



# EIA Directive – in a nutshell

ECRAN workshop in Albania  
Tirana, November 2015

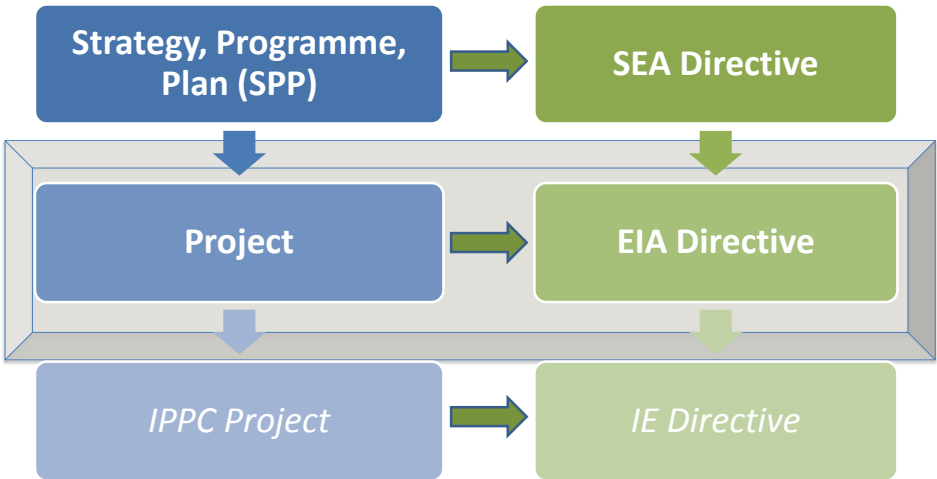


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## SEA/EIA Hierarchy



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## Main difference between SEA and EIA

### SEA

- Takes place at earlier stages of decision-making cycle
- Pro-active approach to development proposals
- Assesses effects to long term trends and addresses cumulative impacts
- Considers broad range of potential alternatives
- Emphasis on environmental mainstreaming

### EIA

- Takes place at end of decision-making cycle
- Reactive approach to development proposal
- Identifies specific environmental and health impacts (information on the project enable it)
- Considers limited number of feasible alternatives
- Emphasis on preventing, mitigating and minimizing impacts



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## EU EIA Legislation

- Adopted in 1985, with Member States (MSs) given three years to implement.
- Revised on a number of occasions, based on 5 yearly reviews and lobbying from DG Industry.
- Current provisions codified in Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.
- Interfaces with:
  - Aarhus Convention, Landscape Convention, Espoo Convention, Habitats and Birds Directives, Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society, etc.



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## Purposes of EIA

- Modify and improve design.
- Ensure efficient resource use.
- Enhance social aspects.
- Identify key impacts and measures for mitigating them.
- Inform decision-making and condition setting.
- Avoid serious and irreversible damage to the environment.
- Protect human health and safety.

UNEP, 2002



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## EIA Directive - Objectives

- ✓ Provide for a **high level of protection of the environment** and **human health**.
- ✓ Guarantee **effective public participation in environmental decision making**.
- ✓ Based on **precautionary principle** and on **the principle of preventive action**.
- ✓ Set **minimum standards for EIA**; MSs may lay down stricter rules to protect the environment.



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# Key elements of EIA

## Screening:

- ✓ MS have to ensure it is applied to public & private projects likely to give rise to significant effects:
  - ✓ Annex I: Mandatory requirement (e.g. airports, motorways).
  - ✓ Annex 2: Discretionary (characteristics, location, impacts).
- ✓ Developer can also provide information on measures to avoid or prevent significant impacts.



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# Key elements of EIA

## Scoping:

- ✓ Developer can request an opinion on the information to be supplied in an EIA Report.
- ✓ Should focus on direct and indirect effects on population & human health; biodiversity; land, soil, water, air and climate; material assets, cultural heritage and landscape; and their interactions.
- ✓ Also address vulnerability to major accidents and/or disasters.



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# Key elements of EIA

## Content of EIA Report

- ✓ Description of the project.
- ✓ A description of likely significant effects.
- ✓ Measures to avoid, prevent or reduce, and offset significant impacts.
- ✓ Description of the reasonable alternatives studied and an indication of reasons for the option chosen.
- ✓ A non technical summary.
- ✓ Other relevant information described in Annex IV



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# Key elements of EIA

## Provisions for:

- ✓ Public participation (early and effective), involvement of 'authorities likely to be concerned', and possibly other MSs.
- ✓ Statement on the consent decision (e.g. consent conditions; main reasons for decision).
- ✓ Monitoring of significant impacts and of the implementation of mitigation and compensation measures.



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