### PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Project Title	Green Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN)
	(Ear GREEN)
Project Manager	
	Ms. Elena Santer
Subprogramme	Subprogramme 1. Environment of the UNECE
	Strategic Framework for the biennium
	2014 – 2015.
Implementing Entity	UNECE
Start Date	1 January 2013
End Date	31 March 2017 <sup>1</sup>
Budget	$USD 2,480,000^2$
Beneficiary Countries	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic
	of Moldova, Ukraine
Cooperating Entities within the UN System	UN Environment, UNIDO
Other Implementing Partners	OECD

#### **Background**

The programme's overall objective is to assist the EaP countries to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion. The programme component that 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.

The UNECE supports the participating countries in developing and applying SEA legislation and systems in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), and the EU SEA Directive. The related activities are linked to the workplans under the Convention and the Protocol; and they contribute to promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on SEA. As appropriate, assistance is also

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Originally, the EaP GREEN had been planned to be finalized by December 2016. Non-cost extension until December 2017 was signed between OECD and the EC in November 2016. Subsequently, the agreement between OECD and the ECE was amended in December 2016 and the implementation period of the agreement was extended to 31 March 2017. The second amendments to the agreement between OECD and UNECE to further extend its implementation period until December 2017 was agreed in early February 2017 and is to be signed by both OECD and UNECE by the end of February 2017.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The second amendments to the agreement between OECD and UNECE mentioned above shall increase the total budget to USD 2,678,712.

be provided for improving the current practices and legal and institutional frameworks on EIA in compliance with the Espoo Convention and the EU EIA Directive.

The UNECE's project component includes activities structured in three work-streams:

- Review of existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks on and practical implementation of SEA and EIA:
  - o Carrying out legislative review of SEA and, as appropriate, of EIA
  - o Support to legal drafting for SEA and EIA legislation
  - o Preparing sub-regional overview
- Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures:
  - o Organizing national and sub-national level training on SEA
  - o Development of national guidance documents
  - o Coordination and experience-sharing sub-regional events
  - Conducting pilot SEAs and EIAs
- Strengthening the administrative capacities of the authorities in charge of the environmental assessments.
  - o Preparing legislative reviews and development of recommendations
  - Facilitating policy dialogue
  - o Carrying out institutional reviews and recommendations

The EaP GREEN follows the activities of the secretariat regarding capacity building on SEA and EIA under the Espoo Conventions and it Protocol on SEA in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The project enables the secretariat of the Espoo Convention to effectively implement activities for promoting the ratification and application of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, in line with the workplan adopted by the Meetings of the Parties to the two instruments in June 2011 (Decisions I/9 and V/9, ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/2) and as requested by the beneficiary countries.

The project is related to expected accomplishment (b) "Strengthened implementation of UNECE regional environmental commitments" of subprogramme 1. Environment of the UNECE Strategic Framework for the biennium 2014 – 2015. Its successful implementation shall contribute to several Sustainable Development Goals – e.g. Goal 3 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages', target 'By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination', Goal 6 'Ensure access to water and sanitation for all', target 'By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes', or Goal 13 'Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts', target 'Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning'. The contribution to the SDGs should be achieved through support to establishment of SEA and EIA systems in the beneficiary countries as a tools for mainstreaming the key environmental and health issues (including those addressed by the SDGs) in strategic planning and decision-making, and in projects' design and related permitting procedures, respectively.

Project beneficiary countries (i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine) have requested assistance in the implementation and ratification of the UNECE Espoo Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context, and in particular its Protocol on SEA. The target group of the project includes national and local authorities from the environment, health and economic sectors, as well as land-use planning authorities, practitioners in SEA and EIA, and NGOs and the general public.

The EaP GREEN countries inherited the former Soviet Union system of environmental assessment and state ecological expertise. There was certain development in this field, mainly regarding legislation. While EIAs have been carried out in the beneficiary countries – although its role in project development and permitting process remain often limited, the SEA represents a new tool with a very limited application in the region so far.

The project agreement signed between the OCED as the lead partner and the UNECE provides that all activities within the projects are to be based on the principle of encouraging gender equality.

EaP GREEN is jointly implemented by OECD (lead partner), UNECE, UN Environment, and UNIDO. The project started in January 2013 and shall last until December 2017 (the original 4-year implementing period was extended by one year).

### **Expected accomplishments**

Expected accomplishments of the UNECE activities within the EaP GREEN project can be summarized as follows:

- Improved understanding and strengthened national capacity for the development and implementation of the legal, regulatory, administrative and other measures that are necessary for implementation of SEA and EIA in compliance with the UNECE Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA;
- SEA and EIA are integrated into the national regulatory framework and implemented;
- Opportunities for public participation in decision-making and strengthened governance in this area provided;
- Recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of SEA and EIA systems implemented;
- Progress made towards ratification of the Protocol on SEA by the beneficiary countries.

#### **Indicators of achievement**

Following indicators have been formulated to determine an extent of achieving expected accomplishments:

- Review of existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks on and practical implementation of SEA and EIA:
  - Number of national legislative review of SEA, and, as appropriate, EIA, including recommendations describing necessary legislative process and institutional improvements carried out;
  - Number of amended or new pieces of legislation and regulations drafted and submitted to governments' considerations;
  - Number of action strategies to promote approval of such amendments elaborated and implemented;
  - Sub-regional overview of SEA and EIA system prepared and disseminated.
- Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures:
  - Number of staff trained at various levels: from awareness raising among senior decisionmakers to a good practical understanding among planners;
  - Number of produced training materials tailored to national and local conditions;

- o Training methodology elaborated, used at training events, and disseminated;
- Number of national guidance documents, based on the regional resource manual, prepared and disseminated;
- Number of multi-stakeholder sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing events held;
- Number of pilot SEAs and EIAs carried out for plans, programmes and projects implementing SCP related policies in the framework of the Action.
- Strengthening the administrative capacities of the authorities in charge of the environmental assessments.
  - o Relevant national authorities represented in the round tables and training events (ownership);
  - Number of recommendations on institutional improvements prepared and discussed at round table events;
  - o Number of training events with institutional building carried out;
  - Number of national guidance documents clarifying roles and responsibilities for EIA and SEA procedures approved by the governments;
  - o Number of pilot SEAs and EIAs carried out for plans, programmes and projects implementing SCP related policies in the framework of the Action.

### **Assumptions and Risks**

Harmonisation of environmental legislation of the project beneficiary countries with the EU legal framework is a part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, including the Eastern Partnership agenda, and the process of negotiation of the Association Agreements with the EU. It is assumed that governments of the EaP GREEN countries will allocate the necessary technical and human resources need to support the transition towards a green economy. Support from the beneficiary countries' ministries and governmental agencies is needed to reach the project's objectives. Experience from other projects show that this assumption if reasonable with the project activities and expected results are agreed in advance and countries' preferences are taken into account.

Ongoing administrative reforms and structural difficulties, together with an unstable political situation in some of the countries represent the main risks for the project implementation as this may make it difficult to identify reliable partners to work with. A permanent monitoring of the situation in partner countries is an essential mitigation measure. A risk common to all EaP GREEN countries is that environmental protection is usually not among the priorities of partner countries' policies. This risk can be addressed by systematically making the economic case for environmental policies and by engaging ministries of economic and finance as well as other sectoral ministries in the key activities. Also, certain aspects related to SEA, could be considered as politically sensitive in some countries. The risk can be mitigated by emphasis on awareness raising on SEA and its role among the key decision-makers (high-level officials, members of the parliament etc.).

### Results-based work plan

The results-based work plan for 2017 is provided in the Annex 1.

#### **Budget**

The original project budget for the UNECE activities USD 2,480,000 shall be increased by the amendments to the agreement between OECD and UNECE (to be signed by the end of February 2017) to

maximum USD 2,143,000 of the EU contribution, with up to 25% of co-financing i.e. altogether USD 2,268,712. The detailed budget for 2017 is presented in the Annex 2.

# Results-based work plan

## Annex 1.

<b>Expected accomplishment</b>	Main activities	Umoja Object class (FT30)	Estimated Amount (US\$)
		FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	61,000
		FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual Services	-
EA 1: Advice on revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework provided*	A 1.2 Provide assistance in drafting for SEA	FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and Other direct Costs	-
	legislation	FT30_CLASS_140 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partners (IP Grant)	-
		Sub-total:	61,000
		FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	65,000
	A 2.1 Carry out national level training on SEA (also includes final dissemination events)	FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual Services	5,000
		FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and Other Direct Costs	1,500
EA2: Strengthened capacity of the participating		FT30_CLASS_140 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partners (IP Grant)	17,000
countries on application of SEA/EIA procedures, following good practices including those in use in		FT30_CLASS_160 Travel – Official travel of staff	6,000
the EU Member States*		Sub-total:	94,500
	A 2.3 Develop	FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	50,900
	national guidance	FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual Services	12,000
	documents	FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and Other Direct Costs	3,000
		Sub-total:	65,900

	FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and other Direct Costs	
	(Interpretation and translation costs)	
A2.4. Organise final sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing event	FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and other Direct Costs (Telecommunications Costs)	
and the Training of Trainers	FT30_CLASS_140 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partners (IP Grant)	
	FT30_CLASS_135 Equipment Vehicles and Furniture	
	FT30_CLASS_125 Operating and Other Direct Costs	
	FT30_CLASS_160 Travel	
	FT30_CLASS_160 Travel – Official travel of staff	
	Sub-total:	
A2.6. Prepare	FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	5,
Armenina and Romanian version of SEA video	FT30_CLASS_140 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partners	4,
Video	Sub-total:	9,
	FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	
A2.6. Prepare		
A2.6. Prepare factsheets on application of SEA/EIA	FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual Services (External printing)	
factsheets on application of	FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual	

	learned report		
		Sub-total:	-
	A2.6. Prepare final promotional materials	FT30_CLASS_010 Staff and personnel costs	-
		FT30_CLASS_120 Contractual Services (External printing)	-
		Sub-total:	-
<b>Total direct expenditures</b>			230,900
Plus: 7% Programme Supp	16,163		
TOTAL			247,063

## PROJECT CONCEPT NOTE

Annex 2.

### **Budget**

# FT30 CLASS 010 – Staff and personnel costs – Fixed-Term appointment Temporary VC post for Professional level (US\$ 72,000)

The proposed provision under this object of expenditure is intended to cover the salary and related entitlements of:

Activity No.	Post	Salary Costs per year (in US\$), including staff assessment, post adjustment, pension fund contribution and medical insurance	Dependency Allowances (in US\$), e.g. dependency allowance, home leave and separation costs	Total costs per post (in US\$)
all	Environmental Affairs Officer (P3) for 12 months to assist to manage implementation of the activities under the trusct fund, inluding A 1.2 Provide assistance in drafting for SEA legislation, A 1.3. Prepare sub-regional overview, A 2.1 & A2.2 Carry out national and regional level training on SEA, A2.3. Develop national guidance documents, A2.4. Organise sub-regional coordination and experience- sharing events, A2.5. Identify and implement pilot SEAs and EIAs, A2.6. Prepare factsheets on application of SEA/EIA	\$0	\$40,000	\$40,000

TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates) \$48,100	all	Project Assistant (G4) for 12 months to assist to manage implementation of the activities under the trusct fund, inluding A 1.2 Provide assistance in drafting for SEA legislation, A 1.3. Prepare sub-regional overview, A 2.1 & A2.2 Carry out national and regional level training on SEA, A2.3. Develop national guidance documents, A2.4. Organise sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing events, A2.5. Identify and implement pilot SEAs and EIAs, A2.6. Prepare factsheets on application of SEA/EIA	\$8,100	\$0	\$8,100
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# FT30 CLASS 010 Staff and personnel costs - International Consultants fees/Institutional Consultants fees and Consultants travel ((US\$ 257,480)

This provision is related to obtaining outside expertise of International consultants *inter alia* for:

Acitivity No.	Purpose	Number of consultants	Monthly rate /Cost per trip (US\$)	Duration of contract (months)/ number of trips	Total cost (US\$)
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all	Consultants fees to provide substantive and managerial support to the secretariat in the implementation of the project.	1	10,400	6	62,400
EA 1: A1.2	Consultants fees to assist developing SEA and EIA legislation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus (drafting proposals and review of the drafts)	4	3,125	2	25,000
EA 1: A1.2	Travel of consultants to roundtable and drafting meetings to discuss draft legislation in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus (flight USD 500 + Per Diems 3 days x 250 USD per day)	2	1,250	2	5,000
EA 2: A2.1	Consultants fees to support organisation and delivery of national level training and dissemination events on SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine	6	4,700	1	14,100
EA 2: A2.1 & 2.2	Travel of consultants to national level training and dissemination events in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (flight USD 550 + Per Diems 3 days x 250 USD per day)	2	1,250	3	7,500

EA 2: A2.3	Consultants fees to assist in preparation of the national guidance documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus (text development, support to local experts, review of drafts, quality control)	4	3,700	1	14,800
EA 2: A2.3	Travel of consultants to participate at the working meeting and workshops regarding national guidance documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Belarus (flight USD 635 + Per Diems 3 days x 250 USD per day)	2	1,250	2	5,000
EA 2: A2.4	Consultants fees to prepare and deliver a final sub- regional experience-sharing event and the second Training of Trainers session (development of agenda, presentations, reports for the event)	0	0	0	0
EA 2: A2.4	Travel of consultants to a a final sub-regional experience-sharing event and the second Training of Trainers session (flight USD 1000 + Per Diems 6 day x 250 USD per day)	0	0	0	0
EA 2: A 2.6	Consultants fees to prepare the fact-sheets	0	0	0	0

EA 2: A 2.6	Consultants fees to prepare the lessons learned report	0	0	0	0
EA 2: A 2.6	Consultants fees to prepare final promotional material	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)			133,800	

# FT30 CLASS 160 Travel - Official travel of staff (US\$ 7,750)

Provisions under this object code are to cover the travel and DSA costs of project staff and regular staff to enable their participation at meetings, workshops and seminars under the EaP GREEN Programme as specified below:

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per trip	No. of Trips	Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)
EA 2: A2.1	Travel and DSA of staff to national level training and dissemination events in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine (flight USD 500 + Per Diems 2 days x USD 250)	\$1,000	6	various dates (tbc based on the agreements with the national partners)	6,000
EA 2: A 2.4.	Travel and DSA of staff to a final sub-regional experience-sharing event and the second Training of Trainers session (flght USD 500 + Per Diems 6 days x USD 250)/ other costs are covered by Grant out	\$0	0	various dates (tbc based on the agreements with the national partners)	0

**TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)** 

6,000

### FT30 CLASS 120 Contractual Services – subcontract/other contractual services (US\$ 12,500)

Requirements under this object code are to engage institutional contractors (via UNDP) to arrange substantive and logistical support for the EaP GREEN activities in Belarus and Azerbaijan as specified below:

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per contracts/other service	No. of meetings	Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)	
EA 1: A1.2	Assistance in developing SEA and EIA legislation in Azerbaijan (organisation of round table meetings, publicity costs)/ through UNDP	\$0	0	date to be confirmed (Baku)	0	
EA 2: A2.1	Assistance in carrying out SEA training and dissemination events at the national level in Azerbaijan and Belarus (organisation, logistics, national experts, publicity costs)/ through UNDP	\$2,500	2	date to be confirmed (Baku and Minsk)	5,000	
E 2: A 2.3	Assistance in preparation of the national guidance documents in Azerbaijan and Belarus (organisation, logistics, national experts, lay out, printing)/ through UNDP	\$3,000	4	date to be confirmed (Baku and Minsk)	12,000	
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)					

### FT30 CLASS 120 Contractual Services (External printing) (US\$ 5,000)

Provisions under this heading are related to the costs of external printing of publications for the project implementation or proceedings of the meetings as specified below.

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per contract		Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)
EA 2: A2.4	Prepare materials for a final sub-regional experience-sharing event and the Training of Trainers, and the MOP (development of graphics, text, edditing, lay out, printing, max 100 pages)	\$0	0		0
EA 2: A2.6	Prepare the final promotional material (development of graphics, text, edditing, lay out, printing, max 100 pages)	\$0	0		0
EA 2: A2.6	Prepare the fact sheets (development of graphics, text, edditing, lay out, printing, max 15 pages)	\$0	0		0
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded es	timates)		•	0

### FT30 CLASS 125 Operating and other Direct Costs (Telecommunications Costs) (US\$ 2,000)

Provisions under this heading are needed to pay the costs of communications for telephones, faxes, internet and other charges related to the project activities.

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per service	No. of contracts	Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)
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all	Office stationary	\$1,500	1		375
EA 2: A2.4	Telecommunication costs needed to organise sub- regional confernce and other events	\$500	1		125
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)				500

### FT30 CLASS 125 Operating and other Direct Costs (Interpretation and translation costs) (US\$ 3,000)

Provisions under this heading are needed to pay the cost of interpretation and translations costs required in the field missions or during the conference/workshop/seminar where simultaneous interpretation from one language to another is required (e.g. English-Russian-English etc) in connection with the project activities. The break down of costs is presented below:

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per service	No. of pages/ days	No of translators/interpr iters	Total costs (in US\$)
EA 2: A2.4	Translation of documents for the final sub-regional experience-sharing event and the Training of Trainers other events (max 200 pages English-Russian-English)	\$0	0	0	0
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded est	timates)			0

### FT30 CLASS 125 Operating and Other direct Costs (UNDP Cost Recovery) (US\$ 3,750)

Requirements under this object code are to cover possible operating expenses such as the UNDP cost recovery related to the implementation of project activities through the arrangement and organization by UNDP Country Offices.

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per service	No. of contracts	Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)
EA 1: A1.2	Assistance in developing SEA and EIA legislation in Azerbaijan (organisation of round table meetings, publicity costs)/ through UNDP	\$0.1		date to be confirmed (Baku)	0
EA 2: A2.1	Assistance in carrying out SEA training and dissemination events at the national level in Azerbaijan and Belarus (organisation, logistics, national experts, publicity costs)/ through UNDP	\$1,500	1	date to be confirmed (Baku and Minsk)	1,500
E 2: A 2.3	Assistance in preparation of the national guidance documents in Azerbaijan and Belarus (organisation, logistics, national experts, lay out, printing)/ through UNDP	\$3,000	date to be confirmed (Minsk)		3,000
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded est	imates)		,	4,500

# FT30 CLASS 135 Equipment Vehicles and Furniture (US\$ 500)

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per service	No. of contracts	No of translators/interpr iters	Total costs (in US\$)
all	IT equipment	\$0	0	0	0
TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)					

# FT30 CLASS 140 Transfers and Grants Issued to Implementing Partners (IP Grant) US\$ 70,000)

Provisions under this object code are to pay the grants (that undergone through the UNECE Grants Committee) to grantees (non-commercial entities/NGO/Institutions) in relation with the implementation of the Eap GREEN project activities as specified below:

Activity No.	Purpose	Average cost per grant	No. of Grants	Meeting dates/Venue	Total costs (in US\$)
EA 1: A1.2	Grants to assist in developing SEA and EIA legislation in Armenia (organisation of round table meetings, publicity costs)	\$0	0	date to be confirmed (Yerevan)	0
EA 2: A2.1 & A 2.2	Grants to assist in carrying out SEA training and dissemination events at the national and regional level in Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (organisation, logistics, national experts, publicity costs)	\$4,250	4	Baku (AZ), Tbilisi (GE), Chisinau (MLD), Kiev (UA) (dates to be confirmed)	17,000
EA 2: A2.4	Grant to provide substantive and logistical suport in organisation of a final subregional experience-sharing event and the Training of Trainers (local experts, logistics, venue, translation, interpretation, lay-out of publications, printing)	\$0	0	0	0

EA 2: A2.6	Grant to provide the national version of the SEA video in Armenian and Romanian language (translation of text, voice-over recording)	\$2,000	2		4,000
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded estimates)				

# FT10 CLASS 160 Travel – Travel of meeting participants/study tour/seminars and workshops (US\$ 9,000)

Provisions under this heading are needed to cover the payment of travel expenses of meeting participants to sub-regional seminars and workshops. It also covers the contracting for the local organization of meetings, workshops and seminars under the auspices of the convention, including payment of conference room services, interpretation, audiovisual transmission of proceedings, local transportation and other facilities, as well as to provide for translation of documentation needed for such meetings, workshops and seminars.

The breakdown of projected costs is as follows:

Activitiy No.	Meeting/ Body	Days/participants /DSA\$	Estimated Costs (1)	Travel\$/ participants	Estimated Costs (2)	(3) = (1)+(2) Total costs \$
EA 2: A2.4	Travel of participants to a final sub-regional experience-sharing event and the Training of Trainers, September 2016/ place and date to be confirmed Ukraine (flight USD 500) / other costs will be covered by Grant out					0
	TOTAL COSTS (rounded estin	mates)				0