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Establishment of the need to carry out SEA

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Training Workshop on SEA in the Republic of Moldova

29 February 2024

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When is SEA needed?

The strategic environmental assessment shall be carried out for policy and planning documents that may have significant effects on the environment, including public health.

The very first step: it determines whether SEA is needed

It is done by the relevant authorities (i.e. the initiator, competent authority)

Ideally, it is done in the initial steps of the planning process so planning and SEA can run in parallel

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Rationale for SEA Screening

- Cornerstone of effectiveness of SEA implementation system
- Requires coordination of relevant institutions (initiator and competent authority) in early phase of planning
- Precautionary principle
- Relies on environmental data and evidence from similar cases
- Review of the policy or planning document expected content: What will be the “likely significant effects on environment” caused by the implementation of the policy or planning document ?
- Any chance to have significant negative impacts triggers the SEA!

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Criteria

Policy and planning documents developed in the fields of agriculture, forestry, fishery, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water resources management, electronic communications, tourism, land use, urban and rural planning (urban planning and land use planning documentation, including the urban planning and land use plans and the urban planning and land use programs at the national, regional, district, local level, as well as the general and zonal urban plans), which establish the framework for the approval of planned activities provided for in Annexes no. 1 and no. 2 to Law no. 86/2014 on environmental impact assessment;

any policy and planning documents, as well as amendments to such documents, which, either individually or in combination, may have a significant impact on Emerald sites in accordance with Law no. 94/2007 on ecological network and which are not directly related to the management of such sites or do not require such management.

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Criteria (con´d)

Policy and planning documents establishing the use of small areas, at local level, as well as those providing for minor changes to policy and planning documents provided for in para. (1) letter a) shall not be subject to strategic environmental assessment only if the competent authority, at the preliminary assessment stage determines, based on the criteria established in Annex no. 1, that they cannot produce significant effects on the environment

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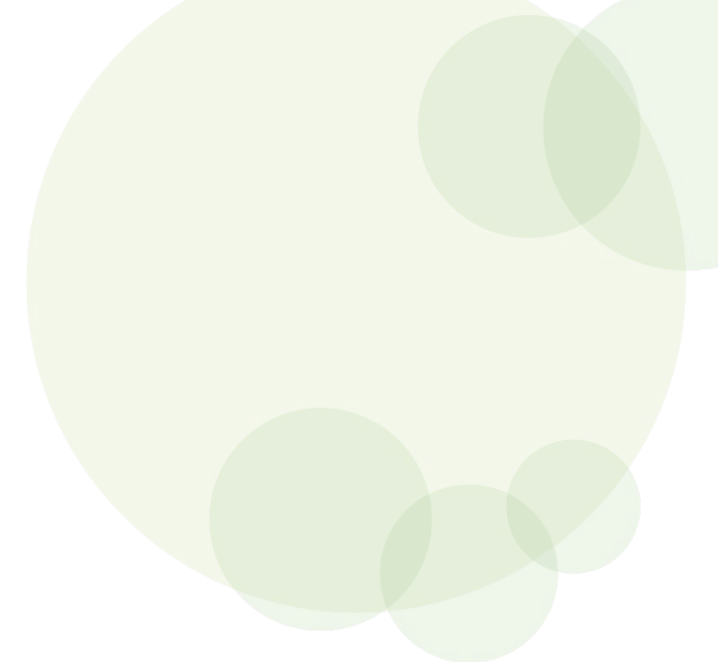


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Prior assessment

- Triggered by the initiator
 - Carried out by competent authority
 - Involvement of Ministry of Health
 - Public can submit comments
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- The reasoned decision regarding the prior assessment shall contain the arguments for which the strategic environmental assessment was or was not requested, referring to the comments and proposals received and indicating the relevant criteria established in Annex no. 1.

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Typical issues in screening

- „Semi-official“ policy and planning documents (example of Strategy of the development of the Labe waterway by Directorate of waterways in CZ)
- „Minor modifications“ in updating existing policy and planning documents
- Impacts on Emerald sites (namely when located outside of the planning area)
- Condition of establishing the framework for the approval of planned activities provided for in Annexes no. 1 and no. 2 to Law no. 86/2014 on environmental impact assessment (example of Strategy for sustainable mobility of Pardubice city, CZ – transport infrastructure projects only recorded by the Strategy but not triggered by it)

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Thank you for your attention!

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