Environmental Impact Assessment in Slovenia
Experience and new challenges

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Content

- EIA DEVELOPMENT
- EIA TRANSPOSITION
- EIA CHALLENGES
- CASE STUDIES
- LESSONS LEARNED
EIA Development in Slovenia
First steps, 30 years of development

- EIA 1970
  EIA Research
  EIA Studies applied
  Expert assessments of some projects
  EIA present technical process without public participation

- EIA 1975
  Environment, including EIA—bilateral cooperation with USA
  SEPO- EIA national expert group, organised within Research Institute Jožef Štefan
  Centralised evaluation of projects, recommendation, mitigation measures; more than 700 studies
  Systematic assessment without legal base
  EIA as the conditionality for bank investment

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EIA Development in Slovenia
Development of EIA methodology

- 1975-1985
- EIA studies on tourism, road infrastructure, nuclear power plant, etc.
- Some projects, like ski development areas or electricity lines in sensitive location have been halted at (non action alternative) and new alternatives have been developed
- Evaluation methods, matrix
- Scientific approach
- Scientific meetings
- Expert conferences
EIA Development in Slovenia
Establishment of legal system

Main issues

- How to improve projects, if EIA is too late in the process?
- How to improve the development of location alternatives?
- How to develop institutions, so that they use EIA for their projects?
- How to integrate EIA conclusion into the final decision?
- How to improve public participation?

1993 LEGAL OBLIGATION
1996 ENVIRONMENTAL CODE IMPROVEMENTS
EIA Development in Slovenia
Establishment of legal system

Decrees on EIA

- Definition of the activities/projects for which EIA is needed (Annex I of EIA Directive)
- Definition of the activities/projects for which EIA is needed, if criteria and thresholds are fulfilled (Annex II of EIA Directive)

- Rules on appropriate assessment (Art. 6(3) of Habitats Directive)
- Water Act
- Decree on activities and evaluation for flood areas/operation programme for water management
- Rules and guidelines (Water Framework Directive)
EIA Directive transposition

- 2014 new EIA Directive, 2014/52; Changes in legislation
- EIA transposition in Environmental Act and decrees
- Implementation
- Additional legal measures:
  - Screening
  - Case by case examination
  - Determination of detailed criteria (Annex III)
  - Rulings of the Court of Justice, EIA European Commission
EIA Capacity building
Institutional development 1990-2003

- Agency of the Republic of Slovenia established
- Administrative capacities streighten
- Consultation network developed within the administration with ministries and organisation, responsible for certain environmental issues (Cultural Heritage, Health, Agriciculture, Climate change, Nature Conservation, Water menagement)
- Opinions
- EIA report Quality
- Capacity building seminars – Strategy for EIA/SEA implementation 2015-2020
- Biateral -exchange of practice with Austria, Irland, other EU countries
EIA new Directive transposition

- Adress the EIA report quality
- Adding the obligation for developer, that EIA is done by competent experts and
- Adding the obligation for the competent authority for sufficient expertise and opinion in consultation with authorities, responsible for the environment, health, water, soil, and cultural heritage
Screening procedures by project types

- 603 application for Screening in 2014-2015
- 42 application per month
- Mostly municipality projects
- Environmental infrastructure
- Transport Infrastructure
- Energy
- Tourism
- Procedeeding Industries
- Minning and quarrying
EIA PROCESS

1. STEP
- DRAFT PROJECT BY PROPOINENT
- MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND SPATIAL PLANNING
- CONSULTATION WITH MINISTRIES AND ORGANISATION
- SCREENING DECISION
- SCREENING DECISION PRESENT TO THE PUBLIC

2. STEP
- SCOPING, (NOT OBLIGATORY)
- PREPARATION OF EIA REPORT
- CONSULTATION WITH MINISTRIES AND ORGANISATION
- EIA REPORT QUALITY CONFIRMATION
- PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

3. STEP
- FINAL PROJECT
- CONSULTATION WITH MINISTRIES AND ORGANISATION
- EIA REASONED CONCLUSION
- FINAL DECISION, APPROVAL OF THE PROJECT

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EIA impacts chapters

- Human health
- Safety
- Climate
- Flora
- Soil
- Landscape
- Fauna
- Water
- Air
- Historical monuments
- Cultural heritage

Natura 2000: Conectivity, Habitats, Species
Recent development 2014-2018

- Improvement of Building Act
- Better link with EIA and final decision in the case of building projects
- Joint procedure
- „One stop shop“
- Improved the focus on human health and climate change
- Added the effects, including the expected effects deriving from vulnerability of the projects to risk of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the projects
- Added the obligation to take results from other assessments into account.
Challenge 1-DATA
State of environment

Environmental State Reports
Environmental Atlas
Nature Conservation Atlas
Water Atlas
All env. Data are open for the public

@Arso

http://www.naravovarstveni-atlas.si/nvajavni/
Challenge II: Addressing the hazardous activities in land use planning/SEA vs EIA

1. Existing hazardous activities vs New land use in surrounding (housing, new industry, schools, green areas, etc.)

SEA Transboudary

2. Change of existing hazardous activities EIA, Transboudary

3. New planned hazardous activity SEA/EIA, Transboudary
Challenge III: „One stop shop“

- EIA with the appropriate assessment according to Art. 6(3) of Habitats Directive;
- One stop shop in legislation;
- Nature Conservation Act define additional procedure 6(4).
Case by case examination

- Secondary
- Cumulative
- Synergistic
- Short
- Medium
- Long-term
- Permanent and temporary
- Positive and negative
EIA Case 1: Hydropower projects

Illustrative location map for national plans for hydropower use in Brežice, 13 km from the border between Slovenia and Croatia, and Mokrice, ca. 0.5 km from the border, and existing hydropower chain on the Sava River.
Environmental Transboundary Assessment between Slovenia and Croatia of Slovenian National Plans for Hydropower Use on the Lower Sava in Brežice and Mokrice

HE NA SPODNJI SAVI:
- power 212 MW
- production 810 GWh

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Development of alternatives
Cumulative effects on fishes

Aspius aspius

Cobitis elongata
Transboudary analyse on Natura 2000 sites in the Republic of Croatia
The summary conclusion of the Appendix for the protected areas
Technical details

Project idea
Transboundary SEA procedure agreed between the Parties

A step-by-step approach:

- notification,
- environmental report preparation,
- consultation with environment authorities, transboundary consultation,
- public participation,
- consultation on mitigation measures and their approval,
- draft final decision,
Case 2  Annex I Espoo

2. Thermal power station 600 MW

- SEA, Plan, location alternatives
- EIA, Project
- Notification to Austria
- Technical meeting
- Environmental report and draft decision
- Public hearing in Austria
- Comments on air quality, technical condition
- Comments taken into account and integrated into the final IPPC decision
Termopower plant 2008
Termo power plant 2014
Case 3: Karavanke tunnel

- Motorway Karavanke, change of Annex I "long distance motorway"
Underground water monitoring
Case 4: LNG Terminals

- 3 EIA projects near to the border
- Liquid Natural Gas Terminal Žavlje
- Liquid Natural Gas Terminal Off-shore
- Gas pipeline Trieste-Gradež
EIA expert evaluation models

Nested circulation model (POM 3D) of the Gulf of Trieste V. Malačič and B. Petelin
Climatic Circulation
Case 5: EIA for urbanistic projects, Ljubljana Bežigrad

- International architectural tender
- Detail urban plan
- Alternatives
- SEA assessment at land use plan level: noise, cultural heritage
- EIA for the project
- Public consultation
SEA for Land use, urbanistic plans
THE DESIGN OF THE NEW JR3 STADIUM INTEGRATES THE HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL VALUE OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS INTO A MODERN STATE OF THE ART MULTI-FUNCTIONAL SPORTS ARENA.

THE ARCHITECTURAL APPEARANCE OF THE NATIONAL SIGNATURE WILL BE ENHANCED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIGN AND BUILDING STARTED IN 1929 BY Jozo Plečnik.

ALL ADDITIONAL NEW OVERGROUND BUILDING ELEMENTS, LIKE THE HIGH-RISE BUILDING, WILL BE CLEARLY SEPARATED FROM THE STADIUM TO MAINTAIN THE URBAN GRID OF THE CITY OF LJUBLJANA.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN ALL BUILDINGS WILL BE ONLY UNDERGROUND. IN THIS AREA ONE CAN FIND ALL ENTERTAINMENT, RETAIL AND PARKING FUNCTIONS.

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Central Stadium Joze Plečnik Ljubljana - Slovenia
BIRD EYE VIEW FROM DUNAJSKA CESTA
Case 6: EIA for Pokljuka Ski centre

EIA with appropriate assessment and corrective measures
Results

Appropriate assessment
Scoping
Expert evaluation  Natura 2000
Julijske Alpe SI3000253
Pokljuška barja SI 3000278
Julijci SPA Si5000019
22 birds species, habite types,
Capercaillie/Tetrao urogallus A108

Noise could be the problem
Winter measures
Spring measures
Additional two years of noise monitoring
monitoring

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**Methodology**

**SEA WITH APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT FOR MUNICIPALITY LAND USE PLAN**

**EIA FOR UNIT POKLJUKA**
- Functional units
- Mitigation measures for each unit

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION**
- Expert advices
- Public comments
- NGO comments
- Different ideas
- Ministry consultancy group

**MUNICIPALITY LAND USE PLAN ACCEPTABLE**
- Decision on Acceptability on
- APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
- SEA

[Map Image]

http://obcina.bohinj.si/index.php?id=902
Result: List of mitigation measures

Protection of underground water
Architectural design measures
Improvement of parking areas
Equipment for competition (to be removed after competition)
Landscape improvements and planting
Additional protection measures for nature conservation sites in the forest
Reduce light pollution
Protection measures for capercaillies between 1 January and 1 July
Measures for competitions between 1 March and 1 July
Environmental report

- Current knowledge and methods
- The contents and level of detail of the plan
- The interest of the public
- The information for decision making
- QUALITY ASSESSMENT
- To insure that Environmental reports are sufficient quality
Challenges in EIA

- EIA in the very early stage, when all options are open
- Relation to the final decision, in specific with the building permits
- Responsibility of proponent to prepare EIA reports of higher quality
- Strengthening administrative capacities
- Training Strategy and action plan implementation
„It is always way to do it even better.“

Thank you!
Case 3: Karavanke tunnel

- Motorway Karavanke, change of Annex I „long distance motorway“