



EIA Procedure for Large-scale Transboundary Projects

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Definition for a large-scale transboundary project

Projects which are implemented in at least two Member States or having at least two Parties of Origin, and which are likely to cause significant effects on the environment or significant adverse transboundary impact

(based on Articles 1(2) and 7 of the EIA Directive and Articles 1 and 2 of the Espoo Convention).

Steps in a transboundary EIA

1. Notification and transmittal of information
2. Determination of the content and extent of the matters of the EIA information
3. Preparation of the EIA information/report by the developer
4. Public participation, dissemination of information and consultation
5. Consultation between concerned MSs/Parties
6. Examination of the information gathered and final decision
7. Dissemination of information on the final decision

Step 1 – notification and transmittal of information

- Consult potentially affected MSs/Parties early on
- Always notify affected MSs/Parties if significant (adverse) transboundary effects cannot be excluded
- Notify affected MSs/Parties preferably before scoping
- Pay attention to the notification's format
- Parties of origin should notify each other
- Affected MSs/Parties should provide information on significant transboundary effects

Step 2 - determination of the content and extent of the matters of the EIA information

- Develop close cooperation between the developer and competent authorities
- Create a coordination body for the concerned MSs/Parties
- Identify significant (adverse) transboundary effects
- Set out the scope of a joint EIA report for the whole project

Step 3 - preparation of the EIA information/report by the developer

- Ensure overall assessment of the effects
- Consider impacts of associated works
- Assess reasonable alternatives
- Prepare a joint EIA report for the whole project
- Prepare a non-technical summary

Steps 4 and 5 – public participation and consultation

- Distribute tasks and responsibilities among the MSs/Parties
Make information widely available
- Ensure accessibility of all documentation
- Allow reasonable amount of time for comments
- Ensure translation/interpretation if needed
- Use appropriate means of consultation (e.g. open discussions and public hearings)
- Ensure that the authorities and developer are present at the hearings

Step 6 - decision-making

- Take into account the overall significant effects
- Coordinate national consent procedures

Conclusions

- **International cooperation and coordination** - of particularly importance for large-scale transboundary projects.
- **Environmental report and non-technical summary** should assess the environmental impact of the **whole project**.
- **Joint EIA documentation** should be prepared **before any national EIAs** are carried out.

<https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/pdf/Transboundry%20EIA%20Guide.pdf>



DG ENV EIA/SEA website:

https://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/index_en.htm

Thank you for your attention!