



**Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance Cross-border Cooperation
Operational Programme Slovenia-Croatia 2007-2013**

**Article 9 Statement of the Environmental Report for
Environmental Report for
Cross-border Co-operation Operational Programme Slovenia –
Croatia (2007 – 2013)**

in accordance with the SEA Directive

During preparation of the programme, general public in the programming area was consulted on the programme content and measures and eligible activities were coordinated with them. Moreover, various organisations, including those that take part of the SEA process such as Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia, Slovene National Nature Protection Agency etc. were consulted and thus it can be said that they played an active role in the preparation of the SWOT and the strategy of the operational programme. There were 3 workshops held with the national and regional representatives from different sectors. The workshops were held on 14 November 2005 and 21 November 2005 in Ljubljana and on 3 April 2006 in Zagreb.

Environmental considerations have been considered during programme preparation, so a considerable portion of the operational programme is focused on environmental management (Priority Axis No. 2 “Sustainable Management of Natural Resources”) and even more on nature conservation. The programme itself will thus have positive impact on nature conservation in the programming area as well as solving joint environmental problems and innovation in the field of environmental technologies.

Scoping was performed by the programme partners, the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Croatia and external experts. We also agreed on the procedure, results and inclusion of mitigation measures in the Operational Programme, having in mind that Croatia did not adopt the legislation for SEA procedure yet.

During preparation of the Environmental Report (ER), several organizations were consulted in order to evaluate the impacts correctly, propose useful mitigation measures and adjust the OP in line with the conclusions of the strategic environmental assessment as described in Ch. “1.4. Consultation of Environmental Authorities” of the ER. These are the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning of Republic of Slovenia, Sector for strategic environmental assessment (the “SEA Sector”), The Environment Agency of the Republic of Slovenia, Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation, Cultural Heritage Protection Service of the Republic of Slovenia, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Physical Planning and Construction of the Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia (nature and cultural heritage), Croatian State Institute for Nature Protection, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Sea, Tourism, Transport and Development of Republic of Croatia, Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Croatia and Croatian Environmental Agency.

Later, in the consultation phase, relevant organizations were consulted and some of the Slovene organizations gave comments, which were integrated in the ER as shown in the table below.

Organisation	Comments	Inclusion of Comments
Ministry of agriculture, forestry and food of Slovenia	Addition of relevant data information (regarding best agricultural land areas)	Ch.4.1.Current state of the environment and pressure on the environment: Issue: Soil.
	Explanation of definition: best agricultural land	Ch.4.2. Protected and degraded areas
	Addition of reference point and correction in explanation of environmental objective for issue Resources	Ch. 5.1. Environmental objectives of the programme: Issue: Resources
Ministry of Culture of Slovenia	Addition of relevant European Conventions	Ch. 1.2.Legal environmental framework and environmental premises (strategic programmes, plans and strategies)

	<p>Addition of relevant data information (on diversity and dispersed heritage, permanent damage and loss of object and heritage renewal)</p> <p>Addition of environmental objective: Accessibility of cultural heritage and identification of educational potential. Addition of reference point and correction in explanation of environmental objective for issue Cultural heritage and Landscape</p>	<p>Ch.4.1.Current state of the environment and pressure on the environment: Issue: Cultural and landscape heritage.</p> <p>Ch. 5.1. Environmental objectives of the programme: Issue: Cultural heritage and Landscape</p>
Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC)	<p>Addition of relevant European Conventions</p> <p>Addition of relevant data information (the status of approved management plans in Slovenia)</p> <p>Additions of relevant legal decrees and acts</p>	<p>Ch. 1.2.Legal environmental framework and environmental premises (strategic programmes, plans and strategies)</p> <p>Ch.4.1.Current state of the environment and pressure on the environment: Issue: Nature.</p> <p>Ch. 4.3.Legal regimes in the protected areas</p>

The results of the inter-organisational consultation in Slovenia have been considered before the public consultation in both countries. The comments received during the inter-organisational consultation were focused on inclusion of certain exact data in the environmental report, not on the method used or results obtained.

When SEA was conducted and ER was prepared it was agreed that the implementation of mitigation measures would be ensured through their inclusion in the manual for applicants and considered in the process of project selection. Thus a list of environmental project selection criteria was prepared to support and it was included in the ER in Chapter 7 "Evaluation and Recommendations for Selection Criteria for Activities or Projects to be implemented through the Programming Document".

The monitoring measures will be available to public within the manual for applicants which will be published together with the call for proposals. The environmental considerations and comments will be monitored during the programme implementation.