

Points of Contact for Notification in
Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden

Notification in accordance with Article 10 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) regarding the local detailed plan and its amendment (Hepomäki), Finland

In accordance with Article 10, Paragraph 1 of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA), Finland, as the Party of origin, hereby notifies your state regarding the local detailed plan and its amendment (Hepomäki) in the City of Kuopio, Finland. In addition to the Protocol on SEA, the notification is sent in accordance with Article 7, Paragraph 1 of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive).

Information on the planned land use plan

The preparation of the local detailed plan concerning the Hepomäki industrial area has been initiated. The planning area is located in the southern part of the central urban area of Kuopio. The aim of the local detailed plan and its amendment is to investigate the possibility of creating a circular economy and industrial area. In addition, the purpose is to investigate the possibilities for locating a small modular reactor (SMR) plant for district heating. In parallel in separate procedures, the possibilities for locating a similar facility in the Sorsasalo area is examined. In addition, a separate environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedure is prepared for the SMR project.

The following alternatives are included:

- **VE1:** In this alternative, the main street curves on the southern side of the railway crossing from the northern side of the existing detached houses to run parallel to the railway and leads from there to the intersection of Kaunismäenkatu and Hiltulanlahdenkatu. This alternative will potentially lead to a solution that would change the flow of the Tervapuro rill in a way that would partially move it into a new location along the main street.
- **VE2:** In this alternative, the main street curves on the southern side of the railway crossing from the southern side of the existing detached houses to run parallel to the railway and leads from there to the intersection of Kaunismäenkatu and Hiltulanlahdenkatu. In this alternative, Tervapuro needs to be crossed twice. The crossing could potentially be implemented using a culvert. It is possible that this method of crossing would not require a special permit on endangering the rill's natural state.

The regional plan of the Kuopio region was ratified in 2008. The regional plan of North Savo 2040 came into force in 2025. The northern part of the area is covered by the Hepomäki local master plan, which has been in force since 2019, and the southern part by the Hiltulanlahti local master

plan, which has been in force since 2012. The southeastern corner of the plan area is within the area of the valid local detailed plan which came into force in 2016.

As part of the planning process, the impacts on the built environment, traffic impacts, impacts on nature and the natural environment, impacts on climate, social impacts and impacts on children, cultural impacts, impacts on safety and land use restrictions and economic impacts are examined.

The land use planning procedure in Finland

In terms of land use planning, the SEA Directive has been implemented to the Land Use Act (132/1999) and the Decree (895/1999) in Finland. The Land Use Act and the Decree regulate land use planning procedure, such as the assessment of the impacts of land use planning on the environment.

The planning process for the local detailed plan is currently at the preparation phase. At this phase, the draft plan and its preparatory materials have been prepared. The public display of the draft plan and its preparatory materials take place in Finland from 8 April to 8 May 2026. The responsible land use planning authority in Finland for this land use plan is the City of Kuopio. The preparation phase will be followed by the proposal phase, which is planned for late 2026. The next stage of the process is approval, which is expected in early 2027. The land use plan is expected to come into force late 2027.

Participation in the land use planning procedure

Finland is currently planning its first SMR project. Finland is committed to apply the precautionary principle and to ensure that possible transboundary environmental impacts are considered. Finland has made the consideration to notify Austria, Denmark, Estonia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland and Sweden.

The draft plan and its preparatory materials are available in English and Swedish. The participation and assessment scheme, and a description of land use planning system in Finland are available in Danish, English, Estonian, German, Latvian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish and Swedish. The documents, which have been prepared by the land use planning authority, can be downloaded from the following shared folder: <https://filesender.funet.fi/?s=download&token=79bff4bd-b3d1-4e4d-b9de-a2897aa02115>. The shared folder expires on 26 May 2026. The preparatory material for the plan is also available at the following webpage, which is maintained by the land use planning authority: <https://www.kuopio.fi/en/environment-and-housing/urban-planning/planning-of-a-district-heating-small-modular-reactor/>. The documents in Finnish are available at the above-mentioned webpage.

Referring to Article 10, Paragraph 3 of the Protocol on SEA, please send the response to the e-mail of the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute (kirjaamo@syke.fi) and to the e-mail address of the Point of Contact in Finland (transboundaryEIA.SEA@syke.fi) by **17 June 2026 at the latest** and:

- acknowledge the receipt of the notification,
- indicate whether your state intends to participate in the SEA procedure,
- indicate the preferred document language,
- provide views and comments on the material,
- submit any comments you might receive from the public, authorities and others concerned in your state.

Please indicate our reference number SYKE/2026/606 in your letter.

More information

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Jenni Juslén

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Laura Aitala-Martesuo

This document has been electronically signed. The electronic signatures can be verified from the register office of the Finnish Environment Institute.

Appendices

1276_2025 Local detailed plan description_English.pdf (3.5 MB)
 1276_2025 Local detailed plan description_Swedish.pdf (3.6 MB)
 1276_2025 Land use plan draft VE1_English.pdf (3 MB)
 1276_2025 Land use plan draft VE1_Swedish.pdf (3 MB)
 1276_2025 Land use plan draft VE2_English.pdf (3.1 MB)
 1276_2025 Land use plan draft VE2_Swedish.pdf (3.1 MB)
 1276_2025 Land use planning system in Finland_Danish.pdf (30.5 kB)
 1276_2025 Land use planning system in Finland_English.pdf (26.5 kB)
 1276_2025 Land use planning system in Finland_Estonian.pdf (26 kB)
 1276_2025 Land use planning system in Finland_German.pdf (27.6 kB)
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 1276_2025 Participation and assessment scheme_Norwegian.pdf (751.9 kB)
 1276_2025 Participation and assessment scheme_Polish.pdf (684.1 kB)
 1276_2025 Participation and assessment scheme_Swedish.pdf (614.1 kB)

Send list

as per send list on the following page

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