

Working meeting on SEA for the General National Territorial Plan of Albania

Baseline analysis

Tirana, September 9 – 10, 2015

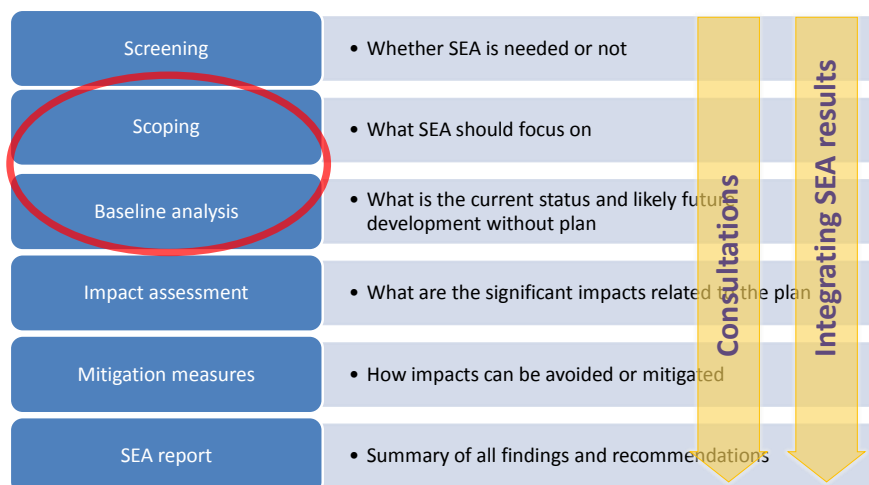


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Typical SEA steps and analyses



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Purpose of baseline analysis

- To present information on the relevant environmental and health issues
 - Past development trends
 - Current status
 - Outline of the likely evolution without implementation of the plan or programme
- To describe interactions between existing trends the plan or programme;
- To provide this information for the purpose of the planning process as well as for the SEA.



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Purpose of baseline analysis

It should result in **baseline** against which the potential effects of the development proposed by the plan will be evaluated in next stages of the assessment.



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Guiding principles

- SEA team needs to present sound judgments on the ongoing environmental and health changes which are relevant to the plan.
- Often, deficiencies in analysing current situation and trends do not usually arise from the lack of data but rather from poorly targeted analyses that focus on irrelevant issues.
- It is important to concentrate on the key environmental and health issues that have been identified during the Scoping
- The SEA practitioners need to gather just enough information to answer key questions related to the identified issues



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Good baseline analysis...

- Is **focused** i.e. it addresses key environmental and health issues and does not overburden assessment of the situation with irrelevant information
- **'Looks back'** i.e. describes past trends and drivers affecting the trends
- **Outlines likely evolution** of those trends, should the proposed plans or programme not to be implemented

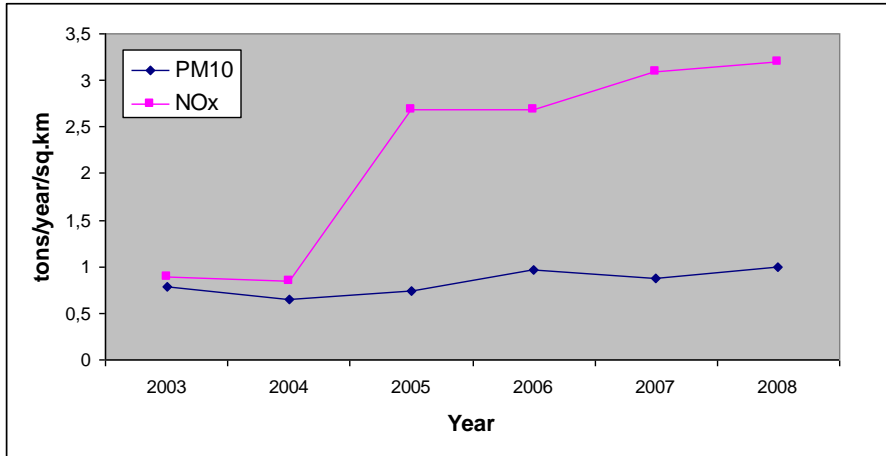


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Analysis or description?



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Likely future evolution

The outline of the future trends is obviously constrained by numerous uncertainties (i.e. data available, economic developments, technological progress or advancements in regulatory frameworks that collectively influence future trends).

SEA experts are only required to outline the future trends as best as they can considering:

- past trends ('what happened')
- key driving forces behind these trends ('why it happened')
- main uncertainties



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Approaches and tools

Baseline analysis in SEA are often solely based on existing studies and reports

- State of the environment reports
- Data from general environmental and health monitoring
- Data from specific monitoring (programmes, projects)
- Previous SEAs, EIAs and other environmental analyses
- Special research projects

Certain analyses can be conducted within SEA

- Spatial analysis (GIS, maps overlays)
- Trend analysis
- Biodiversity surveys
- Emission modelling

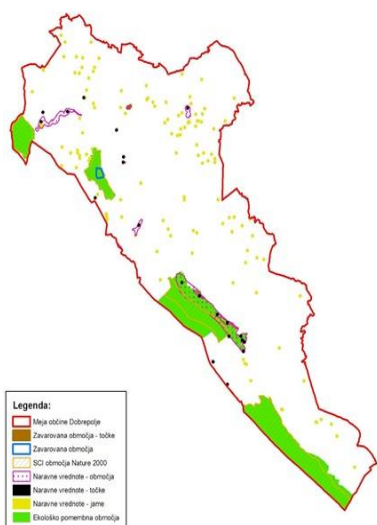


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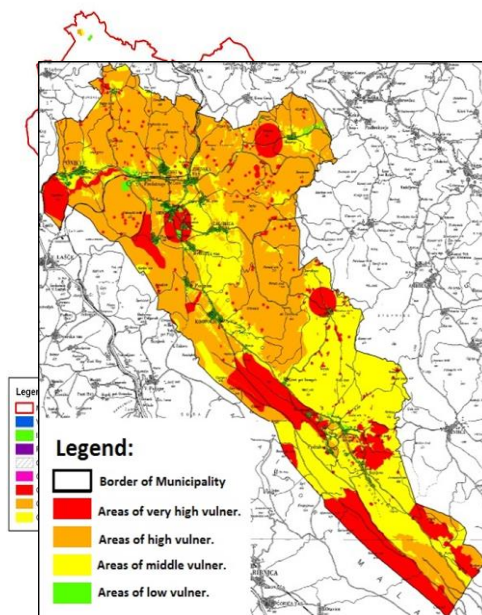
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Areas of high value– nature

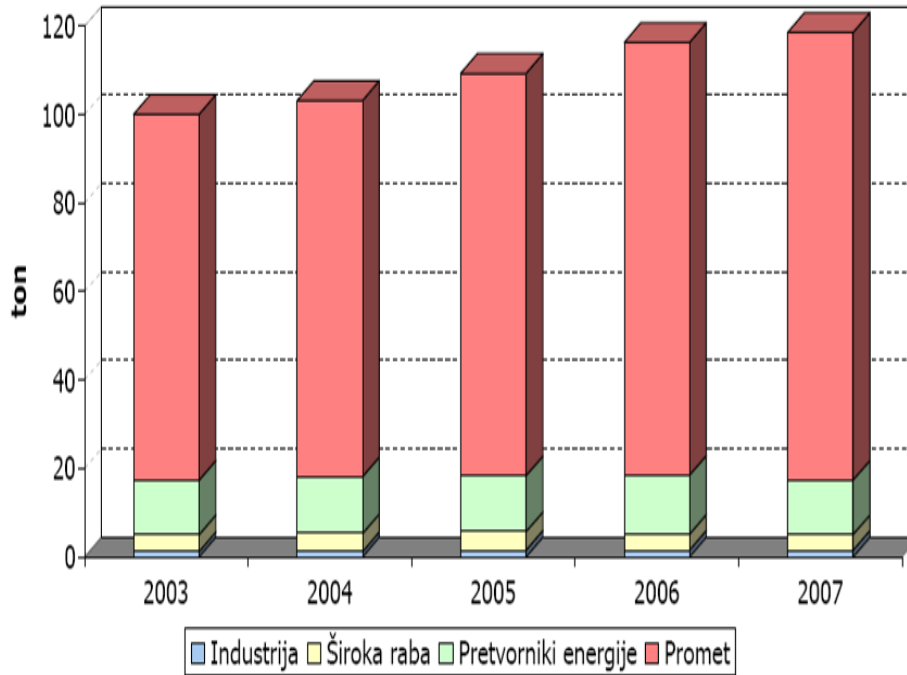
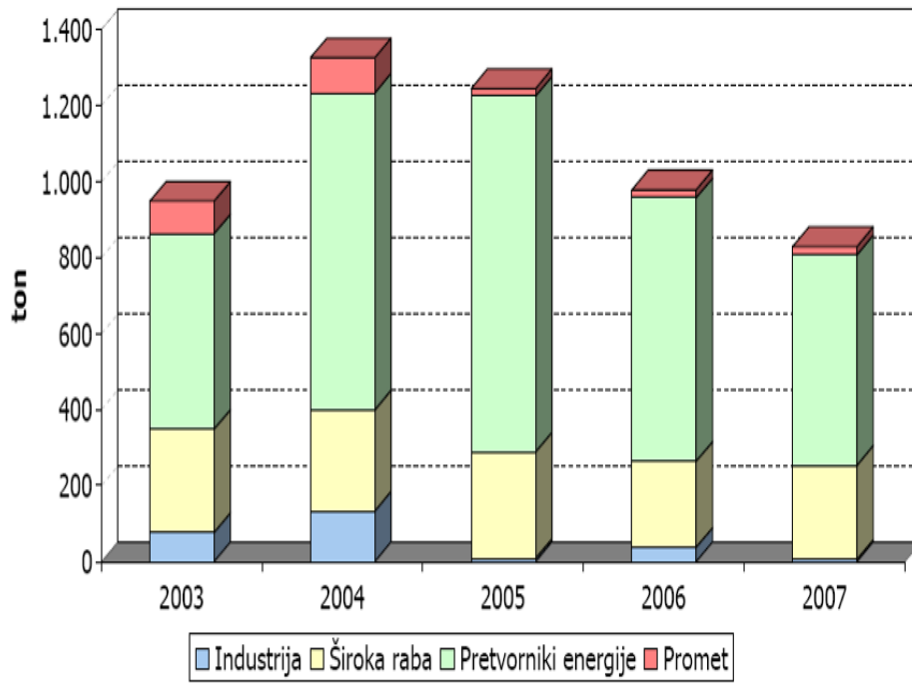


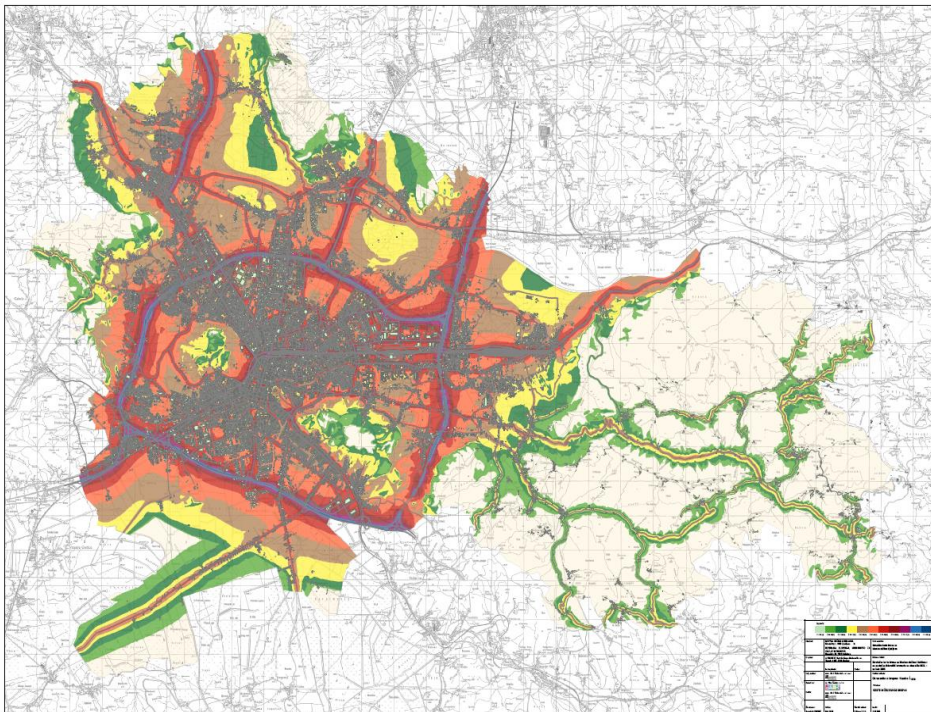
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Areas of high value– water



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Environment and Climate **ECRAN**
Regional Accession Network

Tips for SEA pilot

- Spatial aspect should be mainly addressed i.e. baseline analysis should identify sensitive areas (e.g. nature protected areas, areas important for water resources, coastal areas prone to erosion etc.)
- Past trends should be analysed to
 - Identify drivers
 - Determine drivers which can be influenced by spatial development



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Aspects to be discussed

- What analyses are to be conducted within preparation of the Plan
- Analyses to be performed further within SEA
- Appropriate tools and methods to be used
- Consultations to be conducted within the baseline analysis



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Questions, comments?



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