

# Introductory course to the international legal framework on Environmental Impact Assessment

## *Course Syllabus*



**InforMEA**  
UNITED NATIONS INFORMATION PORTAL ON  
MULTILATERAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENTS

## Learning objectives

Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) provides a tool that assists in the anticipation and minimization of development's negative effects. Undertaken in the early stages of project planning and design, EIA helps shape development in a manner that best suits the local environment and is most responsive to human needs.

This course introduces you to the Espoo Convention, which seeks to establish Environmental Impact Assessment-based mechanisms to effectively monitor and control trans-boundary pollution.

At the end of this course, you will be able to:

1. Describe the need and concept of environmental impact assessments
2. Identify the core components and mechanisms established by the Espoo Convention and its Protocol

## Content and duration

The e-learning course is comprised of 2 lessons, which provide links to the relevant treaty text paragraphs and term concepts of the InforMEA Glossary section. The lessons are organised in books, which can be downloaded in pdf from the left-hand navigation menu.

The core content of these lessons is complemented with additional materials, such as videos, publication and/or external websites

It will take you 1 hour approximately to complete the course, excluding additional materials. You can manage your time as you wish; take a few units and retake the course whenever it is more convenient for you.

## Assessment and certificate

Take the quiz at the end of the course to assess your learning progress.

You are required to answer at least 80% of the assessment questions correctly in order to obtain a course certificate.

Before obtaining the certificate you also need to submit the course survey (your feedback). This survey helps us to improve the course, develop new course and assess if you are achieving your learning objectives.

Unit	Content	Learning objectives
<b>Unit 1 - Introduction</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Development and environmental degradation</li> <li>2. EIA Functions</li> <li>3. International and National Laws</li> <li>4. EIA steps</li> <li>5. Social Impact Analysis</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Explain the need for environmental impact assessments</li> <li>2. Define what an environmental impact assessment is</li> </ol>
<b>Unit 2 - Substantive provisions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective and scope</li> <li>• Obligation to notify and consult</li> <li>• Public participation</li> <li>• Content of EIA documentation</li> <li>• Implementation and Compliance</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective</li> <li>• Key provisions</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Describe key provisions of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and its protocol</li> </ol>



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"This course has been developed by UNEP and it is based on UNEP's  
Training Manual on International Environmental Law.

In case of any discrepancy with the content of the Convention, its Protocol  
and UNECE guiding materials, the original text of the documents shall  
prevail and can be found [here](#)"

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