

Webinar: THINKING FOR SUSTAINABILITY -THE ROLE OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL **ASSESSMENT (SEA)**

23 September 2021, 09:00-11:30 (Central European Time) / Agenda

9:00-9:15

Introduction

Introducing the topic and speakers, presenting the SEA promotion video and briefly explaining why SEA is an essential segment within BiH ESAP 2030+ and in general for B&H.

Maja Maretić Tiro and Snežana Mišić Mihajlović

9:15-9:35

Implementation of SEA in Montenegro

Presenting on how the SEA process is conducted in Montenegro, considering both government and NGO sector perspectives. Providing several examples showcasing SEA development in Montenegro.

Milija Čabarkapa, WWF Adria

9:35-9:55

Governance and SEA: Case studies from Spain

Explaining how the SEA process functions on state, regional, and municipal levels. Discussing case studies from "Sustainable development of the Albufera region" and "Desalinisation plan for the Mediterranean Basin." Sharing experiences on encountered challenges and explaining how these issues were resolved.

Enrique Cifres, eWATER

9:55-10:10

Break

10:30-10:50

BiH ESAP 2030+ SEA process

Providing an overview of the current developments of the ESAP 2030+ SEA process. Explaining the future steps required to finalize the process and discussing challenges encountered in the present work.

Vedad Suljić and João Pedro Silva, CETEOR

10:10-10:30

Role of NGOs in SEA process - The experience of WWF Adria

Sharing lessons learned from WWF Adria's engagement in the SEA processes in different Western Balkan countries. Providing information about the role of the NGO sector in defining the conceptual approaches and applications of SEA.

Đorđe Stefanović, WWF Adria

10:50-11:20

Panel discussion with Q&A

Opening space for webinar participants to ask questions to presenters.

Milija Čabarkapa, Enrique Cifres, Đorđe Stefanović, Vedad Suljić and João Pedro Silva

11:20-11:30

Closing remarks

Summarizing key conclusions and messages. Maja Maretić Tiro and Snežana Mišić Mihajlović



Activity summary

The webinar aims to provide information about the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process within the BiH ESAP 2030+ project and to share SEA experiences from other countries. The webinar will explain how and why the public needs to get actively involved and why the government's role is crucial for completing the SEA process. Moreover, the speakers and moderators will describe the opportunities for the government and NGO sectors during the process and encapsulate the basics for developing a good SEA. Participants will have the opportunity to obtain information about the current state of the SEA process for BiH ESAP 2030+. Furthermore, the webinar will outline insights into lessons learned from SEA processes in other Western Balkan countries and the European Union member states.

Moderators

Maja Maretić Tiro and Snežana Mišić Mihajlović

Speakers/panelists



Milija Čabarkapa is a national coordinator for Montenegro in WWF Adria and an executive director of the NGO Eco-team. During his career, he worked in public administration and the private sector. He has been in the CSOs sector for almost seven years, implementing several environmental protection and energy projects. Milija completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Montenegro's Faculty for Metallurgy and Technology.



Enrique Cifres has been contributing to the water sector for almost 40 years, where he was the Deputy Director of the Jucar River Basin Authority. He also served as a director for the Albufera Lake Sustainability Program, which was the most ambitious environmental initiative for wetlands in Spain. Furthermore, Enrique was appointed as a Regional Director of ACUAMED, a state-owned company in charge of the conception and development of the Desalination Plant in the Spanish Mediterranean Basin. Nowadays, he works as an international advisor for many prominent environmental organizations and agencies. He holds a PhD in Water Resource Planning and Management from the Polytechnic University of Valencia.



Dorde Stefanović, is an environmental law specialist with more than 23 years of experience encompassing environmental protection and the promotion of stakeholders' participation in the decision-making process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkan region. Currently, he is working with WWF Adria, supporting projects focusing on nature protection and stronger engagement of different social groups in relevant processes and procedures. He has been an active player in the efforts to improve the legislation, with a focus on the chapter regulating environmental and strategic impact assessment. Within the CO-SEED Project, implemented during 2016 – 2019, he was involved in the development of several modules/guides aimed at facilitating the participation of civil society in strategic impact assessments.



Vedad Suljić is a Project Coordinator of the SEA process for the ESAP BiH 2030+ project, and he currently acts as managing director of CETEOR Ltd. He has more than 13 years of experience in environmental protection, energy, and climate change. During his career, he worked with national and international development organizations, as well as multilateral organizations such as EBRD, World Bank, and EIB. Vedad completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Sarajevo's School of Economics and Business, and he holds a Master in Environmental Economics from the University of Ljubljana and the University of Sarajevo. Moreover, he is also a lecturer at several universities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.



João Pedro Silva is an environmental expert with more than 25 years of experience in the EU's nature and biodiversity policy implementation and funding (LIFE), and in preserving and restoring ecosystems and biodiversity via Horizon Europe and Green Deal. His background includes work on nature-based solutions that provide cobenefits for climate adaptation and mitigation. In addition, he is an expert focusing on supporting the assessment of the climate ambition of Rural CAP Strategic Plans for DG Climate Action and DG Environment. Moreover, João is an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA and SEA) evaluator of projects and EU funding programmes (Interreg and Rural Development programmes).