

COOPERATION PROGRAMME
Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020
Strategic Environmental Assessment

Information
on the decision according to
article 9 of directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the
Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain
plans and programmes on the environment

Set up by the Land of Salzburg as Managing Authority
on 28.07.2014

Introductory remarks

According to article 9 of directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment the authorities referred to in article 6 (3) of the same regulation, the public and any member state consulted under article 7 shall be informed when a plan or programme being subject to the directive is adopted. The following items shall be made available to those so informed:

- the programme adopted,
- a statement summarising how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme and how the environmental report prepared pursuant to article 5, the opinions expressed pursuant to article 6 and the results of consultations entered into pursuant to article 7 have been taken into account in accordance with article 8 and the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- the measures decided concerning monitoring in accordance with article 10.

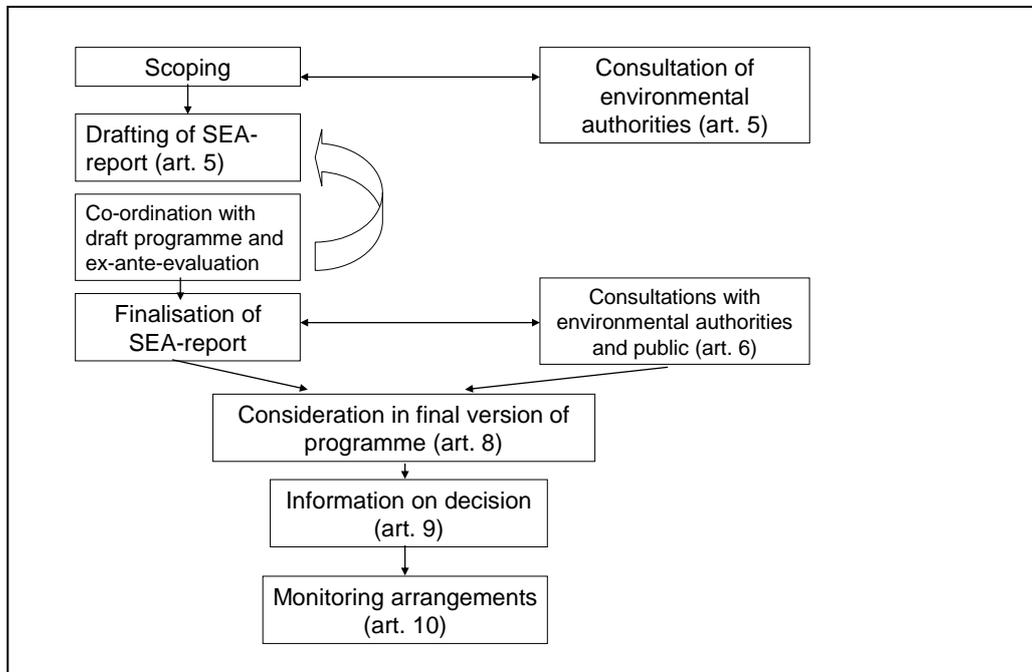
The present document provides for information on the above-mentioned issues as well as on the process applied in the context of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) of the programme. This document has been made available for the members of the programming task force, the environmental authorities and to the public via the programme's website.

A) The adopted cooperation programme

The cooperation programme "Alpine Space" as it was adopted by the task force set up for the programming process (composed of representatives of the partner states, the Managing Authority and the Joint Technical Secretariat) and by the partner states of the programme in the letters giving the mandate to the Managing Authority to submit the programme to the EC is made available for the public on the programme's website www.alpine-space.eu.

B) The SEA-process

The following steps were taken in the context of the SEA (articles quoted are the ones of the SEA-directive):



C) Non-technical summary of the SEA-report

The environmental report fulfils the requirements of annex 1 of the directive 2001/42/EG on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Chapter 1 (Intent and structure of the Environmental Report) explains the purpose, structure and content of the environmental assessment process. Thereafter, chapter 2 (Main Objectives and Contents of the ASP) illustrates the content of ASP and lists the priorities and objectives which are the basis for the assessment to follow. Subject of the assessment are the main objectives of the four priority axes (Innovative Alpine Space, Low Carbon Alpine Space, Liveable Alpine Space, Well-governed Alpine Space).

In chapter 3 (Environmental Objectives) all relevant regulations as well as the most important environmental objectives at the respective national and the European

levels are presented. The subsequent chapter 4 (Environmental Characteristics) describes the current state of the environmental concerns, i.e. soil, water, fauna/vegetation and biodiversity, landscape, human health/population and cultural heritage/material assets. As the programme area comprises the whole Alpine area broad circumstances on a rather generic level are addressed. Chapter 5 describes the likely development of the alpine area without the programme. This so called “base alternative” serves as the basis for the assessment.

Subsequently the method and difficulties of the assessment are illustrated (chapter 6). The assessment is based on a verbal argumentation. The possible impacts of the priorities of the programme are classified into five levels of intensity (high negative, medium negative, slight negative, no significant and positive) according to their expected impacts on the environment. In accordance with common guidance on SEA for cohesion policy the assessment follows a likelihood scenario based on the detailed description of the targets, intended actions, beneficiaries, target areas as well as previous projects under the ASP.

The main part of the Environmental report (chapter 7) uses this framework for the Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects. Within the four Priorities of the ASP, a total of seven Objectives were assessed in the final version of the ASP. Of these seven Objectives one is likely to lead to slight or medium effects on several environmental issues. This objectives is part of Priority 1 Innovative Alpine Space. Negative development on part of the environmental issues is expected because of probably increased resource consumption under consideration of already existing land use conflicts in the various inner-alpine settings, subsequent effects by protection against natural hazards and particular aspects of renewable energies on sensitive locations. Mitigation and compensation measures will have a high relevance to reduce the environmental effects as much as possible. In case focus is set on sustainable innovation (green economy) even positive impacts are possible by this objective, however.

In general a strong attention is paid to a sustainable development process and a sound consideration of relevant mitigation criteria can therefore be expected. Thus no high negative impacts are contained in the final version of the Alpine Space Programme 2014-2020.

In summary it can be concluded that the majority of objectives either have no significant impacts or might actually contribute positive effects. The results of the assessment for each priority are shown in the tables below.

Priority Axis 1		
Assessment Results		
Environmental Issues	1b.1 Improve the framework conditions for innovation in the Alpine Space	1b.2 Increase capacities for the delivery of services of general interest in a changing society
Soil	Slight to medium negative impacts	No significant impacts
Water	No significant to slight negative impacts	No significant impacts
Climate/Air	No significant to slight negative impacts	No significant impacts
Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	No significant to medium negative impacts	No significant impacts
Landscape	Slight to medium negative impacts	No significant impacts
Human health, Population	Slight negative to positive impacts	positive impacts
Material assets and cultural heritage	No significant impacts	No significant impacts

Priority Axis 2		
Assessment Results		
Environmental Issues	4e.1 Establish trans-nationally integrated low carbon policy instruments	4e.2 Increase options for low carbon mobility and transport
Soil	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
Water	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
Climate/Air	Positive impacts	Positive impacts
Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	Positive impacts	No significant impacts
Landscape	No significant impacts	No significant impacts
Human health, Population	Positive impacts	Positive impacts
Material assets and cultural heritage	Positive impacts	No significant impacts

Priority Axis 3		
Assessment Results		
Environmental Issues	6c.1 Sustainably valorise Alpine Space cultural and natural heritage	6d.1 Enhance the protection, the preservation and the connectivity of Alpine Space ecosystems
Soil	No significant to positive impacts	Positive Impacts
Water	No significant impacts	Positive Impacts
Climate/Air	No significant to positive impacts	Positive Impacts
Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	No significant to positive impacts	Positive Impacts
Landscape	Positive impacts	Positive Impacts
Human health, Population	No significant to positive impacts	Positive Impacts
Material assets and cultural heritage	Positive impacts	No significant impacts

Priority Axis 4	
Assessment Results	
Environmental Issues	11.1 Increase the application of multilevel and transnational governance in the Alpine Space
Soil	No significant impacts
Water	No significant impacts
Climate/Air	No significant impacts
Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	No significant impacts
Landscape	No significant impacts
Human health, Population	No significant impacts
Material assets and cultural heritage	No significant impacts

D) Information on consultations with public and environmental authorities

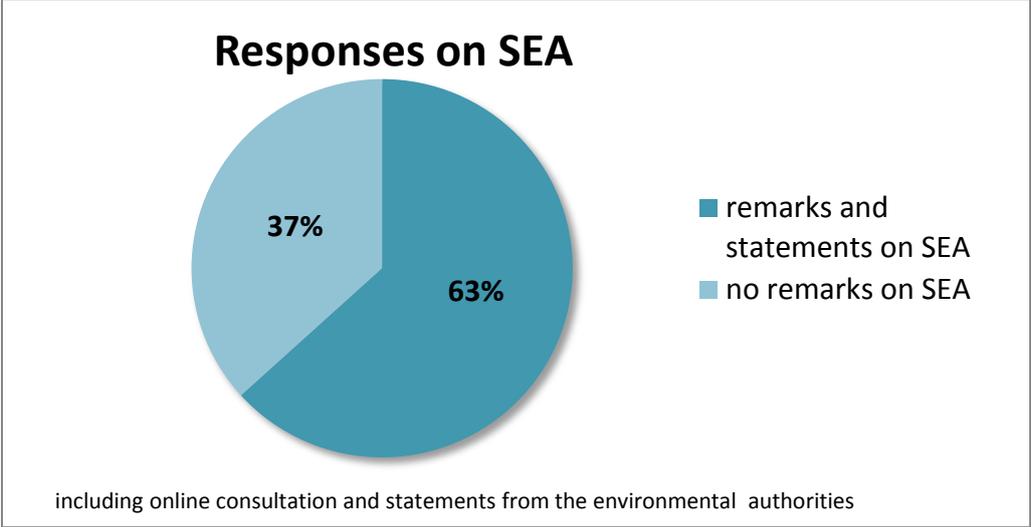
In April 2013 the SEA-experts provided the environmental authorities nominated by the member states participating in the cooperation programme with the scoping documents and invited them to comment on these and the scoping process.

Based on this feedback the SEA-experts finalised the determination of scope and level of detail of information to be included in the SEA-report. The draft cooperation programme and draft SEA-report were published on the programme's website. The environmental authorities in the member states were invited via e-mail to comment on the draft documents. Furthermore, the broad public was given the opportunity to raise observations on draft report and programme. This consultation process ran from November 1st to 29th 2013. In addition, all partner states of the programme organised consultations on national and regional level on the programme draft.

In total 223 responses on draft programme and draft SEA-report were received from stakeholders of the Alpine area. In sum there were 45 online responses addressing the Strategic Environmental Assessment, and 28 of these responses gave direct remarks to the SEA during that period of time.

Separate statements to the SEA-Report came from the environmental authorities of Austria (Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Umwelt und Wasserwirtschaft), Slovenia (Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment), Italy (Ministero dell'ambiente e della tutela del territorio e del mare) and France (Region Rhone Alpes) via E-mail.

The following graph gives an overview on the statements directed at the SEA in comparison with the overall statements received during the consultation process.



To gain a better overview, the remarks and statements were classified by the SEA-experts into general remarks on the quality of the SEA and three further categories:

- First category: textual improvements and minor modifications which have been added or corrected at once,
- Second category: modification proposals which are not in line with the requirements of the SEA-Directive and seem not appropriate to be considered in the environmental report from the point of view of the SEA-team,
- Third category: fundamental modification proposals which have been adjusted with the task force.

The general remarks on the quality of the SEA which refer to the overall report have been classified as quite positive feedback (see the citations below):

- Remarkable quality of the environmental report,
- As in recent years, it is a valuable document, with many interesting aspects. Some parts are well elaborated, and others on the same level too vague,
- Much clearer than the programme for some aspects, maybe another understanding of the priority and its indicative actions,
- The SEA is providing a general assessment and gives a well prepared overview of the general framework.

E) Summary on how environmental considerations, SEA-report, results of consultations were taken into account

The elaboration of the environmental report evolved out of a continuous discussion process in constant interaction between the SEA experts and the drafting team setting up the cooperation programme. Changes in the programme were therefore influenced by the feedback of the SEA-experts and vice versa. As a consequence of this joint elaboration process, the SEA-team could consider direct feedback and explanation on the content and meaning of the thematic objectives and related indicative actions in their assessment. On the other hand recommendations made by the interim SEA-reports could be immediately reflected and integrated into the drafting of the cooperation programme. Chapter 8 of the environmental report explains how the alternatives of the cooperation programme have been influenced by

the SEA. Interim assessments, presented at the Task Force meetings, encouraged specification of several objectives, in particular in priority 1 and 3.

Remarks referring to the first and third category mentioned in section D of the present document (which are relevant to SEA) were considered and integrated into the SEA-report and/or additional explanation was given as requested by the statements. The table on the following pages shows the original responses, the chapter in the SEA-report they refer to and their consideration or integration into the SEA-report, if possible.

Consideration of comments of the consultation process

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
soil themes should be regarded better (page 48)	Environmental Characteristics 4.1. Soil	precise comments on soil will be integrated (see comments BMLFUW)
<p>Regarding Water Management & WFD issues in Austria, it would be very important to mention not only the "Qualitätszielverordnung Chemie", but also the "Qualitätszielverordnung Ökologie" which deals with thresholds & definitions for the "ecological status" of water bodies & groundwater - the main goal of the EU WFD, see http://www.lebensministerium.at/wasser/wasser-oesterreich/wasserrecht_national/planung/QZVOekologieOG.html for details & english version. In terms of conflicting issues WFD & Res-E Directive (i.e. hydropower production), i highly recommend to mention/cite the document "Österreichischer Wasserkatalog", see http://www.lebensministerium.at/wasser/wasser-oesterreich/plan_gewaesser_ngp/wasserwirtsch_planung/wasserkatalog.html for details, this frame gives ecological and economical criteria how to evaluate new hydropower projects and is a consensus of various stakeholders & administrative units in Austria. On the European scale, mentioning the document "A Blueprint to safeguard Europe's Waters" will be essential, see http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/blueprint/ this document outlines actions that concentrate on better implementation of current water legislation, integration of water policy objectives into other policies, and filling the gaps in particular as regards water quantity and efficiency.</p>	Environmental Objectives 3.2. Water	consideration and integration into the environmental report
Chapter 3.1 (Soil) is quite fragmentary, there is a lot more relevant problems and regulations (Loi Grenelle en France, Raumordnungsgesetz in Germany, Landesentwicklungsplan in Baden-Württemberg)	Environmental Objectives 3.1. Soil	consideration and integration into the environmental report

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
it is not clear why possible negative impacts are defined at all if there will be no physical impacts	7. Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects	explanation provided in the background and assessment table of chapter 7 as well as in chapter 6 (methodology)
Page 59 - protected areas: in the moment more than 25% of the surface of the Alps according to the Alpine Convention conference have a protection status, sometimes only very low like "protected landscapes". ALPARC can provide actualised cartographic material and statistics about this topic.	Environmental Characteristics 4.4. Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
p. 59 the "Severe problems" by the so called new sports (f.e. free climbing has very traditional roots in alpinism) seems to be very overrated. Usually the main problem is the irritation or coexistence with other "users" of the same space (f.e. hunters). The study by Bätzing 2003 has quite subjective conclusions	Environmental Characteristics 4.4. Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	will be elaborated and reconsidered through consideration of additional sources of literature
In general, this document ignores all environmental issues related to natural risks. Many topics remain important to assess in relation with some priorities (ICT development : e.g. information sharing, liveable alpine space : territorial, integrated approach of risk) ...	overall report	relevant for OP, consideration of natural hazards in chapter 3 and 4 as well as during the assessment where relevant
the main challenge for the next decade are new challenges and risks for human health, animal health and plant health as invasive alien species and emerging diseases . that is not addressed at all.	7. Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects	topics are already addressed but will be elaborated further
Elle est un peu légère par rapport à ce que représente le volet environnement et développement durable dans le futur programme.	very general remark	very general remark
Over all the strategic environmental assessment is well elaborated, but I don't understand in the figure in the non-technical summary why priority 6d.1 Enhance the protection, the preservation and the connectivity of Alpine Space ecosystems (i.a. risk management) leads to medium negative impacts.	12. Non-technical Summary	explanation is given in the assessment table in chapter 7

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
3.5. Landscape; a question on landscape maintenance in relation to socio-demographic change in rural (declining) areas (missed among resume/main objectives)	Environmental Objectives 3.5. Landscape	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
on page 15 the part concerning the Soil of the Italy is not done well. 1. Does not talk about 'inter-table for sustainable spatial development of the Area Po-Alps-Maritime' and then Agenda of Bologna (27 January 2012) [The table at the time of committing the regions of Liguria, Piedmont, Valle d'Aosta, Lombardy, Friuli Venezia Giulia, Veneto, Emilia-Romagna and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano]. 2. Does not talk about the proposed law on the promotion of agricultural areas and containment of land consumption, the n. 948/2013 and the n.70/2013. 3. talk also about a little Region as Friuli Venezia Giulia (Why?)	Environmental Objectives 3.1. Soil	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
The SEA is providing general assessment - well prepared overview of general framework. Erosion is addressed (important!) Reduction of CO2 emissions - development of renewable resources - i.e. hydropower could be potentially extremely harmful. See page 105, 141, water - No significant to slightly negative impact? Under consideration of proper location, only slight to medium negative impacts to be expected? Conditional? page 120 - High negative impacts on water can happen due to technical measures of natural hazard prevention, like the technical construction of river beds or dams. - Why is the technical construction of river beds or dams set as a measure in the 6d.1?	7. Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects assessment of hydro power and description of mitigation measures	explanation is given in the assessment table and background description in chapter 7
While for instance, on might accept all soil targets easily, the mentioning of the 6th EAP 2002- 2012 at least should gradually be adapted by the on-going 7th EAP throughout the whole texts.	3. Environmental Objectives	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
Generally speaking, and while several texts on each country are available e.g. SOER 2010 , SoE Report of the Austrian FEA, several chapters come across as revealing fairly arbitrary explanations of recent policy developments.	3. Environmental Objectives	SOER Report will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
<p>The text as it stands is both unacceptable and misleading. Along the lines of SOER 2010 one should in any case reformulate the para and could perhaps say something like:</p> <p>Unlike the majority of the 28 EU countries, Austria has a federal system of government. The Republic is made up of nine federal states (Bundesländer). The division of legislative and executive powers between federation and states is set out in the federal constitution. Since 1985, comprehensive protection of the environment has been an important state objective and has constitutional status in Austria. The protection of soils in Austria is a cross-cutting task of various regional and federal laws mainly tied up to the risks associated with. Chemicals and contaminated land are in federal powers, agricultural soils or nature protection is in the power of regions as well as spatial planning. The complex and multi-disciplinary issue may be best studied in qualified literature e.g. Roland NORER.</p>	3. Environmental Objectives	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
While soil sealing is mentioned briefly, it's strategic and ultimately prohibitive significance on any major soil functions at all, again seems to be partly forgotten versus the erosion issue which undoubtedly is important. Note that the same 2 soil priorities seem to be comparatively more balanced on p.78.	4. Environmental Characteristics	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
It is somehow unclear to us, why the creation of second generation biogas which generally is still in the research or infant stage, is seen as a "human related stress factor" in the Alpine region. Perhaps the increased use of usual biomass is meant (?).	Environmental Characteristics 4.4. Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
The statement that no further increase of sealing is expected is welcomed but slightly amazing.	7.2.2.2 Assessment of the Objective	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
Take account of the amendment of the Law for Climate Protection (2013) which defines maximum greenhouse-gas-emissions on sectoral level.	3. Environmental Objectives 3.3. Climate, Air	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report
The first aspect of the evaluation “.....if in the past, a similar priority did not cause any significant impacts, then the same can also expected for the current programme” is not comprehensible. This statement is too general and presumptive, not based on facts or experiences and therefore not provable.	6.1. Method of the Assessment	reconsideration and more precise explanation
<p>Regarding the protection of human health and wellbeing from environmental noise we provide the following comments and suggestions: In the topic »Public health, population« we suggest highlighting the importance of public complaints and preservation of quiet areas in nature (restorative function).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Chapter 3.6 in the resume on page 29 we suggest adding an indent – »Protection of quiet areas in the natural environment (restorative / recovery function)« . • On page 45 the old decree from 1995 is quoted. It is necessary to cite the new decree »Decree on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Noise, 2004«. • In the introductory part of Section 4.6 we suggest exposing restorative function of quiet areas in nature. We believe this is an important feature that differs from recreation, although both can partly overlap. The statement »Air Quality and the stimulating climate are favourable for the treatment of numerous diseases« should be changed to – »Air quality, quiet areas in nature and stimulating climate ...« • In section 6.1, in Table 2 we suggest adding the indicator in the topic »Public health, population« – »Registration of public complaints against noise«. The indicator »Impact on recreational capacity / attractiveness for recreation« should be changed to - »Impact on recreational and restoration capacities / attractiveness for recreation and restoration«. 	3.6. Human Health, Population 3.8. References Environmental Characteristics 4.6. Human Health/ Population 6.1. Method of the Assessment	will be considered and integrated into the environmental report

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
<p>in § 4.4 - "<i>Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity</i>", it is reported that in the area there are several Natura 2000 sites (of which only is provided the numerical data on the number of sites present), while it is absent any reference to the Incidence Assessment . This is in contrast with the Italian law that requires integration between the procedures of Incidence Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment. In the preliminary phase was requested as follows: "<i>an appropriate assessment on the basis of directive 92/42/CEE for this areas have to be carried out, it is possible conduct an integrated procedure with the SEA</i>".</p>	<p>Environmental Characteristics 4.4. Fauna, Vegetation, Biodiversity</p>	<p>will be considered and integrated into the environmental report</p>
<p>In our opinion, the document "non-technical summary" produced, appears to be an extended index of the chapters of the Environmental Report, while it should be a stand-alone document and should contain the essential elements of the assessment in summary form, clear and understandable to a non-technical audience.</p>	<p>12. Non-technical Summary</p>	<p>reconsideration and more precise explanation/ concrete statements</p>
<p>It would be appropriate, finally, explicit the indications and recommendations to be considered in the implementation of the Programme that can be drawn from the results of the SEA, for example, with reference to the Chapter 10 contents, it is stated that "<i>Special attention should be paid to the cultivation methods applied for biomass production as well as the negative consequences resulting from hydro power</i>".</p>	<p>10. Mitigation and compensatory Measures</p>	<p>reconsideration and more precise explanation/ concrete statements</p>
<p>amendments to chapter 3 - update French law /regulations for several environmental issues</p>	<p>3. Environmental Objectives</p>	<p>will be considered and integrated into the environmental report</p>
<p>soil contamination (problem sites) should be addressed in context with danger of health</p>	<p>4. Environmental Characteristics</p>	<p>will be considered and integrated into the environmental report</p>
<p>update of data sources for Region Rhone Alpes for several environmental issues</p>	<p>4. Environmental Characteristics</p>	<p>will be considered and integrated into the environmental report</p>

Responses - original citation	Chapter	Comments/ Consideration in SEA-report
water scarcity	4. Environmental Characteristics	explanation is given in chapter 4 (water)
address the thematic of neophytes (invasive species)	5. Development of the Alpine Space without the Programme	explanation is given in chapter 4 - will be integrated into the chapter 5
assessment of objective 4e.2: significant impacts expected (building of new infrastructure cannot be completely excluded)	7. Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects	not relevant with regard to the background of the objective
assessment of objective 6c.1: negative impacts of valorisation addressed	7. Assessment of Likely Significant Environmental Effects	not relevant with regard to the background of the objective

F) Measures decided concerning monitoring

Regarding the measures to be taken concerning the monitoring of the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the programme according to article 10 of the SEA-directive the SEA-experts suggest the following set of indicators to be used. According to the results of the environmental assessment of the thematic objectives, indicators should be chosen which refer to possible significant impacts identified in chapter 7 of the environmental report.

Subject of the monitoring are all objectives of the programme. Special focus should, however, be put on those objectives which are more likely to produce negative effects on some environmental issues. According to the assessment results based on the final version of the programme this are in particular the objective 1b.1; as well as single aspects of 4e.1 (possible projects focused on renewable energy production in sensitive areas).

Environmental Issues	Indicators
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sealing • Influence on soil quality (contamination) • Susceptibility to erosion
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence on ground water (quality, scarcity, etc.) • Impact on surface water • Connectivity
Climate/Air	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality • Influence on greenhouse gas emissions • Influence on mirco- and mesoclimate conditions
Fauna/Vegetation/Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat fragmentation/ corridors and networks • Influence on habitats and species (condition) • Especially influence on Natura 2000 sites
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence on cultural landscapes • Impact on landscape aesthetics and natural scenery
Human Health/ Population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emissions (such as noise, air pollution, vibrations) • Emission related diseases • Impact on recreational and restoration capacities / attractiveness for recreation and restoration • Registration of public complaints against noise
Material Assets/Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact on cultural ensembles/ traditional settlement structures • Impact on cultural heritage by emissions/ vibrations • Enhancement of exchange of immaterial cultural heritage

These indicators shall constitute the basis for the assessment and make it possible to reveal the environmental effects of the projects to be funded by the programme. In most cases these qualitative assessment will be sufficient. Where appropriate, also quantitative data should be included into the evaluation.

The SEA-experts furthermore propose that in the midterm of the programming period, detailed monitoring shall be carried out. Environmental effects of the Programme should be noticed by then, while there would still be opportunity to take remedial action.

The results of the monitoring process should be documented in a separate monitoring report in order to ensure sufficient documentation, which can provide support for further monitoring processes as well as the formulation of future programmes in this area. The monitoring process could be carried out either by the Joint Secretariat or by external experts.