

**Preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the
Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and
Herzegovina-Montenegro 2021 – 2027**

SCOPING REPORT

Ver.2



Zagreb, November 2021



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Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2021 – 2027

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Explanation
EC	European Commission
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
IPA	Instrument for Pre-Accession
IPPC	Integrated Pollution and Prevention Control
MESD	Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development
MRDEUF	Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds
MS	Member State
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PO	Policy Objective
SEA	Strategic Environment Assessment
SO	Specific Objective
TF	Task Force
TL	Team Leader
ToR	Terms of Reference

1. INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a procedure carried out with the purpose to assess the likely significant effects on the environment which may arise out of implementation of a strategy, plan and programme (SPP). The objective of the procedure is to optimize the development proposed by an SPP, i.e. resolve the issues of cumulative effects, large-scale impacts, intersectoral and indirect impacts, which otherwise cannot be foreseen within the EIA procedures.

The objective of the SEA Directive (Art. 1) is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Through SEA, the decision-maker is informed about the degree of uncertainty of likely impacts, consistency of objectives (both SPPs and environmental protection), and sensitivity of the current environment and the range of available alternatives of the SPP under consideration.

The SEA procedure for the Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro (Programme) 2021-2027 was initiated by the adoption of the Decision on the commencement of the SEA procedure (CLASS: 910-06/21-01/1; File No. 538-10-3-1-1/433-21-6) of 11 November 2021.

Preparation of scoping report is not a formal requirement of the SEA Directive, rather it is recommended as an example of good practice, in order to inform the public in the early phase of planning on all the aspects of the environmental impact assessment to be carried out in the Environmental Report, and to take their comments into account in the appropriate manner.

The Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia - Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro (Programme) 2021-2027 objective is to foster smart, green and inclusive development of Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro cross-border region. Cross-border programmes are of key importance in addressing gaps in the development of the border areas and challenges that exist across national borders. Addressing such issues through interactions of actors from participating countries, cross-border cooperation has proved to be an effective instrument in the search for joint problem solutions.

The key objectives and thematic concentration that are of the most relevance for the implementation of the Programme are integrated in a strategic framework consisting of three policy objectives and 7 specific objectives, with appertaining indicators.

This scoping report shall outline the key characteristics Interreg IPA CBC Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro, in light of environmental characteristics of the territory in which it shall be implemented, so as to ensure the information for decision-makers on the scope of the SEA Report. Based on this scoping report, a SEA Report shall be prepared with consideration of significant impacts of the proposals and policies of the CBC Programme on the environment.

2. INTERREG PROGRAMME 2021-2027

Interreg IPA Cross-border Cooperation Programme Croatia-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Montenegro 2021-2027 covers the territory of border areas between Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Montenegro and between Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Within programme area there is a tri-border area (Dubrovnik-Neretva County, Trebinje Municipality and Herceg Novi Municipality). The proposed programme area is identical to the one of the previous programming period 2014-2020. In other words, programme area covers 12 counties on the Croatian side, Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 109 municipalities/cities on the side of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 11 municipalities on the side of Montenegrin border. This amounts to total of 87.453,95 km² of programme area with 5.587.836,00 inhabitants.

On the Croatian side, the programme territory covers 38.405,00 km² and includes following counties: Zagreb County, Sisak-Moslavina County, Karlovac County, Bjelovar-Bilogora County, Lika-Senj County, Požega-Slavonia County, Brod-Posavina County, Zadar County, Šibenik-Knin County, Vukovar-Srijem County, Split-Dalmatia County, and Dubrovnik-Neretva County. On the side of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the programme territory covers 42.578,50 km² and includes Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina and 49 municipalities/cities from the Republika Srpska and 60 municipalities/cities from Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the side of Montenegrin border, the programme territory covers 6.508 km² and includes municipalities as follows: Herceg Novi, Kotor, Tivat, Budva, Bar, Ulcinj, Cetinje, Nikšić, Podgorica, Danilovgrad, and Tuzi. The programme territory is presented in **Figure 1**.

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Figure 1. Programme territory.

Based on the conclusions of the Territorial and socio-economic analysis of the Programme area and the outcomes of stakeholder consultations, the following POs and related SOs have been selected and developed for the Interreg Programme:

Policy Objective 1 (SMARTER EUROPE):

- SO 1.1 Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies
- SO 1.3 Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments

Policy Objective 2 (GREENER EUROPE):

- SO 2.1 Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

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- SO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches
- SO 2.6 Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

Policy Objective 4 (SOCIAL EUROPE):

- SO 4.5 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-and community-based care
- SO 4.6 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

The overall strategic framework with appertaining actions and output and result s indicators are shown in the **Table 1**. The financial allocations appertaining to each programme priority represent a preliminary proposal only and are subject to change. They are used herein as potential indication of intensity of investment, i.e. intensity of likely impacts of a priority.

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Table 1. Proposed list of output and results indicators per each programme priority/specific objective.

Programme Priority and financial allocation (%)	Specific objective - as per Regulation	Types of Actions	Output and results indicators
<p>P1 - Smart investments in research, innovation and competitive entrepreneurship</p> <p>Financial allocation - 20%</p>	<p>SO 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting research and development institutions, public research centres, universities and centres of competence in stimulating cross-border innovation and technology based on smart specialization approach. Strengthening and modernising business support services that could help with: trainings, marketing, developing and or implementing new services/products using ICT and new technologies, implementing innovative solutions in business organisation and processes, etc. Accelerating innovation and technology transfer (e.g. blue and green economy, agriculture, food production, fisheries and aquaculture, climate change, renewable resources, smart manufacturing, biodiversity, cultural and creative industries, skills development for smart specialization, health and future digital technologies), cooperation between research institutions, SMEs, public sector, and development organisations to stimulate innovation and technology development based on smart specialization approach. Investments in small scale research infrastructure and equipment 	<p>RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders</p> <p>RRC 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion</p> <p>RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects</p> <p>RRC 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</p>
	<p>SO 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting local SMEs to face challenges related to their size, limited resources (such as skills and finance) or industry and market conditions, including within supply chains and with larger enterprises by the means of voucher schemes to purchase cross-border business advice or in the form of sub-granting or SPF. Improving the capacity of entrepreneurs including micro entrepreneurs such as family farms regarding marketing, branding, market research, e-business, competitiveness and education and 	<p>RCO 01 - Enterprises supported (of which: micro, small, medium, large)*</p> <p>RCO 02 - Enterprises supported by grants*</p> <p>RRC 03 – Small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) introducing product or process innovation</p>

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		<p>training in entrepreneurship skills in the areas of agriculture, tourism and ICT.</p> <p>3. Developing and supporting existing business clusters and networks of SMEs in order to develop and promote common products for local cross-border and international market.</p>	<p>RCO 116 - Jointly developed solutions</p> <p>RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</p>
<p>P2 - Green investments in environmental protection and efficient risk management</p> <p>Financial allocation - 40%</p>	<p>SO 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions</p>	<p>1. Developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration actions on innovative technologies, measures and solutions in the field of energy management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. monitoring of air quality and other parameters in public buildings on a larger scale).</p> <p>2. Investments in measures and actions that increase energy efficiency and improve the integration of sustainable energy sources in different sectors.</p> <p>3. Promoting pilot actions in the buildings sector which are in line with the Renovation Wave and the EU Green Deal. Cross-sectoral nexus approach should be emphasized by integrating buildings energy and seismic retrofit.</p> <p>4. Joint incentives and pilot projects to encourage and ensure a strategic approach to energy efficiency (e.g. developing SECAP).</p> <p>5. Strengthening the cross-border cooperation and transfer of knowledge in the region through exchange of experience, information (awareness raising) and knowledge and capacity building through online and in-situ trainings in order to improve skills in the field of energy efficiency.</p>	<p>RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects</p> <p>RCO 116 - Jointly developed solutions</p> <p>RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</p>
	<p>SO 2.4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention,</p>	<p>1. Development and introduction of joint solutions and systems for monitoring, prevention and management of potential risks (e.g. floods, wildfires, landslides, droughts, sea pollution, earthquakes etc.).</p>	<p>RCO 83 - Strategies and action plans jointly developed</p> <p>RCR 79 - Joint strategies and action plans taken up by organisations</p>

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	<p>resilience, taking into account ecosystem based approaches</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Encouraging intersectoral/interstate cooperation in risk prevention and rapid response management through development and implementation of joint protocols, procedures and approaches. 3. Strengthening of institutional and expert capacities and raising awareness to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risks. 4. Establishment of joint emergency centres, including small-scale infrastructure and equipment, as well as promoting small-scale investments in public training infrastructure. 5. Development of cross-border risk assessment and disaster risk strategies for cross-border hazards such as forest fires, landslides, floods and relative sea-level change. 	<p>RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects RCO 116 - Jointly developed solutions RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</p>
	<p>SO 2.6 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and implementing approaches and solutions for limiting landfilling of all types of waste and retaining their value (as future resources) in the economic cycle. 2. Increasing awareness of policy makers and stakeholders about environmental and economic opportunities of a circular economy and improving their capacity for the practical implementation of circular economy approaches in different sectors (such as electronics, construction and buildings, textiles, plastics, packaging, food, agriculture). 3. Developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration actions that closely involve citizens (e.g. good practices in separate waste collection and waste re-use, pilot testing of repair, reuse and refurbish approaches etc.) in order to foster behavioural changes, higher acceptance of more sustainable products and resource-efficient consumption and production patterns. 	<p>RCO 84 - Pilot actions developed jointly and implemented in projects RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations RCO 85 - Participations in joint training schemes RCR 81 - Completions of joint training schemes</p>

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<p>P3 - Accessible and resilient health services</p> <p>Financial allocation - 15%</p>	<p>SO 4.5 - Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community based care</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and implementation of ICT solutions and (pilot) actions to support digitalization in health care. 2. Joint investment and improving of health care and long-term care for vulnerable groups, with focus on elderly, children and disabled persons. 3. Purchase of high-tech equipment to support joint cross-border services, e.g. telemedicine, diagnostics, mobile clinics, including small scale infrastructure. 4. Transfer of knowledge in the region through exchange of experience, awareness raising, and knowledge and capacity building through online and in-situ trainings in order to improve skills in the field of health care and social care (including primary care and family- and community-based care); 	<p>RCO 116 - Jointly developed solutions</p> <p>RCR 104 - Solutions taken up or up-scaled by organisations</p> <p>RCO 85 - Participations in joint training schemes</p> <p>RCR 81 - Completions of joint training schemes</p> <p>RCO 87 - Organisations cooperating across borders</p> <p>RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion</p>
<p>P4 - Sustainable and inclusive tourism and culture</p> <p>Financial allocation - 15%</p>	<p>SO 4.6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing and implementing joint (pilot) actions to support diversification of the tourism by investing in lesser-known destinations and diverse forms of tourism (cultural, rural, agro-tourism, active tourism, health, etc.). 2. Developing and implementing innovative solutions, creating smart destinations, (e.g. through digitalisation and creative industries), and new services and products for specific targeted market segments (seniors, young people or people with disabilities). 3. Development and implementation of measures to protect, develop and promote cultural heritage and cultural services. 4. Support for SMEs, including social innovation in tourism and culture - development of existing or new tourism and culture businesses (emphasizing protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism). 5. Investments in physical regeneration and security of public spaces, in 	<p>RCO 77 - Number of cultural and tourism sites supported</p> <p>RCR 77 - Visitors of cultural and tourism sites supported*</p> <p>RCO 115 - Public events across borders jointly organised</p> <p>RCO 120 Projects supporting cooperation across borders to develop urban-rural linkages</p> <p>RCR 84 - Organisations cooperating across borders after project completion</p>

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		the scope of their inclusion in the touristic and/or cultural circuit.	
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3. KEY ENVIRONMENTAL TOPICS RELEVANT TO THE CBC PROGRAMME

The CBC Programme includes three Policy Objectives which cover four Programme priorities corresponding to sectors of research, innovation and entrepreneurship; investments into environmental protection and risk management; enhancement of health services and sustainable tourism and culture. The Priorities have further been elaborated into specific objectives encompassing a series of actions, the greatest financial allocation (40%), i.e. the greatest impact, planning to be to actions aimed at fulfilment of specific objectives regarding energy efficiency and greenhouse gas emission reduction; climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention; and transition to circular economy.

As a tool in identifying possibilities for priority, that is, specific objectives to generate impacts on the environmental components/topics as required by the Annex I of the SEA Directive, a preliminary assessment matrix was created as follows:

Table 2. Preliminary assessment matrix.

	Biodiversity	Soil	Water	Air	Climate and climate adaptation	Cultural heritage	Landscape	Human health	Sustainable resource management	Waste management
P1 - Smart investments in research, innovation and competitive entrepreneurship; Financial allocation - 20%										
SO 1.1 - Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies										
SO 1.3 - Enhancing sustainable growth and competitiveness of SMEs and job creation in SMEs, including by productive investments										
P2 - Green investments in environmental protection and efficient risk management; Financial allocation - 40%										
SO 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions	Yellow			Green	Green			Green	Green	
SO 2.4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches	Yellow		Yellow		Green			Green		
SO 2.6 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy									Green	Green
P3 - Accessible and resilient health services; Financial allocation - 15%										
SO 4.5 - Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-and community based care										
P4 - Sustainable and inclusive tourism and culture; Financial allocation - 15%										
SO 4.6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation	Yellow					Yellow	Yellow			Yellow

As it can be seen from the preliminary assessment, the specific objectives, i.e. appertaining activities which are likely to have significant impacts on the environment are as follows:

1. SO 2.1 - Promoting energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions

- a) Developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration actions on innovative technologies, measures and solutions in the field of energy management and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (e.g. monitoring of air quality and other parameters in public buildings on a larger scale).
- b) Investments in measures and actions that increase energy efficiency and improve the integration of sustainable energy sources in different sectors.
- c) Promoting pilot actions in the buildings sector which are in line with the Renovation Wave and the EU Green Deal. Cross-sectoral nexus approach should be emphasized by integrating buildings energy and seismic retrofit.
- d) Joint incentives and pilot projects to encourage and ensure a strategic approach to energy efficiency (e.g. developing SECAP).
- e) Strengthening the cross-border cooperation and transfer of knowledge in the region through exchange of experience, information (awareness raising) and knowledge and capacity building through online and in-situ trainings in order to improve skills in the field of energy efficiency.

2. SO 2.4 - Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches

- a) Development and introduction of joint solutions and systems for monitoring, prevention and management of potential risks (e.g. floods, wildfires, landslides, droughts, sea pollution, earthquakes etc.).
- b) Encouraging intersectoral/interstate cooperation in risk prevention and rapid response management through development and implementation of joint protocols, procedures and approaches.
- c) Strengthening of institutional and expert capacities and raising awareness to address environmental issues, climate change and disaster risks.
- d) Establishment of joint emergency centres, including small-scale infrastructure and equipment, as well as promoting small-scale investments in public training infrastructure.
- e) Development of cross-border risk assessment and disaster risk strategies for cross-border hazards such as forest fires, landslides, floods and relative sea-level change.

3. SO 2.6 - Promoting the transition to a circular and resource efficient economy

- a) Developing and implementing approaches and solutions for limiting landfilling of all types of waste and retaining their value (as future resources) in the economic cycle.

- b) Increasing awareness of policy makers and stakeholders about environmental and economic opportunities of a circular economy and improving their capacity for the practical implementation of circular economy approaches in different sectors (such as electronics, construction and buildings, textiles, plastics, packaging, food, agriculture).
- c) Developing and implementing joint pilot and demonstration actions that closely involve citizens (e.g. good practices in separate waste collection and waste re-use, pilot testing of repair, reuse and refurbish approaches etc.) in order to foster behavioural changes, higher acceptance of more sustainable products and resource-efficient consumption and production patterns.

4. SO 4.6 - Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation

- a) Developing and implementing joint (pilot) actions to support diversification of the tourism by investing in lesser-known destinations and diverse forms of tourism (cultural, rural, agro-tourism, active tourism, health, etc.).
- b) Developing and implementing innovative solutions, creating smart destinations, (e.g. through digitalisation and creative industries), and new services and products for specific targeted market segments (seniors, young people or people with disabilities).
- c) Development and implementation of measures to protect, develop and promote cultural heritage and cultural services.
- d) Support for SMEs, including social innovation in tourism and culture - development of existing or new tourism and culture businesses (emphasizing protection, development and promotion of natural heritage and eco-tourism).
- e) Investments in physical regeneration and security of public spaces, in the scope of their inclusion in the touristic and/or cultural circuit.

The positive impacts were identified in relation to the general enhancement of efficiency in resource use, direct effects of activities designed to reduce emissions, transition to green technology, and development of climate adaptation measures, primarily referring to disaster risk prevention.

Likely negative impacts may be generated by implementation of RES technologies primarily on biodiversity, that is ornitofauna, bats and large carnivores, but also aquatic and terrestrial habitats due to loss of surface areas.

Even though the actual scope and more detailed characteristics of the potential interventions to be developed based on the CBC Programme are not available, by using the principle of precaution, it is proposed by this Scoping Report that the SEA Report focused on environmental factors which have been determined as of the most concern by the preliminary assessment, as follows:

- Biodiversity
- Climate and climate change
- Water
- Cultural heritage and landscape
- Human health
- Waste

4. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT CONTENTS

The contents of SEA Report are specified in the Annex I to the SEA Directive, therefore the SEA Report shall comprise the said contents and any other information and requirements arising from the submitted opinions of authorities/persons defined by special regulations who participate in the scoping step (additional requirements).

The Environmental Report shall comprise the following chapters:

1. an outline of the contents, main objectives of the Programme and relationship of the Programme with other relevant strategies, plans and programmes;
2. the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and likely evolution thereof without implementation of the Programme;
3. the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;
4. any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the Programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to special environmental protection legislation;
5. the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community and Member State level, which are relevant to the Programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation;
6. the likely significant effects on the environment (secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative), including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors;
7. the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Programme;
8. an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information;
9. a description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring;
10. other information and requirements established during scoping in a separate procedure;
11. a non-technical summary of the information provided under the above headings.

Following the results of the preliminary assessment on ecological network performed within the Appropriate Assessment procedure, the Decision was brought by the Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Growth (CLASS: UP/I 612-07/21-37/258; File No.: 517-10-2-3-21-3) of 22 October 2021 that the CBC Programme is acceptable for NATURA 2000 ecological network and the Main Assessment on ecological network needs not be carried out.

5. PROPOSAL OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL BASELINE

This chapter presents the preliminary proposal of the contents to be analysed within the environmental baseline chapter. Having in mind the results of the preliminary analysis performed in the chapter 2 and the objective for the SEA to focus on key environmental issues, it is proposed by this Scoping Report that SEA Report focused on environmental factors which have been determined as of the most concern by the preliminary assessment, as follows:

Biodiversity

- Flora, vegetation and habitats
- Important Plant Areas (IPA)
- Map of terrestrial habitat types for the Programme area
- Map of terrestrial non-forest habitats for the Programme area
- Fauna
- Protected areas in the Programme area
- NATURA2000 sites in the Programme area

Climate and climate change

- Precipitation, wind, temperature
- Climate change
- Projection of greenhouse gas emissions per sector
- Hazards and risks of climate change in the Programme area
- Guidelines on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Water

- Hydrographic and hydrogeological characteristics of the area
- Water resources – surface watercourses, groundwater, transitional water and costal water (sea)
- State of the water environment
- Managing flood risks

Cultural heritage and Landscape

- Historical overview and specificities of the area
- State of cultural heritage in the Programme area
- Types of landscape in the Programme area
- State of landscape in the Programme area

Human health

- Demographic data regarding the Programme area, population density characteristics, natural change in population, social and economic characteristics)
- Environmental vectors affecting human health (water, air, soil, noise)
- Light pollution
- Electromagnetic radiation

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- Population, material and cultural goods and environmental risk assessment for the Plan area
- Consequences of climate change significantly affecting the human health (frequency of heat waves, development of pathogens and disease transmitters, increase of injury due to floods/storms etc.).

Waste management

- Implemented waste management system
- State of waste management

Based on the characteristics of the current environmental aspects, special attention will be paid to those areas that will be the most significantly-affected by the CBC Programme, including sensitive and vulnerable areas, protected areas, areas at risk of floods etc.

6. RELEVANT STRATEGIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

This chapter gives an overview of the legislation, policies, strategies, plans and programmes which are considered for the purpose of identification of SEA environmental protection objectives, and internal compliance of the CBC Programme with them.

The relevant international legislation taken into consideration during the preparation of this preliminary scoping report includes as follows:

- UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
- UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol
- Paris Agreement
- EU climate and energy package
- EU Strategy on adaptation to climate change
- European Green Deal
- EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409/EEC)
- EU Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC)
- Framework Water Directive (2000/60/EC)
- Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)
- Europa 2030 Strategy
- European Strategy for the Danube Region
- European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region

Apart from liabilities undertaken by international treaties, the SEA Environmental Report shall consider the compliance of the CBC Programme with the relevant national strategies, plans and programmes, that is, it shall be analysed whether the objectives of the said documents have been integrated into the Interreg CBC Programme. Strategies, plans and programmes proposed to be considered are as follows:

- National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia
- National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro
- Sustainable Development Goals Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Maritime Development and Integrated Maritime Policy Strategy of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014 to 2020
- River Basin Management Plan 2016-2021 (OG 66/16)
- Adriatic River Basin District Management Plan in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022-2027
- Sava River Basin Management Plan
- Sava Flood Risk Management Plan
- Plan for the air protection, protection of the ozone layer and climate change mitigation in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2013-2017 (NN 139/13)
- National Climate Change Strategy (NCCS) until 2030

- Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 with an outlook to 2050 (OG 25/20)
- Energy Development Strategy of the Republic of Montenegro until 2030
- Framework Energy Strategy of the of Bosnia and Herzegovina until 2035
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Republic of Croatia for the period to 2040 with a view to 2070 (OG 46/20)
- Climate Change Adaptation and Low-Emission Development Strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Waste Management Plan of the Republic of Croatia for the period 2017 to 2022 (OG 3/17)
- Republic Waste Management Plan of Republika Srpska
- National Waste Management Plan of Montenegro

7. FRAMEWORK METHODOLOGY FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a procedure carried out with the purpose to assess the likely significant effects on the environment which may arise out of implementation of a strategy, plan and programme (SPP). The objective of the procedure is to optimize the development proposed by an SPP, i.e. resolve the issues of cumulative effects, large-scale impacts, intersectoral and indirect impacts, which otherwise cannot be foreseen within the EIA procedures. The objective of the SEA Directive (Art. 1) is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Through SEA, the decision-maker is informed about the degree of uncertainty of likely impacts, consistency of objectives (both SPPs and environmental protection), and sensitivity of the existing environment and the range of available alternatives of the SPP under consideration.

The assessment of likely significant effects of the CBC Programme implementation shall be conducted in conformity with the best practice methodology¹. The applied methodology is generally accepted and is based on identification of impacts through analytical matrix, then comparing the activities of the Programme (in lines) to the previously established environmental protection objectives (in columns).

¹ United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (2012.). Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment. UNITED NATIONS New York and Geneva
The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (2001.). International Workshop on Public Participation and Health Aspects in Strategic Environmental Assessment. Szentendre, Hungary.
Strategic Environmental Assessment. - Practice-Orientated Training for Policy Makers, Administration Officials, Consultants and NGO Representatives
Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment". European Commission DG Environment. Undated.
Andreas Sommer (2005.). Strategic environmental assessment: From scoping to monitoring. Content requirements and proposals for practical work. Hallein.
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Environmental protection objectives indicate the desired direction of change of state and are formed for every environmental factor in relation to local specificities and issues. They present the basis for testing the effects of the Programme on the environment, that is, it is to be concluded whether the objectives of the Programme contribute to achieving the selected environmental protection objectives or not. The objectives defined for strategic environmental assessment are derived from environmental protection documents adopted on the international level, European Union level, national and regional level, and from the overview of the environmental baseline and the environmental problems established by the experts preparing the Environmental Report. The objectives are accompanied by environmental protection indicators, that is the criteria used for monitoring the achievement of objectives and impact of the plan on the development of the environment.

The assessment of impacts shall consider the type and scope of the planned interventions in relation to the planned location of their implementation. The environmental baseline shall be used to define sensitivity of the area, and the described likely development of the environment without the implementation of the Programme, that actually represents the zero alternative, shall be used as a reference point for the assessment. The significance of the impacts shall be determined by expert opinion, based on the sensitivity of the area in dependence of the nature of the planned activities, that is, pressures, and the magnitude of change. The said process takes into account the duration, spatial scope and the intensity of the impact, where possible. The selected tool for the presentation of impacts is analytical matrix which identifies the interventions of the Programme with likely negative impacts on the environment.

Sensitivity of the receptor is a characteristic defined through 1) existing regulations and guidelines, 2) societal value (economic, social and environmental) and 3) vulnerability for the changes. It is assessed in its current state before the occurrence of any changes arising from the Programme implementation. The overall sensitivity of the receptor is established so that the highest protection and societal values are considered, which are then adapted according to the vulnerability. The Table below describes the sensitivity categories to be used in assessment.

Very high	The receptor is protected by law and is very valuable for the society and it is very likely it shall be endangered even by lesser impacts of the proposed development.
Moderate	Regulation sets recommendations or reference values for an object in the impact area, or the project may impact an area conserved by a national or an international program. The receptor has a high societal value or is protected by law, but has low vulnerability to change.
Low	Few or no recommendations which add to the conservation value of the impact area, and no regulations restricting use of the area (e.g. zoning plans).

Magnitude of change describes the characteristics of the changes likely to be caused by the Programme. Magnitude of change is a combination of 1) intensity (expressed by unit of measurement and compared to reference value) and direction of change, which may be positive (green) or negative (red), 2) spatial extent (where applicable) and 3) duration of the impact, including reversibility of change. Magnitude of change is assessed irreverently of the sensitivity of the receptor to proposed changes. In the

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assessment of magnitude of change, intensity should be taken as a starting point, and then adapted based on the spatial extent and duration to obtain an overall estimate. The Table below describes the magnitude of change to be used in assessment.

High	The proposal has beneficial effects of high intensity and the extent and the duration of the effects are high.
Low	An effect is positive and observable, but the change to environmental conditions or on people is small.
No impact	No change is noticeable in practice. Any benefit or harm is negligible.
Low	An effect is negative and observable, but the change to environmental conditions or on people is small.
High	The proposal has harmful effects of high intensity and the extent and the duration of the effects are high.

The Table below is used in the assessment of significance, with the positive effects marked in green, and the negative in red. Since the most relevant dimensions for characterization of impacts depend on the type of impact, discretion from the expert is required, so the decisions are accompanied with respective explanations.

Impact significance		Magnitude of change				
		High	Low	No change	Low	High
Sensitivity of the receptor	Low	Low	Low	No impact	Low	Low
	Moderate	High	Low	No impact	Low	High
	High	High	High	No impact	High	High

Regarding the likely transboundary impact of the CBC Programme implementation, the document is cross-border in both nature and scope, its aim being to have cross-border impacts. Therefore, the impacts of the activities/objectives in the SEA Report will be considered as transboundary by default, and consultations will be held in all three participating countries. The SEA Report will also analyse the likely transboundary impacts on the territories not included in the CBC Programme – so far there is no reason to assume that there will be cross-border impacts on Serbia, Slovenia or Albania.

Pursuant to the *Environmental Protection Act* (OG 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19) of the Republic of Croatia, Appropriate Assessment is carried out for strategies, plans and programmes which individually or together with other strategies, plans and programmes have a likely negative impact on conservation objectives and integrity of the ecological site area. Pursuant to the *Nature Protection Act* (OG 80/13, 15/18, 14/19 and 127/19) and the *Environmental Protection Act* (OG 80/13, 15/18, 14/19, 127/19), at the request of the Managing Authority, the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development brings a Decision whether the Main Assessment of the Programme is to be conducted. Following the results of the preliminary assessment on ecological network, the Decision was brought (CLASS: UP/I 612-07/21-37/258; File No.: 517-10-2-3-21-3) of 22 October 2021 that the CBC Programme is acceptable for NATURA 2000 ecological network and the Main Assessment on ecological network needs not be carried out.

8. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PARTICIPATION OF PUBLIC AUTHORITIES IN SCOPING

In order to facilitate participation of the public concerned, the following questionnaire was prepared which is proposed to be sent to public authorities participating in the scoping phase along with the Scoping Report and the CBC Programme objectives and Programme summary. The participating bodies are asked to fill in the information regarding the existing state of environmental factors (exp. biodiversity, flora and fauna) or environmental loads (exp. waste; energy) under their competence and current problems and conflicts from their field of expertise, for the part of the programme territory under their jurisdiction. In addition, they are invited to indicate or identify likely impacts they assume the activities proposed by the CBC Programme may have on environmental factors under their competence. The questionnaire is therefore conceived as guidance through potential topics and aims at identification of existing environmental problems in the entire area under consideration, so that the focus of the assessment would remain on the key environmental issues.

GENERAL INFORMATION:	
Organization / Institution:	
Address:	
Contact person:	
Management sector:	
CURRENT STATE OF ENVIRONMENT:	(fill out for field of expertise)
EXISTING PROBLEMS:	(fill out for field of expertise)
Overexploitation:	
Insufficient infrastructure:	
Traffic:	
Road	
Rail	
Air	
Sea / Inland	
Energy infrastructure:	
Energy production:	
Energy transmission:	
Use of RES:	
Gas lines, oil lines, water supply, drainage (passing through the area under consideration)	
Economic activities :	
Agriculture	
Fishery	
Forestry	
Industry	
Exploitation of mineral	

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resources:	
Tourism:	
Other (If YES, add other economic activities of relevance and major impacts)	
Invasive and allochthonous species:	
Hunting / overhunting or overharvesting:	
Plant succession:	
Disappearance of traditional use of land/traditional landscapes:	
Forest fires:	
Land use change:	(if YES, define: permanent or temporary, for exp. from agricultural land to building land or forest land to agricultural land)
Illegal building:	
Loading of the coastal area by construction:	
Suspected hazardous area (SHA)	
Environmental contamination	
Waste / illegal dumps:	
Wastewater (Waste water from settlements, agriculture...)	
Air contamination:	
Noise:	
Climate change: (list existing environmental problems or hazards which result from climate change)	
Other: (if YES, fill out)	(if YES, fill out)