

Strategic Environmental Assessment of 2014-2020 Italy – Croatia Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

SEA Directive statement
(in accordance with article 9.1.b of Directive 2001/42/EC)

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Article 9(1)(b) of Directive 2001/42/EC provides for «a statement summarizing how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report prepared pursuant to Article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to Article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to Article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with Article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with[...]».

Integration of environmental consultations in Cooperation Programme

The cross border area has diverse marine, coastal and inland ecosystems. Even though the territory is characterized by numerous natural resources (Natural Protected areas, Natura 2000 Sites, Marine Protected areas), high biodiversity, good-quality of bathing water and cultural/historical heritage sites and hotspots (some are also under the UNESCO convention), human activities affect negatively the situation or the trend of many environmental components. Consequently, phenomena such as flood events, coastal erosion, inland and maritime biodiversity loss and air pollution represent critical issues of the CBC area. Taking into consideration this, Programme choices were made not only considering the need to comply with the key principles of cohesion policy, but also recognizing that environmental quality and effective and sustainable usage of natural resources are fundamental competitiveness and attractiveness factors for territory development.

The Cooperation Programme has therefore identified the sustainable development as a horizontal principle, and consequently, as a guiding principle for the selection of operations; furthermore, the Programme addressed 2 out of 4 thematic axes to environmental objectives (axis 2 *safety and resilience* and axis 3 *environmental and cultural heritage*).

The integration of the environmental considerations has continued with the preliminary consultations and with the gradual processing of the Environmental Report (ER) and was then completed by the collection and evaluation of consultation results, which is reported in the following paragraph.

Environmental Report (ER), opinions expressed and consultations results

The assessment procedure (agreed by SEA Authorities and Environmental Authorities and ratified by the Decree No 27/2014 by the SEA Lead Authority) started with the scoping phase during which the relevant environmental objectives and related indicators were identified.

The relevant environmental objectives and related indicators identified thanks to scoping represented the basis for the description of the environment state and its development trends in the Programme area as well as for the assessment of likely significant effects of the Programme on the environment.

The Programme potential effects on environment were assessed through a qualitative approach: the likely interactions of the Cooperation Programme with the issues related to climate change and associated risks, inland and marine ecosystems, water quality and supply, soil quality and usage, air

quality, natural and cultural heritage and landscape, technological risks, health and sanitary risks and nuisances, energy and waste management were assessed.

Finally, positive and negative cumulative effects that the Cooperation Programme could have on the environmental issues considered have been detailed, highlighting interdependencies and effect-chains.

Based on the indications provided during the scoping phase and in line with the progress on the drawing-up of Cooperation Programme, was carried out the preparation of the Environmental Report and the related Non-Technical Summary and consequently, with public consultation based on these documents.

Consultation results were duly assessed and, where relevant, they were taken into account in the final Environmental Report and Cooperation Programme versions.

SCOPING

The preliminary consultation started on September 8th, 2014 and ended on September 23rd, 2014. The Bodies with environmental competence of the following regions: Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Molise, Abruzzo and Puglia played an active part in the scoping phase with their contributions.

ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

The Environmental Report and the related Non-Technical Summary were drawn up in accordance with EU and national legislation. In addition to the official documents in English, the Non-Technical Summary was drawn up also in Italian and Croatian languages in order to encourage broader participation. Finally, a template in English, Italian and Croatian was prepared so as to facilitate the collection of the observations.

CONSULTATION

The consultation was launched on August 7th, 2015 with the publication of the related announcement in the Official Bulletin of Veneto Region (BURV No 77/2015), with the indication of the web site to access the documentation (Cooperation Programme, Environmental Report, Non-Technical Summary, Template for the collection of the observations). The launching of the consultation was advanced during the Task Force meeting held in Bale on July 16th and 17th, 2015. Moreover, in the days immediately before then, the forthcoming launching of the consultation was specifically communicated to the Members of the Task Force of both countries and to the Bodies with environmental competence.

OPINIONS EXPRESSED

Once the consultation deadline has passed, no observations resulted from citizens.

A synthetic list of the opinions expressed by the Bodies with environmental competence is reported below.

As far as Croatia:

- An opinion expressed by the National Authorities involved in the Programme;
- An opinion expressed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport.

As far as Italy:

- An opinion expressed by the Ministry of Environment and Land and Sea Protection;
- Seven single opinions expressed by the Regions involved, drawn up also on the basis of the contributions received from the Bodies with environmental competence operating in each Region.

CONSULTATION RESULTS

All the opinions above indicated were properly assessed and for each of them, appropriate considerations were drawn up. This is reported synthetically in the table enclosed.

In conclusion, the contribution given by the consultation to the improvement of the Cooperation Programme and of the Environmental Report revealed to be positive and allowed to provide useful integrations to these documents.

Programme choices in the light of the alternatives analysed

Directive 42/2001/EC in article 5(1) and article 9(1)(b) requires an analysis of the alternatives to the Programme and a justification of choices made. In general, the risk of significant negative effects produced by the Programme means that alternatives must be considered so as to give decision makers the opportunity to select options which eliminate or reduce environmental impacts and which improve the global environmental footprint of the Programme.

During the SEA procedure, different alternative scenarios were considered (three different scenarios –A, B, C- were built changing the allocation of resources, two more CO2 emission scenarios were built using the CO2MPARE model and taking into consideration different actions to be implemented by the Programme. Finally, one more scenario was represented by the "zero-option). Analysis made shows that the strategy proposed for public consultation (scenario "A") must be considered as a good alternative if compared to other Programme options discussed during the preparation phase, because it represents a compromise between the needs of the CBC area and the environmental performance of the Programme. That strategy realistically tries to answer to the needs of the cooperation area, producing at the same time good environmental performances.

ANNEX

Opinions expressed by the competent authorities

The annex includes a table which reports synthetically the indications and suggestions received, allowing, for each of them, to identify the promoter, the assessments provided and the possible resulting integration of the Cooperation Programme and Environmental Report.

Directive 2001/42/EC art. 9.1.b SEA DIRECTIVE STATEMENT - Annex (Authorities opinions)

Subject	Synthesis of the indication	Comments	Way of integration
<p>Friuli Venezia Giulia Region – Environment and Energy Directorate</p>	<p>In the context analysis of the ER, is not adequately described the problematic of tributyltins (TBT) contamination in the gulf of Trieste; it is suggested to use this criticality as criteria in the project selection and to consider the source of information suggested by the ARPA FVG in the scoping phase.</p>	<p>The context analysis has been updated in the missing part. As discussed during the scoping phase, the context analysis has been drafted using as much as possible homogeneous data for the CBC area. Specific problems not relevant at cross border level, can not be used as selection criteria.</p>	<p>Update of ER (Chap. 3: context analysis)</p>
	<p>In the definition of the measures to define the selection of projects, considers further regional plans not considered in the external coherence analysis of the ER.</p> <p>Consider also the coherence with the “Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons on the Adriatic Sea” of Croatia</p>	<p>The coherence with the programming framework will be verified at project level, also according to the indication of the Program manual. The indication of plans suggested has been added in Appendix 3. In addition, the updated CP explicitly includes criteria for the coherence with specific plans (RBMPs and Flood risks Management Plans for SO2.1 and 3.2; Air quality Plans fro SO 4.1). For what concern “Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons on the Adriatic Sea” of Croatia, it is a sectorial not environmental plan and it can not be considered for the construction of environmental framework</p>	<p>Update of ER (Appendix 3) Update of CP (Section 2, “Guiding principles for the selection of operations”)</p>
	<p>Introduce criteria for the project selection able to implement the environmental sustainability of the projects itself; grant the evaluation of environmental effects at project level</p>	<p>In the “guiding principles for the selection of operations” of the SOs, criteria for a stronger sustainability of the projects have been added where appropriate. Further criteria will be added in the project selection phases, in accordance with section 7 of ER.</p> <p>The evaluation of environmental effects at project level, is done through the SEA monitoring, integrated inside the Program Evaluation. The evaluation of eventual specific environmental impact of projects, if it is the case, is guaranteed by specific laws (EIA and incidence analysis)</p>	<p>Update of CP (Section 2: guiding principles for the selection of operations)</p>
<p>In the definition of methodology and criteria for project selection, consider the recommendations included in section 7 of the ER, especially for what concern the incidence analysis</p>	<p>The indications have been included in the “guiding principles for the selection of operations”. Further criteria will be used in the implementation phases according to the Programme manual.</p>	<p>Update of CP (Section 2: guiding principles for the selection of operations)</p>	

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Italian Ministry for the Environment and Territory Protection	Insufficient financial weight to the SO 3.2 "Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity in the Adriatic Basin"	In the expenditure categories, more weight is given to those pertaining SO3.2	Update of CP (Table 16)
	The Objectives of the CP can be influenced by the Plan for "Exploration and Production of Hydrocarbons on the Adriatic Sea" of Croatia.	The reference to marine mineral resources (sea bed mining) from the sector of the blue growth (in section 1 and in SO 1.1) has been eliminated from the CP: this means that intervention concerning exploration and production of mineral resources can not be financed under the CP.	Update of CP (Section 1)
	In the context analysis, for the "inland water quality" theme it is suggested to use indicators in line with the WFD.	The indicator used is the "quality status" monitored according to the WFD. The information is given as share of the water bodies for status categories, in order to have an overall view of the situation at CBC are level. Nevertheless, now a more detailed description of quality status is given	Updated ER (Chap 3)
	If the oil drilling will compromise the quality of coastal water, the environmental quality standard are going to be ensured	This is not of pertinence of the CP.	Not required
	The methodological approach used for the assessment of environmental effects is not clear	Now it has been clarify	Update of ER (chap 6.1: Methodological approach for the assessment)
	The assessment of environmental effect need to be revised and clarified, especially for what concern SO1.1 (effect coming from innovation in naval industry), SO2.1 (for actions concerning energy), SO3.1 (for turistic flow), SO3.2 (about the significance of assessed effect), SO4.1 (for possible infrastructure)	The assessment has been updated, also in respect to the last change of the CP.	Update of ER (New chapter 11)
	The incidence analysis is required for project interacting with Natura 2000 resources; it is necessary insert criteria of eco-compatibility for project selection in the recommendation	The incidence analysis will be performed at project level, in accordance with the legal framework. A general cross-sector criterion of eco-compatibility for project in Natura 2000 sites is now recommended	Update of ER (Chap 7: orientation measures)

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Emilia Romagna Region	For SO 3.1 strengthen the measures assuring the sustainability of tourism, for example with priority to projects in line with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), or from subject with a eco certification (as Ecolabel and EMAS)	The description of the SO and the “guiding principles for the selection of operations” of the updated version of the CP ensure the sustainability of tourism	Update of CP (Section 2)
	For SO 4.1 strengthen the measure to ensure the sustainability of projects.	The description of the SO and the “guiding principles for the selection of operations” of the updated version of the CP ensure the sustainability of the project	Update of CP (Section 2)
	In the setting of SEA monitoring system, define indicators directly linked to the (positive and negative) environmental effects of the programme	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered	Measures for SEA monitoring
	Consider the possibility to coordinate other environmental monitoring systems acting in the same area	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered	Measures for SEA monitoring
	In the actuation of the programme it is necessary to verify the coherence also with plans and programme not listed in Appendix 3.	Appendix 3 has been update including also generic typology of plan and programs.	Update of ER (Appendix 3)
	In ER, section 6, are not mentioned possible positive effect coming from synergies between the Priority Axis 2 and 3 and LIFE and Horizon 2020.	Now the assessment considers also this effect.	Update of ER (New chapter 11)
	The National Strategy for adaptation to climate changes of Italy has been approved with DD n. 86 of 16 June 2015.	The information has been updated	Updated ER (chap 4)
	The “Po delta” Park has to be assimilated to marine protected area	Now the Po delta Park is discussed as marine protected area	Updated ER (chap 3)
	Include in the aquaculture also shellfish (mussels and clams)	Aquaculture includes shellfish. Now there is a reference to the importance of shellfish sector in chapter 1 of the CP	Update of CP (ch. 1)
	A specific monitoring is activated on expected result by project In the selection of project priority is given to subsidence, floods, coastal erosion	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered In SO 2.1 priority is given to projects focused on more vulnerable marine and coastal area. Subsidence is considered among risks in the CBC area.	Measures for SEA monitoring Update of CP (Sections 1 and 2)

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Marche Region	Consider the recommendations included in section 7.1 and 7.2 of the ER	The indication have been partially included in the “guiding principles for the selection of operations” ; further indication will be considered in the project selection	Update of CP (chap 2: guiding principles for the selection of operations)
	Consider the indications in section 8 about the monitoring system	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered	Measures for SEA monitoring
	Associate the SEA monitoring in the ongoing monitoring of the Programme	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered	Measures for SEA monitoring
Molise Region	Promote projects aimed to an improvement or to a requalification of protected landscape according to D.lgs 42/2004	The quoted law is national and it has not valid for the whole cooperation area : this criteria can be not applied	Not required
	In the Program implementation, include environmental criteria for project selection	Some criteria have been included in the “guiding principles for the selection of operations” ; further indication will be considered in the project selection	Update of CP (chap 2: guiding principles for the selection of operations)
	For projects that can interact with the Natura 2000 network, an incidence analysis is required	A reference to the need of the incidence analysis has been introduced in the “guiding principles for the selection of operations”	Update of CP (chap 5)
	Promote projects aimed to an improvement or to a requalification of protected landscape according to D.lgs 42/2004	The quoted law is national and it has not validity for the whole cooperation area : this criteria can be not applied	Not required
	Define the monitoring system, also indicating the financial resources	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring this will be considered	Measures for SEA monitoring
Apulia Region	In the context analysis, complete the “Inland water” description with information on status quality of rivers	The context analysis has been updated	Update of CP (chap 3)
	In the monitoring system, for the SO 3.3, add an indicator on coastal water quality	Now the indicator on coastal water quality is added in the SEA monitoring system	Update of ER (Chap 8.1: Environmental indicators)
	Update the list of Plans in Appendix 3 with the “Piano di Tutela delle Acque della Regione Puglia”	The reference has been added in Appendix 3	Update of ER (Appendix 3)

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Croatian Ministry of Education	<p>Add in the CP more contents related to education on environmental protection and sustainable development. Promote cooperation kindergarten/school with scientific institutes, industry sector, and to organize meetings with experts from the "blue economy"</p>	<p>In SO 1.1 it is possible to activate actions on education linked to business sector (the expenditure category 118 has been added, concerning education and training system). Other activities on training are possible under SO 3.1 on traditional activities</p>	Updated CP (Section 2)
	<p>On the page 47. the title 3.8. LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGES (INCLUDING ARCHITECTURAL AND ARHEOLOGICAL HERITAGES) should be changed with the title "3.8. LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL HERITAGES"</p> <p>On the page 49, into footnote 25, add the numbers of Official Gazette related to the Act on the protection and preservation of cultural goods, as follows: "Act on the protection and preservation of cultural goods (Official Gazette NO: 66/99; 151/03; 157/03; 87/09; 88/10; 61/11; 25/12; 136/12; 157/13; 152/14; 98/15)".</p>	<p>The title has been modified</p>	Update of ER (Chap. 3.8)
Croatian EAs	<p>On the page 86, in the table under Natural and cultural heritage and landscape instead: Promotes the conservation of several tangible and intangible significant sites, should be written: " Promotes the conservation of several tangible and intangible heritage"</p>	<p>The reference has been corrected</p>	Update of ER (Chap. 3.8)
	<p>On the page 53. In the table ID 3.1 under Expected results, instead 'Tangible heritage includes buildings and historic places, monuments, artefacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future.' It should be written: "Tangible heritage includes moveable and immovable heritage such as historic buildings and sites, monuments, artefacts, etc., which are considered worthy of preservation for the future."</p>	<p>The specific objective has been modified</p>	Update of ER (Chap. 5)
		<p>The expected results have been rephrased</p>	Update of CP (ch. 2)

Directive 2001/42/EC art. 9.1.b SEA DIRECTIVE STATEMENT - Annex (Authorities opinions)

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ARTA Abruzzo	As mitigation measure for PA3, instead of “do not promote tourism in protected area”, which can exclude extended area of territory from the CP, shift the actions on tourism to actions finalized to recover the natural heritage.	Actions for the recovering of natural heritage are possible under SO3.2 (“Contribute to protect and restore biodiversity”). The description and the expected results of SO3.1 (on tourism) have been changed to ensure that supported actions are on sustainable tourism.	Update of CP (Section 2)
	In the SEA monitoring system, the context indicators should be expressed in term of unit of actions.	The context indicators are used for the description of the evolution environmental components, independently from the actions coming from the CP. Nevertheless the suggestion will be taken in to account for the process indicator in the SEA monitoring system	Measures for SEA monitoring
	In the SEA monitoring system, for the SO2.2 is useful to include the indicator “surface of territory interested by climate change risks”	In the definition of the measures for SEA monitoring will be considered the feasibility of this indicator	Measures for SEA monitoring
Veneto Region	Include in the CP the mitigation measure suggested in the ER	The mitigation measure, where appropriate, have been included in the CP	Update of CP
	Consider the suggestion expressed by the environmental Authority during public consultation	The suggestion have been included in the CP and in the ER	Update of CP and ER
	For the incidence analysis, in the actuation phase of the CP, respect the indications contained in the SEA opinion n. 146/2015 of Veneto Region	The indications are referred to a Regional normative act (the DGR 2299/2014) and they cannot be applied in the whole CBC area. Nevertheless, the indication will be applied for intervention located in Veneto Region.	Not required