

The AA screening procedure in the Czech Republic



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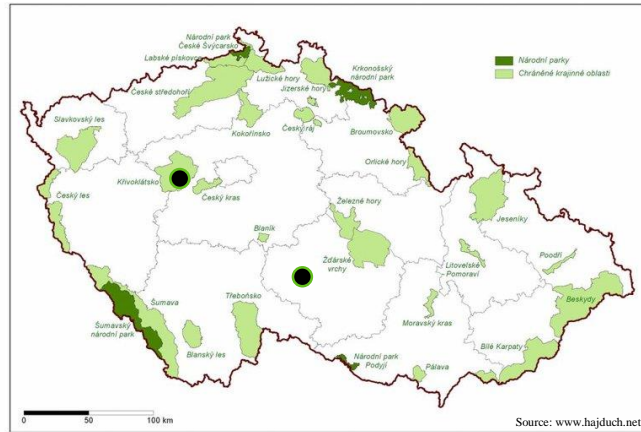
How does it work? I

- The proponent that intends to implement plan or project which may, either individually or in combination with other policies or projects, have a significant effect on integrity of a Natura 2000 site shall be obliged to submit proposal of the plan or project to a nature protection authority to obtain an opinion
- The proponent is the first who has to consider that!



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The nature protection authorities



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How does it work? II

- The nature protection authority shall issue a reasoned (justified) opinion within 30 days from the day of the application. If the nature protection authority through its opinion does not exclude the likelihood of a significant impact, then the given plan or project has to be subjected to appropriate assessment.



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What is (should be) in the opinion?

- The subject of the opinion
- Possible effects of the plan / project
- Potentially affected Natura 2000 sites and their target features
- The combination – synthesis of the above
- **THE VERDICT based on**  **– all that matters.**
- How the verdict was reached and based on what

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A proposal of the project

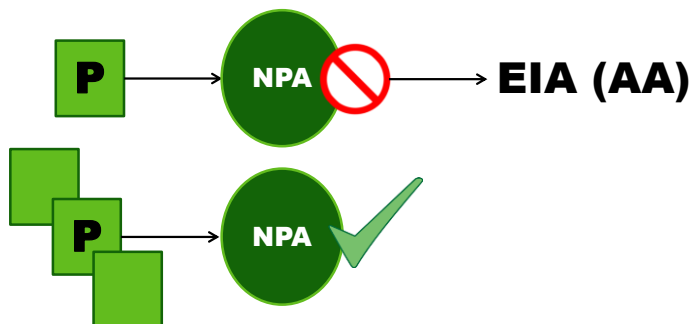
- „to submit proposal of the plan or project“



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A proposal of the project

- „to submit proposal of the plan or project“



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Conclusion: Advantages

- Clear conclusion based on significance estimation
 - Effects of the plan or project
 - Target features and integrity of the site
- Nature protection authority vs. Competent authority
 - E. g. building office (permitting procedure)
- Simple form (recommended structure)
- Screening precedes the assessment procedure
- Good base for the EIA / SEA process



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Conclusion: Disadvantages

- High administrative burden for NPAs
 - Question of effectivity – the absolute majority of projects are screened out (proponent frequently asks for the opinion when it is not necessary)
- Proposal of plans with abstract or too general effects
 - funding-oriented
 - no geographical projection
 - the extent / significance of the effects ???
- Level of „justification“ detail highly variable
 - is being dealt with continuously (MoE supervision)



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