



**Official information**  
on the  
**Strategic Environmental Assessment**  
procedure in Hungary for the  
**Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme**

*April 17, 2015*



## Glossary of technical terms

Technical Term	Definition
Baseline	A description of the present and future state, if the plan or programme (PP) is not implemented, taking into account changes resulting from natural events and from other human activities.
Biodiversity	The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) defines biological diversity as 'the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (Article 2).
Climate	Usually defined as the 'average weather', or more rigorously, as the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities of variables such as temperature, precipitation, and wind, over a period of time. The conventional period of time over which weather is averaged to calculate climate is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). (Modified from IPCC)
Climate change	The IPCC defines climate change as 'any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.' The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines it specifically in relation to human influence as: 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.'
Cumulative effects	The incremental effects of an action PP when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.
Direct effects	Environmental effects caused directly by the implementation of a PP.
Environmental report	Document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment, which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a PP. The SEA Directive states that the environmental report shall mean the part of the plan or programme documentation containing the information required in Article 5 and Annex I.
Fauna	The animals of a particular region or habitat.
Flora	The plants of a particular region or habitat.
Indirect effects	Effects that occur away from the immediate location or timing affected by the implementation of a PP, e.g. quarrying of aggregates elsewhere as a result of implementing new road proposals included in plan or programme (see also secondary effects).
Mitigation (SEA)	Measures to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the PP. (SEA Directive)
Natura 2000	An EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under the Habitats Directive. The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened species and habitats. It is comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated by Member



States under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive.

Relevant environmental authorities	Authorities which, because of their specific environmental responsibilities, are likely to be environmental concerned by the environmental effects of implementing Cohesion Policy programming documents. These authorities may also include authorities in charge of matters related to environmental health.
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, OJ L 197, 21.7.2001, p.30. It requires the environmental effects of a broad range of plans and programmes to be assessed so they can be considered while plans are actually being developed, and in due course adopted. The public must also be consulted on the draft plans and the environmental assessment, and their views must be taken into account.
Significant effects	Effects that are significant in the context of the PP, i.e. a function not just of magnitude or size of effect, but of nature, sensitivity and scale of the receptor.





## Abbreviations

Term or acronym	Definition
CP	Cooperation Programme
EC	European Commission
GD	Government Decision
IP	Investment Priority
KAI	Key area of intervention <sup>1</sup>
PA	Priority Axis
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.
SO	Specific objective
JWG	Joint Working Group
TO	Thematic Objective

<sup>1</sup> The intermediary version of the CP used the terminology of the key areas of interventions, but later modified as investment priorities. The JWG discussed the intermediary version of the CP at the 6<sup>th</sup> Joint Working Group Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013. This intermediary version was subject to the Scoping Report.



In Hungary the Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme has to be carried out in line with Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11) on the SEA and Government Decree 100/2014. (III.25.), which modifies Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11).

The SEA process and the environmental assessment have been carried out by the same expert team in both partner states. Methodologically the two main reports resulted from the SEA process are the Scoping Report and the Environmental Report, each as joint reports for the two Member States.

In line with the above mentioned government decision, the necessary steps under the procedure and their current status in case of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme are the following:

1. To determine whether the programme will have significant effects on the environment, the screening (Government Decree (2/2005. (I.11.) §1, §4 and Annex 2 and 4): from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

2. The elaboration of the scope of the assessment (Government Decree (2/2005. (I.11.) §1, §4, §7 and Annex 2 and 4): from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014

In line with the Decree the screening statement can be incorporated into the Scoping Report.

The content of the Scoping Report has been elaborated in line with the requirements under §7 (2):

the main areas of intervention,

determination of the current state of the environment and the objectives to be achieved,

summarize the relevant regulatory background and the methodology planned

determination of the likely significance of the environmental effects

likely transboundary impacts

3. Consultation on the Scoping Report with the relevant environmental authorities (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §7): from 19<sup>th</sup> March 2014 to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014

4. Drafting the Environmental Report based on the accepted scope (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §8 and Annex 4): from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2014

One joint single Environmental Report has been drafted for both countries. The first draft of the Environmental Report was provided on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

(Since then, the draft report has been revised according to the requests of the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment.)

5. Consultation on the Environmental Report with the relevant environmental authorities and the public (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §8)

Planned after that the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment approved the Environmental Report. According to the Government Decree, (1) the public has to be consulted in relation to the Environmental Report; and (2) in Hungary the consultation period given to the authorities and the consultation period given to the public is the same period, the authorities and the public is consulted simultaneously.

6. Consultation on the transboundary effects of the programme with third countries if necessary (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §9)





Based on the statements on the likely transboundary effects of the programme (Chapter 10 of the Environmental Report) consultation with third countries is not necessary.

7. Adoption of the programme and the Strategic Environmental Assessment by the competent authority (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §10) (the Cooperation Programme document is to be approved by the Governments of Romania and Hungary, having the annexes of the Ex-ante Report and the Report for the Strategic Environmental Assessment.)

Planned after the consultation period and the finalisation of the Environmental Report and the SEA Official Statement.

8. Information on the decision (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §11)

Planned after the consultation period and the finalisation of the Environmental Report and the SEA Official Statement.

## **1. List of Hungarian Authorities involved in consultation acts in the SEA process HUNGARY:**

The list of authorities involved in consultation acts, related to the Scoping Report and related to the Environmental Report, is based on the Annex 3 of the Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11) on the SEA (Hungary).

### **Permanent stakeholders**

Regarding the protection of the environment, nature and the landscape:

- National Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Upper-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Tiszántúl Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Lower-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Hortobágy National Park Directorate
- Körös-Maros National Park Directorate

Regarding the protection of the environment and urban health:

- public health administration bodies of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Office of the Chief Medical Officer (National Public Health and Medical Officer Service)

Regarding the protection of woodlands, soil, the quantitative protection of agricultural land and the protection of the agri-environment:

- Ministry of Rural Development

The following actors involved by the reason of their environmental reference to the thematic objectives of the CP

### **Stakeholders involved by competency**

Regarding the local protection of the environment and nature

- notaries of the local government of the settlement

Regarding the protection of the built environment

- chief architects of the department for construction of the Government Offices in the four affected counties



Regarding the quantitative protection of waters

- Upper-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Tiszántúl Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water
- Lower-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water

Regarding the protection of forests

- forestry directorates of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Regarding the protection of soils

- plant and soil protection directorates of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Regarding the quantitative protection of arable lands

- cadastral agencies of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Regarding the protection of geological values and mineral reserves

- Mining District Authority of Miskolc
- Mining District Authority of Szolnok

Regarding the protection of natural characteristics of natural health-giving factors and health resorts

- National Directorate of Health Resorts and Thermal Spas of the National Chief Medical Officer's Administration

Regarding the protection of cultural heritage (protection of monuments, archaeology)

- Cultural heritage protection office of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Regarding the chemical safety

- National Institute of Chemical Safety

Regarding the prevention of major industrial accidents

- directorates of emergency management of the Government Offices in the four affected counties

Regarding the protection of geological and mineral wealth:

- Ministry of National Development

Regarding the protection of the natural conditions of natural medical factors, health resorts:

- Ministry of Human Resources

Regarding the protection of cultural heritage (protection of historic buildings, archaeology):

- Ministry of Human Resources

Regarding the protection of the built environment

- Ministry of Internal Affairs

Regarding chemical safety:

- Ministry of Human Resources

Regarding the prevention of serious industrial accidents:

- National Directorate General for Disaster Management





## **Governmental Offices of the affected counties involved**

The Governmental Offices were also invited by the Hungarian Prime Minister's Office to participate in the consultation action related to the Scoping Report and the Environmental Report:

- Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg county
- Hajdú-Bihar county
- Békés county
- Csongrád county

## **2. The list of relevant Hungarian environmental authorities involved in the consultation on the Scoping Report (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §7):**

The Hungarian environmental authorities were provided with an official letter, the whole Scoping Report and an executive summary in the national language.

The list of authorities involved was based on Annex 3 of Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11) Decree on the SEA (Hungary).

### **Permanent stakeholders**

- National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (official letter received on 28th April 2014.)
- Upper-Tisza Regional Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (official letter received on 22nd April 2014.)
- Tiszántúl Regional Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (official letter received on 21th April 2014.)
- Lower-Tisza Regional Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (official letter received on 14th April 2014.)
- Ministry of Rural Development (official letter received on 30th April 2014.)

### **Stakeholders involved by competency**

- Ministry of National Development (official letter received on 18th April 2014.)
- Ministry of National Economy (official letter received on 22nd April 2014.)
- Ministry of Internal Affairs (official letter received on 22nd April 2014.)
- Ministry of Human Resources (official letter received on 15th April 2014.)
- Government Office of Hajdú-Bihar County (official letter received on 24th April 2014.)
- Government Office of Békés County (no official paper on opposing opinion arrived)
- Government Office of Csongrád County (official letter received on 30th April 2014.)

The consultation on the draft Scoping Report – including the determination that the programme requires a SEA - took place between 19th March 2014 and 15th May 2014. The results of the consultation on the Scoping Report and the Scoping Phase were that the environmental authorities agreed with the Scoping Report and that the environmental authorities fully agreed that the programme will have a significant impact on the environment and the elaboration of the SEA is necessary.

### **The presentation of the received comments from the above mentioned authorities related to the Scoping Report**

The received comments in general:

The received comments can be grouped into three types.





1. Relevant Ministries from Hungary declared they agree with the Scoping Report, and did not send any other comment.
2. Relevant authorities sent comments, which are in line with the content of the Scoping Report, and which are comments corresponding to the Scoping Report.
3. Some of the stakeholders sent suggestions related to the environment that are directly related to the content of the cooperation programme.

Basically, the main conclusions are that the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme has a significant effect on the environment, during the implementation, the national legal background has to be fulfilled, and consultations are required.

The involved authorities indicated their agreement with the Scoping Report.

The consequences have been applied in the scope, related to the detailed key intervention areas<sup>2</sup>. According to the comments received, the application of renewable sources has to be emphasised in the sections on transport, infrastructure development and agriculture.

Comments in detail:

Grouped by the topics and chapters of the Scoping Report, the table shows the received comments, and the given feedback integrated into the final Scoping Report.

<b>Determining the likely significance of effects:</b>		
<b>Comments from the Environmental Authorities and other stakeholders in the framework of Scoping Report</b>	<b>Response to the Comment</b>	<b>Opinion of the consultant - Is there consistency between the comment and the scoping statements?</b>
Ministry of Rural Development (Hungary): Agreed with the objects of the SEA, the Ministry indicates that both negative and positive effects have to be covered during the evaluation.	Response: all effects have been identified and clarified during the SEA Report with the necessary declarations.	YES
Government Office of Hajdú-Bihar County (Hungary): preliminary studies have to be implemented during the transportation projects (PA3: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks)	Response: environmental assessment bounded projects have been identified during the SEA Report, in accordance with the relevant legislative background.	YES
National Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): the received comments emphasise the significant environmental impact of the Programme, underlining the cooperation with the relevant authorities during the implementation. The Inspectorate agrees with the aims of the Programme. It is necessary to present the noise pollution of the region in the Environmental Report, and in case of significant noise pollution, an action plan needs to be elaborated.	Response: noise pollution has been integrated  Related chapter: 4.2. Identified environmental problems	YES

<sup>2</sup> In the version of the cooperation programme document bases for the Scoping Report key areas of intervention terminology has been used, but later modified as thematic objectives and specific objectives.





<b>Environmental issues and environmental problems:</b>		
<b>Comments from the Environmental Authorities and other stakeholders in the framework of Scoping Report</b>	<b>Response to the Comment</b>	<b>Opinion of the Consultant - Is there consistency between the comment and the scoping statements?</b>
<p>Lower-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): KAI 1.1: application of renewable sources is not allowed in Natura 2000 areas KAI 2.1 water preservation should be emphasised in the relevant issue KAI 2.2 protection of biodiversity and natural values (6/c) should be outlined as an independent intervention element (not as a part of KAI 2.2) In general, besides the development of infrastructure, raising the awareness of natural causes should play a role during the programming phase.</p>	<p>Response: Agreed and taken into consideration in the CP under PA1. Based on the comment of the Inspectorate, KAI 1.1, KAI 2.1, KAI 2.2 should be supplemented with the mentioned criteria. Also, raising public awareness on natural values should be more efficiently emphasised in the PA. The Inspectorate suggests that the protection of natural values should be an independent Key Intervention Area, independent of the protection of biodiversity and national heritage.</p>	<p>YES</p>

<b>Environmental policies</b>		
<b>Comments from the Environmental Authorities and other stakeholders in the framework of Scoping Report</b>	<b>Response to the Comment</b>	<b>Opinion of the Consultant - Is there consistency between the comment and the scoping statements?</b>
<p>Ministry of Interior (Hungary): as GD 2/2005 (I.11.) on certain plans and environmental assessments has been modified by GD 100/2014, the SEA has to be completed with the relevant decree.</p>	<p>Response: Agreed and inserted.  Related chapter: 1.Introduction and Annex 2 List of relevant national and international legal and policy framework including guiding questions</p>	<p>YES</p>

<b>Environmental objectives and derived guiding questions</b>		
<b>Comments from the Environmental Authorities and other stakeholders in the framework of Scoping Report</b>	<b>Response to the Comment</b>	<b>Opinion of the Consultant - Is there consistency between the comment and the scoping statements?</b>
<p>Government Office of Csongrád County identifies the possible cooperation fields: PA1, with the utilization of renewables, such as:</p>	<p>Response: Agreed. The identified expectations are covered by the relevant Priority Axes (PA1, PA3); detailed</p>	<p>YES</p>





<p>biomass geothermal energy solar power precision agriculture (application of pesticides) PA2: development of water reservoirs, cooperating with municipalities and enterprises developing water withdrawal in the Arad region PA3: Improve sustainable cross-border mobility and remove bottlenecks: the development of environmental friendly transportation infrastructure (bicycle paths, solar powered transport methods, etc.). Consultation with the national heritage office during the planning phase.</p> <p>PA4: development of small enterprises with complex supporting methods (infrastructure, transport) Besides the above mentioned expectations, the development of social infrastructures (healthcare institutes) should be emphasised.</p> <p>Base elements of sustainable development should be emphasised in the SEA Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rational soil management</li> <li>• protection and development of biodiversity</li> <li>• proper utilization of growing areas in outer branches</li> <li>• semi-natural grassland management</li> <li>• landscape structure</li> <li>• strengthening cooperation and innovation adaption in the agricultural chain</li> </ul>	<p>objectives are also clarified in each intervention area. Also the geothermal aspects was taken into account (PA1)</p> <p>Agricultural issues have been considered in the environmental assessment under environmental issue for soil and land use.</p>	
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**Indicators**

There were no comments received on this content of the report.

**Baseline:**

There were no comments received on this content of the report.

**Methods of the environmental assessment to be used in the environmental report**

There were no comments received on this content of the report.

**Structure of the SEA Report**

There were no comments received on this content of the report.

**Additional remarks:**

<p>Comments from the Environmental Authorities and other stakeholders in the framework of Scoping Report</p>	<p>Answer to the Comment</p>	<p>Opinion of the Consultant - Is there consistency between the comment and the scoping statements?</p>





Ministry of Rural Development (Hungary): According to the legislation in force it is necessary to consult with the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary)	This authority has also been consulted. According to the received answer received from the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water, this authority - the National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water - agrees that the programme has a significant effect on the environment and agrees with the Scoping Report	YES
Ministry of Rural Development (Hungary): If it is relevant and the programme has significant effect on third countries, it is necessary to consult them.	The expected environmental impacts on third countries were presented in Chapter 7 of this report. Consultation is planned with third countries in the next phase.	YES

Some of the stakeholders sent suggestions referring to the environment that are directly related to the content of the cooperation programme. The received suggestions have been summarized and forwarded to the planners of the cooperation programme with the purpose to be taken into account in the formulation of the content of the cooperation programme.

<b>Name of the stakeholder and the received suggestion to the content of the cooperation programme:</b>
National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP: to support the two countries in actions protecting the thermal water basin
National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP(PA3): to implement air pollution monitoring systems in main traffic nodes
National Inspectorate for Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP (PA6): the possible co-operation of industrial stakeholders
Government Office of Csongrád County(Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP: to excite future beneficiaries for the utilization of renewables, such as biomass, geothermal energy, solar power, precision agriculture (application of pesticides).
Government Office of Csongrád County(Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP (PA3): besides large scale flood and inland water protection projects, the promotion of cooperation between municipalities and agricultural SMEs.
Government Office of Csongrád County(Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP (PA4): to incorporate social issues related to common health care investments.
Government Office of Csongrád County(Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP (PA2): to incorporate developments of environmentally friendly infrastructure (bicycle paths, solar powered transport)
Lower-Tisza Regional Inspectorate For Environment, Nature and Water (Hungary): Received suggestion to the content of the CP: In general, besides the development of infrastructure, raising the awareness of natural causes should play a role during the programming phase.

**3. The description of the way the Hungarian public will be involved in the SEA process (Consultation on the Environmental Report with the relevant environmental authorities and the public (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §8))**





According to the Government Decree, the public has to be consulted in relation to the Environmental Report. The consultation period given to the authorities and the consultation period given to the public is 30 days and planned simultaneously. In Hungary, the environmental authorities and the public are provided with the whole report in English and the Non-technical summary in the national language.

In case of the Interreg V-A Romania-Hungary Programme, the Environmental Report accepted by the Joint Working Group of the programme may be regarded sufficient as a consultation version. In line with this, the consultation period can be launched after the approval of the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment, and after the decision of the Joint Working Group of the programme on the acceptance of the final draft Environmental Report.

It was requested from the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment and accepted by the Joint Working Group of the programme that the SEA process should be performed parallel in the two partner countries (Minutes of the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment meeting of 19th August 2014 and of 17th October 2014), therefore the consultation will be launched in parallel in the two countries.

As result of the consultation, the Hungarian environmental authorities and the public may send observations regarding the final draft of the Environmental Report. The environmental authorities and the public are to be provided with 30 calendar days for sending observations (Government Decree 2/2005. (I.11.) §8). In case the Hungarian Environmental authorities do not consider the Environmental Report sufficient, repeated consultation may be required (Government Decree 2/2005 (I.11) 8§(6)). (According to the decision of the Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment, depending on the specific comments received in the public consultation period from both states, the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (after the reorganisation Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests based on the Decision G. no. 8 of 21th January 2015 on the organization and functioning of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests), as the competent authority for the SEA process, shall decide if another Romanian Working Group for Environmental Assessment meeting is necessary.)

in Budapest, 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

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