



HUSZPO

HRVATSKA UDRUGA STRUČNJAKA ZAŠTITE PRIRODE I OKOLIŠA

PRVA REGIONALNA KONFERENCIJA O PROCJENI UTJECAJA NA OKOLIŠ
FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
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Operational Programme Environment 2014-2020 and role of Strategic Environmental Assessment

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Operational Programme Environment 2014 – 2020 (OPE)

- On 29 August 2013, the Croatian Government adopted Decision on the Operational Programs for the European Union financial period 2014-2020
- Adopted Operational Programmes are precondition for the availability of the European Union funds
- Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds (MRDEUF) is the main coordinator of the programming process
- Following is the structure of Operational Programs for the European Union financial period 2014-2020
 - Operational Programme in the field of competitiveness and cohesion
 - Operational Programme in the field of efficient human resources
 - Operational Programme in the field of technical assistance

Government decision to launch the Strategic Environmental Assessment for each of Operational programs

- in accordance with the Environmental Protection Act (Official Gazette No. 80/13), and
- Regulation on strategic environmental assessment of plans and programs on the environment (Official Gazette No. 64/ 08).
- According to the Article 4 of Regulation, the Minister of Regional Development and EU Funds is responsible for preparation of Operational Programs for the European Union financial period of the 2014-2020, and thus the authority to initiate the process of Strategic Environmental Assessment for each of OPs

Preparation of SEA for OPE 2007 - 2013

- According to the Government decision of 30 June 2008 on strategic and institutional framework for utilizing the structural instruments of European Union financial period 2007-2013, decision was made about Operational Programmes, including Operation Programme Environment and energy
- Operational Programme Environment should include:
 - Infrastructure development in the waste management sector
 - Infrastructure development in the water and waste water management
 - Reduction of air pollution
 - Nature protection and biological diversity
 - Projects development in energy infrastructure and sustainable energy

Main content and goals of SEA for OPE

- Data on environment assessment and possible consequence if the programme would not be implemented
- Important environmental areas to which the programme may have significant impact
- Existing environmental problems of importance for programme
- Main assessment of the programme acceptability for the ecology network with the content of Ordinance for acceptability of plan, programme and action on ecological network (OG 118/09)
- Goals of environmental protection according to the international treaties of relevance to the programme and the way on which those goals and other environment protection issues were taken into account
- Possible important impacts on environment, including the biological diversity, protected areas by the Environment Protection Act

Main content and goals of SEA for OPE

- Environmental protection measures including the measures of protection, reduction, minimisation and compensation of negative impacts of programme on environment
- Short presentation of reasons for selection of considered different options, justification of most acceptable programme options, and description of impact evaluation, including the difficulties in collection of necessary data
- Description of monitoring measures

SEA for OPE 2007-2013 resulted with 5 strategic goals

1. Infrastructure development in the waste management sector
 - Reduction of waste generation and disposal by separation increase of material and energy recovery from waste
 - Development of appropriate waste management system
 - Reduction of risk from waste and
2. Infrastructure development in the water and waste water management
 - Ensuring availability of sufficient quantities of good quality drinking water for supply of population;
 - Achieving and maintaining good status of water in order to protect aquatic and water-dependent ecosystems
 - Protecting people and assets against adverse effects of water;
3. Reduction of air pollution
 - Improving the monitoring system for air quality
 - Contributing to improvement of the transboundary assessment of air quality and application of modelling technics

SEA for OPE 2007-2013 resulted with 5 strategic goals

4. Nature protection and biological diversity
 - Protection and stopping further loss of biological diversity
 - Protecting the positive status species and habitats in Natura 2000
 - Development and improvement of management framework of protected areas and Natura 2000 areas
5. Development of energy infrastructure with emphasis on sustainable energy
 - Diversification of energy sources and ensuring energy supply
 - Increasing participation of sustainable energy sources in total energy consumption

OPE 2007-2013 resulted with only 2 priority axes

1. Infrastructure development in the waste management sector
 - Development of appropriate waste management system
 - Reduction of risk from hazardous waste
2. Infrastructure development in the water and waste water management
 - Ensuring availability of sufficient quantities of good quality drinking water for supply of population;
 - Protecting people and assets against adverse effects of water;

Lessons Learned

- Both, on national and county level, still considerable unfamiliarity with obligations of indivisible role of SEA in preparation of P/P proposals,
- Insufficient communication between stakeholders.
- Inadequate/insufficient education of both authorized persons/experts engaged in preparation of the strategic study, and the expert committee members.
- In preparation or assessment of strategic study, they are often guided by the experiences gained in EIA, and do not consider potential synergic impacts on "higher level" which certain p/p variant may have on the environment (nature)
- „Late and insufficient inclusion of public into the procedure
- Inadequately developed plan and program background documents used as a basis for the strategic study.
- Unclearly defined procedure in appropriate legal regulations of determining overriding public interest and compensatory conditions for plans/programmes.
- ...

OPE 2014-2020 and SEA Way Forward

There are two problems to be solved:

First, that process of preparing SEA for OPE 2014-2020 started as always far too late, and as a consequence, some short-cuts will be used in preparing appropriate SEA, similar as in the OPE 2007-2013, and no appropriate SEA knowledge and principles will be applied;

Second, there is no Operational Programme Environment foreseen to be adopted, but only an umbrella OP in the field of competitiveness and cohesion, with the consequence that the overall economic development may have overshadowed the principles of environment protection.

Let's send a message from this Conference to the government:

- „ to be more sensitive in respect to the goals of environment protection by involvement of SEA international and national experts and employing the best possible SEA technics and models in preparing SEA for OPE 2014-2020.

- Thank you for the attention!