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Determining the scope of the SEA report

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Determining the scope of SEA report

SEA Scoping is a structured method for identifying key sustainability risks or issues related to the Plan/Program under preparation

Scoping shall identify relevant environmental and health issues, which should be further considered within the SEA and (as far as possible) also:

- To define territorial dimension of the assessment
- To identify stakeholders to be involved involvement
- To suggest suitable environmental proposals (or specific questions) that will guide analyses within the SEA process.

It is important for efficiency of SEA process, since it should ensure the SEA focuses only on the likely significant effects which are relevant for the proposed policy or planning document

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Procedure

- The scope of the strategic environmental assessment report shall be determined by the competent authority, at the request of the initiator
- the competent authority must conduct consultations with the public authorities concerned and the Ministry of Health.
- The decision on determining the scope of the strategic environmental assessment report shall determine the level of detail of the information to be included in the report.

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What makes a good SEA scoping:

- Allowing further assessment to focus only on the **key sustainability issues which may be significantly affected** by the the policy or planning document
- Providing the input for decisions on the appropriate methods and analytical tools for further analyses of the key sustainability issues of the the policy or planning document
- Ensuring that further SEA process reflects opinions of relevant stakeholders (i.e. consultations therefore should be a part of the scoping)
- Limitations of scoping:
 - It is usually based on a limited data / general analysis
 - It does not need (and it is not intended), to be detailed
 - Precautionary principle vs Proportionality principle (Effectiveness)
- Results should be verified through further analysis, especially where the development of relevant mitigation measures requires more detailed input

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Case Example: SEA for Transport Sectorial Strategy (CZ)

- Strategy deals with 1270 road projects in 260 clusters, 360 railway in 90 clusters, and 20 water transport projects in 3 clusters
- It applies Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) for selection of priority investments
 - Desirability of a project (transport, economic, social)
 - Realization obstacles (land-use planning, environmental)
 - Preliminary Cost-benefit analysis
- Transport model supplies information on present and future transport intensities on network and their changes in case implementing individual investments
- GIS data only for corridors (digital map with +/- 1 km accuracy)

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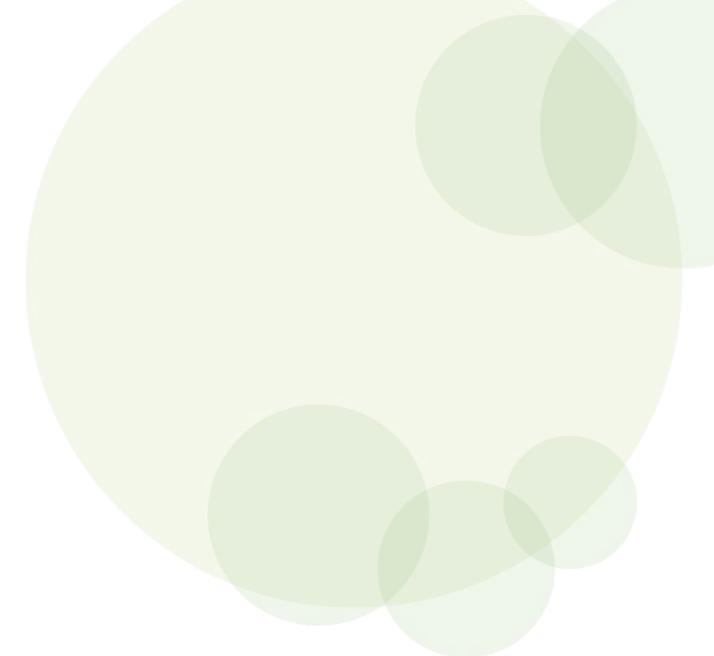


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Key issues addressed in scoping

Major issues:

- Biodiversity and Natura 2000
- Air quality
- Health

Minor issues:

- water, cultural heritage, forests, soil

Transboundary impacts

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Specific concerns for biodiversity

- Natura 2000 sites
- Special protected areas
- Loss of natural habitats
- Supra-regional and regional territorial systems of ecological stability
- Important landscape features
- Landscape fragmentation (new projects in unfragmented area by traffic; in areas important for migration)
- Water regime of landscape (wetlands, protected areas for natural accumulation of water and large forest areas)

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Specific concerns for air quality

Changes of transport intensities in:

- Urban areas (old and new roads, increasing and reducing intensities below 15,000 cars per day)
- Sensitive ecosystems (large-scale protected areas, forests, areas above 800 meters above sea level)

Total emissions in areas with poor air quality status

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Specific concerns for human health

- Air emissions in urban areas
- Noise (isolines 60 dB)
- Socio-economic impacts (accessibility for work-related travel and social and health services)

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Minor issues

- **Water:** areas of natural water accumulation and water bodies for drinking water supply, protected areas of mineral waters, barrier effect in flood zones)
- **Soil:** general impacts on soil types
- **Cultural heritage:** nationally important cultural monuments and heritage reserves - impacts caused by vibration and aesthetic concerns
- **Climate change:** consistency with relevant targets for climate change mitigation in the transport sector

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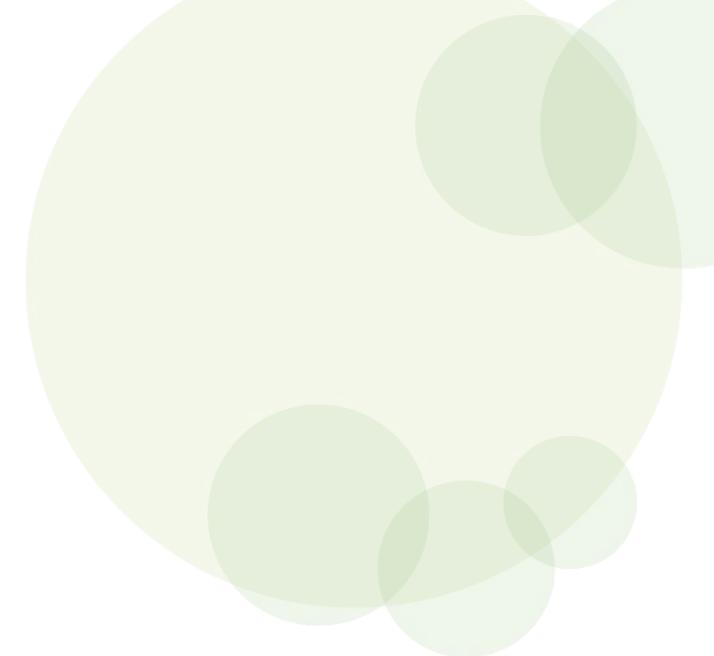


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Scoped-out

- Waste
- Soil and forests

SEA team proposed to scope these out, however MoE required “full scope of assessment”

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Concluding remarks

- Not all elements of environment have to be addressed in each and every SEA....on the other hand it needs to be ensured that **defined scope of SEA covers all main issues**, since gaps at this stage may misguide the entire SEA process
- Already at the scoping stage, the SEA can make initial recommendations for addressing key environmental, health or social issues in the plan or program
- A set of issues defined in scoping should be:
 - simple and focused on main concerns of strategic nature
 - kept flexible and open for adding/skipping issues later on (when more data are available or plan further elaborated)
 - "scoping out" is equally important as „scoping in"
- Proper consultations are essential – optimally consensus on the significant environmental issues should be reached

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Thank you for your attention!

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