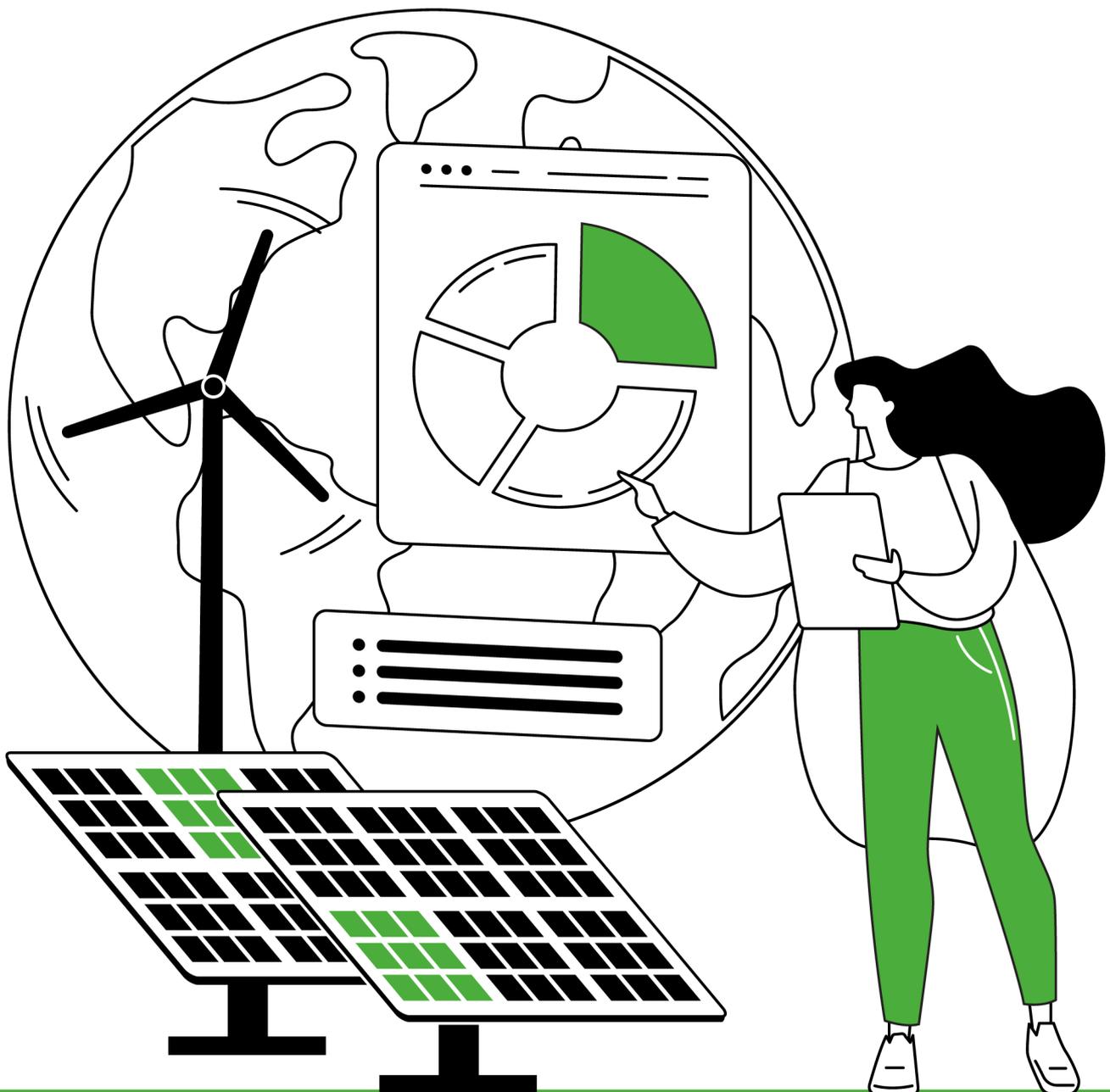


**SUMMARY**

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
ASSESSMENT IN EUROPE AND CANADA**

APPROACHES AND PECULIARITIES



## **The research “Environmental impact assessment in Europe and Canada: approaches and peculiarities”/author: Yurii Zadorozhnii**

The presented study provides information about the approaches (models) to environmental impact assessment (stages of the procedure, permit documents, deadlines, authorized bodies, ways of involving the public, participation in the procedure of different entities) in England, Germany, Poland, Sweden, and Canada. The research is recommended for the public, business and decision-making bodies involved into the EIA procedure to increase awareness of the environmental impact assessment process.

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## SUMMARY

The environmental impact assessment is one of the tools used to prevent a potential negative impact associated with the implementation of planned activities. The purpose of the environmental impact assessment is to identify, prevent and minimize the adverse impact on the environment, as well as to ensure rational nature use. It is also important to take into account opinions and interests of the public, business and state.

▶ **The purpose of the presented study** is to introduce a new vision of possible and functional models of EIA, in particular, temporary (transitional) models for the reconstruction period, to the Ukrainian public, expert and official environments.

▶ **The task of the analytical document** is to consider and analyze approaches (models) to the environmental impact assessment (stages of the procedure, permit documents, deadlines, authorized bodies, ways of involving the public, participation of different entities in the procedure) based on the examples of other states and highlighting their features taking into account the experience gained for future reforms of the national approach to environmental impact assessment in Ukraine.

The document contains a description of five environmental impact assessment models based on the examples of the following countries: England, Germany, Poland, Sweden and Canada. In addition, the current environmental impact assessment procedure in Ukraine and its shortcomings are reviewed.

The consideration of the experience related to the use of the environmental impact assessment in European countries and Canada can improve the national approach to the EIA procedure as regards its convenience for the public, business and the state, as well as help the post-war reconstruction of the country.

### ***PECULIARITIES REGARDING APPROACHES TO EIA:***

#### ■ **England**

- EIA is integrated into the permit system, and a separate EIA permit is not required.
- delegation of authority to communities. Most EIA projects are carried out at the level of local councils, and EIA is conducted at the state level only when it comes to national projects.
- «deep» screening system is used to conduct a preliminary analysis of projects and determine the level of potential impact. This can simplify the EIA procedure via dismissing the activities that will not have a significant effect or, vice versa, ensure the passage of EIA for activities that do not exceed the threshold values, but will potentially have a significant negative influence on vulnerable areas.
- the possibility of the body conducting EIA to consult with other bodies.
- the obligation of a developer to provide information to the public that, in view of the position of an authorized body, will not be informed.
- the obligation of a developer to prepare an understandable report on EIA for the population and decision-making bodies.

#### ■ **Germany**

- EIA is a component of the procedure of obtaining permits; therefore, it is integrated into other procedures for receiving permits.
- EIA is presupposed for cumulative projects that can be implemented by various entities.

- division of the screening into two groups of projects that may have a significant negative impact on the environment, which implies an individual approach to each one;
- the body responsible for carrying out the environmental impact assessment depends on the scope of the applicability of a permit document that is expected to be obtained by a business entity;
- in the case of obtaining several permits which provide for the environmental impact assessment, the main one responsible for the EIA procedure is chosen from among the authorities that issue them.

#### ■ Poland

- a flexible approach to delegation of authority in local communities, taking into account the specifics of projects that will have or may have a significant impact on the environment;
- constant communication and connection with other competent authorities;
- a defined list of bodies consultations must be held with;
- the deadlines for submission of the EIA report in the case of receiving a resolution on the scope of the EIA report;
- the individual screening for «category-2» projects.

#### ■ Sweden

- conducting a voluntary primary public discussion at the early stages of the environmental impact assessment procedure;
- a two-way dialogue between the project's initiator and interested parties in the course of determining the availability of complete information for the assessment of the impact on the environment;
- the Land and Environment Courts are the supreme bodies responsible for carrying out EIA.

#### ■ Canada

- the possibility of making changes to certain conditions of proceedings in the Decision on EIA;
- engagement of independent expert groups in EIA;
- the duration of the impact assessment procedure can be up to 1226 days (about 3.5 years);
- a mandatory stage of screening to determine the main components of the environment that are affected and the assessment of the magnitude of these impacts.

The analysis of the approaches of the above mentioned countries can be used for further reforms of the national approach to the environmental impact assessment.

### ***Peculiarities regarding approaches to EIA***

Ukraine	England	Germany	Poland	Sweden	Canada
<b>Independence of environmental impact assessment</b>					
A separate procedure, and the decision is a permit document	Integrated into another procedure, and the decision is not a permit document	Integrated into another procedure, and the decision is not a permit document	A separate procedure, and the decision is a permit document	A separate procedure, and the decision is a permit document	A separate procedure, and the decision is a permit document
<b>Duration of the procedure</b>					
Notional minimum duration is 72 days	Notional minimum duration is 142 days	Deadlines are not set and depend on the permit document that is obtained (for example, the procedure for receiving a permit for emissions lasts for up to 7 months)	Notional minimum duration is 60 days	Deadlines are not set	Notional minimum duration is 1440 days
<b>Body responsible for conducting EIA</b>					
Ministry of Environment and regional departments of regional state administrations	Local planning authorities and the Secretary of State	It depends on the permission document that is obtained from the local authorities of the district to the central authorities	The authorized body depends on the category and peculiarities of the project, ranging from bodies at the level of the gmina, city to the level of central authorities	Land and Environmental Court, Delegations of Environmental Assessment of the County Administrative Council	Canadian Impact Assessment Agency and federal land authorities
<b>Individual screening</b>					
Not applied	Applied	Applied, two types	Applied	Applied	Applied
<b>Participation of the public in the EIA procedure</b>					
The participation is possible at two stages: at an early stage, during the definition of the scope of the study, and at the stage of discussion of the EIA Report	The participation is possible at the stage of the EIA Report discussion	The participation is possible at the stage of the EIA Report discussion	The participation is possible at the stage of the EIA Report discussion	The participation is possible at two stages: at an early stage, during the definition of the scope of the study, and at the stage of discussion of the EIA Report	The participation is possible at two stages: at an early stage, during the definition of the scope of the study, and at the stage of discussion of the EIA Report