

The ESPOO Convention and connections with DAIMON 2 Project

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The ESPOO Convention:

- signed on 25 February 1991 in Espoo, Finland under auspices of UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe);
- entered into force on 10 September 1997;
- Parties 45, Signatories 30;
- Bodies:
 - ü *MOP (Meeting of the Parties)* – the higher decisive body which meets regularly on its ordinary meetings taking place every 4 years to adopt the draft documents, recommendations, guidances prepared by the Working Group,
 - ü *Working Group* – supportive body, meets once or twice per each year in the intersessional period to discuss and prepare draft documents for MOP considerations,
 - ü *Implementation Committee* – executive body which role is to check whether or not the Parties are in compliance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention. It gives opinions and recommendations in a case of non-compliance,
 - ü *Bureau* – management body which discusses problematic issues further presented for Working Group deliberations,



The ESPOO Convention:



<https://unece.org/environment-policy/environmental-assessment>



What is the ESPOO Convention?

- legal instrument to integrate environmental issues with development process at international level, thanks to this sustainable development is assured;
- international legal framework for **cooperation between Parties to protect the environment** before planned project go ahead;
- sets up an administrative procedure dedicated to Tranboundary Environmental Impact Assessment for **planned projects** (EIA);
- **is based on prevention and precautionary principles** and thanks to this is a **protective instrument** for the environment beyond the administrative borders;
- as a result we define the **optimal protective measures to reduce, eliminate and mitigate the significant adverse transboundary impacts on the environment** within the whole life cycle of the project;

When we should apply the ESPOO Convention?

- transboundary EIA is carried out for **planned project or major change to a project** which is a **subject of administrative decision** of relevant authority and which **is likely to have significant adverse transboundary impacts**,
- such project shall be understood as an **implementation of building works or any other interference in the environment**, involving the transformation or change the use of land, including also extraction of minerals,
- application as a consequence of notification or on the request of an Affected Party,

What are the obligations derived from the ESPOO Convention?

- to involve an Affected Party in the national EIA procedure carried out by the Party of Origin and give possibility to take part in the following stages:
 - ü notification with basic information;
 - ü declaration of participation;
 - ü scoping – determination of the scope and content of the EIA documentation;
 - ü development of EIA documentation;
 - ü consultations with relevant authorities (environmental and health authorities);
 - ü public participation with possibility to make comments;
 - ü transboundary consultations at governmental level;
 - ü taking on board results of transboundary EIA while issuing development consent;
 - ü delivering final decision;
 - ü post-project analysis.



An Affected Party has a real voice in a decision-making process granting planned project in the Party of Origin

The ESPOO Convention in the Baltic Sea Subregion:

- plays **key role in the protection of shared resources** such as bordering waters, air, flora, fauna, birds, etc. which do not respect the administrative borders,
- is a significant instrument to **exchange information** between countries about planned projects and impacts on the environment (what is going on in the subregion),
- **cooperation between Baltic Sea countries** is of high value for the Baltic Sea, especially if it comes to construction of **offshore wind farms, gas pipelines, minerals extraction or deep drillings, construction of naval infrastructure in the Baltic Sea,**
- assessment of **cumulative impacts** of all planned activities in the Baltic Sea is crucial to have full picture of potential impacts,
- a large number of projects in the Baltic Sea (high concentration) so that some conflicts might emerge,
- we need transparent situation and unified approach to protect the Baltic Sea as a common wealth,



Main differences:

- The ESPOO Convention:

- ü an administrative procedure for **planned projects** (activities) which are a subject of **development consent** (for example building permit);
- ü legal instrument (procedure) to **assess impacts on the environment on the territory of another country**;
- ü involvement of another country into decision-making process;
- ü prevention and precautionary instrument to protect the environment at international level;

- DAIMON 2 Project:

- ü is an **international applied-science project** consisting of partners from Poland, Germany, Sweden, Finland and Norway collaborating with experts worldwide, united by the goal of **solving the problem of underwater munitions**;
- ü developed the **methodologies of assessment the risk related to underwater munition** and its removal from the seabed, management strategies, databases etc.;

Possible connections:

- **practical usage** of the outcomes/results of DAIMON 2 project at the EIA procedure, namely might be helpful at the stage of **developing the EIA documentation** for planned projects in the Baltic Sea,
- source of **background information** for the elaboration of the EIA documentation (a comprehensive documentation on the basis which the environmental conditions are defined under which the planned project might go ahead),
- whenever it comes to building works or drillings for the purposes of planned project (offshore wind farms, gas pipelines, minerals extractions etc.) then the **interference in the seabed** is assessed,
- the methodology of risk assessment connected with underwater munition is of **high importance for preparation of the EIA documentation** for the future planned projects in the Baltic Sea that need to be a subject of EIA,
- outcomes, methodologies, database, management strategies connected with underwater munition etc. prepared within DAIMON 2 project, may be **disseminated between Focal Points for the Espoo Convention** in the Baltic Sea region to implement them on a daily basis within national or transboundary EIA,



Focal Points for the ESPOO Convention:

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the UNECE website. The page title is "Focal Points for Administrative Matters" under the "ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT" section. The main content area contains the following text:

Focal Points for Administrative Matters

Focal Points for Administrative Matters (NOT notification) regarding the Espoo Convention

These focal points are NOT the Points of Contact for Notification provided for under Article 3 of the Convention.

List of FOCAL POINTS for the activities under the implementation of the UN/ECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context pending its entry into force (Espoo, 1991) compiled pursuant to the decision taken by the second meeting of the Signatories to the Convention (ENWW/WG.3/4, paragraph 21 (d)).

Координационные центры по административным вопросам (не для целей уведомления) в связи с Конвенцией об ОВОС

Список КООРДИНАЦИОННЫХ ЦЕНТРОВ в связи с деятельностью по осуществлению Конвенции ЕЭК ООН об оценке воздействия на окружающую среду в трансграничном контексте до ее вступления в силу (Эспо, 1991 год), составленный в соответствии с решением второго совещания Подписавших сторон Конвенции (/ WG.3/4, пункт 21 d)).

Эти координационные центры НЕ ЯВЛЯЮТСЯ пунктами связи для целей уведомления, предусмотренными статьей 3 Конвенции.

At the bottom of the page, there is an alphabetical index: **A B C D E F G H I K L M N P R S T U**



<https://unece.org/environment-policyenvironmental-assessment/focal-points-administrative-matters>

Secretariat of the ESPOO Convention:

You can also contact the Secretariat of the ESPOO Convention to disseminate the results of the DAIMON 2 Project:

Secretariat

Contact the UNECE secretariat of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA

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Thank you for your attention J

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