

The KEY STAGES OF EIA Process	NOTES
Project Preparation	The developer prepares the proposals for the project.
Notification to Competent Authority	The developer must notify the CA in advance of the application for development consent.
Screening	The CA makes a decision on whether EIA is required. This decision may happen when the CA receives notification of the intention to make a development for a Screening Opinion.
Scoping	The EIA Regulation provides that developer has to request a Scoping Opinion from the CA. Other environmental authorities' opinions on the required scope of EIA information is taken into consideration as well. The Scoping Opinion identifies the matters to be covered in the environmental information. It is a mandatory process.
Environmental Studies	The developer carries out studies to collect and prepare the environmental information (EIS).
Submission of Environmental Information to Competent Authority	The developer submits the environmental information to the CA in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
Review of Adequacy of the Environmental Information	Formal requirement for the review process is carried by the EIA Committee, which includes the governmental organisations responsible for implementing environmental legislation, universities and NGOs. The developer may be required to provide further information if the submitted information is deemed to be inadequate.
Consultation with Statutory Environmental Authorities, Other Interested Parties and the Public	The environmental information is available to the environmental authorities, other interested organisations and the general public for review. They have an opportunity to comment on the project and its environmental effects before a decision is made on development consent.
Consideration of the Environmental Information by the Competent Authority before making Development Consent Decision	The environmental information and the results of consultations are considered by the CA in reaching its decision on the application for development consent.
Announcement of Decision	The decision is made available to the public and it is mandatory to explain the description of the measures that will be required to mitigate adverse environmental effects.
Post-Decision Monitoring if Project is Granted Consent	CA executes post-decision monitoring to ensure that those undertakings which are committed to by the developer are performed. CA may cooperate with other environmental authorities when necessary.
<p>The highlighted steps must be followed in all Member States under Directives 85/337/EC and 97/11/EC. Scoping is not mandatory under the Directive but Member States must establish a voluntary procedure by which developers can request a Scoping Opinion from the CA if they wish. The steps which are not highlighted form part of good practice in EIA and have been formalised in some Member States but not in all. Consultations with environmental authorities and other interested parties may be required during some of these additional steps in some Member States.</p> <p>CA = Competent Authority; MS = Member State.</p>	

EU Legislative Requirements	2002 Regn	2003 Regn
EIAs are mandatory for all those projects listed in Annex I of the Directive.	YES	YES
For those projects listed in Annex II, the Annex III selection criteria must be used to determine if an EIA is required.	YES	YES
Member States may decide which Annex II projects are to be subject to EIA either on a case-by-case basis and/or by setting thresholds or criteria.	YES	YES
The competent authority must make available to the public the decision on whether an Annex II project shall be subject to an EIA or not.	YES	YES
The developer must provide relevant Annex IV information to the competent authority which must include information on alternatives they have considered and the main reasons for their choice.	YES	YES
A public consultation process must be established and the results of any consultation must be taken into account by the competent authority in deciding whether to grant development consent.	YES	YES
There is a requirement to consult with other Member States if the proposed project may have trans-boundary impacts.	NO	NO
The competent authority must make available to the public: applications for development consent and other information within a reasonable time in order to give them an opportunity to express an opinion before development consent is granted; the content of their decision and any conditions attached; the main reasons and considerations on which the decision was based; a description, where necessary, of the main measures to limit the environmental impacts of the development.	YES	YES
The proposed directive amending the EIA Directive is intended to implement the provisions of the Aarhus Convention which has been ratified by the Community.	PARTIAL	PARTIAL
It strengthens the rights of public involvement in the decision-making process. It also extends public participation procedures into a series of environmental directives under which plans or programs must be drawn up.	PARTIAL	PARTIAL