

## Experience of a new EU MS - Croatian example -

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# Introduction



- **Surface area:**  
56.594 km<sup>2</sup> land,  
31.067 km<sup>2</sup> sea
- **Population:**  
4.284.889 - 75,8 per  
km<sup>2</sup>  
90,4% - Croatian
- **Language –**  
Croatian
- **GDP –** 17,819 \$ (49.)

## Natural features



State Institute for  
Nature Protection

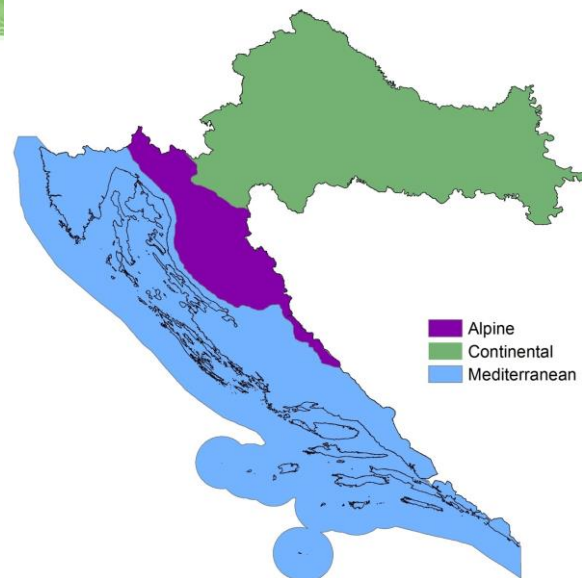
- 47,5 % land area – forests
- 54 % - karst area
- highest mountain – Dinara (1.831 m)
- 5.835 km of coastline
- 1.200 islands and reefs
- around 38.000 recorded species (estimated 100.000)
- 19,4 % - endangered species (mostly freshwater fish, reptiles and amphibians)
- endemism (tertiary and glacial relicts)



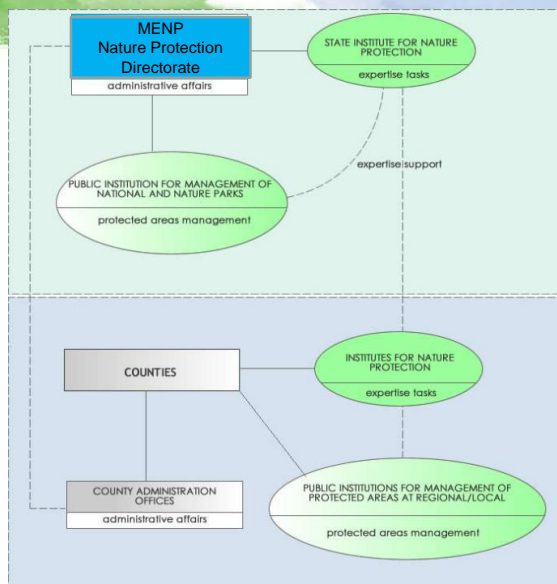
## Biogeographical Regions



State Institute for  
Nature Protection



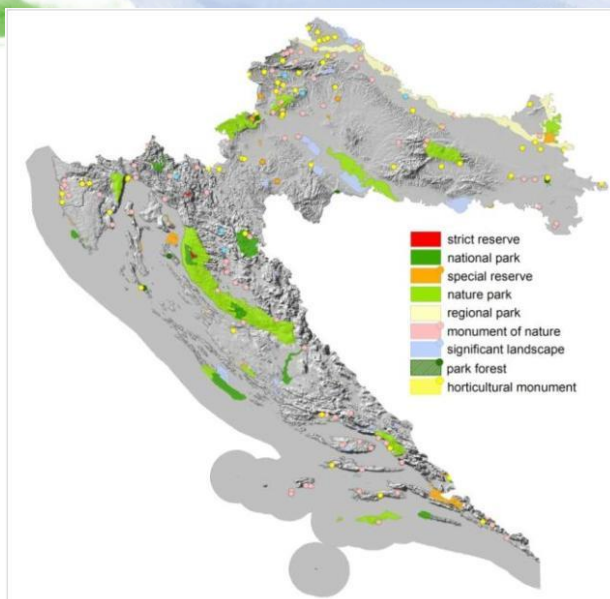
## Institutional framework

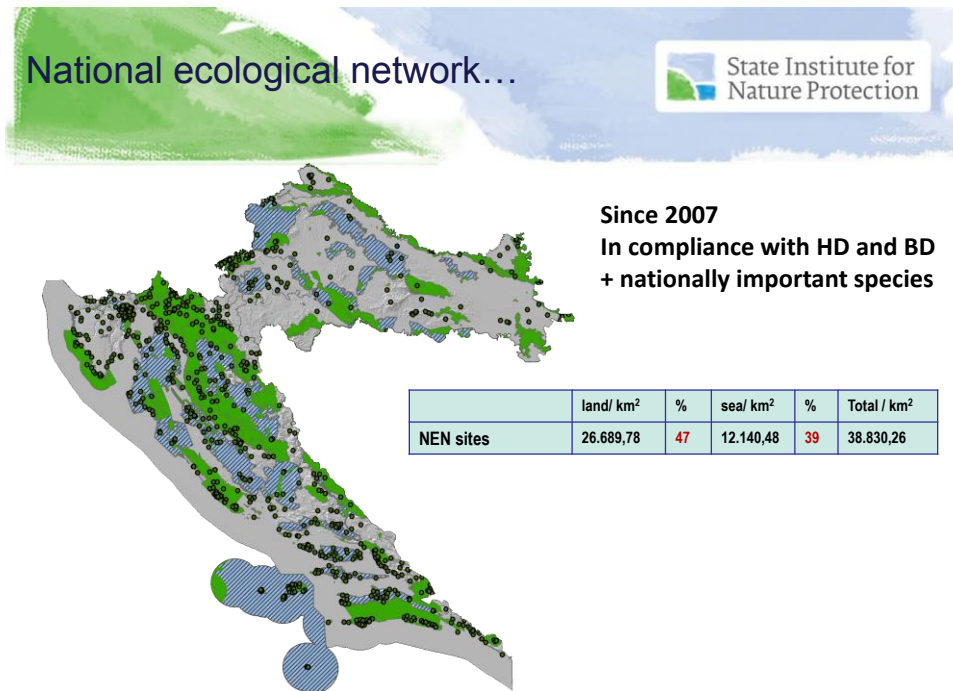


## Protected areas



- 7,95 % of territory protected (11,4 % land and 1,3 % marine)
- 9 protected areas categories





**MANAGEMENT:** Public institutions (County + NP and NP)

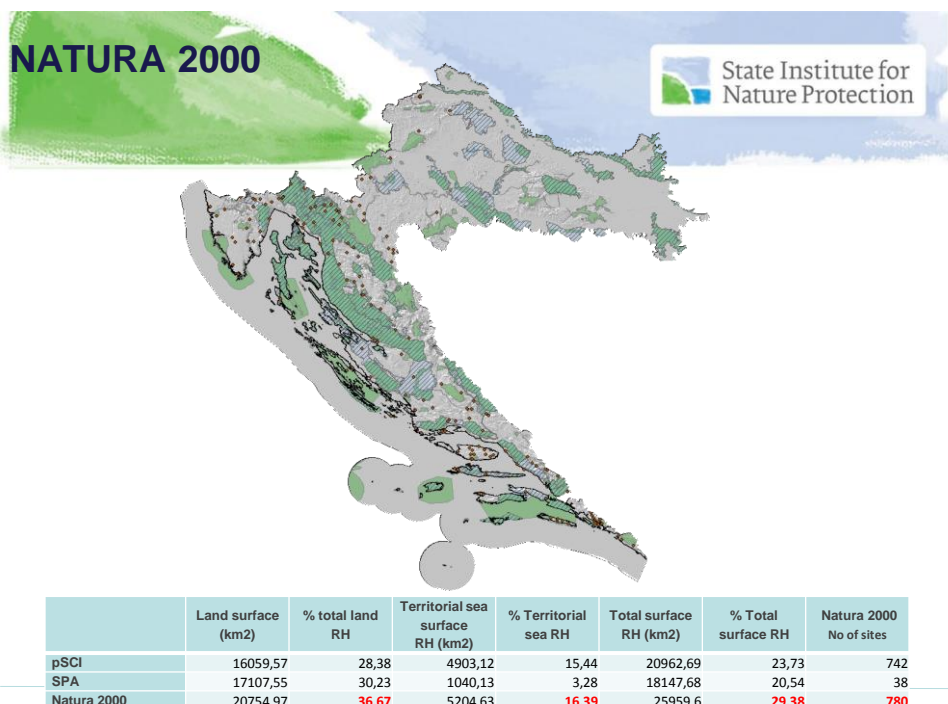
**MONITORING:** Public institutions (County + NP and NP)

**FINANCING:** State and County budgets

**ISSUES:**

- Low capacity (especially on the local level)
- Financing – low
- NEN mostly based on literature data
- **How to do Appropriate Assessment?**
- How to do management?
- How to organize monitoring?

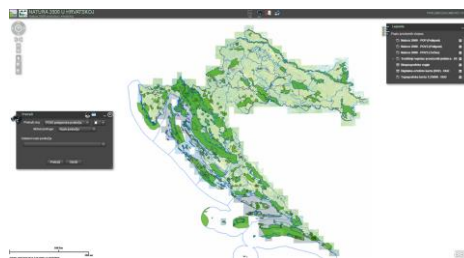




### Protected Areas

#### Available public access to data:

- **Public Map Viewer:**  
<http://natura2000.dzzp.hr/natura>  
 - View, search and download spatial layers representing Natura 2000 sites in Croatia, including related data on species and habitats as well as SDF report for each Natura 2000 site



- **WMS/WFS Services:** Services' URLs available on Natura 2000 Map Viewer as well as SINP official web page

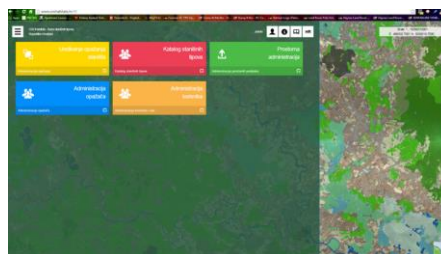




### Habitats and Biotops

#### Available public access to data:

- **Public Map Viewer:** View, search and download of Habitat map as well as related catalogue data is available through CRO Habitats system web application (CRO Habitats – NPIS module for habitats) – [www.crohabetats.hr](http://www.crohabetats.hr)



- **WMS/WFS Services:**  
Services' URLs available on CRO Habitats web application as well as SINP official web page



#### Available public access to data:

Species distribution data layers are in process of validation and preparation for the publishing of WMS/WFS services

Currently data is available upon written request to SINP

## Nature Protection and Environmental protection acts



- Nature protection acts
  - 2003 Nature Protection Act introduced main provisions of HD (ecological network and appropriate assessment)
  - 2005 Nature protection – basis for set of by-laws that transposed HD and BD
  - 2013 Nature protection act - EU nature directives fully transposed
- Environmental protection acts
  - 2007 Environmental protection act linkage to appropriate assessment
  - 2013 Environmental protection act - EU environmental and nature directives fully transposed

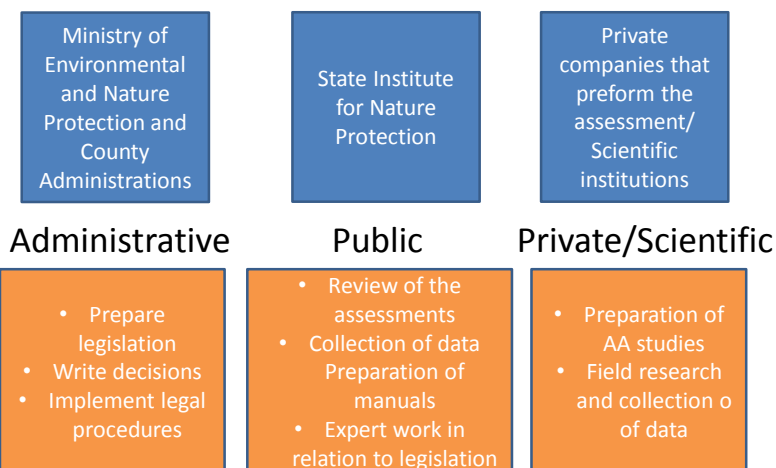
## By-laws



- Nature protection by-laws:
  - 2007 Ordinance on acceptability of project for nature
  - 2007 Regulation on designation of ecological network
  - 2009 Ordinance about assessment of impact of plan program and project on ecological network
  - 2013 Regulation on ecological network
  - 2014 Ordinance on conservation goals and basic measures for conservation of birds in the area of ecological network
- Environmental protection bylaws:
  - 2008 , 2014 environmental by-laws regulating EIA and SEA that included appropriate link to nature legislation in relation to appropriate assessment



- AA is carried out for plans, programs or projects which by itself or in combination with other plans, programs or projects may have a significant impact on the conservation objectives and integrity of the ecological network areas
- AA is not carried out for plans, programs or projects directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site
- AA is to be carried out in the early phase of a project development before issuance of the location permit or building documents, screening for EIA listed projects done before start of EIA procedure





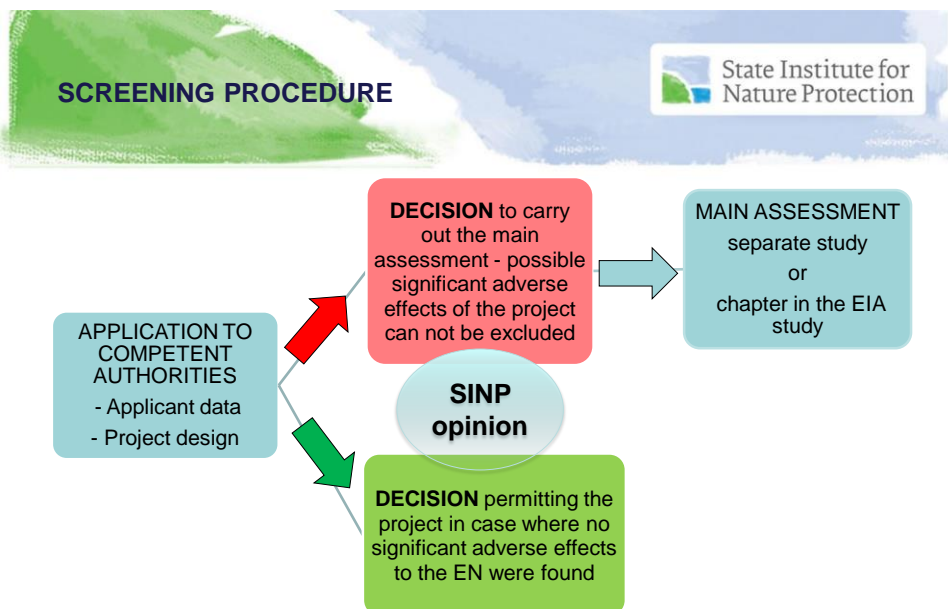


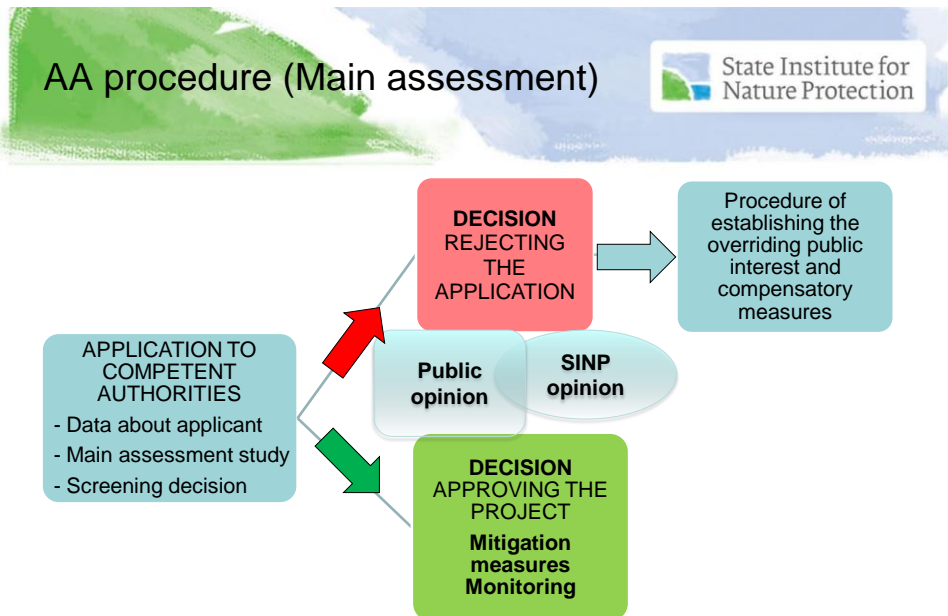
#### Ministry of Environmental and Nature Protection (MENP)

- projects within areas protected in a category of national park, nature park and special nature reserve
- projects for which the MENP carries out EIA or SCOPING for EIA

#### County Authorities (CA)

- for project within areas protected in category of nature monument, regional park, important landscape, forest park and park architecture monument
- projects in an EN area that is not specially protected
- projects for which the CA carries out EIA or SCOPING for EIA





comparison of procedures

Duration: up to 135 days including securing opinion from the SINP and public, performing the public hearing and obtaining decision from the GOV

Competent body: Ministry

Deciding on IROPI: GOV + EC (priority species and habitats + projects of socio-economic nature)

Application: description of reasons why IROPI is requested + CM

## Imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI) and compensatory measures (CM)



comparison of procedures

Outcome:

- Decision rejecting the application because the CM are not feasible
- Decision rejecting the application because the project is not considered as being of public interest
- Decision on establishing the public interest and CM
- or
- opinion in case of the EIA project (finishing with the EIA decision)

## National Ecological Network IROPI in period 2008-2012



- Only one **IROPI procedure (September 2010 – October 2012)**
- Project of removal of gravel sediment from the bed of the river Mura at the location of the confluence of the rivers Mura and Drava to stop the erosion process that was endangering Hungarian railway
- Opposition of NGOs to the project



## National Ecological Network IROPI in period 2008-2012



- Letter of EC expressing concerns
- Nature protection inspection found that the situation significantly changed – railway no longer endangered:
  - new groynes built on Hungarian riverside changed erosion processes
  - position of the confluence shifted
- **MENP decision: rejecting the application**



## AA of strategies, plans and programs



Competent body: Ministry

Screening - **part of the scoping** or must be conducted before SEA when SEA is obligatory;  
**opinion of the SINP is requested (15 days);**

outcome:

**SCOPING for SEA: Opinion on acceptability/opinion that main assessment is obligatory**

**SEA obligatory: decision** on acceptability of SPP/**decision** that main assessment is obligatory

Main assessment is part of the SEA procedure – outcome: **binding opinion** on acceptability of SPP or **binding opinion** that SPP is not acceptable

## AA of plans and programs for which SEA is not obligatory



Forestry MP, hunting MP, fishery MP, Annual program for maintenance works in area for protection from harmful influence of waters (pre-screening for cca 3000 interventions annually in whole RH for 2012 and 2013)

AA is part of procedure of issuing the nature protection requirements in the early phase of development of the P&Ps and integration of those into the P&Ps

SINP prepares the expert study (including conservation measures for sustainable use of natural resources)

Prior approval of the MENP is mandatory for P&Ps in protected areas and EN

Deadline for MENP: 60 days

## SINP - Section for ENIA (AA)



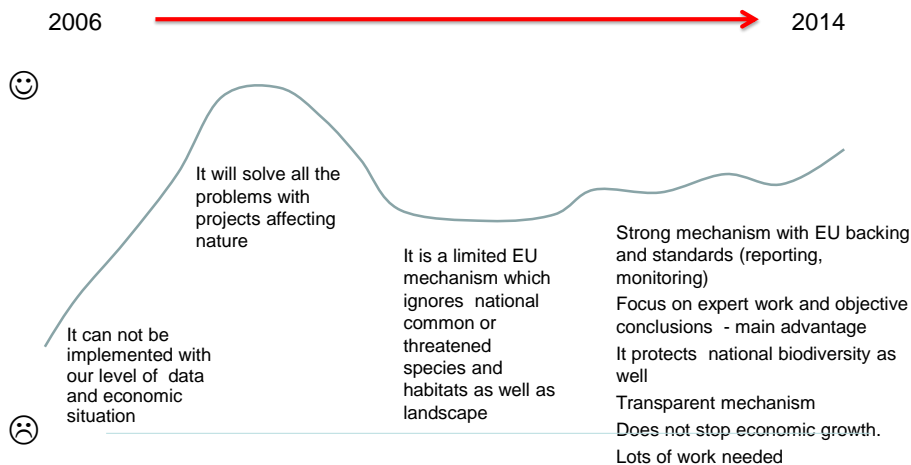
- 6 biologists + one geologist
- In 2014 expected over 500 screening documents
- 40 reviews of main assessments (AA) in 2014 (till 9/30/2014)
- Presentations and workshops, projects
- Review of assessment:
  - SINP database, GIS analysis, literature search
  - Consultations with species experts from other departments
  - Structured argued opinions basis for administrative decisions

## EU projects and assistance

- Phare (2008-2009) Natura 2000 in Croatia
  - Education about AA for SINP and Ministry, as well as County administrations
  - series of workshops (national and regional)
  - two study visits (Czech republic and UK)
  - Brochure Natura 2000 and AA
- WBGEF Coast 2010 project manual for AA
- IPA SEA Croatia project 2013 SEA and Natura 2000
- TAIEX study visit to member state



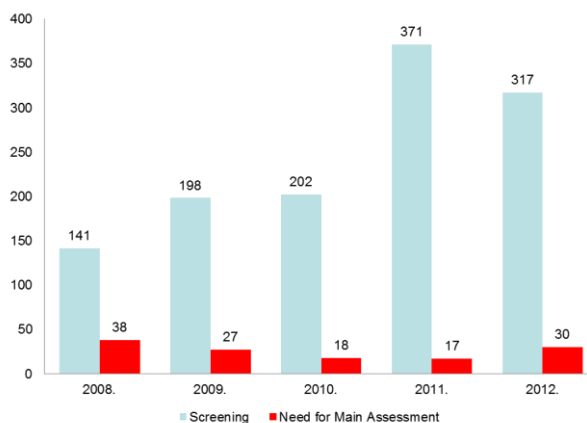
## AA expectations timeline





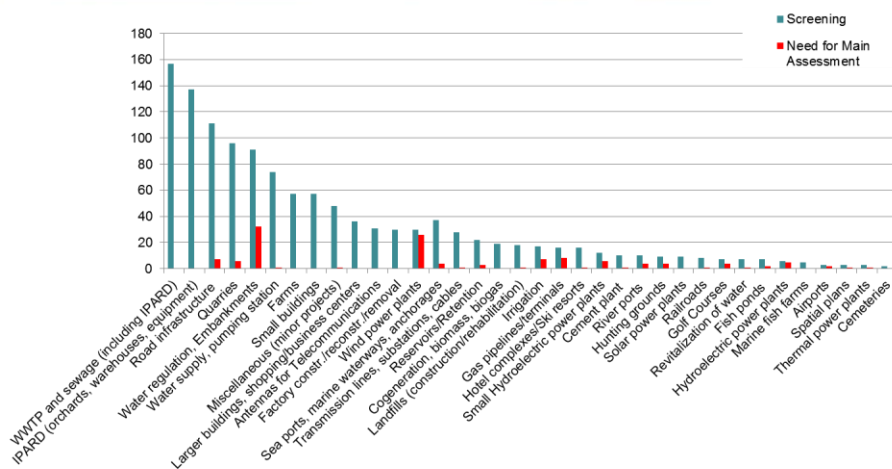
## National Ecological Network

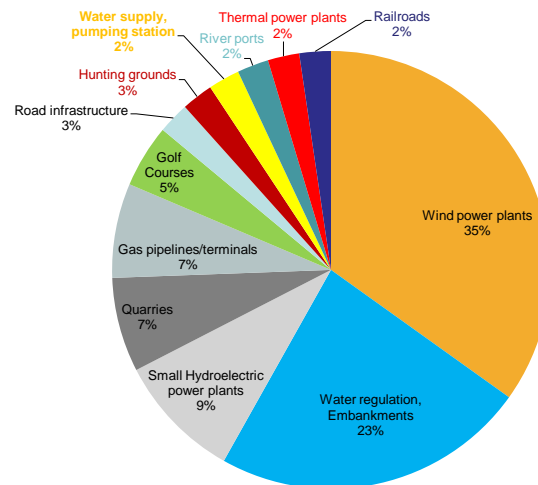
### Total number of projects screened in period 2008-2012 and sent to Main Assessment



## National Ecological Network

### Types of projects screened in period 2008-2012 and sent to Main Assessment





## Main problems in ENIA (AA) procedures

- Insufficient Human Resources
- Insufficient Quality of AA Studies
- Incomplete Compliance with EU Directives (plans and programs excluded from SEA procedure)
- Incomplete Compliance between ENIA (AA) Procedure and Development of the Plans

## In the future we need to...



- Strengthen the capacity of the system
- Improve data bases and web access (GIS)
- Develop and adopt new ENIA ordinance
- Raise the quality of AA studies by establishing appropriate standards and control
- Establish mechanism for control and monitoring of mitigation measures
- Harmonize procedures of ENIA (AA) and development of the plans
- Develop manuals/guidelines for aa studies (for specific types of projects)
- Mechanism for continual knowledge improvement



**Thank you for your attention!**

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