

15 Transboundary environmental impact

The Federal Requirements Plan includes both projects within Germany's borders and projects that are close to or cross its borders. The possibility of projects close to or crossing borders having a significant environmental impact cannot be ruled out from the start.

Sections 54 to 63 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Act (UVPG) require countries to be informed of any projects, plans and programmes that could have a significant environmental impact on their territory and asked whether they wish to participate in the procedure. The relevant provisions of the UVPG primarily implement Articles 9 and 10 of the Act ratifying the Protocol of 21 May 2003 on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Act ratifying the SEA Protocol) and the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention).

The Bundesnetzagentur therefore informed neighbouring countries about the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) as part of the process of establishing requirements, as in previous years. At an early stage Poland, the Czech Republic, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland and Austria requested further information on the procedure but did not participate. Belgium also provided specific comments. The majority of the reporting states continued to ask to be informed early on about the further development of the NDP and, in particular, about federal sectoral planning and the related planning approval procedures and to be notified in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Protocol and Article 7 of the SEA Directive.

The Federal Requirements Plan (annex to the Federal Requirements Plan Act – BBPlG) – for which this SEA is produced – contains projects that have been confirmed as necessary to meet energy supply requirements. Specific details concerning the construction or expansion (for example location and land use) of the grid facilities affected by the Federal Requirements Plan are decided on at later planning stages in the procedure. At the Federal Requirements Plan level, it is not possible to foresee which technology or which route a project will actually use.

Although determinations (pairs of points between which there is a need for grid expansion) are made in the Federal Requirements Plan, the specific environmental impact usually only becomes evident later in the planning process, when the project is more specific (route corridors, route, location of substations or converter stations). The environmental report thus only covers potential effects on Natura 2000 areas with a Natura 2000 assessment appropriate to the planning stage in accordance with section 36 sentence 1 para 2 and section 34(1) et seq of the Federal Nature Conservation Act (BNatSchG) (see section **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.**). Focusing on the aim of the plan and the planning level, the Bundesnetzagentur initially only looks at whether and how likely it is that Natura 2000 areas located within the sub-areas under assessment could be affected. Whether there could actually be a significant impact on one or more Natura 2000 areas is only ascertained at the next planning levels, owing to the scale used and the fact that the specific area affected is not yet known. This is when the specific environmental impact for the corridors/routes that are developed by the responsible transmission system operators (TSOs) using the pairs of points from the Federal Requirements Plan is examined.

Later on in the procedure, the projects in the Federal Requirements Plan are assessed as to whether they could have a significant impact on the environment in another country. If a significant transboundary

environmental impact is to be expected, the country that could be affected must be informed about the planning/consent procedure. The country can also request to be informed, and must then be informed, irrespective of whether or not a significant environmental impact is expected.

If the country expresses a desire to participate in the procedure, the Bundesnetzagentur must carry out a transboundary procedure with the participation of the foreign authorities and the public. For projects that come under the responsibility of the federal states, the responsible federal states will carry out the transboundary participation procedure.

The tables below show the BBPlG projects classed as transboundary as well as those included in the confirmation of the Network Development Plan 2025-2037/2045, in other words those that have one construction point of the assessment area on a national border and those measures and projects that are close to borders. Projects that are close to borders mean projects with an assessment area that touches the national border.

Table 1: Transboundary projects

No	Project	Project	Stage of procedure
M96	P74	Vöhringen – point German border (Austria)	Not yet in BBPIG
M533	P329	Niederlangen – Great Britain	Not yet in BBPIG
M903	P601	Niederstedem – German border (Luxembourg)	Not yet in BBPIG
M901a	P640	Bornholm Energy Island (BEI): HVDC line from Bornholm to Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (Denmark)	Not yet in BBPIG
M642	P642	Baltic-German PowerLink (Latvia/Lithuania)	Not yet in BBPIG
M862	P678	Jettingen – Mettlen (Switzerland)	Not yet in BBPIG
M862b	P678	Jettingen – Mettlen (Switzerland) (1 GW extension)	Not yet in BBPIG
M700a	P700	Hybrid interconnector Germany – United Kingdom (HansaLink)	Not yet in BBPIG
M1221	P718	Search area Zeilarn – Greece (Austria)	Not yet in BBPIG
M254	NOR-5-2	North Sea Area 5 – Border Corridor III – Kusenhorst (Netherlands)	Not yet in BBPIG
M261	NOR-5-3	North Sea Area 5 – Border Corridor III or IV – Sechtem	Not yet in BBPIG
M256	NOR-6-4	North Sea Area 6 – Border Corridor II – Kusenhorst	Not yet in BBPIG
M262	NOR-12-3	North Sea Area 12 – Border Corridor V – search area Pöschendorf	Not yet in BBPIG
M264	NOR-12-4	North Sea Area 12 – Border Corridor IV or V – search area Pöschendorf	Not yet in BBPIG
M250	NOR-14-1	North Sea Area 14 – Border Corridor III – Großenmeer	Not yet in BBPIG
M246	NOR-14-2	North Sea Area 14 – Border Corridor III – Rommerskirchen	Not yet in BBPIG

M266	NOR-16-1	North Sea Area 16 – Border Corridor IV or V – Hardebek	Not yet in BBPlG
M265	NOR-16-2	North Sea Area N-16. 2 – Border Corridor V – search area group of municipalities Büchen/Breitenfelde/Schwarzenbek-Land	Not yet in BBPlG
M260	NOR-16-3	North Sea Area 16 – Border Corridor III – Rommerskirchen	Not yet in BBPlG

Table 2: Projects close to borders

No	Project	Project	Stage of procedure	Neighbouring country/countries likely to be affected
Projects not yet in the BBPIG:				
DC36	DC36	Search area Esens – Oberzier (Windader West)	Not yet in BBPIG	Netherlands
DC42	DC42	Sahms/north – Jettingen	Not yet in BBPIG	France, Switzerland
M822	P474	Search area Burghausen – search area Simbach	Not yet in BBPIG	Austria
M835	P485	Search area Marktleuthen – search area Hof – search area Herlasgrün	Not yet in BBPIG	Czechia
M1005	P556	Marienberg – search area Traunreut – Pirach	Not yet in BBPIG	Austria
M1200	P683	Eichstetten – search area southwest rural district Waldshut – Gurtweil – Kühmoos	Not yet in BBPIG	France, Switzerland
M1180	P708	Gronau – Kusenhorst	Not yet in BBPIG	Netherlands
M1111c	P711	Dahlem – Niederstedem	Not yet in BBPIG	Belgium, Luxembourg

