



EU ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Workshop for judges, prosecutors, and court
staff

Zagreb, 23-25 November 2026



EXCELLENCE IN
EUROPEAN LAW⁷

Speakers

Alessandro Andronio, Judge, Court of Cassation, Rome

Anne Brosnan, Secretary General of the European Network of Prosecutors for the Environment (ENPE); Deputy Director (Chief Prosecutor), Legal and Audit Services, Environment Agency, Bristol

Slavitza Dobрева, Legal Officer, DG Environment, European Commission, Brussels

Klaus Lernhart, Judicial Training Advisor, ERA, Trier; former Presiding Judge, Higher Administrative Court, Mannheim

Christina Olsen Lundh, Judge at Division 2 of the Land and Environment Court, Vänersborg

Vojtech Vomacka, Legal Adviser (Supreme Administrative Court of the Czech Republic) and Assistant Professor (Masaryk University), Brno

Key topics

- Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive
- Overview of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive
- Assessment procedures
- Scope of judicial control under the SEA and EIA procedure
- Access to justice in the EIA and SEA Directives
- EIA/SEA Directives in the context of substantive EU environmental law
- CJEU case law
- Preliminary reference procedure
- Various case studies

Language
English

Event number
426DV146

Organiser
ERA (Dr Luisa Cortat) on behalf of
the European Commission



EU ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Monday, 23 November 2026

09:00 Arrival and registration of participants

09:15 **Opening of the seminar**
Dr Luisa Cortat, ERA

I. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN EU ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

09:30 **Overview of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive**

- Activities subject to EIA
- Concept of "project"
- Multi-stage development consent procedures
- Screening procedure, case-by-case examination, criteria and justification
- CJEU case law (splitting projects, dual-purpose projects, cumulative impacts)

Slaviza Dobрева

10:30 Quiz and Discussion

11:00 Coffee break

11:30 **Procedure of assessment**

- Scoping
- Assessment of alternatives
- Public consultation and publication of decisions
- Development consent decision/the reasoned conclusion
- Monitoring
- Environmental Authority/Competent Authority and opinions of public authorities
- CJEU case law

Vojtech Vomacka

12:15 Discussion

12:30 **Overview of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive**

- Definition of plan and programme subject to SEA
- Screening procedure and criteria
- EC guidance on integrating climate change and biodiversity into the SEA
- CJEU case law

EC Representative

13:15 Discussion

13:30 Lunch

14:30 **Case study on the implementation of the SEA Directive**
Alessandro Andronio

16:00 Coffee break

II. ENFORCEMENT, JUDICIAL REVIEW, AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE UNDER EIA/SEA

16:30 **Scope of judicial control under the SEA and EIA procedure**

- Quality control
- *Ex post* assessment of an EIA project
- Role and scope of judicial review
- CJEU case law

Alessandro Andronio

17:15 Discussion

17:30 End of first day

19:30 Dinner

Tuesday, 24 November 2026

09:30 **Introduction**

09:35 **Access to justice in the EIA and SEA Directives**

- Access to information, public participation and access to justice
- Procedural steps
- CJEU case law

Vojtech Vomacka

Objective

This 2.5-day workshop is designed to provide a comprehensive exploration of environmental impact assessment requirements in the context of EU environmental legislation and policy. The workshop will focus on the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. Led by experts in the field, sessions will cover procedural intricacies, in-depth analysis of the legal framework and relevant case law. Both the EIA and SEA Directives will be presented as part of a broader EU substantive environmental law by explaining their relationship with other EU instruments. The workshop will also examine the preliminary reference procedure. Through discussion and practical case studies, it will ensure that participants leave with the necessary tools and insights to navigate the complexities of environmental assessment in practice.

Who should attend?

Administrative and other judges and prosecutors from EU Member States interested in environmental law.

Venue

Croatian Judicial Academy
Maksimirska cesta 63
10000 Zagreb

Your contacts



Dr Luisa Cortat
Course Director
European Public Law
E-Mail: LCortat@era.int



Venla Gilles
Event Coordinator
E-Mail: vgilles@era.int

- 10:15 Discussion
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Case study on the implementation of the EIA Directive – focus on access to justice**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion of the results
- Klaus Lernhart and Vojtech Vomacka*
- 12:30 Lunch

I. SYNERGIES BETWEEN EIA/SEA DIRECTIVES AND SUBSTANTIVE EU ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

- 13:30 **Habitats Directive**
- Main objectives and key features, and related crimes
 - Focus on Article 6(3)
 - CJEU case law
- Anne Brosnan*
- 14:15 Discussion
- 14:30 **Water Framework Directive**
- Main objectives, key features, and related crimes
 - Focus on Article 4(7)
 - CJEU case law
- Anne Brosnan*
- 15:15 Discussion
- 15:30 Coffee break
- 16:00 **Industrial Emissions Directive**
- Main objectives and key features
 - Focus on impact assessment
 - CJEU case law
- Alessandro Andronio*
- 16:45 Discussion
- 17:00 End of second day

Wednesday, 25 November 2026

- 09:00 Introduction
- 09:05 **Case study on two wind energy projects and “renewable acceleration area” (RED III) – role-playing exercise**
- Introduction to the case study
 - Working groups
 - Plenary discussion of the results
- Christina Olsen Lundh*
- 10:30 Coffee break
- 11:00 **Preliminary reference procedure for interpretation and validity in the context of EU judicial protection in environmental cases**
- Article 267 TFEU
 - National courts and uniform interpretation of EU environmental law
 - Preliminary reference procedure
- Christina Olsen Lundh*
- 11:45 Discussion
- 12:00 Evaluation of the workshop
- 12:30 End of the workshop

Save the date

EU Environmental Impact Assessment Requirements
Lisbon, 7-9 September 2026

From Energy Reform to Climate Action
Online, 8-9 October 2026



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For programme updates: www.era.int

Programme may be subject to amendment.

Application

EU ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

Zagreb, 23-25 November 2026, Event Number: 426DV146



Conditions of participation

Selection Criteria

1. Participation is open only to judges, court staff and prosecutors from European Union Member States.
2. The number of places available is limited. Participation will be subject to a selection procedure.
Selection will depend on:
 - I. The suitability of the seminars for the candidate's professional life;
 - II. A geographical balance among participants will be sought;
 - III. If the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, only one person per institution may be accepted.
3. Online applications can be submitted until 01 October 2026.
4. Each applicant for this workshop will receive a response shortly after this deadline. We advise you not to book any travel or hotel arrangements before receiving our confirmation.

Registration fee

5. There is no registration fee.

Travel expenses

6. Travel expenses will be reimbursed up to a maximum of €200 for domestic travel and €380 for international travel upon presentation of original travel receipts (airline ticket, boarding pass, train ticket, taxi fares can only be reimbursed in exceptional cases and must be justified in writing, etc.). Participants are advised to use the most economical means of transport available.

Accommodation

7. A maximum of 3 nights' hotel accommodation will be covered directly by ERA, only for the hotel booked by ERA.

Other services

8. Lunches, drinks consumed during the event and workshop documents will be paid for by **ERA**.

Participation

9. Participation in the entire workshop is required and attendance will be monitored.
10. A list of all participants' working addresses will be made available to all participants, unless ERA receives a written objection from the participant at least one week before the start of the event.
11. The participant's address and other relevant information will be stored in the ERA database for the purpose of providing information about future events, publications and/or other ERA developments in the participant's area of interest, unless the participant indicates that they do not wish the ERA to do so.
12. A certificate of attendance will be issued electronically after the workshop.
13. For further information, please visit the project website:
<https://environmental-law.era.int/>

Online application:

www.era.int/en/event-number/426DV146



For more information

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