

**Preparation of Strategic Environmental Assessment Report for the
Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia-Serbia**







STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

-NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY-

Volume II

The logo for EKOINVEST, featuring the word "EKOINVEST" in a sans-serif font. The "EKO" part is in green and the "INVEST" part is in blue.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a procedure carried out with the purpose to assess the likely significant effects on the environment which may arise out of implementation of a strategy, plan and programme (SPP). The objective of the procedure is to optimize the development proposed by an SPP, i.e. resolve the issues of cumulative effects, large-scale impacts, intersectoral and indirect impacts, which otherwise cannot be foreseen within the EIA procedures.

The objective of the SEA Directive (Art. 1) is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Through SEA, the decision-maker is informed about the degree of uncertainty of likely impacts, consistency of objectives (both SPPs and environmental protection), the sensitivity of the current environment and the range of available alternatives of the SPP under consideration.

The SEA procedure for the Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia – Serbia (hereinafter referred to as the Programme) was initiated by the adoption of the Decision on the commencement of the SEA procedure (CLASS: 910-06/21-01/1; File No. 538-10-3-1-1/433-21-5) of 10 November 2021. Prior to the commencement of the SEA, the Decision was brought by the Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development (hereinafter: MINGOR) that the Programme did not require Main Assessment as a part of the Appropriate Assessment to be conducted.

Scoping was conducted in the period from 11 November to 11 December 2021, with public consultations held on 29 November 2021 via Teams online platform. As a part of the scoping step, a scoping report was prepared and delivered to all the relevant participants in the SEA procedure and posted on the Programme website. The results have been documented and adequately integrated in the SEA Report.

The Programme proponent is the Ministry of Regional Development and European Union Funds, while the SEA practitioner in this procedure is Eko Invest d.o.o. company from Zagreb, Croatia, that holds authorization by the Croatian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development for performance of environmental and nature protection tasks (**Annexes to Volume I**).

1.2 List of Stakeholders

The project is managed by several bodies formed for the purposes of review of the overall implementation of the project, management and control, providing assistance to stakeholders, auditing etc. and by National Authorities of the participating countries which are responsible for setting up and ensuring efficient functioning of the national control systems. National Authorities are also responsible for conducting the scoping step, and will later be involved in review of the SEA Report and carrying out public consultations. The list of persons participating in scoping is provided below:

Republic of Croatia	Republic of Serbia
National Authority: Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds	National Authority: Ministry of European Integration
Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development	Ministry of Environmental Protection
Ministry of Agriculture	
Ministry of Health	
Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy	
Ministry of Tourism and Sport	
Ministry of Science and Education	
Ministry of Culture and Media	

According to Croatian regulations, the said authorities were invited to submit their opinions on the scope and level of detail to be elaborated in the SEA Report based on the draft Programme and the prepared Scoping report supplemented with a Questionnaire. National Authorities delivered their opinions on the Scoping report which regarded technical corrections.

All comments and opinions on the scoping report and the programme document were analysed and subsequently integrated in the Decision on the SEA Report contents enclosed in the SEA Report. The Decision on the SEA Report is the basis for the elaboration of this SEA Report. The full answers to the comments received are available at the Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds.

2. OUTLINE OF INTERREG VI-A IPA CROATIA – SERBIA

The Programme will support cross-border cooperation between the participating countries in the upcoming programming period 2021-2027.

The proposed programme area is identical to the one of the previous programming period 2014-2020 and is defined by NUTS 3 regions - counties in Croatia and Districts in Serbia. The area includes four counties in Croatia: Osječko-baranjska, Vukovarsko-srijemska, Brodsko-posavska, Požeško-slavonska and five districts in Serbia: North Bačka, West Bačka, South Bačka, Srem, and Mačva. The programme area extends over 25,505 km² thus representing 18.4% of Croatian territory and 17% of Serbian territory. The total population of the area is around 2.14 million people (1,54 million in Serbian part based on estimates for the year 2019 and around 599,000 in Croatian part of the Programme area according to latest census from 2021).

The programme area has significant potential and numerous advantages, but is also facing different challenges affecting sustainable development such as climate change, environmental degradation, and the transition to a climate-neutral economy. Expected Programme results will contribute to reaching the goals set by the European Green Deal and underlined by the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Programme is directly linked to the European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and the European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR).



Figure 1. Programme territory

The Programme overall objective is sustainable development of programme area through smart, green and socially innovative projects. Beside to further strengthen the social, economic and territorial development of the cross-border area, the Programme aims is to encourage and support cross border cooperation to make the area more resilient to common challenges (economic transition processes, climate change, and the long-term socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic), through the implementation of joint projects and activities to be supported within three selected policy objectives, and appertaining specific objectives:

Policy Objective 1 (SMARTER EUROPE):

- SO 1.1 Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies

Policy Objective 2 (GREENER EUROPE):

- SO 2.2 Promoting renewable energy in accordance with Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2018/2001, including the sustainability criteria set out therein;

- SO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system-based approaches.

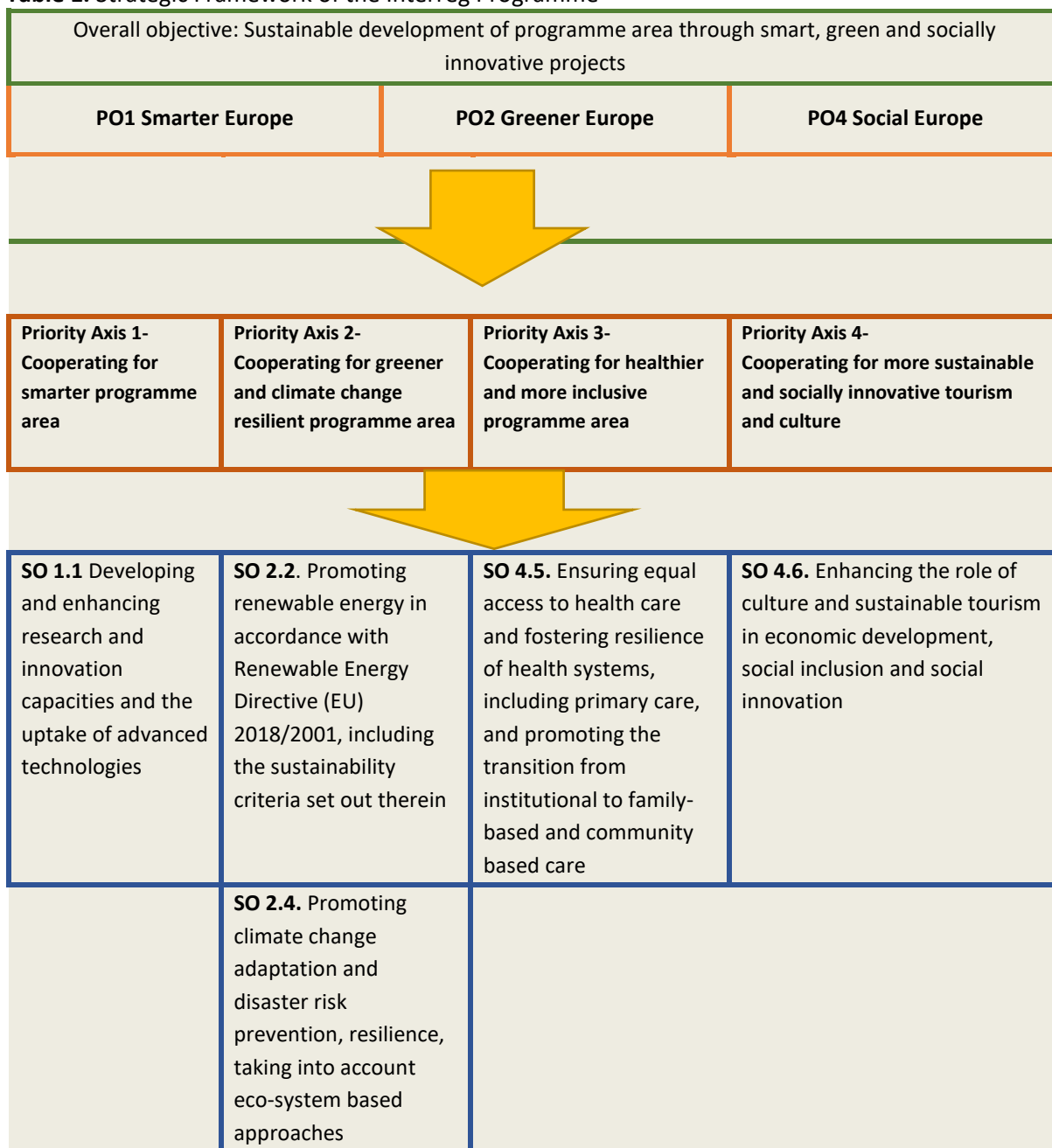
Policy Objective 4 (SOCIAL EUROPE):

- SO 4.5 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care;
- SO 4.6 Enhancing the role of culture and sustainable tourism in economic development, social inclusion and social innovation.

The selected policy objectives have been translated into four priority axes which will enable the programme to become the tool for implementing smart solutions that answer to the programme area needs and challenges. Within four priority axes, five specific objectives indicate specific changes that the Programme anticipates achieving through implementation of specific actions.

The overall strategic framework is shown in the **Table 1** in the SEA Report for the Interreg VI-A IPA Croatia-Serbia (**Volume I**). The financial allocations appertaining to each programme priority represent a preliminary proposal only and are subject to change. They are used as potential indication of intensity of investment, i.e. intensity of likely impacts of a priority axis.

Table 1. Strategic Framework of the Interreg Programme



Source: Performance Framework Methodology – Interreg VI-A IPA Cooperation Programme Croatia-Serbia 2021-2027, v.1, January 2022.

3. RELATIONSHIP OF THE PROGRAMME WITH OTHER RELEVANT STRATEGIES PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

This chapter gives an overview of the legislation, policies, strategies, plans and programmes which have been considered for the purpose of preparation of the SEA Report, and for the assessment of internal compliance of the CBC Programme with them.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment procedure is regulated by the Environmental Protection Act, Nature Protection Act, Regulation on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Regulation on information and participation of the public and public concerned in environmental matters of Croatia, and the Act on Environmental Protection, Act on Strategic Environmental Assessment, Decree on establishing the List of Projects for which Impact Assessment is mandatory and the List of Projects for which EIA can be required of Serbia.

The relevant strategies, plans and programmes proposed in the scoping step have been analysed in order to establish compliance of the Programme with them and in order to determine SEA objectives.

List of analysed documents:

- United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- European Green Deal
- EU Climate and Energy Package
- EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change
- EU Biodiversity Strategy for 2030
- European Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR)
- European Strategy for the Adriatic and Ionian Region (EUSAIR)
- National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia
- National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia
- River Basin Management Plan of the Republic of Croatia 2016-2021
- Sava River Basin Management Plan
- Plan for the air protection, protection of the ozone layer and climate change mitigation in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2013-2017
- Low-Carbon Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 with an outlook to 2050
- Energy Sector Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia for the period by 2025 with projections by 2030
- Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in the Republic of Croatia for the period to 2040 with a view to 2070
- National strategy for the inclusion of the Republic of Serbia in the Kyoto Protocol clean development mechanism
- Waste Management Strategy for the Republic of Croatia
- Waste Management Plan for the Republic of Croatia for the period 2017-2022
- Waste Management Strategy for the Republic of Serbia for 2019-2024

List of relevant international legislation taken into account for the purpose of establishing SEA objectives:

- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol (1997)
- Paris Agreement (Paris 2015)
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992)
- Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats – Bern Convention (Bern, 1979)
- Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – Bonn Convention (Bonn, 1979)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat - Ramsar Convention (Ramsar, 1971)
- Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds (EU Birds Directive)
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (EU Habitat Directive)
- European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)
- Convention on Protection of the World Natural and Cultural Heritage (World Heritage Convention, Paris, 1972)
- Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Helsinki, 1992)
- Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (1991, Espoo)
- Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus, 1998)

4. CURRENT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT

The current state of the environment in the Programme Area, with the aim of providing context for understanding the potential for the development of positive and negative effects that may arise from the implementation of the Programme, are described in detail in Chapter 4.1 *current state of the environment in the Programme territory* in Book I.

Based on the analysis carries out in chapter 4. *Current state of the Environment in the Programme Territory and Likely Evolution of the Environment without Implementation of the Programme* In Book I., the following environmental problems and conflicts have been identified in **Table 2**.

Table 2. Existing environmental problems in the Programme area

Environmental topic	Environmental problem
Air and climate	Air pollution by particulate matter, as a result of heating practices, especially in winter
Climate changes	Risk of flash floods
	Natural disasters – very frequent hail and extreme changes in meteorological conditions
	Heat islands in the centres of large settlements and zones of high density of construction and population
Water status	Insufficient connection to sewer system with adequate waste water treatment
	Unsatisfactory wastewater treatment
	The lowest qualitative status of surface water bodies in Serbia is in the programme territory, where 39.5% of water bodies have poor and bad quality (SWQI index), 67.6% of samples of which are of bad quality.
	Insufficient drinking water quality
	Overexploitation of groundwater
	Insufficient protection of water sources
Biodiversity	Destruction of seminatural and natural habitats as a result of land reclamation schemes
	Habitat fragmentation due to the construction of transport infrastructure
	Changes in freshwater ecosystems due to the construction of hydroelectric power plants, hydro reservoirs, watercourse regulation and construction of drainage channels for irrigation

Environmental topic	Environmental problem
	Pollution of watercourses
	Abandonment of extensive agriculture
	Loss, fragmentation and degradation of seminatural and natural habitats due to the land use change
	Illegal landfills are a major environmental problem that most affects forests and speleological objects
	Spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS)
	Loss of biodiversity due effects of climate change
Cultural heritage and landscape	Degradation of rural landscapes due to urbanization and linear structure development, deruralisation and deagrarisation
	Inappropriate and illegal construction that doesn't take into consideration type of landscapes and its sensitivities which causes significant loss and degradation of historical landscape values
	Lack of knowledge and education about landscapes in professional and civil areas
	Lack of implementation of key goals of European Landscape Convention in praxis from top to bottom
	Development of inappropriate land uses in areas of high value and sensitivities which aren't adapted to the context of area
	Loss of historical rural and urban landscapes due to inappropriate construction
Human health	Insufficient connection of the population to the public water supply system
	Light pollution as a result of proximity to urbanized areas
	Elevated noise emissions due to transport
	Negative impact on air quality and noise emissions due to intense traffic

Environmental topic	Environmental problem
Waste Management	Insufficient waste management infrastructure to uphold the integrated waste management systems Poor results in reduced generation of waste and the rate of reused/recovered municipal waste Low recycling rates Many illegal landfills, particularly in high-biodiversity areas No hazardous waste solution Lack of roadmap for circular economy development (Serbia)

5. SEA OBJECTIVES

SEA objectives have been established in order to assess environmental impacts, taking into consideration the requirements and objectives of relevant strategic documents and international treaties and agreements ratified by the participating countries, analysed in chapter 3. *Relationship of the programme with other relevant strategies plans and programmes* in Book I. The selection of objectives was carried out on the basis of programme area, environmental baseline and current trends, and the effects the proposed actions of the programme are likely to have on the environment, as established by preliminary analysis performed during scoping.

Due to interconnectedness of the overall environment, the objectives were not formed per each environmental factor separately, rather an objective covers a group of environmental aspects. Every environmental protection objective is supported by several sub-objectives, based on the established environmental conflicts and registered problems acting as assessment criteria. The impact of the programme may be monitored through indicators, which because of the strategic nature of the programme are qualitative, rather than quantitative.

Table 3. Environmental protection objectives

Environmental protection objectives	Sub-objectives	Environmental factors	Indicator
Improving water quality and reducing water pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Improvement of physical and chemical properties of water bodies -Increase in share of treated waste-water -Sustainable use of surface and groundwater -Protection of aquatic and water-dependent ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Human health Biodiversity 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Status of surface and groundwater bodies -Connection on public sewerage systems -Number of WWTPs -Water exploitation
Protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -reduction of environmental pollution -reducing impacts on climate -battling climate changes -awareness raising on importance of biodiversity -use of “nature-based solutions” in the protection, restoration or management of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Soil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -preserved favourable condition of protected species and habitats -involvement of the local community in protection and conservation activities

Environmental protection objectives	Sub-objectives	Environmental factors	Indicator
	sustainable management of aquatic systems and agriculture		
Sustainable management of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -development of sustainable tourism -rational use of land and resources -increasing the use of energy derived from renewable energy -supporting circular economy principles 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity Soil Water Landscape Material assets Waste management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -tourist infrastructure in protected areas -number of energy-efficiency projects implemented -production of energy from RES -number of brownfield areas activated -biomass consumption
Protection of cultural heritage and landscape values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -preservation of cultural assets and archaeological localities -ensuring sustainable landscape management, protection and preservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage Landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -number of plans or pilot projects involving cultural assets -number of implemented landscape character assessments -number of visitors in new tourist destinations
Reducing impacts on air and climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reduction of green-house gasses from energy sector -Improvement of energy efficiency -Development of RES projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air Climate Human-health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -development of green infrastructure projects -emissions and carbon dioxide sink – CO₂ -SECAPs developed
Strengthening resilience and	-Implementation of adaptation measures in plans and projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human-health Material assets 	-development of green infrastructure projects

Environmental protection objectives	Sub-objectives	Environmental factors	Indicator
disaster risk reduction	-Protection of infrastructure and population against extreme events		-SECAPs developed
Protection of human health and well-being	-increased connections to water utility services -reduced exposure to harmful emissions -reduced risk of flooding	Human health Water Air and Climate	-connections to the public water supply system -number projects developed according to BATs -noise protection measures integrated in strategies and physical plans

6. ASSESSMENT OF LIKELY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

The Programme will have few significant impacts on the environment, the great majority of which will be positive. This is because of the Programme's compliance with hierarchically higher documents/policies and its focus on "soft measures" which largely build on the already established systems and infrastructure and seek to make them more sustainable and to reduce the present pressures.

Some Specific Objectives regard improvements in sectors not related to environmental components, for which reason they have no impacts on the SEA objectives whatsoever. This regards SO 1.1. Developing and enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advances technologies and 4.5 Ensuring equal access and health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting transition from institutional to family-based and community-based care. In conformity with the Green Deal, the Programme seeks to equip the Programme territory in facing the challenges imposed by the ongoing climate change and making it more resilient both in terms of infrastructure and human resources educated across sectors, both public and businesses and at the same time to create benefits to the overall environment.

While some actions have been assessed to have significant positive impacts on SEA objectives, most effects will be moderate, either because of the legislative and institutional barriers or because of the level of development in the Programme territory. However, they are likewise important as they may prepare the system for actions planned in the future. Even though such actions do not generate negative impacts, measures have been proposed to enhance their effects their likelihood of success.

The identified negative impacts result as a rule from construction actions, mostly regarding the possibility of implementation of RES projects and plants, with application of the precaution principle, since the location, scope and details of such actions are presently unknown. Even though SO 2.4 Promoting climate change adaptation and disaster risk prevention, resilience, taking into account eco-system based approaches, will benefit in making the area more resilient, certain actions may negatively affect biodiversity objectives, assessed also with the application of the precautionary principle. However, no impacts have been assessed as significantly negative, since the implementation of actions has to conform to physical planning documents in force and undergo environmental assessments at project level.

6.1 Cumulative impacts

The assessment was carried out at proposed action level, and even though the action list is not exhaustive, it allowed for identification of main causes of stress, impact paths, intensity of change, as well as capacity of environmental factors, i.e. SEA objective, to sustain such change. It is evident that the occurrence of cumulative impacts is more likely in locations where more projects will take place in a limited area or which cause parallel stress factors. The analysis of individual actions thus helped in assessing the likelihood that their implementation within the same time frame in the same area will bring about amplified positive or negative impacts, and to evaluate which SEA objectives will be under the greatest pressure (**Figure 2**).

As it can be seen from the graph below, the Programme has the potential to generate both positive and negative cumulative impacts on the environment, the greatest intensity of which will be positive. It will strongly contribute to SEA objectives of Strengthening resilience and disaster risk reduction, Reducing impacts on air and climate, consequently indirectly positively affecting Protection of human health and well-being. The effects on emission reduction and climate adaptation stem from actions directly aimed at promotion and use of RES and building resilience in the area, depending on the specificity of the area. Such actions may be infrastructural, thus solving particular problems, or organizational and operational aimed at transforming the economy and society. Positive impacts of smaller intensity and scope regard Protection of cultural heritage and landscape values directly through sustainable tourism actions, but also indirectly as a result of reduced emissions and introduction of general green solutions in technology and building. Positive effects on biodiversity, ecosystems will also mostly be indirect through implementation of green solutions, development of sustainable forms of tourism in natural areas and through supporting eco-system services benefiting human health.

Even though of a lesser scope, the Programme may likewise generate cumulative negative impacts on the Protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife directly through implementation of RES projects, especially hydro, from traditional methods of battling hazardous effects of water, but also biomass and tourism because of the vulnerability of this SEA objective. Impacts on cultural heritage and landscape have been assessed jointly, but distinction in the description has been made in the matrix. Thus the negative cumulative effects, even though of lesser scope, have been identified as indirect arising from construction development, but taking into consideration that there is no systematic protection of landscape in the Programme territory, apart from an odd landscape study and measures provided in physical plans, and that not enough emphasis is given to it in the assessments on project levels.

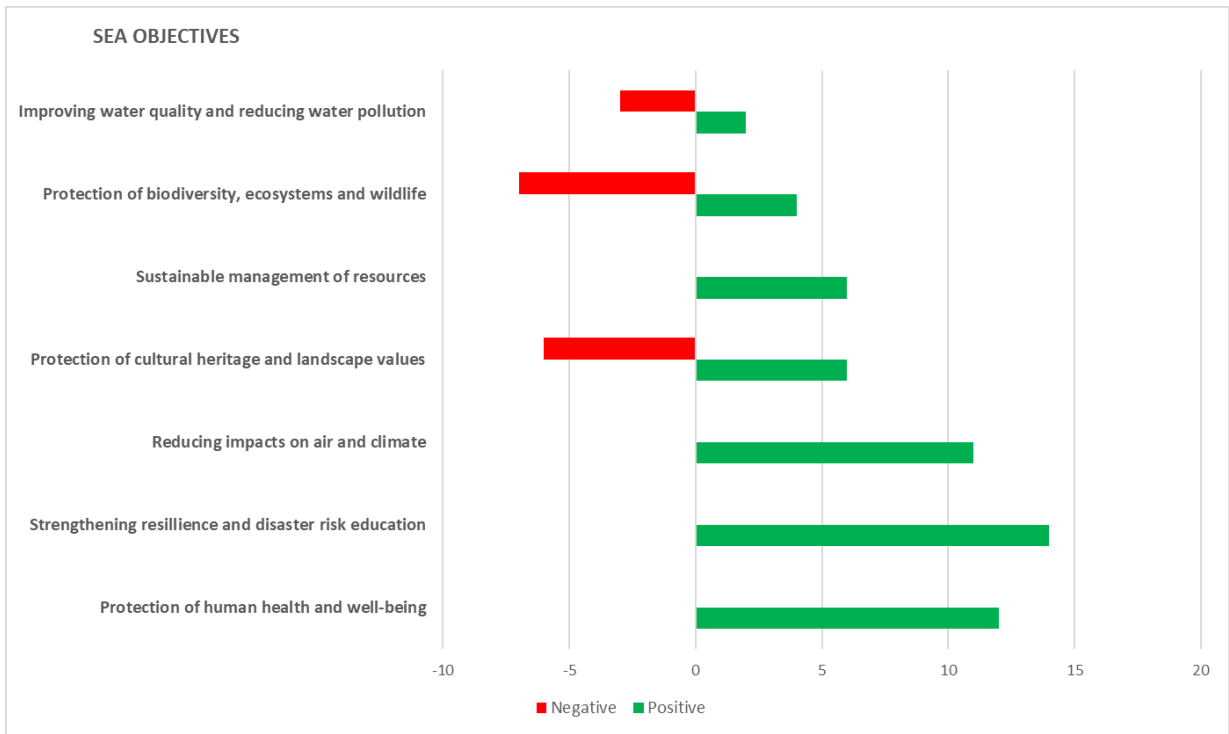


Figure 2. Presentation of quantified impacts of the Programme on environmental objectives

7. TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS

Taking into consideration that Programme is transboundary in nature and scope, aiming at achieving impacts on the cross-border region, the impacts were regarded as transboundary by default, with consultations being held in both participating countries.

As regards the likelihood of occurrence of impacts across borders of the Programme territory, taking into consideration the typology of proposed actions as well as their local spatial scope, the implementation of specific objectives proposed by the Programme are not expected to generate cross-border impacts on the neighbouring Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Romania.

8. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

This Chapter describes measures for prevention, reduction and mitigation of likely negative impacts generated through implementation of the Programme, as assessed in chapter 9.2 *Results of the assessment of the impact of the implementation of the Development Programme on environmental objectives* in Book I.

Protection measures have been defined on the basis of identified negative cumulative impacts and are designed to minimize or completely avoid them. Apart from measures proposed in response to identified negative impacts, the SEA Report also proposes integration of guidelines enhancement measures formed in response to observed opportunities to improve environmental state or to increase sustainability of the solutions proposed by the Programme.

Both the protection and enhancement measures and guidelines may also serve as criteria and limitations to be used in lower hierarchy documents, including implementation conditions to be observed in implementation of the Programme and projects proposed by the Programme.

Table 4. Environmental protection and enhancement measures

Ord. Nr.	SEA OBJECTIVES	Proposed measure/guideline
1.	Improving water quality and reducing water pollution	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support alternative methods of water collection for irrigation of energy crops (SO 2.2 – 6) 2. Prioritise nature-based solutions (SO 2.4 – 8) 3. The action of integrating climate change aspects into water management should also include preservation of wetlands, reforestation and preservation of natural floodplains. (SO 2.4 – 8) 4. Transboundary cooperation should include collecting and sharing information, developing joint vulnerability assessments, developing joint adaptation strategies where Basin institutions should play a central role. (SO 2.4 – 8) 5. New water sanitation infrastructure should be safe and climate resilient. (SO 2.4 – 8) 6. For operation of new infrastructures, use of RES such as solar and small HPPs and bioenergy plants should be considered. (SO 2.4 – 8) 7. Developments within this Programme shall not harm the current maximum water flow rate (DNSH) 8. The action (S.O. 2.4 – 8) should also include waste-water collection and treatment
2.	Protection of biodiversity, ecosystems and wildlife	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider use energy crop fields as rehabilitation measure for degraded agricultural land, for exp. Near landfills or other land unsuitable for food production, eroded soil etc. (SO 2.2. – 6) 2. Prohibit change of use of forest land for energy crop production purposes (SO 2.2. – 6) 3. Include local and/or international experts (especially when it comes to specific cross-border projects) when developing projects for protection and restoration towards resilient ecosystems, landscapes climate-proofing, modelling and forecasting and the background documentation for envisioned projects. (SO 2.4 – 5) 4. Conduct campaigns to eliminate invasive species in the Programme territory as part of protection projects. (SO 4.6. – 1) 5. Implementation of stated solutions should be done with expert supervision (SO 2.4. – 7)

Ord. Nr.	SEA OBJECTIVES	Proposed measure/guideline
		<p>6. As a precondition to developing climate proofing for agricultural and forestry sectors, vulnerability assessment and selection of adaptation targets is necessary. (SO 2.4. – 9)</p> <p>7. Climate proofing practices in forestry and agriculture should focus on finding trees with increased carbon sinks, improving groundwater management, and soil quality. (SO 2.4. – 9)</p> <p>8. Tourist products and cross border tourist routes should be planned and designed with the sensitivity of the overall area in mind, especially when it comes to MaB reserve Mura – Drava – Danube. (SO 4.6. – 6)</p> <p>9. In development and preparation of projects and products, include an analysis of carrying capacity aspect and preservation of ecosystem services. (SO 4.5. – 6)</p> <p>10. Introduce green infrastructure to improve ecosystem services in urban areas. (SO 2.4. – 6)</p> <p>11. No developments is to be built on arable land or high biodiversity value land (DNSH)</p>
3.	Sustainable management of resources	<p>1. Suitability modelling for each RES in specific area should be the basis and the guideline for the development of RES. (SO 2.2.-1)</p> <p>2. Apart from education, incentives, encouraging through social networks, as well as schemes linking various aspects of energy saving and energy efficiency are also to be considered. (SO 2.2. – 5)</p> <p>3. The planned projects and activities should include place-based solutions, nature-based solutions, appropriate and contextual design, implemented mitigation measures and other expert studies as seen in good praxis globally. (SO 4.6. – 1)</p> <p>4. Joint solutions should be developed in cooperation with specialists from all affected areas, from physical planners, biologists, conservationists etc. (SO 2.2.-1)</p> <p>5. In the preparation of planned actions and projects include experts for cooperation and develop expert background documents. (SO 4.6.-1)</p> <p>6. Develop strategies of sustainable and rural tourism and other preliminary documents that analyse the ability of certain places to accept change with reference to all of the SEA objectives in this report. (SO 4.6.-1)</p>

Ord. Nr.	SEA OBJECTIVES	Proposed measure/guideline
		<p>7. In order to minimize likely impacts on cultural property, technical solutions should be developed and implemented in cooperation and under the supervision of conservationists and/or other experts. (SO 2.2. – 2)</p> <p>8. Demolition waste generated within this Programme has to be prepared for recycling (DNSH)</p> <p>9. Improved infrastructure within this Programme shall not relate to the traditional fossil fuel industry (DNSH).</p> <p>10. Sustainability criteria regard protection of high biodiversity land and land with high carbon stock, that is aiming at minimising the risk of using forest biomass derived from unsustainable production. (S.O 2.2 – 1)</p> <p>11. Installers of biomass, heat pump, shallow geothermal and solar photovoltaic and solar thermal energy shall be certified by an accredited training programme or training provider. (S.O 2.2 – 1)</p> <p>12. In order to further support circular economy, the value chain should include efficiency of resources used, as well as responsible sourcing. (S.O.1 – 4)</p>
4.	Protection of cultural heritage and landscape values	<p>1. In order to minimize likely impacts on cultural property, technical solutions should be developed and implemented in cooperation and under the supervision of conservationists and/or other experts (SO 2.2. – 4)</p> <p>3. Prioritise use of brownfield locations for bioenergy plants. (SO 2.2.-6)</p> <p>4. Implementation of projects should be done with expert supervision (SO 2.4 -7)</p> <p>5. The action should include landscape and landscape heritage as well, since there is a significant lack of quality landscape management, professional and civil awareness and implementation of landscape protection. (SO 4.6-3)</p> <p>6. During preparation and development of tourist routes, include a preliminary expert analysis of sensitivity of protected cultural and natural heritage areas with the goal of minimum negative impact. (SO 4.6.-6)</p> <p>7. Support introduction of green infrastructure in order to decrease the trend of landscape fragmentation and improve visual values of urban and rural areas. (SO 2.4. – 6)</p>

Ord. Nr.	SEA OBJECTIVES	Proposed measure/guideline
5.	Reducing impacts on air and climate	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SO should include awareness raising activities, information providing regarding cooperation mechanisms and financing schemes (SO 2.2.-1) 2. Sustainable tourism actions should also include sustainable mobility measures such as use of public transportation, alternative mobility modes, low-emission transport. (SO 4.6-8) 3. Include experts in preparation of project documentation which must contain a preliminary analysis in terms of specific sites ability to accept change and preserve existing values. (SO 2.4.-7) 4. Implement green infrastructure activities in urban areas to provide carbon sinks. (SO 2.4. – 9) 5. Preparation of SECAP is proposed as a means to elaborate both climate and climate adaptation measures for the entire Programme territory, or its part. (SO 2.4. – 1) 6. RES exploitation and production should cover energy storage in-situ.
6.	Strengthening resilience and disaster risk reduction	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Focus of the action should not only be on optimization of the current processes, but finding new technical solutions and new work methods. (SO 1.1.-8) 2. Include local and/or international experts (especially when it comes to specific cross-border projects) when developing projects and the background documentation for them to ensure quality systemic and integrative approach with implemented good global practices and relevant methodologies (SO 2.4.-5) 3. Implement green infrastructure solutions in order to improve climate resilience in urban areas. (SO 2.4. – 6) 4. Preparation of SECAP is proposed as a means to elaborate both climate and climate adaptation measures for the entire Programme territory, or its part. (SO 2.4. – 1) 5. Integrate disaster risk reduction concerns into planning and development process at official level in order to “climate-proof” development, rather than focus only on disaster preparedness and response. (S.O 2.4 – 1) 6. Conduct vulnerability assessment across energy sector in order to efficiently implement adaptation measures. (S.O 2.2 – 1) 7. Conduct climate risk assessment for tourist sector and tourist assets so as to safeguard them from potential risks. (S.O 4.6 – 1) 8. Prepare or update forest management plans to include climate adaptation measures. (S.O 2.4 – 9)

Ord. Nr.	SEA OBJECTIVES	Proposed measure/guideline
		9.Integration of climate adaptation measures into forestry sector will ensure the maintenance or increase of existing carbon stocks and maintenance or improve the capacity of forests to deliver multiple services. (S.O 2.4 – 9)
7.	Protection of human health and well-being	<p>1. The action should include implementation of green infrastructure and green building principles since the action is focused on the human living environment and its adaptation to climate change challenges (SO 2.4.-10)</p> <p>2. Implement green infrastructure solutions in order to improve the quality of life of people. (SO 2.4. – 6)</p>

9. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVISAGED MONITORING MEASURES

Monitoring the real impacts of the implementation of the Programme aims to verify that its implementation achieves the objectives set, then identify the negative impacts of implementation (anticipated and unforeseen), and to ensure that the environmental measures proposed by the strategic assessment are implemented.

In addition to the environmental monitoring systems already in place the results of which are considered essential for monitoring the impact of Programme on the SEA objectives, i.e. the component and environmental pressures, the strategic assessment did not identify new environmental monitoring measures.