TRAINING STRATEGY FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL **ASSESSMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

ACTION PLAN 2015-2019, August 2016

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IDENTIFIED GAP 13: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

- Adopted in 1992, <u>Council Directive 92/43/EEC</u> of 21 May 1992, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, aims to promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.
- It forms the cornerstone of Europe's nature conservation policy with the <u>Birds</u> <u>Directive</u> and establishes the EU wide <u>Natura 2000</u> ecological network of protected areas, safeguarded against potentially damaging developments.
- The Birds and Habitats Directives have been well known in Slovenia since 2004, when the Government adopted the Natura 2000 Decree. There are 354 Natura 2000 areas in Slovenia, 323 are defined on the basis of the HD and 31 on the basis of the BD.
- The combined Natura 2000 area is 7,683 km2, namely 7,677 km2 on land and 6 km2 on sea. The areas are very complex and they cover 37,16 % of Slovenia. The total area comprises 71% forest areas, 4% mountain areas, 23% agriculture land, 1% water, and 2% urban areas, which are included in large Natura 2000 sites. These mostly represent rural villages and settlements with agricultural use.

- The EC confirmed the proposed new areas on 3 December 2014 and the updated list of Natura 2000 areas was published on 23 January 2015 in the Official Journal of the EU.
- The EC still had a negative opinion and the conclusions of the meeting in June 2014 were that additional areas and improvements have to be proposed. The MOEP prepared the new decree in October 2015. 29% of Natura 2000 areas are well managed, as they lie within the already protected areas of Triglav National Park, regional and landscape parks, and nature reserves. There are also 128,000 inhabitants living in Natura 2000 areas and they are developing.

- There is new information and knowledge regarding SCI and SPA, but also new rulings issued by the Court of Justice. Slovenia has prepared more than 100 AA and developed practices in the management of AA and assessment methods.
- There were two EC Pilots, including the following:
- Rova A local municipality plan was adopted before entering the EU, but the EC requested an AA.
 - Legislation has been change and an AA has been carried out.

The Pokljuka Biathlon Centre projects – without SEA/EIA/AA

 The post festum SEA/EIA/AA measures have been carried out.

- Additional training is needed for the experts of the Institute for Nature Conservation and AA experts in the field regarding the implementation of Art. 6(3) and 6(4). Specifically, training is needed on mitigation and compensation measures regarding Natura 2000 in order to be able to clearly explain and assess mitigation measures for Natura 2000 and separate them from the biodiversity mitigation measures defined in the Nature Conservation Act.
- They have the same name as Natura 2000 mitigation measures, which led to some misunderstanding between the authorities, experts, and NGOs. As training materials, draft guidelines on good practices will be prepared.
- There is also a need to upgrade knowledge of possible mitigation and compensation measures in the SEA phase with location alternatives and technical alternatives in EIA.

Target participants: The SEA/EIA teams, Experts from the Institute for Nature Conservation,

Following actions SEA/EIA/AA:

- Seminar for municipalities
- Seminar for experts

DATE	MODULE 13 ACTION	TO BE INVITED	
21 September 2016	Seminar on Appropriate assessment with presentation of HD, BD, main principles, court rulings A seminar with good practice mitigation measures	MESP, SEA Division, ARSO, EIA Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, MESP, Spatial Planning Division, MESP, Water management,	
10 September 2017	SEA, EIA and AA seminar with good practice mitigation measures Guidance on mitigation measures	MESP, SEA Division, ARSO, EIA Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, MESP, Spatial Planning Division, MESP, Water management,	
10 September 2018	SEA, EIA and AA seminar with good practice mitigation measures	MESP, SEA Division, ARSO, EIA Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture, MESP, Spatial Planning Division, MESP, Water management,	
10 September 2019	SEA, EIA and AA seminar with good practice mitigation measures	MESP, SEA Division, ARSO, EIA Division, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Agriculture MESP, Spatial Planning Division MESP, Water management and Investment	

• Indicator:

- 20 experts trained in 2015
- 20 experts trained in 2016
- 20 experts trained in 2018
- 20 experts trained in 2019
- Possible models of delivery
- > A seminar with presentations of good practice practical examples
- > A seminar and workshop with the presentation of guidelines on AA
- Seminars for development the national draft guidelines on mitigation measures

MODUL 13 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

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9.45 - 10.00 Experiences and expectations from participants
          10.00 -11.00 Appropriate assessment, Habitats directive in relation to SEA/EIA, Screening,
          Mitigation measures, Compensation measures (incl. mitigation vs. compensation),
             Vedran Nikolić, European Commission
11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 12.30 Rulings of the European Court of Justice in relation to the
              Appropriate Assessment,
              Vedran Nikolić, European Commission
12.30 - 13.00 Discussion
13:00 -14:00 Appropriate assessment, EU lessons learned, general,
              Ismini KYRIAZOPOULOU, JASPERS
        14.00 - 14.30 Lunch
14.30 -15.30 Appropriate assessment and SEA/EIA, EU lessons learned, EU practice, examples,
                       Ismini KYRIAZOPOULOU, JASPERS and expert
        15.30 -15.45 Discussion
15.45 - 16:00 Existing EC AA Guidance (Ismini KYRIAZOPOULOU, JASPERS)
16.30
             Evaluation and questionnaire
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