

POLICY GUIDELINES

PLANNING AND PERMIT-GRANTING

PROCEDURES FOR

ENERGY PROJECTS

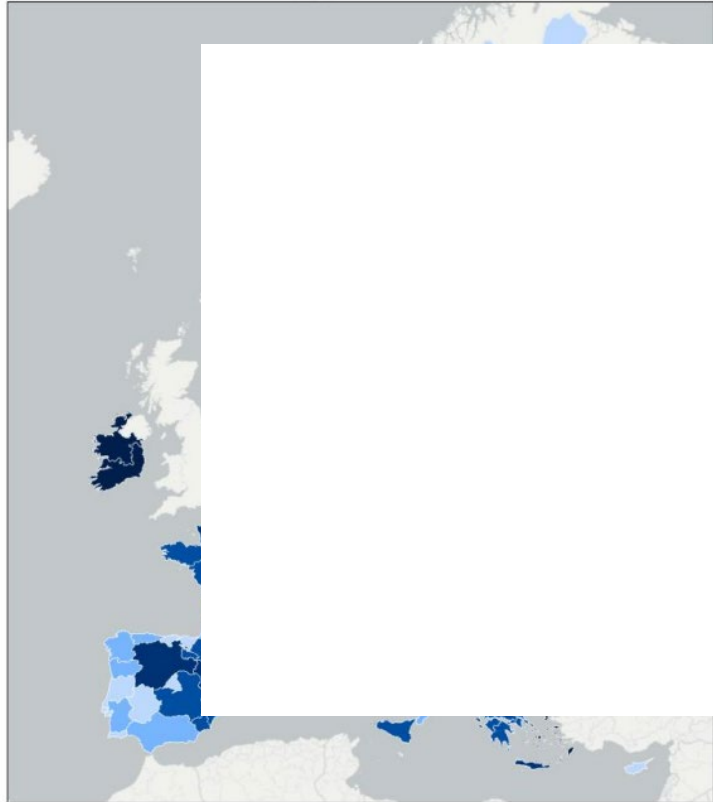
27th Environmental Task Force meeting
15 March 2024

Aleksandra Bujaroska, Environmental expert
Energy Community Secretariat





Renewable energy potential - Wind onshore



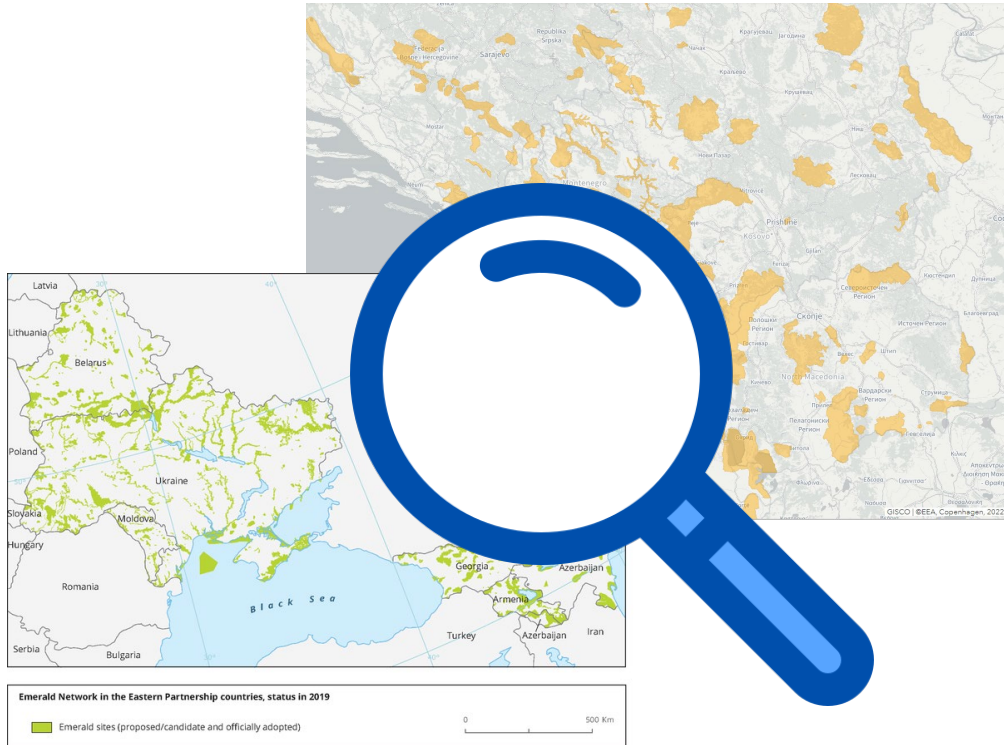
EIGL 2022. Basemap source: ESTAT/OSM contributors. Information on the terms of use of the data layers: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy-industry-geography-lab>

Renewable energy potential - Solar



EIGL 2022. Basemap source: ESTAT/OSM contributors. Information on the terms of use of the data layers: <https://ec.europa.eu/energy-industry-geography-lab>





- Policy guidelines on planning and permit-granting procedures for energy projects in the Contracting Parties

Permit granting procedures



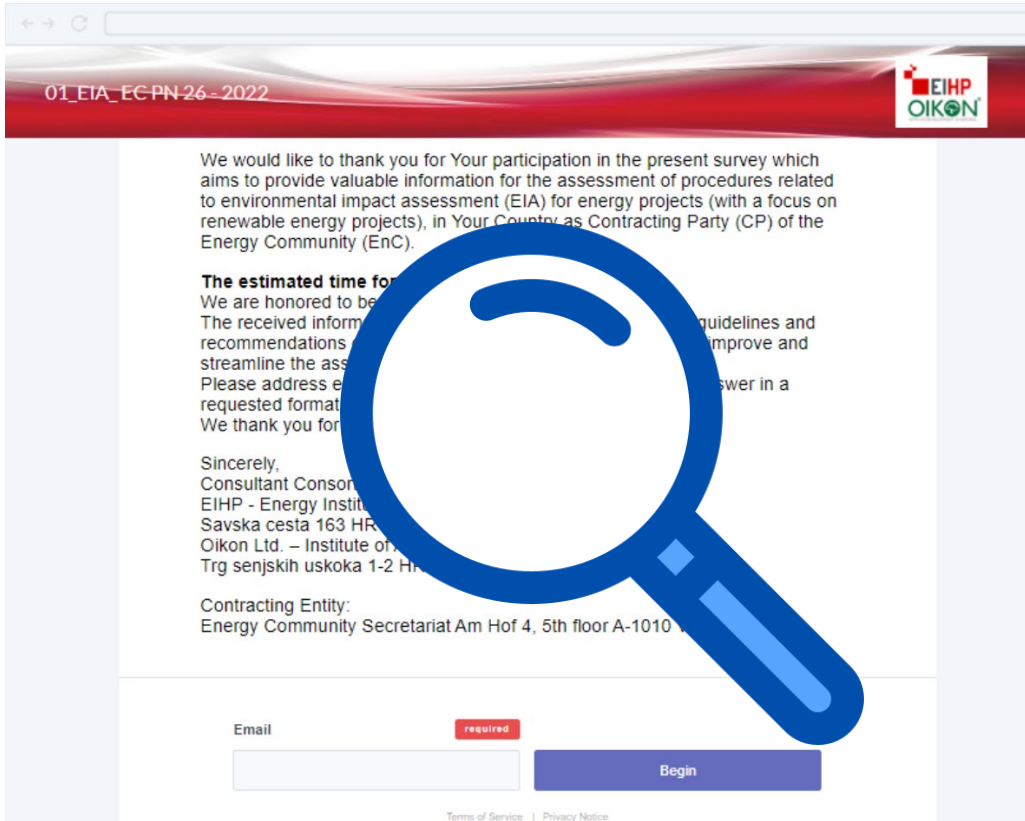
Spatial planning



Grid connections



<https://srvy.onl/eia>



01_EIA_EC-PN-26-2022

EIHP
OIKON

We would like to thank you for Your participation in the present survey which aims to provide valuable information for the assessment of procedures related to environmental impact assessment (EIA) for energy projects (with a focus on renewable energy projects), in Your Country as Contracting Party (CP) of the Energy Community (EnC).

The estimated time for

We are honored to be... guidelines and
The received inform... improve and
recommendations... streamline the ass
Please address e... answer in a
requested format...
We thank you for

Sincerely,
Consultant Consor
EIHP - Energy Instit
Savska cesta 163 HR
Oikon Ltd. - Institute of
Trg senjskih uskoka 1-2 HR

Contracting Entity:
Energy Community Secretariat Am Hof 4, 5th floor A-1010

Email required

Begin

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- Online questionnaires
- Desk top analysis
- Meeting with CSOs

EIA procedures

Information on all requirements and procedural steps, including appeal procedures

Electronic communication in the EIA procedure is not sufficiently used.

Several authorities and public bodies involved in the EIA procedure. It is not always clear whether the participation of certain authorities is mandatory and whether their opinion is binding.

“Administrative silence” is usually not applied. The response of the other authorities or public bodies is awaited regardless of the prescribed time.

Preparation of the EIA report (collecting data and carrying out the assessment)

Evaluation of the EIA report

Review of the application

Additional information on the basis of the additional requests

Public consultation and participation - compiling, reviewing and responding to public comments received

Delays of up to 3 months are common. The average time taken to compile all the required documentation is 4-6 months. An average EIA review process lasts 4-6 months.

**Main factors
leading to delays in
obtaining an EIA-
related decision**

Lack of available and up-to-date
baseline environmental data

Quality of the environmental
impact assessment report

Lack of human resources in the
competent authorities

One-stop-shop
streamline of
assessments

Resources for
staff training and
education

Increase use of
electronic
submission and
processing

Early and effective
participation of
the public
concerned

Data exchange
between
authorities and
public bodies

Establishment of a
central, independent
information platform
on regulations,
environmental data,
procedures,
guidelines,
participation

Permit - granting processes for renewable energy projects



Depending on the power level of the energy project the permit is granted at national or local level



For energy projects listed in Annex I or II EIA Directive the environmental approval necessary to obtain construction permit granting



Permitting and licensing typically involve several procedures across multiple institutions and tend to be complex and time-consuming



Electronic communication not sufficiently used. The mandatory documentation requested in printed form



Information on procedures is not always easily available



Time consuming procedures



Lack of administrative personnel particularly at local level



Public not involved in construction permit granting process



Spatial planning and SEA - focus on renewable energy projects



Lack of preparation of spatial planning studies for the purpose of zoning renewable energy projects



Legislative obstacles



Adoption of National spatial plan not completed



Electronic communication not sufficiently used.



Certification of experts/companies for spatial plans and SEA report drafting is not obligatory



Extension of legal deadlines due to the low quality of the draft plans and negative public opinion



Negative public opinion and authorities don't have experience with SEA for spatial planning documents



Most CP countries have designated an authority to provide guidance to the parties involved in the SEA procedure



Grid connection – focus on renewable energy projects



Legislative obstacles



Most of the connection studies are developed by TSOs and DSOs



Connection request denials mostly correlated to technical limitations in the grid



Relatively long period from application to operation, ranging from 360 days up to 3 years for TSO and 180-365 days for DSO



No public consultation

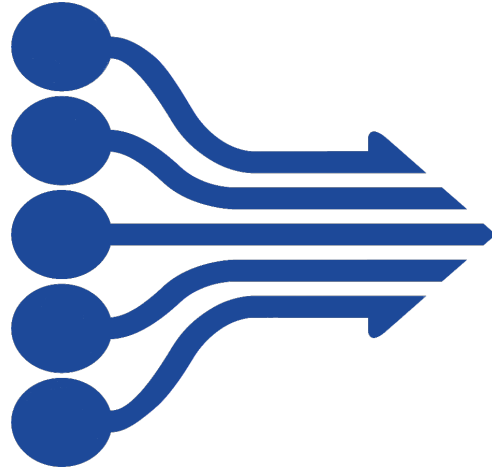


TSO connection study development takes from 90 days up to 180 days. Longer timespan directly correlated to lack of staff at TSOs

DSO connection study development takes around 30 days



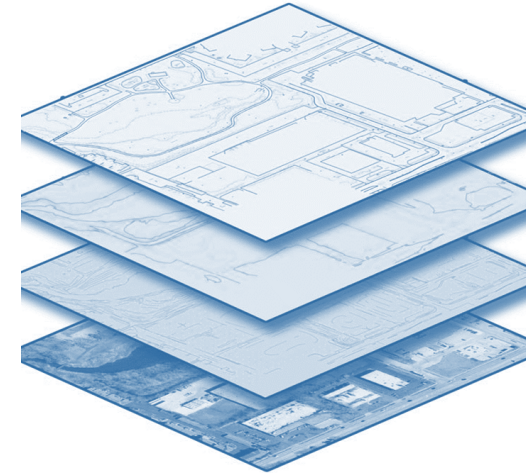
POLICY GUIDELINES



**Streamline
procedures**

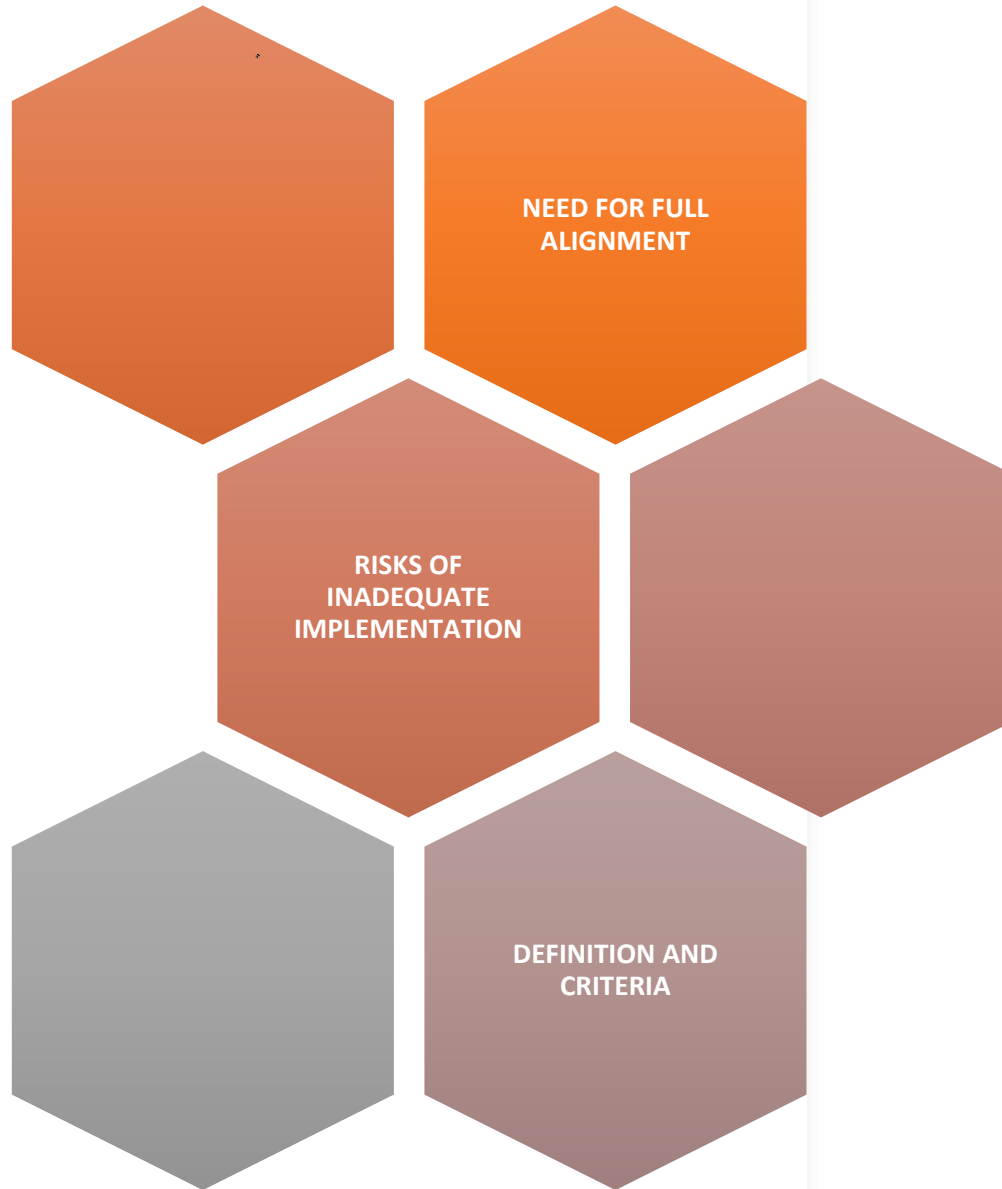


**One stop-shop
set up**

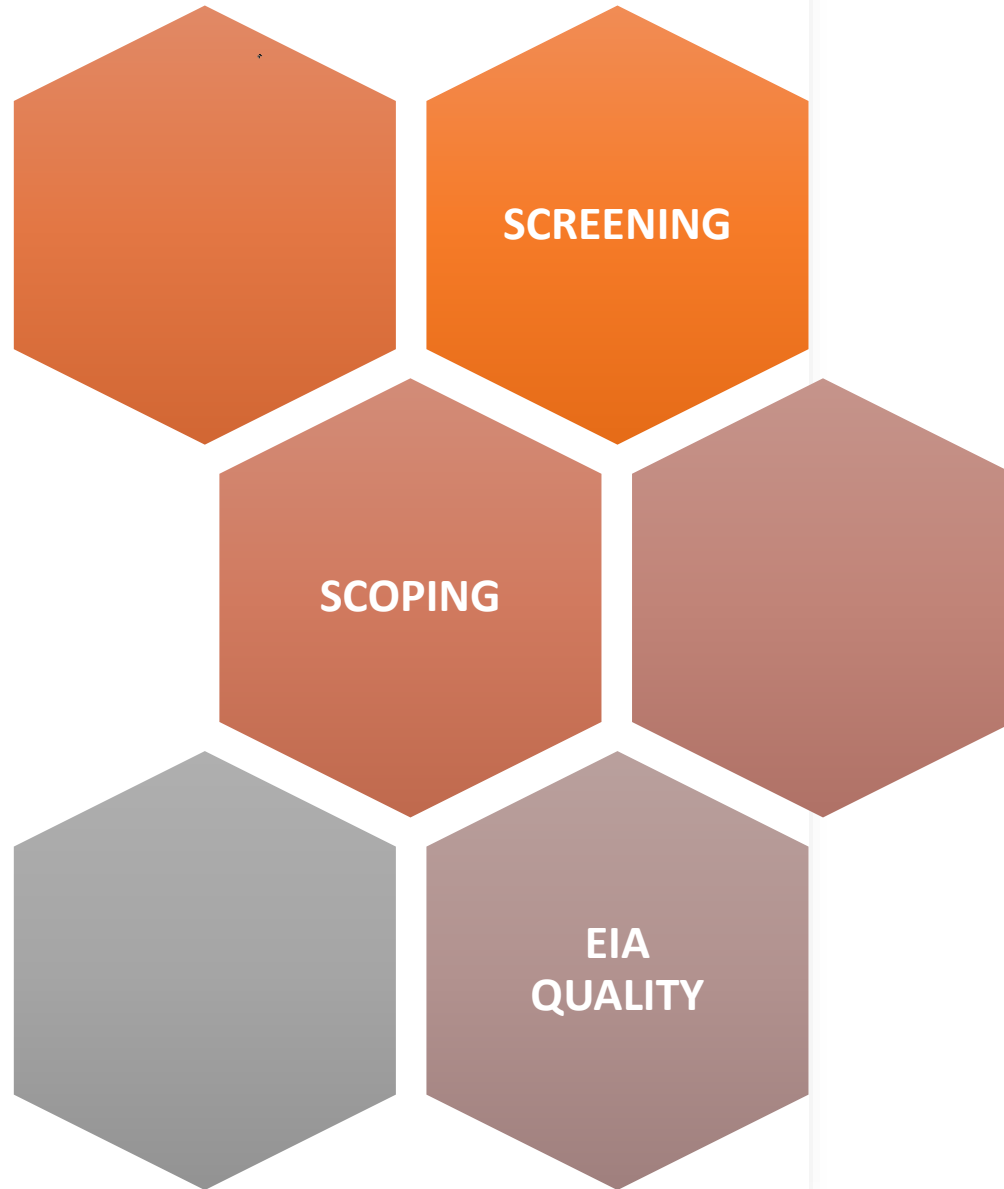


**Acceleration
areas**

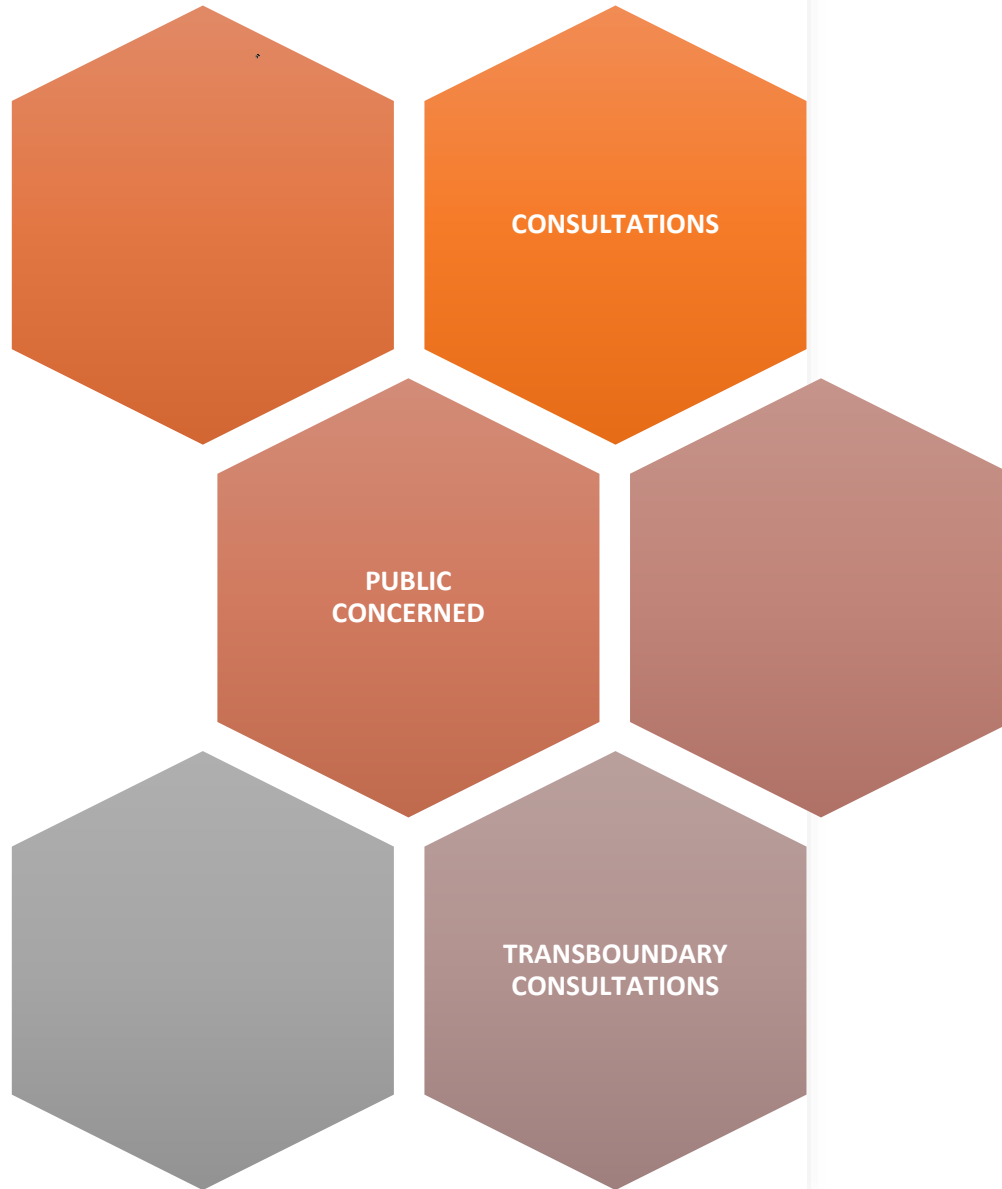




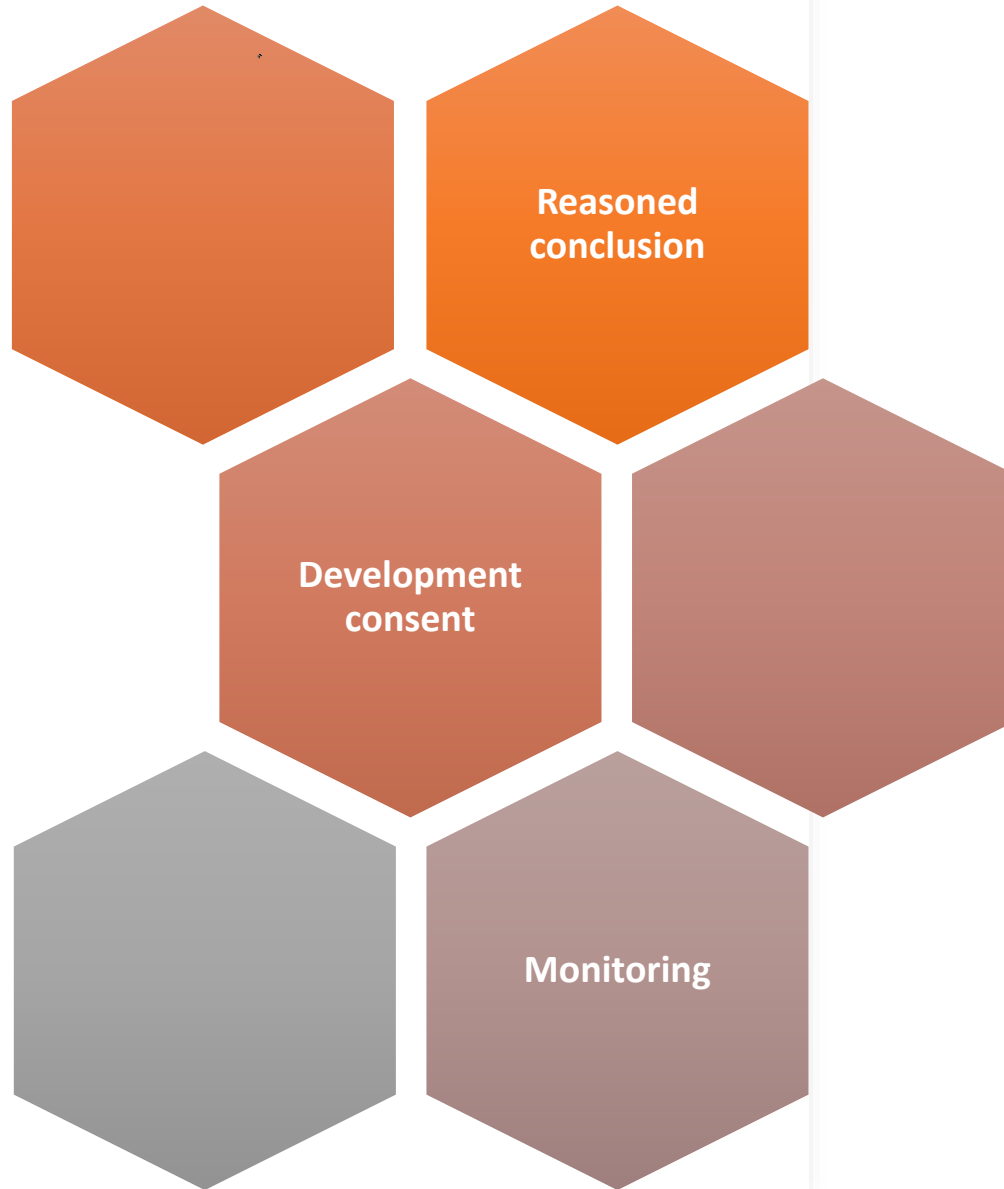
- Expand the definition within national legislation to encompass broader project scopes.
- Integration of robust screening criteria
- Thresholds for RES projects in Annex II consider project characteristics and potential impacts
- Prevent circumvention of EIA objective (Project Splitting)



- **Shorter time limits** (45-day duration for the screening procedure).
- **Transition to Electronic Communication:** Enable electronic systems for consultation and data access.
- **Specialized Screening Templates** (spatial biodiversity data overlay and checklists for efficient screening).
- **Dedicated Experts:** CPs should assign renewable technology experts in EIA departments.
- **Mandating Scoping Process and consultation with authorities.**
- **Access to Relevant Data:** Authorities must ensure easy access to data and provide guidance to developers.
- **EIA experts:** Implement training for certified experts to maintain updated knowledge.



- **Unified Electronic System:** Facilitate electronic exchange of documentation and requests.
- **Diverse Communication Channels:** Employ various channels for disseminating EIA information to the public.
- **Early Planning:** Outline transboundary consultations early in the process.
- **Utilizing Focal Points:** Utilize national focal points for transboundary impact assessments.



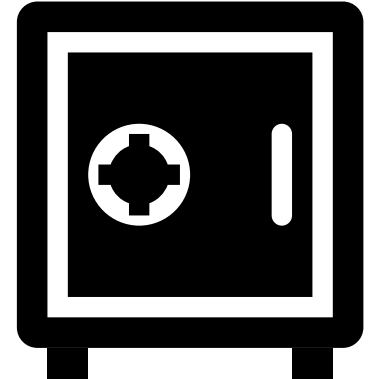
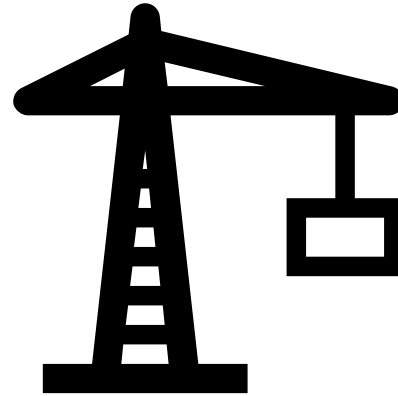
- **Clear roles and responsibilities**, fostering communication with other expert sectors.
- **Transparent procedures** for engaging external experts.
- **Validity** period of the reasoned conclusion with robust additional criteria to ensure its up-to-date relevance
- Explicit referencing and inclusion of all **environmental conditions**.
- Incorporate **mediation**

Multiple Stages in Construction Permit Process

Streamlining Permit
Procedures for RES Projects

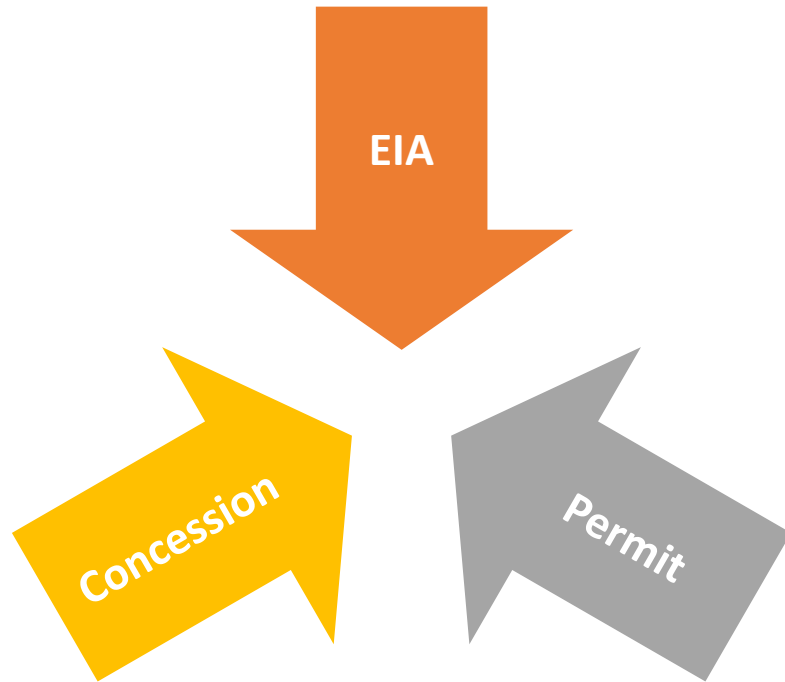
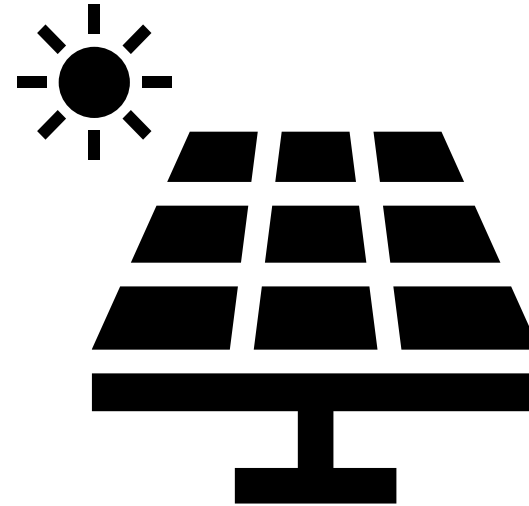
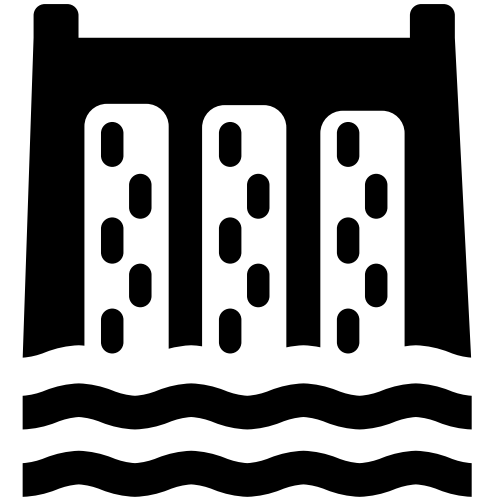
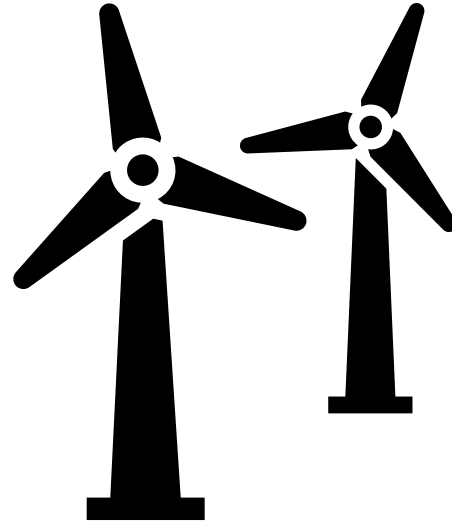
Application of "Administrative
Silence" Principle

Guidelines for "Overriding
Public Interest" Principle



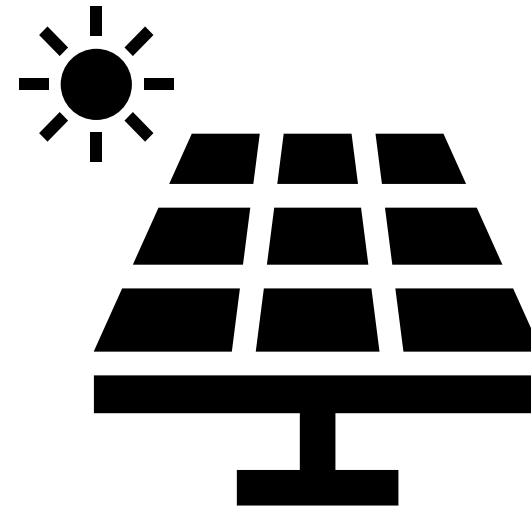
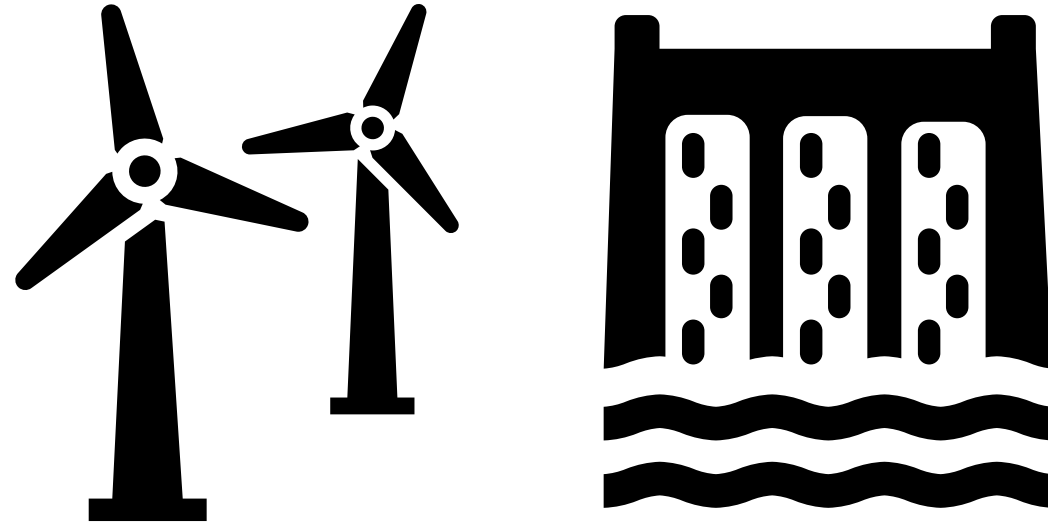
PERMIT-GRANTING

What comes first?



PERMIT-GRANTING

One-stop-shop



Autonomously grants permissions



Coordinating permissions

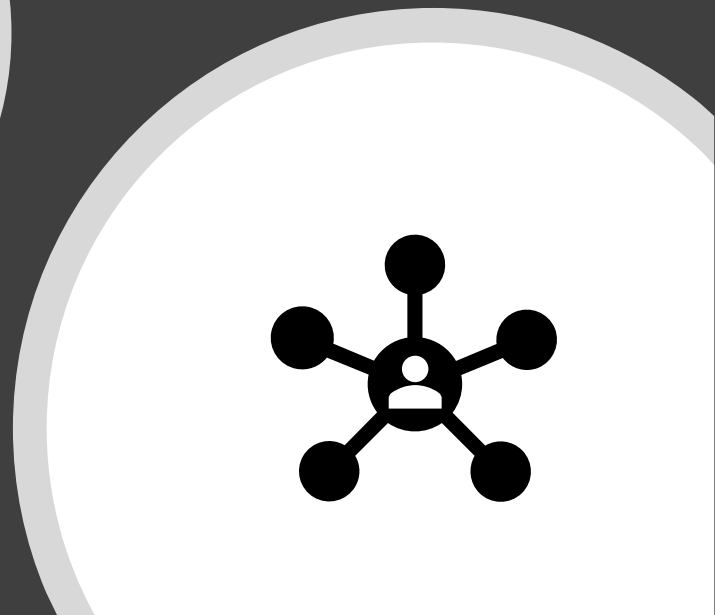


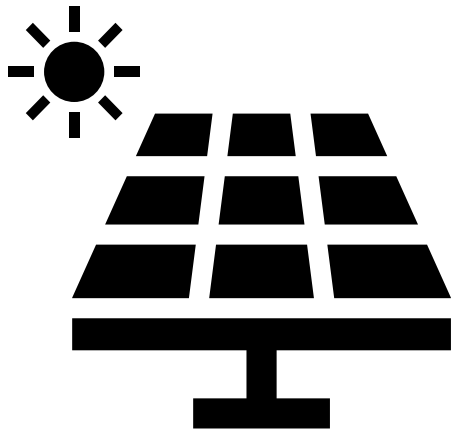
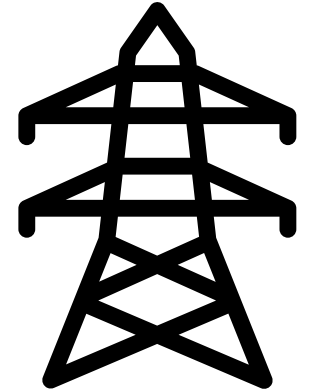
Scale—local, regional, and national



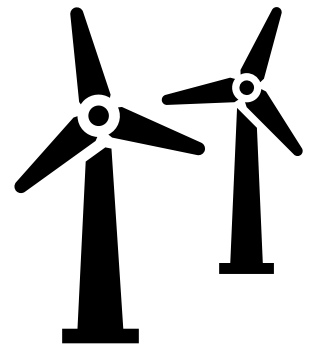
Digitalisation

SPATIAL PLANNING SEA





GRID CONNECTION





THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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