

FACT SHEET 1/2017 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Regulation of EIA Procedures. Survey in Member States on how the national laws comply with the requirements of the revised EIA directive

Participating countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Slovakia, Slovenia
Time: July – September 2016

CORE CONCLUSIONS

- Requirement of the amended EIA directive, relative to the increased protection of landscape character and cultural landscape is mainly an **issue of application practice**.
- **Exceptions** which allow non-application of EIA directive should be formulated clearly and unequivocally and ideally in a way to only include natural catastrophes.
- Obligation to regulate the **conflict of interests** in the national legislation is perceived as a movement forward.
- **Identification of a good implementation solution** may have a real impact on a positive evolution of the fulfilment of the purposes of the EIA directive.
- In respect to the question of the overlap of the assessments according to other directives with the EIA process, there was a clear consensus that **EIA should become an umbrella process**, bearing in mind specificities of particular processes including the time aspect.
- **Sanctions** should have impact mainly on the quality and expertise of the outputs from the EIA process. Sanction should affect mainly entities which consciously decrease the quality of the expertise or do not respect it.
- Close attention should be paid to the **regulation of the procedure of the screening** given the fact that majority of the assessed projects terminates in this phase of the EIA process.