

Progress on the implementation of the workplan activities under the “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP-GREEN) Programme, as well as activities in Kyrgyzstan and the Russian Federation

December 2013–May 2015

Note by the secretariat

This note presents the results of the activities included in the workplan (Decision VI/3–II/3) financed by the European Union through the “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP-GREEN) Programme in the period from December 2013 to May 2015. It provides a brief summary of main achievements of technical assistance provided to Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, as well as list of activities per country. The note also provides information on the progress achieved in the context of technical advice and support to Kyrgyzstan on improving its legislation and institutional framework to implement the Convention, financed by Switzerland; as well as the technical advice and support to the Russian Federation on bringing its legislation in line with the requirements of the Convention and the Protocol, with the support of Sweden.

A. EaP Green Programme (2013-2015)

I. About EaP GREEN

1. The Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) programme is a large regional programme implemented from 2013 to 2016 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE – Secretariat of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organizations to assist the six European Union’s Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in their transition to green economy. The programme is financed by the European Commission, the four implementing organisations, the Environment and Security Initiative and other donors, including Austria, Norway, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

2. The programme’s overall objective is to assist the EaP countries to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion. The programme component which ECE is in charge of implementing, aims to promote the use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development.

3. ECE supports the participating countries in developing and applying SEA legislation and systems in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention (and the EU SEA Directive). The related activities are linked to the workplan under the Convention and the Protocol and contribute to promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on SEA. When requested by the countries, assistance is provided for improving the current practices and legal and institutional frameworks on EIA in compliance with the Espoo Convention, as well as relevant EU legislation.

4. The activities are directed to:

- (a) Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks;
- (b) Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures;
- (c) Strengthening the administrative capacities and clarifying the roles of different stakeholders in SEA and EIA.

II. Summary of the main achievements (2013 to 2015)

(a) Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks

(Workplan activities: Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol: 8 a (i), 8 a (ii), 8b and 9 c, b, c.)

5. From June 2013 to May 2015, the Ministries responsible for environment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova in cooperation with the ECE secretariat for the Convention and the Protocol carried out reviews of the legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of SEA and EIA procedures. The results of the reviews lead to reforms of the environmental assessment legislation in all five countries, although such reforms were initially planned only in two countries. The reforms aims to make the existing procedures for impact assessment processes more coherent (i.e. environmental impact assessment, strategic environmental assessment and state ecological expertise) and aligned with the provisions of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, as well as the EU SEA and EIA Directives. (See Table 1 below for more details).

Table 1. Overview of the legislation to be prepared or amended with the assistance of the ECE secretariat

Country	Process	Date
Armenia	Amending the Law on EIA and environmental expertise	Planned (Mar 2015 – May 2016)
Azerbaijan	Amending the draft Law on EIA and development of relevant bylaws	Ongoing (Nov. 2014 – May 2015)
Belarus	Developing a chapter on SEA procedures and amendments to improve the existing EIA system within the Law on state environmental expertise	Ongoing (Mar – Dec 2015)
Georgia	Preparing the new Law on EIA and SEA and relevant bylaws on detailed SEA and EIA procedures and public participation guidelines	Initiated (Sept. 2014 – Sept. 2015)
Republic of Moldova	Drafting the new Law on SEA and bylaws on EIA	Completed (Dec. 2014)

6. Targeted campaigns, including parliamentary round-tables discussions and high-level awareness raising events are further planned to raise awareness of SEA and its benefits among high level officials to facilitate adoption of the proposed changes in the legislation.

7. Based on the results of the legislative reviews and experience gained during the legal drafting, a subregional overview and recommendations for transposing the requirements of the Protocol on SEA into the national legislative framework is being developed. The draft overview and the recommendations will be presented at the sub-regional conference in Georgia in October 2015.

(b) Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures and strengthening the administrative capacities and clarifying the roles of different stakeholders in SEA and EIA.

Workshops, including training, on the application of the Protocol

(Workplan activities: Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA 3 a, b, d, e, g)

8. Experience gathered from training events in Armenia, Belarus and Ukraine in 2013 showed that in absence of national legal framework carrying out comprehensive training workshops on SEA is not effective. Thus, in 2014, the ECE and the Republic of Moldova tested a new training approach: the training workshops were carried out in conjunction with the SEA pilot project for the Orhei Master Plan (see below), while the original four and a half day training programme was divided into two parts to allow participants to apply obtained knowledge in practice by carrying out SEA for a selected national strategic document. The approach proved useful. The training events planned for 2015 in Azerbaijan, Armenia and Ukraine follow the same model.

9. Some additional changes in the workplan training activities were introduced taking into account the needs for more comprehensive legislative assistance in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and Moldova. These are presented in Table 2 below.

Pilot projects

(Workplan activities: Promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA 5 a, b, c, d, e)

10. To facilitate identification and implementation of pilot projects in the participating countries, ECE developed criteria for selecting pilot projects¹ and organized special training sessions at the sub-regional events in Minsk (April 2014) and Prague (December 2014). A successful pilot requires integration of the SEA into the strategic planning process. The planning authority is expected to share the draft plans/programmes, be willing to engage in the SEA procedure, cooperate with the SEA team and be ready to incorporate the results of the SEA procedure into the strategic document. In practice, many countries experienced difficulties in identifying a plan or a programme to be subjected to the pilot application of SEA. Most of these strategic documents are developed by Ministries not relating to the environment, which seem not to have very good understanding of the SEA procedure and are not always willing to cooperate in the absence of clear legislative requirements.

¹ Available on the Internet at:

http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/eia/documents/EnvSec/Minsk_April_14/Selection_of_SEA_pilot_RUS.pdf

Azerbaijan

11. Azerbaijan selected the “Strategy on Alternative and Renewable Energy Resources Use” as subject of the SEA pilot project. The memorandum of understanding between ECE and the Regional Environmental Centre for Caucasus (RECC) (office in Azerbaijan) was signed in November 2014. The project started in March 2015 with a start-up workshop and is planned to be completed by the end of this year.

Table 2. Overview of the proposed changes to the workplan related to the implementation of the implementation of the activities 3 a, b, d, e, g on promoting ratification and application of the Protocol on SEA

Country	Workplan 2014-2017	Suggested changes
Armenia	One national training event, one local training event;	One national training event (in two sessions) in conjunction with the pilot project; One awareness raising training for sectoral ministries to help Armenia identify a pilot project
Azerbaijan	Two national training events, two local training events;	One national level awareness raising event on the EIA and SEA legislation. One national level training event (in two sessions) in conjunction with the pilot project and one final training event for dissemination of the results of the SEA pilot in 2016. One local level training event cancelled to financially support the drafting of the amendments to the draft law. The need for a second local training will be evaluated with the government at the end of the law drafting process.
Georgia	Two national training events, two local training events	Cancelled in order to redirect the funds to: - support to raise awareness of various stakeholders on the benefits of SEA and EIA; - hire international experts to control quality of EIA documentation on small scale hydro power plans prepared by developers.
The Republic of Moldova	Two national training events, two local training events;	Change two local level training events to a second pilot project on SEA at the national level and organise a final dissemination event at the end of 2016 at the national level.
Ukraine	One national training event, two local training events	Change one national level training event to three back-to-back events as following: - (a) a one day awareness raising event to promote SEA benefits among officials of the sectoral ministries; - (b) a one day training workshop for environmental authorities on their role in SEA and SEA quality review; - (c) a one day round table discussion for high level officials to promote SEA benefits and adoption of the law on SEA.

Armenia

12. The Ministry of Nature Protection identified the “Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the solid waste management sector in Armenia”. ECE and the Ministry of Nature Protection are working on practical arrangements to initiate the project at the second half of 2015.

Georgia

13. Georgia suggested to postpone or cancel, if needed, implementation of the pilot project in favour of a more comprehensive assistance on drafting EIA and SEA law and bylaws. (*see above*).

Republic of Moldova

14. The Republic of Moldova was the first country to initiate a local level pilot project on the application of SEA to the Orhei Town Master Plan. The pilot aimed to test the new SEA enshrined in the draft SEA law. From June to December 2014, the national SEA team worked closely with the Orhei Municipality to conduct the SEA and prepare an SEA report for the Master Plan. Two training events took place to support the national team in the implementation of the pilot (*see Annex 2 below*). However, due to delays associated with the preparation of the Master Plan by the planning authority, the end of the pilot project has been postponed from December 2014 to May 2015, with the final version of the SEA report to be prepared by June 2015. The public consultations took place at the end of April and a final conference is organized in June 2015.

15. The Republic of Moldova appreciated the intermediate results of the local level pilot SEA and to further develop national capacities in SEA, the Ministry of Environment requested ECE to support implementation of a second SEA pilot project at the national level starting from summer 2015. Moldova indicated the “Green Economy” strategy to be developed by the Government with support of UNEP in the framework of the EaP GREEN Programme as a potential candidate for the second pilot. It further informed the ECE that it secured co-funding for the second SEA pilot to cover some national level costs for assessment and public participation events.

Ukraine

16. In January 2015, Ukraine indicated its interest in carrying out a pilot SEA at the national level for the waste management plan. The Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources is still setting up a process for revision of this document. The timeline for the project is still to be clarified. ECE and the EU Delegation in Ukraine are investigating the possibility of jointly implementing the SEA pilot under EaP GREEN and the EU funded project “Support to Ukraine in approximation of the EU environmental acquis”.

Development of national guidelines

17. The national guidelines on SEA and EIA procedures will be developed in 2016 based on the legal drafting and results of the pilot projects. Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova requested ECE to prepare bylaws that should enshrine the SEA/EIA procedures into the national legal and administrative systems.

Sub-regional coordination and experience sharing events

(Workplan activities: Subregional cooperation and capacity-building to strengthen contacts between the Parties and others, including States outside the ECE region, 4 a)

18. The Study tour ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector was organised from 1 to 5 December 2014 in the Czech Republic, with the participation of 32 representatives from EaP GREEN countries. It provided participants with an opportunity to familiarize themselves with a working SEA system, including legislation, institutional structure and procedures and allowed them to study existing SEA practices in land use, plans, energy related plans, environment related plans, urban development plans, etc. The participants were able to share their own experience in SEA, as well as to meet representatives of national authorities, consultants and non-governmental organizations dealing with SEA on a daily basis in their country. They were able to study the transition process of introducing SEA in the Czech Republic.

19. The ECE started to prepare for the sub-regional conference “Lessons learned from national and subregional reviews of legal and institutional frameworks for application of EIA and SEA (including a training for trainers workshop on the practical application of SEA). The Conference will take place from 19 to 22 October 2015 in Georgia.

(c) Challenges for introduction of the SEA systems in the participating countries

20. Non-environmental authorities are not aware of SEA procedures and of the role they play in such procedures as proponents of the plan/programme or developers of the SEA report. They are reluctant to attend the EaP GREEN training and awareness raising events on the practical application of SEA or to participate in the SEA pilot projects, because they perceive SEA as a responsibility of the environmental authorities only. In 2015, the ECE environment division is engaging with ECE transport, forestry, housing and energy divisions to raise awareness of sectoral ministries of SEA and facilitate their participation EaP GREEN events.

21. Environmental authorities are not fully aware either of their role in ensuring the quality of SEA documentation. To address this gap, targeted training events will be offered in 2015 to the environmental authorities.

22. Exchange rate fluctuations in 2014-2015 lead to reduction of available funds for the implementation of the planned activities. ECE has been communicating with the participating counties to clarify national priorities.

B. Technical assistance to Kyrgyzstan (2014–2015)

I. Background

23. According to the workplan (Decision VI/3–II/3), technical advice and support to improve legislation as well as the institutional framework to implement the Convention would be provided to Kyrgyzstan in 2014. The project, financed by Switzerland, should be undertaken by an external consultant and a national expert group on EIA.

II. Activities implemented

24. Preliminary negotiations about the scope of the proposed assistance took place between the secretariat of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol and the government of Kyrgyzstan in the course of 2014. A work plan with concrete time lines and responsibilities was agreed in early 2015.

25. A representative of Kyrgyzstan participated in a study tour to the Czech Republic which took place in December 2014. The person could familiarize herself with good practices and practical application of EIA and SEA in a country that went through a similar

transition path in that area, as well as to build a network among EIA/SEA practitioners for future reference.

26. An international expert was identified to provide, together with a national consultant, an analysis of the current legislative framework and develop a new draft law on EIA. The terms were negotiated with the consultants in a way that allowed including consideration of the Protocol on SEA into the scope of the project at no additional cost. Given the request and readiness of the Kyrgyz counterparts to develop and pass a new law on EIA and SEA, the project was revised in favour of developing a new law (at the same costs), thereby going beyond the initial plan to merely elaborate the procedure for transboundary EIA.

27. A national expert group (also: working group) was established under guidance of the national focal point to accompany the drafting process and provide feedback.

28. A first draft law was available in May 2015, as was a list of legal acts to be amended, based on the new law. The documents were shared with members of the national working group and later discussed at a round table on 13 May 2015 in Bishkek with participation of the national working group. Participants of the round table included: representatives of the State Agency for Environmental Protection under the Government, the Parliament, relevant ministries and agencies, contractors of EIA, and members of the public. Working group participants can still submit their comments until 25 May 2015. The draft law is available online.²

III. Next steps

29. With feedback received during and after the round table meeting, the consultants will review and finalize the drafts. Other elements to be provided by the consultants, in consultation with UNECE, the national focal point and the working group, include:

- Detailed provisions for transboundary EIA as well as SEA and national guidelines on practical implementation of the transboundary EIA procedure;
- A list of suggested activities to strengthen Kyrgyzstan's capacity to implement and comply fully with identified obligations of the Convention and its Protocol;
- National guidelines on practical implementation of the transboundary EIA procedure

30. The final draft of the law, after further consultations with ministries and other authorities, up to the central office of government and the presidency, is expected by end of 2015.

31. Drafts of the law and other material have been prepared in Russian. Final versions will be translated into Kyrgyz. It would be desirable to translate the final law into English.

C. Technical assistance to the Russian Federation (2014–2015)

I. Background

32. According to the workplan (Decision VI/3–II/3), technical advice would be provided in 2015 to the Russian Federation on improving implementation of the Convention and the Protocol. The project, financed by Sweden, aimed to assist the country in its efforts to

² www.nature.kg.

develop a national system to apply impact assessment, in particular SEA procedures, according to the provisions of the Protocol, including:

- (a) Improving its legislative and institutional framework to fully comply with the Protocol;
- (b) Defining roles and responsibilities of various authorities in the SEA process;
- (c) Building national and local capacities, developing practical experience and national guidelines in application of the SEA procedures in line with the Protocol;
- (d) Raising awareness and common understanding of the benefits of the SEA at national and local levels and in different sectors, including the benefits of public participation and the consultation of relevant authorities.

33. The project should be undertaken by an external consultant, under UNECE guidance and in collaboration with Ministry of of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.

II. Activities implemented

34. In 2014, Russia began harmonizing its national legislation with the provisions of the Protocol on SEA. Draft laws and Governmental decrees on SEA were developed and are currently under consultation with the national authorities. Based on the request from the Ministry and with support from the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency, the secretariat to the Espoo Convention provided expert support to the Russian Federation to review the draft laws and decrees vis-à-vis the provisions of the Protocol.

35. In December 2014, five representatives of the Russian Federation participated in the SEA study tour to the Czech Republic. In January 2015, a round table on “Major legislative dilemmas for implementing the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA in the ECE region and ways to address them in national legislation” was organized. The results of the expert review were presented and discussed with representatives of the ministry and different agencies.

36. In collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and WWF Russia, the secretariat has a prepared a proposal for the pilot application of SEA in the decision-making for the “Strategy of socio-economic development the Zabaikal Region of until 2030”. The project would be implemented by the secretariat, the central and regional authorities, and the WWF Russia. Funds for this part of the project are expected to be provided by the Russian Federation.

III. Next steps

37. The draft legal framework will be presented for adoption.

38. The pilot project in the Zabaikal region is expected to include the following elements:

- Organization of a training for national experts in support of SEA for the “Strategy of Socio-economic Development of the Region until 2030” – including one at the scoping stage and one at the analytical stage (“impact workshop”);
- Development of an overview on the practical application of environmental assessment, including guidelines on the practical application of SEA in the Russian Federation;
- Organization of a regional workshop on SEA for ECE member States (autumn 2015);
- Organization of three workshops on SEA for national experts (2 days each);

- Assistance to the SEA team in organising efficient public participation and consultations with the relevant authorities, including how to identify the public potentially to be affected, develop a plan for public participation, facilitate the discussions during public consultations and record public comments and communicate them to the planners;
- Review of the documents prepared during the pilot SEA to ensure quality;
- Publication of a leaflet with infographics on the SEA pilot application in the Zabaikalie Region;
- Preparation of a final report on the implementation of the SEA pilot in English, including the documentation of all meetings and events conducted under the pilot SEA and recommendations on further development of the national SEA procedure in the Russian Federation;
- Organization of a final conference (up to 100 participants) for national stakeholders to disseminate the results of the project;
- Assistance to the national team in developing a dissemination strategy to raise awareness of authorities and public about the SEA pilot project and the benefits of SEA.

Annex 1 – List of the implemented workplan activities financed by the EU through the EaP-GREEN Programme per country (January 2013 – May 2015)

Armenia

[National level training workshop on strategic environmental assessment \(SEA\) in Armenia](#), Yerevan 26-29 November 2013

[Assessment of the Draft Law of the Republic of Armenia on the Environmental Impact Assessment and Expertise](#) (Available in English)

Review of the National Legislative and Institutional Framework of SEA in Armenia (Available in [Russian](#) and [Armenian](#))

[National Round-table Discussion on Legal Implementation of the Protocol on SEA in Armenia](#), Yerevan 26 September 2014

[Assessment of the draft Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the environmental impact assessment and expertise"](#), July 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Armenian Participants: 5 national experts)

[Seminar on the application of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia](#), Yerevan 23 - 24 March 2015

[Planning meeting for preparation of the amendments to the law of the Republic of Armenia on “Environmental impact assessment and expertise”](#), Yerevan 24 March 2015

Azerbaijan

[Review of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA](#) , October 2014 (Available in English)

[Assessment of the Draft Law of Azerbaijan on environmental assessment, May –July 2014](#) (Available in English)

[National Round-table Discussion on Legal Implementation of the Protocol on SEA in Azerbaijan](#), Baku 28 August 2014

Plan for the implementation of pilot SEA of the Action Plan on Alternative and Renewable Energy Resources Use, March – December, 2015

[Expert mission to assist Azerbaijan in developing its legislation in Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Assessment](#), Baku 28 October 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Azeri Participants: 5 national experts)

[National Round-table Discussion ‘Implementing the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA in national legislation in Azerbaijan](#), Baku 2 March 2015

Training workshop (Part I) 'Practical application of the SEA in the alternative and renewable energy sector in Azerbaijan', Baku 3 – 4 March 2015

Training workshop (Part II) 'Practical application of the SEA in the alternative and renewable energy sector in Azerbaijan', Baku 11 - 12 May 2015

Belarus

[Review of legislation on strategic environmental assessment of Belarus with regard to implementation of the Protocol on SEA to the Espoo Convention](#), December 2013

[National round-table on Legal Implementation of the Protocol on SEA in Belarus](#), 5 September 2013

Three training workshops on SEA at local level were held [7-9 October, 2013, Gomel](#), [21-23 October, 2013, Brest](#), [24-25 October, 2013, Grodno](#) (Report on the training workshops on SEA)

[Joint pilot project between Belarus and Ukraine on post-project analysis of the exploitation of the Khotislavskoye quarry](#), April, 2013 – April, 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Belarussian Participants: 5 national experts)

[Round-table to discuss amendments to the law of the Republic of Belarus on Strategic Environmental Expertiza](#), Minsk 29 - 30 April 2015

Georgia

[Review of legislation on environmental impact assessment of Georgia with regard to implementation of the Espoo Convention](#), January 2013

[Report on analysis of the existing elements and gaps in the national legislation of Georgia related to implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention](#), October 2014

Plan for drafting of the law on EIA and SEA

[National round-table on Legal Implementation of the Espoo Convention in Georgia](#), Tbilisi 4 November 2013

[Start-up workshop for the development of a new law on EIA and SEA in Georgia](#), Tbilisi 25-26 August, 2014

[Drafting workshop to support development of a new law on EIA and SEA in Georgia](#), Tbilisi 18-19 November 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Georgian Participants: 5 national experts)

[Advisory mission to supervise the preparation of the draft Law on EIA and SEA and coordination of the activities with the GIZ project on cumulative effects from the HPP](#), Tbilisi 29 January 2015

[National round-table to discuss the draft law on EIA and SEA in Georgia](#), Tbilisi 19 May 2015

[Public hearing on the draft law on EIA and SEA in Georgia](#), 20 May 2015

The Republic of Moldova

[Review of legislation of the Republic of Moldova with regard to implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment](#), October 2013

[National round-table on Legal Implementation of the Protocol on SEA in the Republic of Moldova](#), 3 September 2013

[Draft law on Strategic Environmental Assessment](#), July 2014

[National round-table meeting: Draft Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment in the Republic of Moldova and its pilot application to urban plans and programmes](#), 29 July 2014

[Practical application of the Draft Law of the Republic of Moldova on Strategic Environmental Assessment to urban plans and programmes: SEA scoping and baseline analysis workshops](#), 30-31 July 2014

[Practical application of the Draft Law of the Republic of Moldova on Strategic Environmental Assessment to urban plans and programmes: Impact training workshop](#), 18-20 November 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Moldovan Participants: 5 national experts)

[Training Workshop on practical application of Strategic Environmental Assessment based on the draft law on environmental assessment in the Republic of Moldova \(PART II\)](#), Chisinau 16 - 17 December 2014

[First public consultation meeting to inform local stakeholders about the Orhei Town Master Plan preparation process and the preliminary results of the strategic environmental assessment](#), Orhei 17 December 2014

[Public participation workshop on the draft SEA report and the Master Plan of Orhei Town](#) (Advisory mission to supervise the implementation of the pilot project on application of SEA to the Orhei Master Plan), Chisinau 12-13 February 2015

[Pilot project “Application of SEA to the Orhei Town Master Plan”](#), July 2014- May 2015

[Round-table Discussion on Practical steps towards ratification to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment \(the Protocol on SEA\) to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context \(Espoo Convention\)](#), 17 June 2015

Ukraine

[National level training workshop on strategic environmental assessment \(SEA\) in Ukraine](#), Kyiv 1 - 4 October 2013

[Joint pilot project between Belarus and Ukraine on post-project analysis of the exploitation of the Khotislavskoye quarry](#), April, 2013 – April, 2014

[Study tour in the Czech Republic ‘Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector’](#), 1-5 December 2014 (Ukrainian Participants: 5 national experts)

[Introduction to strategic environmental assessment and its benefits: Seminar for planning and sectoral authorities](#), 10 June Kiev

[Benefits of the strategic environmental assessment and the role of sectoral authorities in SEA process](#), 11 June, Kiev

[Practical application of strategic environmental assessment: Seminar on the role of the environmental authorities in the SEA process](#), 12 June, Kiev.

Annex 2 – General description of an SEA Pilot Project implemented under the EaP GREEN Programme

The **overall aim of SEA pilot projects** is to build capacities in application of SEA procedures at a national level and to raise awareness of SEA benefits among various national stakeholders. Specific objectives include:

- Testing and demonstrating opportunities of practical application of SEA.
- Providing recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the selected plan/programme.
- Developing recommendations for further improvement of national legislative and institutional frameworks in the participating countries.

Organisation of work and tentative timeframe

A pilot project is conducted by a team of national experts with support from qualified international consultants and the UNECE secretariat and in close cooperation with the developer of a selected plan/programme. The tentative timeframe of a pilot project extends from six month to one year.

Activities

The pilot project on application of SEA procedure is implemented in several phases, including:

1. Preparatory Phase: Setting up a national working group on SEA and a team of technical experts to carry out the SEA and prepare an environmental report.

2. Implementation Phase: Carrying out the pilot SEA for the selected plan/programme based on the UNECE Resource Manual to Support Application of the UNECE Protocol on SEA³, including:

- (a) SEA scoping (and a scoping training workshop)
- (b) Baseline analysis
- (c) Analysis of likely environmental impacts and the action plan optimization, mitigation measures, and environmental monitoring (and an impact training workshop)
- (d) SEA reporting, incorporation of the SEA results in to the plan/programme (and public consultations)

3. Reporting

Final reporting on the pilot project

³ http://www.unece.org/env/eia/pubs/sea_manual.html