



# Multi-criteria Evaluation in Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Creation of a Sustainable Agricultural Waste Management Plan for wineries: Case Study: Oplenac Vineyard

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## Abstract

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), as a support to strategic planning, is a starting point in the creation of a sustainable concept of managing waste that is based on the principles of a circular economy. The role of SEA is to guide the planning process towards the goal of securing the best effects in relation to the quality of the living environment and the socio-economic aspects of development. SEA is also an instrument that can be used when making optimal decisions about spatial development, which further contributes to its importance and role in the planning process. The implementation of SEA allows developers to establish the benefits and implications of the proposed spatial changes, taking into account the capacity of the space to sustain the planned development, and to determine the degree of acceptability of the proposed spatial changes. This paper presents a specific method used for impact assessment in SEA for the Agro-Waste Management Plan (AWMP) for Oplenac Vineyard. The specificity of this method is that it combines specific goals, indicators and criteria for assessing the effect of planning solutions formulated in the simulated AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard using a semi-quantitative expert method. The results of the paper indicate the possibility of using GIS tools to increase objectivity in the expert evaluation of planning solutions, particularly in relation to a group of criteria for assessing the spatial dispersion of the impacts. This reduces the subjectivity that is characteristic of all expert methods. The graphical presentation of the results in GIS technology and the use of matrices and graphs to present the results makes them easier to understand and creates a good basis for making optimal decisions on future activities concerning the elimination of waste from wineries and viticulture. The research was carried out within the framework of the NoAW project, which is supported by the European Commission through the Horizon2020 research and innovation program.

**Keywords** Multi-criteria evaluation (MCE) · Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) · Agricultural waste · GIS tools

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## Introduction

In the current social, economic and environmental circumstances in which humanity finds itself today, and in which profit is often seen as the only measure of success and development, ethical and moral issues related to carrying out many human activities are becoming increasingly important. The issue of the rational use of the planet's resources, while satisfying the growing socio-economic needs of the population, therefore stands out as being both important and challenging. Under such circumstances, every kind of environmental protection contains an ethical and moral component that allows us to make choices that have the ultimate goal of humanizing relations towards the resources and natural values of our planet, as written about by numerous authors (Buttel 1996; Callicott 2018; Dzwonkowska 2017; Fahlquist 2009; Keong 2021; Miller 2018; and others).

Today, the concept of environmental protection is involved in almost all areas of development, including agriculture or agricultural waste management planning, based on the principles of a circular economy with the support of SEA, which is the subject of this paper. The aim is to conceptualize environmental protection as an answer to the ethical and moral questions and dilemmas related to development. It is based on the optimization of development (economic) through the minimum use of the planet's non-renewable resources, on one hand, and a sustainable environmental balance through the preservation of basic environmental factors, on the other.

As an example, we can cite the concept of the circular economy, in which all goals and principles are reduced to four words—waste as a resource. Waste that is not thrown away, and therefore does not pollute the environment, is used instead as a resource that brings profit by its reuse in the production of energy, cosmetics, and various products, as well as in food. It promotes competitiveness and innovation, at the same time protecting the environment and enabling economic growth, thus contributing to resolving ethical and moral dilemmas in related fields.

Returning to the subject of this paper, we can say that by applying SEA in the planning process it is possible to see the implications of planned activities and the spatial scale of expected changes in space and in the environment. In this way, it is possible to influence the making of ethical and moral decisions on development, based on the consideration of social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development, in which priority is given to environmental protection.

By applying SEA in the planning process, it is possible to see the implications of the planned activities and the spatial scale of the expected environmental and spatial changes. A large number of authors have discussed the role and importance of SEA in designing policies in various spheres of social activities, as well as its role in decision-making (Nilsson and Dalkmann 2001; Maričić and Josimović 2005; Nilsson et al. 2005; White and Noble 2013; Josimović et al. 2015; Unalan and Cowell 2019; and others). Therefore, it is not surprising that a growing number of international institutions, such as the European Commission, the World Bank, UNDP, UNEP, USAID and others, are introducing a requirement

for SEA to be used, with the idea for development initiatives to be in line with the goals of environmental protection and the principles of sustainable development. This shows the scientific and professional importance of using SEA when making development policies (for more details, see: Dalal-Clayton and Sadler 2005; Chaker et al. 2006; Noble and Nwanekezie 2017).

Compared to other methods which contribute to decision making, such as the traditional “life cycle assessment” (Laurent et al. 2013; Ahlgren et al. 2015; Hanandeh and Gharaibeh 2016; O’Brien et al. 2016; Rugani et al. 2019; Acosta-Alba et al. 2019), SEA contributes to integrating the impacts at the strategic level of planning. For the purpose of making good decisions regarding the sustainability of planning solutions, it is necessary to consider different aspects of the potential impacts.

The application of SEA is possible, and necessary, in various areas of spatial development such as: spatial and urban planning; agriculture; forestry; water management; energy; waste management; etc.; and a significant number of authors have recognized this and written about it (Ananda and Heralth 2009; Balfors et al. 2018; Brown and Therivel 2000; Josimović 2020; Josimović et al. 2021; Nenković-Riznić et al. 2014; Salhofer et al. 2007; Stefanović et al. 2018; and others). The areas of application for SEA are also established in the Directive on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (Directive 2001/42/EC), and then in the legislation of European countries relating to the environment.

However, not much has been written in scientific literature about the application of SEA in agricultural waste management planning, agricultural land use planning, and the application of multi-criteria evaluation and analysis in agricultural decision making, even though some authors highlight its role and significance (Tzilivakis et al. 1999; Biarnès et al. 2009; Jakku and Thorburn 2010; Leite et al. 2015; Kamali et al. 2017; Um et al. 2018; Jeong 2018).

If we look at agricultural waste management research as a pyramid, the base of that pyramid is strategic planning with the support of the SEA process, and the top of the pyramid, which is reached by means of various techniques and procedures that represent the logical continuation of the SEA process, is a particular product or solution that leads to the elimination of waste. In this context, the application of SEA is the starting point for achieving goals in the field of the circular economy, because right from the earliest planning stage, SEA indicates the changes and expected benefits to the environment and the economic sphere from applying the principles of a circular economy. In this way, decision makers (entrepreneurs, investors, etc.) can understand and recognize all the positive aspects of the circular economy, on the basis of which they will make decisions about the future treatment of the waste produced. Here, it is especially important to point out the possibility of making a profit as the dominant driver of entrepreneurial initiatives, from which

another important benefit will also be achieved during the implementation of the initiative—environmental protection.

The subject of this paper is to apply the multi-criteria evaluation method (MCE<sup>1</sup>) in the process of SEA for the simulated AWMP for the Oplenac Vineyard (case study), supported by a Geographic Information System (GIS). GIS has an increasing and notable role in viticulture. It is becoming a basic tool in the analysis of the suitability of terrain for forming vineyards, combining numerous and complex natural conditions (topography, soils, land zoning, and climate) and expert opinion, thus forming new knowledge bases for successful vineyard management models (Jones et al. 2004; Jurisic et al. 2010; Arnaudova and Bileva 2011; Coulon-Leroy et al. 2013; Nowlin and Bunch 2016; Badr et al. 2018). The aims of this study are: the development of methodology that increases objectivity in the process of evaluating planning solutions; simple presentation of the results for the purpose of decision making; and highlighting the importance of understanding agricultural waste as a resource, the elimination of which has multiple positive effects on the environmental quality and socio-economic development factors.

The research was carried out within the NoAW project, which is supported by the European Commission through the Horizon2020 research and innovation program. Bearing in mind the terms of the H2020 Horizon NoAW project, based on a near-zero-waste society and the promotion of a circular economy in agro-waste management, one part of this interdisciplinary study has been dedicated to assessing the territorial impact of an AWMP on the environment in the strategic planning of agro-waste management. At the level of strategic planning, the objective of the territorial impact assessment is directly connected with the decision-making process, which is an important step towards sustainable solutions. Such processes make it possible to direct the planning and management of agro waste in the earliest phase of conceptualizing the development possibilities (in the organizational phase that precedes the act of choosing the processing and re-usage technology or the agro-waste elimination technology).

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<sup>1</sup> Development of the MCE method is linked with the beginning of the 1970s and today it is considered as a well-developed and widely applied scientific method which is still being developed and supported by numerous references (Kangas and Kangas 2005; Ananda and Heralth 2009; Josimović et al. 2015). When first developed, MCE was characterised by the methodological principle of multi-criteria decision-making (MCDM) with little or no participatory mechanisms included (Zionts and Wallenius 1976; Zionts 1979). Development of the method led to the application of the multi-criteria decision aid (MCDA), in which the quality of the decision-making process became central. Studies started to point out the need to include public participation in MCE, thus fostering the emergence of participatory multi-criteria evaluation (PMCE) (Banville et al. 1998; De Marchi et al. 2000; Proctor and Drechsler 2006) and social multi-criteria evaluation (SMCE) (Munda 2008). In this context appropriate deliberation is a prerequisite to assuring a quality outcome. The MCE method is nowadays often advised as a convenient support in the decision-making process because of its capacity to point out multiple alternatives of development in many ways on the basis of assessing criteria related to the environment and socio-economic aspects of sustainable development (Sarkkinen et al. 2019).

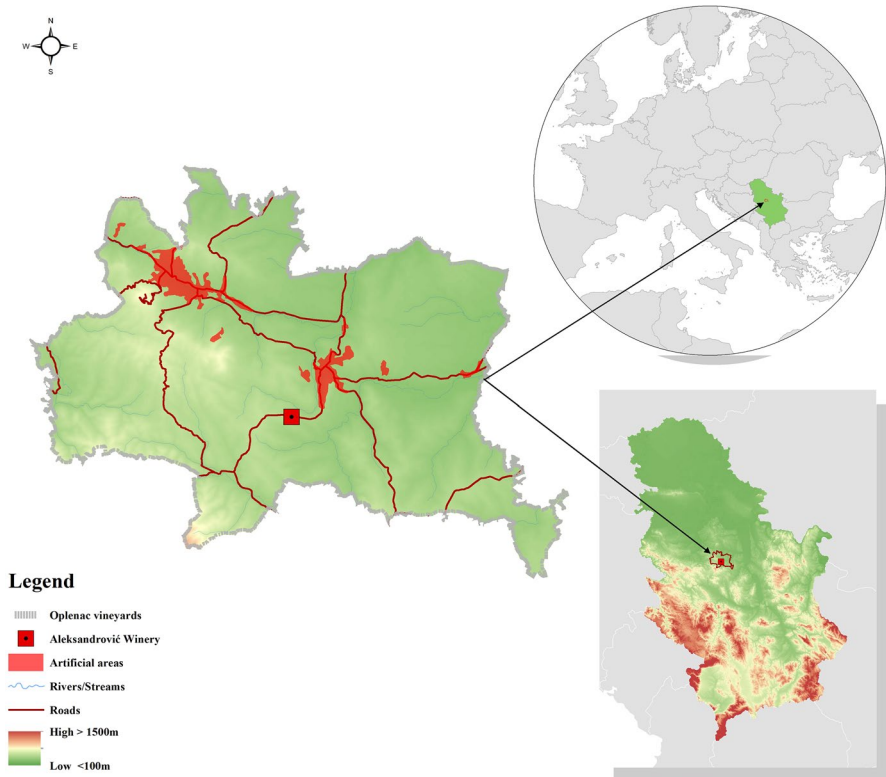


Fig. 1 Location of Oplenac Vineyard and WA

## Case Study Area—Initial Position

Within the framework of the interdisciplinary NoAW project based on the principles of a circular economy, several options for eliminating different types of agricultural waste were analyzed. One of these options was to analyze the possibilities for eliminating waste from wineries and viticulture. The initial phase in the elimination of agricultural waste was to create an AWMP with the support of the SEA process, which is a key instrument for guiding the planning process towards the goals and principles of a circular economy.

The Aleksandrović Winery (AW) from Topola (Serbia) was chosen as the case study; it is also one of the partners in the project. AW belongs to the Šumadija region, which is considered to be a functional wine-growing region. This region has approximately one small and 10 active large wineries in 9 municipalities. It is divided into several wine-growing sub-regions (vineyards), and the Oplenac Vineyard (where AW is located) is an area of special research interest (Fig. 1).

AW was selected as a representative case study since it is a leading winery according to: the area covered by its vineyards (75 ha), its wine production and its

production of waste. The research concept and methodology for the assessment of AW's territorial impacts was applied to the wider territory of Oplenac Vineyard (8 wineries, and 137 ha covered by vineyards). By applying the principle "think regionally, act locally", the data obtained in AW were extrapolated to the region of Oplenac Vineyard (wine-making sub-region) thus creating the postulate for regionalization in waste management (regionalization is almost always economically justified). On the other hand, the role of SEA as an instrument applied at the level of strategic planning (national, regional, sub-regional) is justified in the initial phase of implementing the concept of sustainable waste management. The extrapolated data on the production of waste from wineries and viticulture in Oplenac Vineyard were supplemented by precise data obtained from the employees working at wineries in this sub-region. In this way, more reliable data were obtained.

Another reason for choosing this research area was that existing practice in waste management is not in line with contemporary principles, and in particular it is not in line with the principles of a circular economy, which a number of authors have written about in recent years (Kirchherr and Piscicelli 2019; Peiró et al. 2019; Sassanelli et al. 2019; Suarez-Eiroa et al. 2019), and which the modern theory and practice of waste management are based on. Waste is not treated as a resource, it is disposed of without pre-treatment in inadequate locations, pruning waste is left in large quantities in vineyards, and the environment is put under pressure. The selection of this research area offers various possibilities and contributions when forming the AWMP and during the SEA process. As a rule, the greatest contribution is made in areas that are not completely regulated, because there are more problems that need to be addressed in the research or pointed out through the SEA process. In this context, SEA shows itself to be an instrument for educating researchers and professionals.

The continuation of this paper presents the MCE method (multi-criteria evaluation) applied in the implementation of the SEA process for the simulated<sup>2</sup> AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard. Special emphasis was placed on the role of GIS in the assessment of the spatial dispersion of the impacts and presentation of the results.

## Methodological Framework

The methodological approach to impact assessment in the SEA process is quite flexible with respect to the various precise mathematical and software tools used in environmental engineering and other fields, based on scientific postulates (Liou et al. 2006). A number of authors state that there is no general SEA methodology that applies to all types of plans. Moreover, SEA techniques and methodologies should be treated as a set of different methods and tools, any of which can be selected by a user depending on the specific circumstances (Brown and Therivel 2000; Balfors

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<sup>2</sup> Since it was not feasible to formally develop an AWMP as part of the NoAW project, an AWMP simulation was conducted for Oplenac Vineyard for use with the MCE method in the SEA process. The simulation entailed defining the planning solutions included in the multicriteria evaluation process, which are an answer to existing waste management problems and are based on the results of the analytical phase.

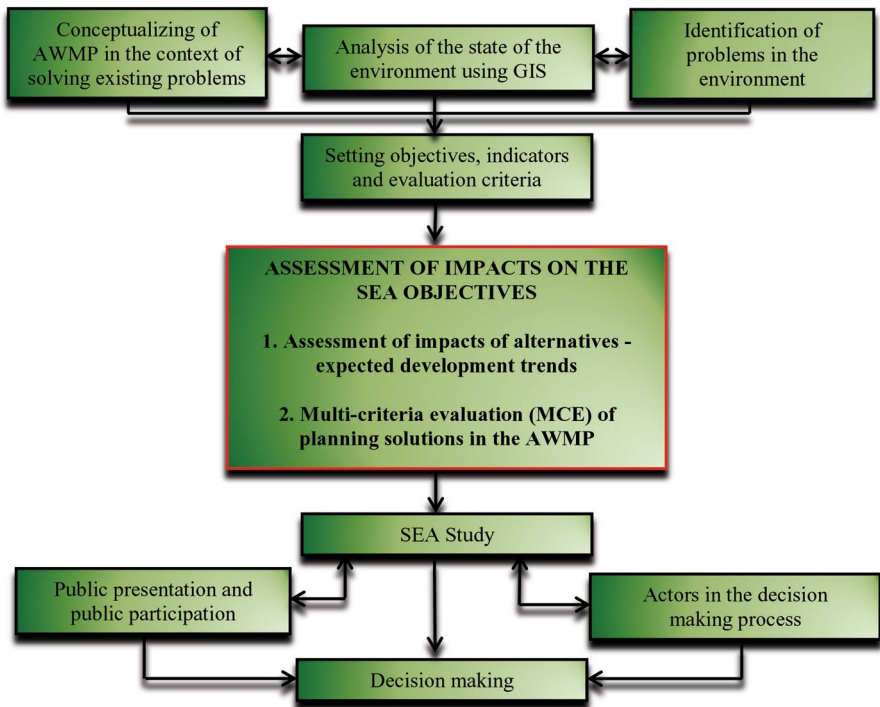


Fig. 2 Methodological framework for the SEA

et al 2018; Unalan and Cowell 2019). Marsden (2002) stated that, in terms of methodology, SEA dominantly relies on the qualitative method of expert impact assessment as opposed to traditional Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and therefore expert assessment, which always entails a certain level of subjectivity, plays a definitive role in it (Maričić and Josimović 2005). The issue of selecting the appropriate assessment techniques and methodologies used in any specific case must be dealt with by referring to adequate implementation experiences accumulated through comparative studies of past schemes and applications (Liou et al. 2006).

In the specific case of the SEA process for the AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard, a semi-quantitative method of multi-criteria expert evaluation of the planning solutions was applied as the basis for valorizing the space for sustainable spatial development (Josimović et al. 2015), in combination with GIS tools and the qualitative data obtained, which served as the basis for defining the evaluation criteria. This method has a few basic methodological steps (Fig. 2).

As shown in Fig. 2, the task in the initial phase of the SEA process was to analyze existing waste management practices in AW and Oplenac Vineyard, identifying key issues and their spatial and environmental implications. This analytical part was completed using GIS and collecting information and data in the field, including a data analysis on grape varieties, age, exposure of the vineyards, and so on, in order to make a prediction on the future production of waste.

Bearing in mind the results of the analysis on the state of the environment, potential pollutants in the area and existing threats, the next stage was to formulate planning proposals in the AWMP, on one hand, and the SEA goals, indicators and criteria to assess the AWMP on the other. The planning proposals were formulated in response to the existing waste management problems. The SEA goals were defined in relation to environmental receptors including all aspects of sustainable development. For each SEA objective, one or more relevant indicators were defined (Table 1). The indicators were taken from the general set of UN indicators of sustainable development (2019) and the National list of environmental indicators (2011).

This was followed by an assessment of the impacts of the AWMP on the environment and the socio-economic elements of sustainable development which took place in two stages: 1. evaluation of the development scenarios (“business as usual” and “implementation of the AWMP”), with the selection of the more favourable development scenario; and 2. the application of MCE methods in the evaluation of the planning solutions (semi-quantitative method) to determine the ranks of the impacts. In both steps, the AWMP solutions were evaluated against the defined SEA goals, but the impact assessment criteria differed. The qualitative evaluation of the development scenario followed the positive (+) and/or negative (–) trends expected in each development scenario, while in the MCE method several groups of criteria were used, within the framework of which the qualitative or quantitative evaluation criteria were determined (Table 2). One of the groups of criteria relates to the spatial dispersion of the possible impacts of the AWMP and it is in this section that the paper focuses on how the use of GIS tools can increase objectivity in the evaluation of planning solutions.

All of the SEA results are presented in the SEA study (also including guidelines for environmental protection and monitoring), on the basis of which, in a transparent process, decisions can be made to adopt, amend or reject the AWMP. Bearing in mind that the research was based on an AWMP simulation, this final phase of the SEA process was not formally implemented but was educative in character for vineyard owners in Oplenac Vineyard.

## Results and Discussion

The use of GIS spatial data made it possible to reliably determine the spatial dispersion of the impacts of the AWMP proposal. GIS was also used in the analytical phase after the spatial data and waste production data were collected in AW (the case study), which were then extrapolated to the Oplenac Vineyard area. Based on the results of the spatial analysis it was established that the existing waste management practice in the vineyards in the area of Oplenac Vineyard had several key characteristics: (1) Waste from pruning stays in the vineyards and there is no further treatment of this type of waste; (2) Grape remains, and the grape skins and seeds are evacuated from the winery and disposed of in locations that are not envisaged or prepared for this purpose; (3) Packaging waste (glass bottles from wine tasting and vineyard fertilizer packaging) is taken to an existing municipal landfill that does



**Table 1** General and specific SEA objectives and the choice of relevant indicators

Environmental receptors	General SEA objectives	Specific SEA objectives	Indicators
Air	Limiting the emission of pollutants into the air	(1) Reducing uncontrollable waste disposal and management	% of waste disposed at the landfill % of vineyard waste treated in any way % of components with re-usage potential in the total amount of vineyard waste % of reduction in uncollected waste
	Reducing greenhouse gas emission	(2) Harmonizing with national objectives, including using waste as resource (3) Introducing waste treatment and re-usage before disposing it at the landfill	% of reduction in waste being disposed Amount of waste that can be recycled or treated in a different way
Water (ground and surface)	Reducing water pollution to the level where there is no negative effect on the quality of water	(4) Harmonizing the release of pollutants coming from the activities of vineyard waste management into the water with ELV (5) Preventing accumulation of bio-waste from vineyards in river beds	BOD and COD upstream and downstream from the vineyard waste disposal location Change in the ground water quality (% of known samples) Nutrients in water Number of physical obstacles in watercourses that affect the hydrologic regime as a consequence of inadequate vineyard waste management
Soil	Reducing chemical soil pollution	(6) Providing effective disposal of vineyard and winery waste	% of the area under vineyards with reduced soil acidity due to the waste disposal in situ % of reduction of organic winery waste disposal on the soil
Biodiversity	Reducing negative impact on biodiversity	(7) Protecting biodiversity from inadequate vineyard waste management	Number and type of habitats affected by waste management activities
Landscape	Protecting landscapes and protected natural areas	(8) Protecting areas from inadequate vineyard waste management	Number of places threatened by the inadequate vineyard waste disposal - Number of valuable vistas threatened by inadequate vineyard waste management

Table 1 (continued)

Environmental receptors	General SEA objectives	Specific SEA objectives	Indicators
Socio/economic development	Advancing knowledge through education, transfer of knowledge and stimulation of economic growth	<p>(9) Enabling learning about waste management in the winery and on the level of local self-government</p> <p>(10) Increasing investments in the development of vineyard waste management system</p> <p>(11) Stimulating economic growth and making profit through implementation of the new waste management approach</p> <p>(12) Stimulating implementation of the vineyard waste management system</p>	<p>Increasing number of vineyard workers educated about waste management</p> <p>- % of profit invested in development of waste management equipment and infrastructure</p> <p>- Profit of wineries made from the implementation of the project of using waste as resource</p> <p>- Profit of wineries made from joint waste management and development of wine tourism</p> <p>- Increased capacities needed for sustainable waste management</p>

**Table 2** Criteria for the impact evaluation within the MCE method implementation

Type of impact	Rank	Description
Intensity of impact	Very favourable (+3)	Very strong positive impact with visible improvements in the environment
	Favourable (+2)	Strong positive impact
	Positive (+1)	Positive impact
	Neutral (0)	No impact, no data or not applicable
	Negative (-1)	Negative impact
	Unfavourable (-2)	Strong negative impact (degradation of the environment)
	Very negative (-3)	Very strong negative impact (degradation of the environment)
Spatial dimension of the impact	Regional (R)	Potential impact on the region
	Municipal (M)	Potential impact on the municipality
	Local (L)	Potential impact on a zone or micro-location
Impact probability	Quite sure (Q)	Probability of the event 100%
	Likely (Lk)	Probability of the event over 50%
	Possible (Ps)	Probability of the event below 50%
Duration of impact	Temporary (T)	Temporary—occasional
	Long-term (Lt)	Long-term—constant

not have a recycling process; (4) Waste is not treated as a resource and no education program has been implemented on the importance and benefits of waste reuse; (5) Environmental problems as a result of existing practices in waste management are evident, especially in the period after pruning and grape harvesting, as this is when the largest amount of organic waste is produced.

These waste management practices in wineries in the area were used in the formulation of planning solutions for the AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard (first column in Tables 3 and 4), which is the response to the existing problems. They were also used for formulating the goals and indicators (Table 1) and evaluation criteria for the planning solutions and the AWMP (Table 2).

After the evaluation phase of the development scenarios<sup>3</sup> confirmed that the *scenario involving the implementation of Oplenac Vineyard AWMP* was more favourable than the *referential scenario—business as usual*, the MCE method was applied. Matrices were formed that compared the planning solutions with the SEA goals and they were evaluated based on two groups of criteria: *intensity of impact*; and *spatial dimension of the impact*, bearing in mind that these two groups of criteria determine the significance and the strategic value of the impacts.

The key results indicate that the planning solutions from the AWMP almost exclusively provoke positive trends in space in relation to the SEA goals (Tables 3, 4, 5). Using MCE it was shown that the most positive effects from the implementation of the AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard are expected from implementing the planning solutions involving the regionalization of waste management and reuse of organic agricultural waste to obtain: energy, briquettes, composting, and various nutritional and cosmetic preparations; these are specifically developed in Table 5. The only negative effects identified during the MCE relate to the compensatory measures that winery owners should pay for all of the threats to the habitat which are not a result of applying the AWMP planning solutions, but rather are a consequence of waste management practices so far in Oplenac Vineyard.

The use of GIS tools and presentation of the results in the form of maps (Fig. 3), on which the negative, and later positive effects of applying the AWMP can be identified, made it possible to objectively determine the spatial dimensions of the impacts (local—covering only one vineyard, municipal—covering several vineyards within one municipality, regional—covering multiple municipalities).

The GIS analysis and presentation of the results of the SEA process for the Oplenac Vineyard AWMP demonstrate the contribution these methods make to understanding the importance of the changes that need to be made in the context of adopting sustainable waste management solutions. In this way, decision makers are

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<sup>3</sup> Evaluation of the development scenario is not the focus of this paper and it has not been elaborated in detail. In short, it is concluded in this methodological step that the accepted development scenario involves the establishment of the concept of sustainable waste management based on the principles of a circular economy, regionalization and economy. With the implementation of the chosen waste development scenario, positive effects on all SEA (environmental and socio-economic) goals are expected. The use of organic agricultural waste as a resource, with all of its environmental and economic, direct and indirect impacts, would improve the existing state of the environment in Oplenac Vineyard and improve the image of wineries that produce that waste.

**Table 3** Evaluation of the intensity of the planning solutions' impact on the environment and the elements of sustainable development

	SEA objectives											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Regionalization of the vineyard waste collection and usage	+2	+3	+2	+2	+3	+1	+1	+2	0	+2	+1	+1
Using pruning waste as a resource (energy, briquetting, composting)	+2	+3	+3	0	0	+3	0	0	0	+3	+2	+2
Using waste from the grapes used in wine production (skin, seeds, stems)	+3	+3	+3	+2	+3	+3	+2	0	0	+3	+2	+2
Reusing wine tasting glass packaging from wineries	+1	+3	+3	0	0	0	0	+1	0	0	+1	+1
Controlled disposal of vineyard fertilizer packaging	0	0	0	+3	0	0	+3	+1	0	0	0	0
Rehabilitation of sites previously used in vineyard waste disposal	+2	+3	0	+3	+3	0	+2	+3	0	+1	0	0
Damaged habitats and biodiversity compensation measures	+2	+2	0	+2	+2	+2	+2	+2	0	0	-1	-1
Preparing the economic study for determining the best waste treatment technology (the cost–benefit analysis)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+3	+3	+3	+3
Raising public awareness and educating wine producers on the importance of cooperation in realizing sustainable waste management concept	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+3	+1	0	+1
Educating and strengthening capacities of LSGs in supporting vineyard waste management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+3	+1	0	+2
Promoting cooperation between vineyards in disposing vineyard waste in the context of tourism development (offering wine tours)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1
Using GIS in monitoring, more effective vineyard waste management and promoting tourism	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+1	+1	+1	+1

**Table 4** Evaluation of the spatial dimension of the planning solutions' impact with the support of GIS tools

	SEA objectives											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Regionalization of the vineyard waste collection and usage	R	R	R	L	L	R	L	L		M	L	L
Using pruning waste as a resource (energy, briquetting, composting)	R	R	R			R				L	L	L
Using waste from the grapes used in wine production (skin, seeds, stems)	L	R	R	L	L	L	L			M	L	L
Reusing wine tasting glass packaging from wineries	L	L	L				L	L			L	L
Controlled disposal of vineyard fertilizer packaging				L			L	L				
Rehabilitation of sites previously used in vineyard waste disposal	R	R		L	L		L	L		L		
Damaged habitats and biodiversity compensation measures	R	R		L	L	R	L	L		R	R	L
Preparing the economic study for determining the best waste treatment technology (the cost–benefit analysis)									R	R	L	R
Raising public awareness and educating wine producers on the importance of cooperation in realizing sustainable waste management concept									R	R		R
Educating and strengthening capacities of LSGs in supporting vineyard waste management									R	R		R
Promoting cooperation between vineyards in disposing vineyard waste in the context of tourism development (offering wine tours)										R	L	R
Using GIS in monitoring, more effective vineyard waste management and promoting tourism									R	R	R	R

**Table 5** Evaluation of the rank of the planning solutions' impact on the environment and sustainable development

Planning solution	Identification and evaluation of the impact		Elaboration
	SEA objective	Impact rank*	
Regionalization of the vineyard waste collection and usage	1	+2/R/Q/Lt	The concept of regionalization in waste management based on the association of Oplenac Vineyard wineries, with the view to jointly managing vineyard and winery waste, will have a positive impact on almost all SEA objectives and not a single negative impact. In addition to a positive impact on the basic environmental factors (water, air, soil, biodiversity, landscape), positive economic effects are expected as well, since the concept of regionalization is actually founded on the economic principles of waste management, where several small producers, with smaller (joint) investment, have better possibilities for using optimal waste treatment technology and making products from waste as the final phase in its total elimination, together with environment protection and gaining certain economic benefit
	2	+3/R/Q/Lt	
	3	+2/R/Q/Lt	
	4	+2/L/Ps/Lt	
	5	+3/L/Q/Lt	
	6	+1/R/Q/Lt	
	7	+1/L/Ps/Lt	
	8	+2/L/Ps/Lt	
	10	+2/L/Q/Lt	
	11	+1/L/Ps/Lt	
	12	+1/L/Ps/Lt	
	Using pruning waste as a resource (energy, briquetting, composting)	1	
2		+3/R/Q/Lt	
3		+3/R/Q/Lt	
6		+3/R/Q/Lt	
10		+3/L/Q/Lt	
11		+2/L/Q/Lt	
12		+2/L/Q/Lt	

Table 5 (continued)

Planning solution	Identification and evaluation of the impact		Elaboration		
	SEA objective	Impact rank*			
Using waste from the grapes used in wine production (skin, seeds, stems)	1	+3/L/Q/Lt	By using grape residues after wine production, positive impacts on almost all SEA objectives will be reached. The current practice of managing this type of agro-waste in Oplenac Vineyard is to deposit it on the territory of the wineries or in the surrounding area, so that such waste rests on the land and often in smaller watercourses, affecting their quality and characteristics. Such practice threatens the environment on one hand, and rejects preconditions for using this type of waste as a resource on the other. By implementing this planning solution, bearing in mind the considerable estimated annual quantities of waste by type (skins around 82.5t, seeds around 25t, stems around 43.5t), the possibilities for using them in various products (dietary supplements, cosmetic products, cold-pressed grape seed oil, etc.) and the approximate price of those products in the market, it is possible for wineries to gain considerable economic benefit. Economic calculations of the necessary investment are needed per unit of products, as well as an evaluation of the possible profit		
	2	+3/R/Q/Lt			
	3	+3/R/Q/Lt			
	4	+2/L/Q/Lt			
	5	+3/L/Q/T			
	6	+3/L/Q/Lt			
	7	+2/L/Lk/T			
	10	+3/O/Lk/Lt			
	11	+2/L/Lk/Lt			
	12	+2/L/Q/Lt			
	Reusing wine tasting glass packaging from wineries	1		+1/L/Q/Lt	By re-use/recycling of glass, which amounts to around 1200 bottles a year from the wine tasting in AW alone, Oplenac Vineyard can be harmonized with the provisions of strategic national waste management documents in relation to: the reduction of waste disposed at the landfill; an increase in the amount of recycled waste; the profit gain from recycling (or the reduction of loss per product unit); and an increase in the capacities necessary for sustainable waste management
		2		+3/L/Q/Lt	
3		+3/L/Lk/Lt			
8		+1/L/Ps/Lt			
11		+1/L/Ps/Lt			
12		+1/L/Q/Lt			



Table 5 (continued)

Planning solution	Identification and evaluation of the impact		Elaboration
	SEA objective	Impact rank*	
Controlled disposal of vineyard fertilizer packaging	4	+3/L/Ps/T	Controlled disposal of vineyard fertilizer packaging, categorized as dangerous waste, would serve as a safety measure against pollution of the environment
	7	+3/L/Ps/T	
	8	+1/L/Ps/T	
Rehabilitation of sites previously used in vineyard waste disposal	1	+2/R/Q/Lt	The rehabilitation of sites that, in line with the current waste management practice in Oplenac vineyards, have been used for inadequate, irregular and irrational vineyard and winery waste disposal, would have positive impacts on all of the environmental factors. The most dominant are the impacts on soil and water, the elements most threatened by inadequate waste management and its disposal in these environmental receptors
	2	+3/R/Q/Lt	
	4	+3/L/Q/Lt	
	5	+3/L/Q/Lt	
	7	+2/L/Lk/T	
	8	+3/L/Lk/Lt	
	10	+1/L/Q/T	
Damaged habitats and biodiversity compensation measures	1	+2/R/Lk/Lt	Compensation measures for pollution of the environment caused by inadequate waste management in wineries in Oplenac Vineyard would bring multiple benefits to the environment, as well as the establishment of a sustainable waste management system. Economic instruments are often the most effective in establishing the policy of sustainable development, which should be the case here. They include possible negative impacts on the profit of wineries if they are obliged to pay compensation for possible damage to the environment, habitats and biodiversity
	2	+2/R/Lk/Lt	
	4	+2/L/Lk/Lt	
	5	+3/L/Lk/Lt	
	6	+3/R/Lk/Lt	
	7	+3/L/Ps/Lt	
	8	+2/L/Ps/T	
	11	-1/L/Ps/T	
12	-1/L/Ps/T		

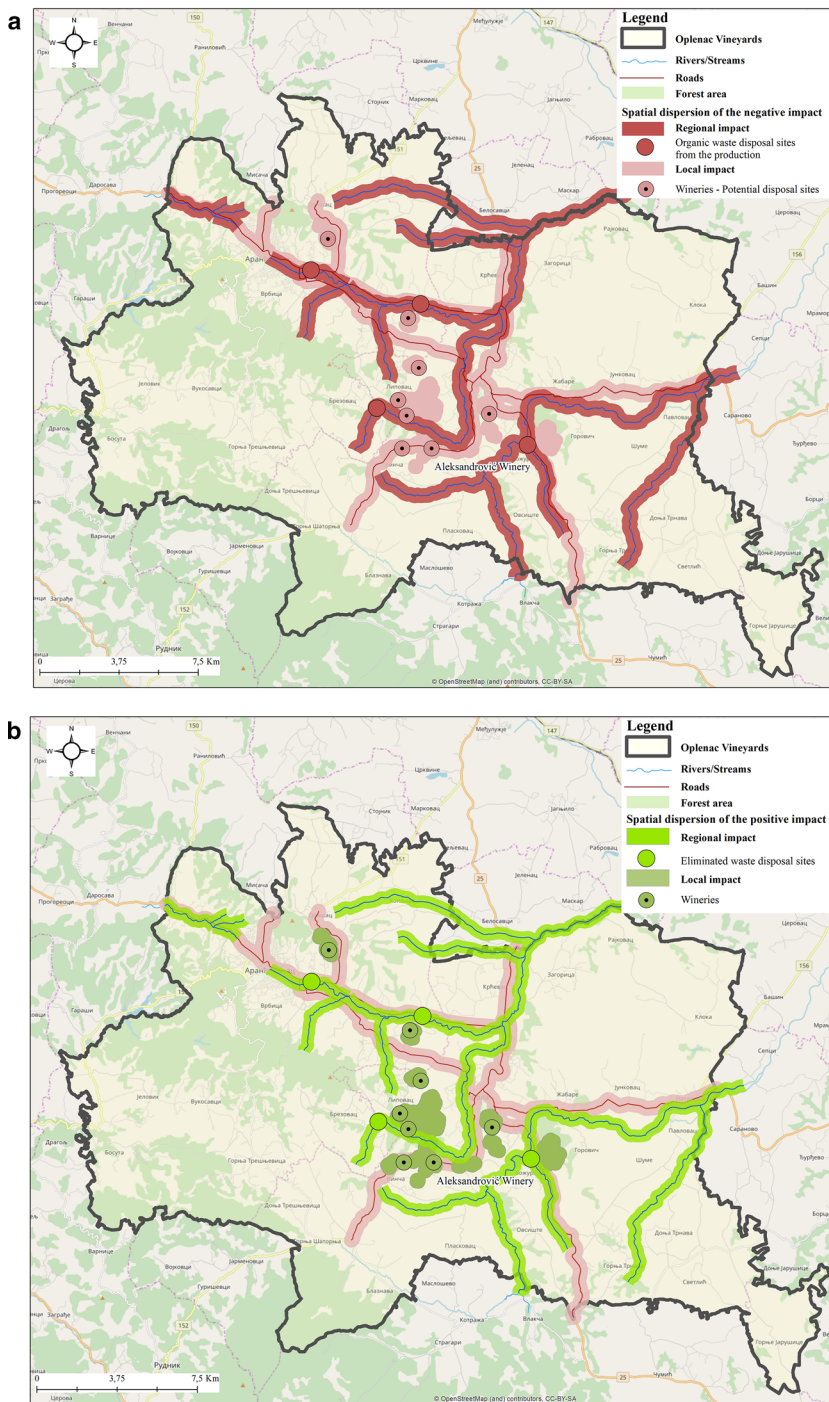
Table 5 (continued)

Planning solution	Identification and evaluation of the impact		Elaboration
	SEA objective	Impact rank*	
Preparing an economic study to determine the best waste treatment technology (cost–benefit analysis)	9	+ 3/R/Lk/Lt	Implementation of this planning solution represents a guideline for the implementation of AWMP, which should precisely determine the best possible options for waste treatment in Oplenac Vineyard. For this analysis it is necessary to be familiar with all technical and technological, economic and market aspects of vineyard waste treatment, and the final result should show: the expected investments in equipment; the expected economic gain on the level of separate wineries; and the return period of the investment. This planning solution will have a positive impact solely on socio-economic SEA objectives
	10	+ 3/R/Q/Lt	
	11	+ 3/L/Lk/Lt	
	12	+ 3/R/Q/Lt	
Raising public awareness and educating wine producers on the importance of cooperation in achieving a sustainable waste management concept	9	+ 3/R/Q/Lt	Raising public awareness and educating employees in Oplenac Vineyard wineries will have a positive impact on socio-economic SEA objectives, which are an important factor in establishing the regional concept of vineyard waste management in the research area
	10	+ 1/R/Ps/Lt	
	12	+ 1/R/Ps/Lt	
Educating and strengthening the capacities of LSGs in supporting vineyard waste management	9	+ 3/R/Lk/Lt	The education of local administration employees will be an important factor contributing to the inclusion of the administration in the Oplenac Vineyard waste management system as a support to its development and functioning on sustainable grounds
	10	+ 1/R/Lk/Lt	
	12	+ 2/R/Lk/Lt	
Promoting cooperation between vineyards in the disposal of vineyard waste in the context of developing tourism (offering wine tours)	10	+ 1/R/Ps/Lt	The cooperation of Oplenac Vineyard wineries in waste management should be a backbone for the cooperation of the wineries in other aspects as well, resulting in raising the economic, cultural and historical value of the research area. In that context, it is possible to talk about socio-economic benefits of the planning solutions against the SEA objectives
	11	+ 1/R/Lk/Lt	
	12	+ 1/R/Q/Lt	

**Table 5** (continued)

Planning solution	Identification and evaluation of the impact		Elaboration
	SEA objective	Impact rank*	
Using GIS in monitoring, more effective vineyard waste management and promoting tourism	9	+1/R/Lk/Lt	The possibilities of GIS tools, apart from those used in analysis of the data on space and waste production in Oplenac Vineyard, are also reflected in possible monitoring and more effective vineyard waste management, as well as in the visualization of different contents and the presentation of tourist offers for the researched area. In addition, GIS tools play a significant role in the further extrapolation of data on waste production to a wider space, up to the level of making Oplenac Vineyard an economically justifiable functional region for vineyard waste management
	10	+1/R/Q/Lt	
	11	+1/R/Ps/Lt	
	12	+1/R/Lk/Lt	

\*rank of impacts according to the criteria from Tables 2, 3 and 4



**Fig. 3** a Territorial impacts of the vineyards on the environment before AWMP implementation. b Territorial impacts of the vineyards on the environment after AWMP implementation

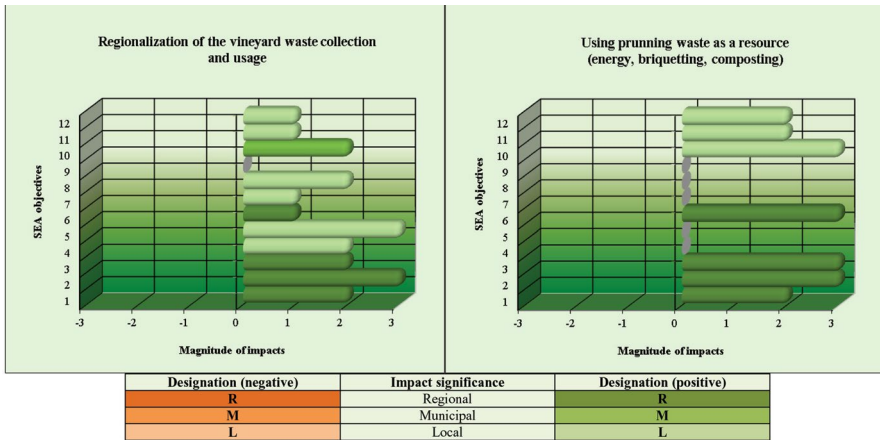


Fig. 4 Graphic presentation of evaluation results

on one hand educated, and on the other are given a good basis for making decisions on future developments in the field of managing agricultural waste from wineries and viticulture. In this case study, decisions are predominantly in the hands of winery owners, who should team up on a regional basis in waste management. Winery profits are usually the highest priority, so solutions that only address environmental benefits are not sufficient motivation in themselves, rather it is also important to consider the economic satisfaction gained from introducing modern waste management principles. Therefore, the educational character of the results of the MCE method used in the SEA process is of particular importance. It is presented in this paper in the matrices and graphs (Fig. 4) for evaluating the planning solutions, particularly in Table 5, which identifies and evaluates the ranks of the planning solutions with regard to their environmental impact and sustainable development. The results show the market value of individual products that can be obtained from organic waste, as well as the total amount of this type of waste in the region, so it is possible to make a rough estimate of the potential profits that the owners of wineries could expect by applying the planning proposals from the AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard.

Although the object of this paper was not to show the complete SEA process, it is important to emphasize that based on the results obtained from applying the MCE method within the framework of the SEA study, appropriate guidelines were defined that should ensure the consistent implementation of planning solutions that have positive effects on SEA goals, that is, they minimize the potential negative effects on the space they refer to. Once the guidelines and monitoring measures that need to be implemented in the AWMP are formulated in the SEA study, it is ready for the decision-making process. Bearing in mind that a simulated AWMP was used in this study for Oplenac Vineyard, at this moment the decision-making phase in the application of the AWMP has not been envisaged, but rather, it will initially have an educational character in eight wineries belonging to Oplenac Vineyard. In the context of education, winery owners can at this stage already decide to apply specific technological solutions that apply to the use of waste as a resource, all for the purpose of

applying the principles of a circular economy, sustainable development and protection of the environment. In this case, Aleksandrović Winery (the case study) has, using the research results and information shown in Table 5, recognized the benefits of applying the proposed concept and has already begun to put the research into practice by acquiring and beginning to use equipment for the collection and treatment of waste from pruning, as well as launching an initiative to associate with other wineries in Oplenac Vineyard in order to achieve the best effects by applying the principles of a circular economy. In this way, the research acquired an applicative character.

## Conclusion

The assessment of spatial/territorial environmental impacts using SEA is in its early stages in the development of spatial development policy in general, including sustainable waste management policy, which is a significant segment of spatial development. This paper presents the specifics and possibilities in relation to applying MCE methods in SEA for the AWMP of Oplenac Vineyard, supported by GIS tools. The specifics are: the selection of relevant objectives and indicators for evaluating the planning solutions that, in addition to environmental, include socio-economic aspects of sustainable development; the role of GIS tools in the spatial analysis, evaluation and perception of planning solutions in relation to the spatial dispersion of impacts and presentation of the solutions from the SEA process; and the method used to present the planning solutions in the form of matrices and graphs.

Considering that the strategic planning phase, for example the AWMP, does not directly produce any relevant technical, technological, economic or other detailed data, it is not possible to apply various multi-criteria simulation and mathematical decision-making methods, such as Additive Ratio Assessment (ARAS) or the Analytical Hierarchy Process (AHP) (Fu 2019; Improta et al. 2018; Kutut et al. 2014). These methods are used in other instruments in the field of environmental protection (EIA, ESIA) that are a natural continuation of the SEA process, and they minimize subjectivity in impact assessment, but are outside the SEA mandate according to European Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC.

In order to minimize subjectivity in the SEA process, it is extremely important, wherever possible, to support the SEA process by using different software models and methods to determine the territorial impacts, which in this case was achieved using GIS tools. The MCE method served as a means of determining: the impact intensity; spatial dimension of the impact; impact probability; and duration of the impact. The defined MCE criteria helped to identify the impacts of the AWMP, and the evaluation results were presented in a clear way based on GIS visualization, matrices and graphs, which proved particularly suitable in an educational context and later showed significant potential in decision making on the future conception of development.

Bearing in mind the solutions for eliminating agricultural waste from wineries and viticulture proposed in the AWMP for Oplenac Vineyard and the possibility of further extrapolation of data using GIS, it is possible to determine the spatial

coverage using technical and economic instruments and life-cycle assessment (EIA, ESIA, LCA), which would provide opportunities for achieving the most favorable, above all economic, solutions, as the most efficient initiators of the initiative to bring together several wineries in order to apply the principles of a circular economy. The benefit would thus be economic, but also in the area of environmental protection. Although this type of economic analysis is outside the scope of SEA, this approach creates good preconditions for achieving the conceived solutions in the implementation phase of the AWMP. The possibility of making predictions in fields beyond the scope of SEA by means of spatial analyses in GIS indicates the flexibility of the method adopted, based on the modern principles of a circular economy and sustainability in general, and it provides opportunities for further research in the territorial management of agricultural waste as a very important resource, especially thanks to the joint application of SEA and GIS instruments. Although in this research GIS was primarily used as a supporting tool, spatial data collected through this process could contribute to establishing an integral waste management system. This system could be implemented and adjusted on a national or broad regional scale. Some of the findings of recent studies (Krunić et al. 2019) support the possibility of combining geospatial data with other data and indicators on a national level in wine-growing regions, in order to identify the main flows of agro-waste in Serbia. This is certainly a comparative advantage over current SEA implementation practices.

The methodological approach presented is potentially applicable to a wide range of development documents, where the focus should be to increase objectivity in the process of evaluating strategic development documents.

Returning to the role of environmental protection and the application of SEA in the context of addressing ethical and moral issues related to spatial development, agricultural waste management and development in general, it has already been pointed out that the SEA is a decision-making instrument. Regardless of the ethical and moral principles that experts adhere to in the SEA process, experts are not decision makers. Decision makers are institutions, politicians, investors, etc. Their ethical and moral values do not have to be, and often are not in the same “coordinate system” as science and professionals, so in that context the limited possibilities of the SEA process can be seen in terms of reaching certain ethical standards when it comes to implementing the conceived solutions. In addition, the fact pointed out by Callicott (2018) is that ethical and moral attitudes depend on the circumstances (spatial, temporal, cultural, etc.) in which we live. Circumstances are changing, and so are ethical, and often moral attitudes, so there is always uncertainty as to how positions formed today in SEA, or in environmental policy in general, will have value and applicability tomorrow. Regardless of the views expressed, living in the present, analyzing the past, and thinking about the future, it is necessary to constantly raise the level of ethical and moral standards in the application of SEA, thus increasing the possibility for the majority of the conceived solutions, in this case in the field of the circular (agro) economy, to be applied in practice. The objectivity of the SEA process will certainly contribute to this, which is achieved by the methodological approach presented in this paper and by including the GIS technique in the analysis and presentation of the results. An additional value and opportunity for ethical and moral codes to be accepted by SEA decision makers is public participation within

the SEA process, through which it is possible to debate the proposed solutions, and in such a way influence the decision makers to make decisions in accordance with high moral and ethical standards.

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**Data Availability** The data supporting the findings of this study are freely available in ‘Spatial/territorial analysis as support to AWMP and SEA for the selected case study area’, accessible at <https://doi.org/10.15454/HOTPIB>.

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