decision on permissibility has to consult with the country administrative board, the supervisory authority, and individuals who are likely to be particularly affected. The corresponding process is also guaranteed in transboundary contexts. <i>(See paragraph 65 of NIR)</i></p>
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 2011	Cross-border, transboundary	<p>In case of cross-border cooperation, under Article 93 of the Law on Environment, public participation is stipulated as follows:</p> <p>(1) The body of the state administration competent to carry out activities in the area of environment in cooperation with the competent body of the country concerned is obliged to establish conditions for public information and gathering opinions and comments from the concerned public of the concerned country, in the same way as for the domestic public in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Macedonia.</p> <p>(2) Information obtained from the concerned country together with the comments of its public shall be taken into account by the body of the state administration competent to carry out activities in the area of environment in the adoption of the decision approving the implementation of the project.</p> <p>(3) If the body of the state administration competent to carry out activities in the area of environment receives notification from the other country that they have learned that there is intention to carry out project in the Republic of</p>

		Macedonia that could have significant transboundary impact and that country has not been notified on that project by the Republic of Macedonia in accordance with this Law is obliged, if it is found out that there is transboundary impact, to enable participation of the country in the environmental impact assessment procedure in accordance with this Law. <i>(See NIR)</i>
Bosnia and Herzegovina, 2011	Cross-border	(d) With respect to paragraph 7, measures taken to promote the principles of the Convention internationally; According to article 63 LoPE FBiH/75 LoPE RS/60 LoPE BD, relating to the environmental impact assessment in the context of cross-border impact, these provisions apply in circumstances of international commitments, bilateral agreements or other reasons. According to article 70 LoPE FBiH/84 LoPE RS/70 LoPE BD, in case the operation of a plant or project may cause negative implications on the territory of another state, the environmental permit request shall be submitted to the country concerned. Further, if in the procedure to issue an environmental permit in another country, the FBiH MET, RS MSPCEE and BD DSPLPR receives documentation showing that the plant in question may have adverse impact on the environment in FBiH/RS/BD, the population living in the concerned area shall be informed and provided opportunity to give their opinion. The law provides that detailed information about cross-border impact of plants on another country, should be determined through bilateral agreements. <i>(See NIR)</i>
Kazakhstan, 2011	Transborder	Moreover, the public participates in interstate consultations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan on transborder environmental impact assessments in fulfilment of the Espoo Convention. <i>(See paragraph 22 of NIR)</i>
Lithuania, 2011 / 2014	Cross-border	(d) The provisions of the Convention are applied to both domestic and international activities. The provisions of the Convention apply to EU member states (e.g. on 1–2 June 2010, Lithuania hosted the Baltic Development Forum (BDF), also known as “the Baltic Davos”, where influential business, political and academic figures gathered together to discuss the current economic situation and possibilities to improve it, the EU policy towards the Baltic Sea region and look for cooperation opportunities). The procedure for informing the institutions and society of an EU member state that is to experience significant environmental effects is agreed during cross-border consultations. Such a procedure should ensure that the institutions and society of an EU member state that is likely to experience significant environmental effects are informed of possibilities to express their opinion on a decision planned to be taken and are provided with information as to where they can familiarise themselves with an approved spatial planning document, reasons for the selection of an alternative solution, measures for monitoring the effects of implementation of the spatial planning document as well as with information on the inclusion of environmental issues in the spatial planning document, taking into account of information contained in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, findings by strategic environmental assessment entities, public proposals and the results of cross-border consultations, if any. <i>(See 2011 NIR)</i>
Lithuania, 2011 / 2014	Cross-border	Regulations on Public Information and Participation in the Spatial Planning Process approved by Government Resolution No 1079 (Official Gazette Valstybės Žinios, 1996, No 90-2099, 2007, No 33-1190; 2010, 78-4010) (hereinafter “Regulations”) also establish a requirement to agree on a detailed procedure for informing the institutions and society of an EU member state that is to experience significant environmental effects during cross-border consultations. Such a procedure should ensure that the institutions and society of EU member states likely to experience significant environmental effects are informed of possibilities to express their opinion on a decision planned to be taken, an adopted decision and are provided with information as to where they can familiarise themselves with an approved spatial planning document, reasons for the selection of an alternative solution, measures for monitoring the effects of

		implementation of the spatial planning document as well as with information on the inclusion of environmental issues in the spatial planning document, taking into account of information contained in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report, findings by strategic environmental assessment entities, public proposals and the results of cross-border consultations, if any. (<i>See 2011 NIR</i>)
Lithuania, 2011	Cross-border	<p>The opportunity of the public to participate in the development of plans of protected areas shall be defined by the said provisions of the participation of the public in the process of territorial planning.</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>The originator of a plan or a programme shall inform the public about the adopted decision and indicate where the following is made available to the public: the approved plan or the programme; provided means for the monitoring of the implementation of the plan or the programme; the description, which briefly indicates how environmental issues are reflected in the plan or the programme; to what extent the adoption of the decision gave considered information provided in the assessment report, conclusions of the entities of the assessment, proposals submitted by the public; to what extent the adoption of the decision gave considered the results of cross-border consulting, if any; why the consideration of alternatives led to the selection of the adopted alternative of the concept of the plan, the programme or the territorial planning document. (<i>See NIR</i>)</p>
Republic of Moldova, 2011 / 2014	Cross-border	<p>National legislation provides that by involving the public in the process of formulation of laws, provisions and decisions on projects of national level, projects with cross-border influence and other legislative and normative documents, the central environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) informs the public via media sources about the beginning of the drafting process for the mentioned documents; 2) organizes working groups (groups to integrate the population) involving NGO representatives and the public; 3) if necessary, organizes opinion polls regarding the relevance and need for regulatory act to be developed; 4) invites to the meetings of working groups representatives of the media, thus ensuring the transparency of working group activities; 5) send the draft documents relevant NGOs and other interested bodies for signature; 6) organizes press conferences, roundtables, TV and radio broadcasts, which present the essence of these acts; 7) considers requests, proposals that deserve attention, and if necessary change the content of draft documents that are at the stage of development; 8) proceeding approval of documents issued by higher authorities or after publication in the Official Journal of the Republic of Moldova organizes various measures to bring them to the public knowledge (press conferences, roundtables, press briefing etc.). (<i>See 2011 NIR</i>)
Spain, 2011	Cross-border	The regulation of the procedures for Integrated Environmental Authorisation in Law 16/2002, which includes the guarantee of the “real and effective” participation of stakeholders (article 14), deals with the participation and processing of public information (articles 14, 16 and Annex 5) and instances of activities with cross-border effects (article 27). (<i>See paragraph 77 of NIR</i>)
Ireland, 2014	Transboundary	<p>The response to Question XV (b) to (j) lists in detail the legislative provisions which underpin the Article 6 requirements with respect to IPPC and planning consent systems. Similar requirements are provided for in other EIA consent systems.</p> <p>The requirements introduced into the above legislation include; notification requirements including transboundary</p>

		notifications; notification of public participation; providing information on the final decision to the public; and provisions in relation to the alteration or replacement of an existing EIA project. These requirements have been introduced by the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 1989, and in amending regulations. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Italy, 2014	Transboundary	The Province of Bolzano, in the case of a wind farm in the town of Brennero, subject to the EIA procedure, in agreement with the MoE, has launched a transboundary public consultation (with Austria), according to provincial law 2/2007. The public consultation has led to the submission of written comments by both Italian and Austrian citizens. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Italy, 2014	Transboundary	Legislative decree 152/2006, "Norms on the Environment", Part 2, Title II, as modified by Legislative Decree 128/2010, dealing with Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), (implementing EC Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment) addresses public consultation on the environmental impacts of a proposed plan or programme which could have a significant impact on the environment or on cultural heritage at national, regional, local and transboundary level. The new procedure for public consultation is similar to the one for the EIA: the notice is published in the official Gazette or in the regional bulletins of interested regions, the documentations is at the disposal (including on-line) of the public which is allowed 60 days for commenting, including though electronic tools. Comments from the public are taken into consideration while the competent authority takes the final decision, accompanied by a motivated opinion. To be an Italian citizen is not a requisite in order to participate to the consultations, so the principle of non-discrimination is guaranteed. Furthermore, Legislative Decree 152/2006 as modified guarantees that the same standards for public participation are applied everywhere in the national territory. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Kazakhstan, 2014	Transboundary	In addition, there is a practice of cross-border consultations between Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, with the participation of the public on transboundary environment impact assessment (hereinafter – EIA) in the framework of the Espoo Convention. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Lithuania, 2014	Adverse impact on state	Where a proposed economic activity in the RoL territory may have a significant adverse impact on a state that is a party to the UN 1991 Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context or where such a state demands EIA, the public must take part in the EIA process in accordance with this Convention, the RoL Law on EIA of the Proposed Economic Activity, international treaties of the RoL and relevant foreign states and other laws. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Poland, 2014	Impact range including territory of another state	The Republic of Poland has ratified the 1997 Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (OJ 96, item 1110) which indicates the necessity of conducting public consultations in cases where the investment is carried out in one country (the origin part), and the impact range includes the territory of another state (the exposed part) which could cause significant adverse environmental effects. (<i>See paragraph 28 of NIR</i>)
Poland, 2014	Transboundary	Under the Act on access to information about the environment, public participation in environmental protection and environmental impact assessment, the authority preparing a draft document requiring public participation, without delay, makes a public announcement about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) • the proceeding on transboundary environmental impact if it is conducted. (<i>See paragraph 111 of NIR</i>) <p>Under the Act on access to information about the environment, the authority developing the project of the document requiring public participation, without delay, makes a public announcement about:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (...) • the proceeding on transboundary environmental impact if it is conducted. (<i>See paragraph 133 of NIR</i>)
Serbia, 2014	Transboundary	Article 24 [<i>of the Law on Environmental Protection</i>] stipulates that the strategic assessment report and the results of participation of the authorities, organisations and public concerned and other states in the cases of transboundary impact shall become an integral part of the documentation that provides the basis for plans and programmes. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Sweden, 2014	Transboundary	Under the rules in the Environmental Code, anyone who intends to conduct an activity that requires a permit or a decision on permissibility has to consult with the country administrative board, the supervisory authority, and individuals who are likely to be particularly affected. The corresponding process is also guaranteed in transboundary contexts. (<i>See paragraph 63 of NIR</i>)
Finland, 2014	Frontier	Under the Border Agreement between Finland and Sweden (SopS 90–91/2010), the legislation and permit authorities involved in water permit issues in the Tornionjoki watershed are determined by the national judicial system of each country. The Agreement safeguards for residents of the region wide rights of participation also in water permit matters handled on the other side of the frontier . (<i>See paragraph 9 of NIR</i>)
Germany, 2014	Border	In connection with the national discussion in Germany about strengthening public participation, mention is to be made of, inter alia, two specific pieces of legislation that have been used to introduce early and repeated public participation in phased planning procedures during particular, important planning and approval processes. This relates firstly to the planning of extra-high-voltage power lines between Länder and across national borders under the Grid Expansion Acceleration Act adopted in 2011 (Netzausbaubeschleunigungsgesetz Übertragungsnetz – NABEG, supplemented by provisions in the Energy Industry Act (Energiewirtschaftsgesetz – EnWG)), and secondly to the search for and selection of a site for a repository for heat-generating radioactive waste under the Site Selection Act (StandAG), which entered into force in the summer of 2013 and has been discussed above. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Slovenia, 2014	Cross-border	<p>Article 65 – The Ministry must, by an announcement in a locally established method, via the internet and in one of the daily newspapers covering the entire State territory, inform the public of the environmental protection consent not later than within 30 days after serving the decision on the parties. The announcement must in particular include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the content of the decision and the essential conditions for the implementation of the planned activity, where specified; - the main reasons for the decision; - the description of the most important measures for prevention, reduction or elimination of adverse effects of the planned activity on the environment when the environmental protection consent is granted; and - an indication of the public opinions and comments considered in the procedure of the environmental impact assessment and, in cases of cross-border impact, also an indication of the considered opinions and comments by the Member States concerned. (<i>See NIR</i>)
Relevance to Convention's text: Preamble; Article 8		
Belgium, 2005	Sustainable Development	<p>Efforts made to promote public participation during the preparation of regulations and rules that may have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to article 8.</p> <p>Describe what efforts are made to promote effective public participation during the preparation by public authorities of executive regulations and other generally applicable legally binding rules that may have a significant effect on the</p>

		<p>environment, pursuant to article 8. To the extent appropriate, describe the transposition of the relevant definitions in article 2 and the non-discrimination requirement in article 3, paragraph 9.</p> <p>Federal Authority The federal level has set up the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, composed of civil society major stakeholders, which issues opinions to the Federal Authority on the federal policy for sustainable development. Since 1994, it has issued more than 100 opinions on planned regulations and policy. The Council carries out tasks at its own initiative or at the request of the Ministers or Secretaries of State, the House of Representatives and the Senate. It can call upon public federal administrations and bodies to assist it in accomplishing its tasks and can consult anyone whose collaboration is deemed useful for the consideration of certain issues. The Council issues an opinion within three months of the request for an opinion. In an emergency, a shorter time frame may be stipulated by the applicant, which can however not be shorter than two weeks. The Council drafts an annual report of its activities. The Government must state the reasons for disregarding its opinions. Walloon Region See the answer to question 19. Flemish Region Draft regulations are submitted for advice to the Environment and Nature Council of Flanders, the Flanders' Socio-Economic Council and the Flemish Commission for Spatial Planning, which are composed primarily of civil society groups and experts. A similar regulation exists at the provincial and municipal levels. Brussels-Capital Region Public participation is guaranteed by representative organizations brought together in the Brussels Environment Council. See the Decree of the Brussels-Capital Region Executive of 15 March 1990 regulating the creation, functions and composition of the Environment Council for the Brussels-Capital Region (published in the Official Gazette of 6 July 1990). (See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.4)</p>
Georgia, 2005	Sustainable Development	<p>Current legislation is in compliance with the most of the requirements of the Convention (see below). Besides, the Convention applies directly (see above). The Law on Environmental Protection protects citizens' rights in environmental matters. In particular, its article 6 stipulates that each citizen has a right to live in a healthy environment and to obtain complete, impartial and timely information on the state of his/her working and living surroundings. In order to inform the public, the Ministry of the Environment submits its national report on the state of the environment to the President each year. Once the report is promulgated, it is accessible to the public. In accordance with article 15 of the Law, a sustainable development strategy is being developed. It comprises a long-term strategic plan and the Law envisages public participation in the strategy's development;</p> <p>(...)</p> <p>Notwithstanding current legislation there are many practical obstacles to implementation. In spite of legislative requirements, there is no long-term strategy for sustainable development. The National Report on the State of the Environment is drawn up without public participation, it is not up to date and is not being disseminated actively (although it is available upon request). The environmental planning system is not efficient (restructuring is planned). In some cases decisions regarding big projects were made in violation of existing legislation (either because of lack of a knowledge of environmental legislation by some governmental bodies and investors or because of lobbying by special interests) in previous years. Environmental organizations protested vehemently and the situation has somewhat improved since, though there is not yet enough government action. (See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.9)</p>

Italy, 2005	Sustainable Development	Public participation in plans and programmes has been developed mainly at the local level. Voluntary Local Agenda 21 processes are successfully spread throughout Italy, involving around 800 local authorities (as at October 2004): the MoE cofinances the process by periodical calls for tender to support the initiation and strengthening of Local Agenda 21. Public participation is implicit in the Local Agenda 21 process, since local programmes for sustainable development are discussed in a consultative forum, in which the public and stakeholders are represented. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.10)</i>
Italy, 2005	Sustainable Development	At the local level, mechanisms for the involvement of local communities in policies for sustainable development , including Local Agenda 21, have been in place for a long time and are functioning well. Public participation at the national level still presents a challenge and needs to be developed further. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.10)</i>
Netherlands, 2005 / 2011 / 2014	Sustainable Development	In more general terms, Dutch environmental policy aims at sustainable development and is based upon five 'pillars', one of which is to increase participation of citizens and companies in problem solving. These pillars have been incorporated in an environmental strategy, the National environmental policy plan. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.26)</i>
Romania, 2005	Sustainable Development	The implementation of the Convention on access to information, public participation in decision-making and to justice in environmental matters, done at Aarhus, Denmark, on 25 June 1998 creates a general legislative framework which assures the sustainable development and the environment's protection, by taking into account that better access to information and public participation into the process of decision-making improve the quality of public authority decisions, contribute to the public awareness on environmental matters and promote the ecological education for the purpose of a more profound comprehension of environmental matters. <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.28)</i>
Tajikistan, 2005	Sustainable Development	The Republic of Tajikistan ratified the Convention on 9 June 2001. Tajikistan has the necessary political, legislative and institutional basis for the successful implementation of the main provisions of the Convention. The legislation establishes the basic principles for public participation in environmental decision-making, access to information and access to justice in matters relating to the protection of the environment and sustainable development . <i>(See document ECE/MP.PP/2005/18/Add.20)</i>
Austria, 2008	Sustainable Development	In order to provide another important impetus for good governance at federal level, standards for public participation have been developed at the instigation of the Federal Chancellery and the BMLFUW in the framework of an interministerial working group, in which stakeholders and NGOs also took part. These standards are also a contribution to the implementation of the Austrian and the EU sustainability strategies (European Council conclusions of June 2006). On this basis, the citizens are to be better integrated into policymaking within the meaning of the political guiding principles, as they are called, for the promotion of sustainable development . The process for the development of public participation standards, which was launched in 2005, aims at developing good practice recommendations in the form of standards, which are to be used as routine measures in administrative public participation procedures ("Code of Conduct") in the future. The standards are primarily relevant for plans and programmes as well as for policies and legal instruments developed by administrative bodies. The standards are aimed at providing precise content as to the definition of public participation and specific action which is to be taken. The public participation standards are deemed as a service and hands-on support for administrators involved in public participation processes. It is the aim to reach self-commitment on the part of administration when applying the standards in form of a Government decision in due time. <i>(See paragraph 15 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/AUS)</i>

Austria, 2008	Sustainable Development	<p>“Public-participation standards” should also be regarded as a contribution to the implementation of the Austrian and EU sustainability strategies. To promote sustainable development, citizen participation in policy making should be improved, and administrative bodies should be provided with hands-on support to be able to include the general public efficiently and effectively. The standards could be particularly useful in the preparation of policies, plans, programmes or legal instruments;</p> <p>In 2002, ÖGUT, the Austrian Society for Environment and technology, set up a “Participation” strategy group at the instigation of the BMLFUW, made up of members from ministries and authorities as well as NGOs and the scientific community. The aim of the “Participation” strategy group are to firm up the concept of “participation”, to develop it further and make it known widely, to heighten the awareness of decision makers from the areas of politics, public administration and business for public participation; to prepare participation strategies for policies relevant for the environment and sustainable development; and to make specific guidelines for action available to practitioners; (<i>See paragraph 83 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/AUS</i>)</p>
Kazakhstan, 2008	Sustainable Development	<p>In the Environmental Code, adopted by Presidential Decree No. 212 of 9 January 2007, the public access to environmental information and the participation of the public in the solution of environmental problems is defined as one of the basic principles for the sustainable development of Kazakhstan. Chapter 21, entitled “Environmental information”, of the Environmental Code contains provisions on the rights and obligations of entities with regard to the provision of environmental information, and the time limits and procedure for providing such information. In accordance with article 165, paragraph 4, of the Environmental Code, environmental information relating to the environmental impact assessments procedure and the process of taking decisions on planned economic activity is made available in accordance with the procedure established by the authorized environmental protection body. This procedure is regulated by the rules for conducting public hearings, which were approved by Order No. 135 of the Minister of Environmental Protection of 7 May 2007 and registered with the Ministry of Justice of Kazakhstan. (<i>See document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/KAZ</i>)</p>
Netherlands, 2008	Sustainable Development	<p>Due to the broad definition of public concerned, as mentioned in the GALA, NGOs are adequately recognized and have broad access to participation in decision-making and to justice.</p> <p>Measures are taken to promote citizens to realize their sustainable development ideas and create social cohesion in the Dutch civil society. Furthermore, there is an environmental and sustainable grant regulation for NGOs (SMOM-regeling), which enables them (and citizens through mediation by them) to receive subsidies for environment/sustainable development related projects or programmes. (<i>See paragraphs 9 and 10 of document ECE/MP.PP/2008/IR/NLD</i>)</p>
Turkmenistan, 2008	Sustainable Development	<p>A comprehensive legal system has been set in place in Turkmenistan, designed to ensure broad public participation in the application of government policies on environmental protection, on the sound use of natural resources for sustainable development and on implementation of the Aarhus Convention. Under Turkmen law, public authorities and officials are obliged to provide the necessary environmental information to the public and to help the public gain access to information. To that end a special legislative system has been devised to ensure the participation of the public and of civil-society associations in decision-making and to facilitate access to justice in environmental matters. (<i>See paragraph 4 of document ECE/MP.PP/IR/2008/TKM</i>)</p>

Austria, 2011	Sustainable Development	In recent years, many stakeholder dialogues - starting at the administrative level have been held in Austria at the Federal level for the development of programmes and policies in the environmental sector. Special mention should be made of the following initiatives: Forest Dialogue, Austrian Climate Protection Strategy, Rural Development Programme and the Round Table on Water. Also, in the field of torrent and avalanche control, ever-more intense efforts have been made to include the general public. Nine public participation processes of the BMLFUW were consolidated, including the experience made by the administrators and practical tips for further participation processes. The results will be published in a brochure. Austria also promotes the Local Agenda 21 (LA 21) as a model approach for participatory and proactive democracy aimed at implementing sustainable development . It is the aim to implement such processes in some 600 municipalities and 30 regions/districts all over Austria. In the future, LA 21 will constitute an explicit focus in the framework of the National Rural Development Programme. <i>(See paragraph 23 of NIR)</i>
Austria, 2011 / 2014	Sustainable Development	Central activities are: (a) The existing “public-participation standards” (see also under Art. 3 para 2). should also be regarded as a contribution to the implementation of the Austrian and EU sustainability strategies. To promote sustainable development , citizen participation in policy making should be improved, and administrative bodies should be provided with hands-on support to be able to include the general public efficiently and effectively. The standards could be particularly useful in the preparation of policies, plans, programmes or legal instruments. A practical guideline on the application of the public participation standards was published in 2009. <i>(See paragraph 80 of 2011 NIR)</i>
France, 2011	Sustainable Development	Article 246 of Act No. 2010-788 widened the range of topics which can be referred to the National Commission in order to increase the number of public debates on subjects of general interest. It hence extended the scope of public debate on general environment and development options to include sustainable development . It also clarified the concept of “general options” by specifying that these options must be “of national interest” and that they primarily involve policies, plans and programmes likely to have a major impact on the environment. <i>(See paragraph 147 of NIR)</i>
Italy, 2011	Sustainable Development	To improve governance for sustainable development , the MoE created a consultative body, the Economic and Social Council for Environmental Policies (CESPA) in August 2004 in order to strengthen the dialogue with social and economic partners; optimize environmental policies; and promote eco-efficiency. Chaired by the Environment Minister, it consisted of all major national organizations operating in the economic and social spheres (trade unions, national industrial confederations, farmers, retailers, service providers). CESPA shall meet at least once every 3 months and by practice now meets almost once a month. <i>(See NIR)</i>
Lithuania, 2011	Sustainable Development	(b) The National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007–2015 was approved by Government Resolution No 1062 of 2007 (Official Gazette Valstybės Žinios, 2007, No 106-4348). The purpose of the National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007–2015 (hereinafter “the Programme”) is to create conditions for sustainable development education, improve the quality of formal and non-formal education, self-education and public information to enable every person to contribute to sustainable development personally, via professional activities or participation in public life on a local and global scale. The objective of this Programme is to improve the educational activities of various public institutions and bodies to help the population, organisations, companies, institutions, communities and the public to better understand what sustainable development is and its importance; to nurture the skills of all members of society, moral values and determination to act democratically and responsibly, thus contributing to the achievement of sustainable development objectives; to develop the ability of institutional structures

		to actively participate in sustainable development processes. The National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007–2015 has been prepared in view of the National Sustainable Development Strategy approved by Government Resolution No 1160 of 11 September 2003 (Official Gazette Valstybės Žinios, 2003, No 89-4029) and the State Education Strategy for 2003–2012 approved by Parliament Resolution No IX-1700 of 4 July 2003 (Official Gazette Valstybės Žinios, 2003, No 71-3216). This Programme is part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development action plan. Programme measures are planned in view of sustainable development priorities set out in the National Sustainable Development Strategy as well as strategic provisions for sustainable development of the European Union and the Baltic Sea region, and other important sustainable development documents. The term “ sustainable development ” used in this Programme is a compromise between environmental, economic and social objectives of society, which facilitates achievement of welfare for the present and future generations without increasing allowable environmental impact. By Government Resolution No 1146 of 12 August 2010 (which will enter into force on 1 January 2011), Government Resolution No 1062 of 2 October 2007 approving the National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007–2015 was declared null and void. By this Resolution, the Ministry of Education and Science was charged with approving the National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2011–2015 by 31 December 2010. (See NIR)
Georgia, 2014	Sustainable Development	According to article 15 of the same law “for the purpose of promotion of protection and sustainable development of environment the system of environmental protection planning (Sustainable Development Strategy) is being developed, which incorporates a long-term strategic plan and a 5-year plan (National Environmental Action Plan). “It is necessary to ensure the public participation in the development of the Sustainable Development Strategy”. On October 23 of 2010 under the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia, Department of Sustainable Development was established. One of the main functions of this Department shall be participation in elaboration of Sustainable Development Strategy and state programs, targeted towards promotion of implementation of the strategy, as well as increasing of public awareness and provision of information to the public on the issues of sustainable development . (See NIR)
Lithuania, 2014	Sustainable Development	The National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007-2015 was approved by RoL Government Resolution No 1062 of 2007 (Žin., 2007, No 106-4348). The purpose of the National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007-2015 is to create conditions for sustainable development education, improve the quality of formal and non-formal education, self-education and public information to enable every person to contribute to sustainable development personally, via professional activities or participation in public life on a local and global scale. The National Education for Sustainable Development Programme for 2007-2015 has been prepared in view of the National Sustainable Development Strategy approved by RoL Government Resolution No 1160 of 11 September 2003 (Žin., 2003, No 89-4029) and the State Education Strategy for 2003-2012 approved by RoL Parliament Resolution No IX-1700 of 4 July 2003 (Žin., 2003, No 71-3216). This Programme is part of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development action plan. Programme measures are planned in view of sustainable development priorities set out in the National Sustainable Development Strategy as well as strategic provisions for sustainable development of the EU and the Baltic Sea region, and other important sustainable development documents. The term “ sustainable development ” used in this Programme is a compromise between environmental, economic and social objectives of society, which facilitates achievement of welfare for the present and future generations without increasing allowable environmental impact. By RoL Government Resolution No 1146 of 12 August 2010, RoL Government

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