

## **Progress under Component 2 “SEA and EIA promotion”**

1. Component 2 aims to support the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of laws, policies, plans, programmes and projects by ensuring that environmental assessments are carried out for initiatives that are likely to have an impact on the environment in accordance with the Espoo Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as well as with the relevant EU legislation.

2. In 2013 the following, activities have been carried out under Component 2:

### ***Work stream 2.1: Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework***

3. Activities under this work stream are based on the requests by the participating countries, and foreseen in the workplans under the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on SEA, for 2011-2014 and 2014-2017. The activities were designed to promote the integration of EIA and SEA systems into the national legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks of the partner countries and to improve understanding for and acceptance of the necessary measures for efficient implementation of SEA and EIA systems among national stakeholders. The intention is to complete in 2013-2014 up to 5 national legislative reviews of SEA and EIA, support 2 countries in the drafting of SEA and EIA legislation (in 2014-2015), and conduct a sub-regional overview in 2015-2016.

4. In 2013, activities had mostly a national-level scope. The national legislation, procedures and institutional structures for the application of SEA in Belarus and the Republic of Moldova were reviewed and draft reports with recommendations for their improvement were developed. The draft results and recommendations were discussed with the relevant national authorities and other stakeholders during national roundtable events ([3 September 2013 in Chisinau](#), [5 September 2013 in Minsk](#)). The legislative reviews outlined that in both countries the existing legislation and regulations contain elements of the strategic environmental assessment. However, to comply with the provisions of the SEA Protocol and provisions of the EU SEA Directive relevant to the Protocol, several changes and amendments to the existing legislation are required, including, for example, development of a new Law on SEA. The following actions were taken by respective governments:

- ***Belarus***

Based on [the results of the legislative review](#), the Government of Belarus has been considering two options: a) drafting a separate law on SEA; b) incorporating articles introducing obligations for SEA into the current legislation, namely the Law on Environmental Protection and/or the Law on State Ecological Expertise as well as drafting regulations on detailed procedures on SEA to be adopted by Governmental resolution. The UNECE Secretariat is conducting further negotiations with the National Focal Point to the Espoo Convention to identify a need for further technical assistance to Belarus.

- ***Moldova***

Following the [review recommendations](#) and based on the consultations with the stakeholders, the Government of the Republic of Moldova decided to develop a new Law on SEA in accordance with the Protocol on SEA (and in line with the EU SEA Directive). In addition, the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Moldova requested UNECE to provide

recommendations on integrating SEA procedures and principles into the procedures for Regulatory Impact Assessment and other relevant procedures on the development of plans and programmes. Further technical assistance to the Government of the Republic of Moldova (legal drafting) will be provided by two international and one national expert from January to May 2014 to develop the draft Law on SEA. To facilitate acceptance of the proposed Draft Law on SEA by relevant sectoral ministries, round-table consultations with stakeholders, including relevant ministries and representatives of the public, will be organised in spring 2014. The UNECE consultants will support the members of the MoE drafting team in the organisation of the round table and in presentation of the draft law and facilitate the consultations with the public.

5. In *Georgia*, [a review of the national legislation and institutional structure for the application of the Espoo Convention](#) was conducted by UNECE consultants in close cooperation with national authorities. The results of the review and the proposed recommendations to enhance existing national legal framework were presented and discussed during [the National round table](#) on Legal Implementation of the Espoo Convention organised on 4 November, 2013 in Tbilisi. The comments obtained during the round table were incorporated into the final report (December 2013 - January, 2014). The report:

a) highlights a number of significant discrepancies between the Georgian EIA regime and the requirements of the Convention, including lack of the provisions concerning EIA in a transboundary context in the Georgian law and lack of an official platform or mechanism for transboundary cooperation on such matters;

b) suggests a number of amendments to the existing laws and regulations, including in the Law on Environmental Impact Permits.

6. In January 2014, Georgia informed the Convention secretariat, that as a follow-up action to the legislative review, it intends to develop a new law on EIA, with the view of acceding to the Espoo Convention. It has also pointed out that according to the Association Agreement between the European Union and Georgia, Georgia among others is obliged to fulfil the requirements of the EU EIA Directive. In March 2014 Georgia further clarified that it wishes to include provisions on SEA in the new law on EIA. Thus Georgia requested the Convention secretariat to support its efforts to accede to the two treaties and to implement EIA/SEA procedures in line with the obligations under the Convention/the Protocol and the relevant EU legislation. Based on this request further assistance will be directed to:

a) scoping for the draft law on SEA to identify the relevant elements and gaps existing in the current law, as well as elements for the new law;

b) development of a new law on EIA and SEA;

c) identifying existing risks and opportunities and determine the steps related to joining the Espoo Convention.

In addition, a publicity campaign and targeted awareness raising events for high level officials are crucial to increase awareness and common understanding of the benefits of EIA and SEA and to support adoption of the new law on EIA and SEA at the national level.

7. The legislative reviews on SEA for Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia are scheduled for April-November 2014. In addition, the reviews of the draft laws on EIA will be conducted in Armenia

and Azerbaijan in order to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the Espoo Convention and its Protocol.

***Work stream 2.2: Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures, following good practices including those in use in the EU Member States***

8. This work stream aims to contribute to the development of national SEA/EIA systems and practice, raise awareness and understanding of the benefits of SEA/EIA at national and local level and in different sectors, provide opportunities for public participation in decision-making and facilitate acceptance among decision-makers, relevant authorities and the public of the effects of plans, programmes and projects implementing SCP policies.

9. The activities include: national level training workshops (up to 3 in each of the six EaP countries), local level training workshops (up to 3 in each of the six EaP countries), development of national guidance documents (up to six per region), sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing events (up to 3 events), pilot SEAs and EIAs (up to six per region), fact-sheets on application of SEA/EIA, participation in regional meetings on SEA/EIA (up to 3 government or civil society representatives from each of the 6 countries each year).

10. In 2013, the following activities were implemented:

- ***National level training on SEA***

In 2013 two national level training workshops on SEA were conducted in [Armenia \(Yerevan, 28-29 November, 2013\)](#) and [Ukraine \(Kyiv, 1-4 October, 2013\)](#). The four-day training workshops brought together experts from various sectoral ministries, including those responsible for economics, industry, agriculture, energy, transport, spatial planning, representatives of local authorities, environmental and health authorities, and civil society.

In Ukraine 31 participants attended the training, out of which 20 completed the full programme.

In Armenia, 42 national experts attended the opening of the workshop and 31 participants completed the course.

The participants gave positive evaluation to the training. They particularly appreciated the case studies that were tailored to their needs, information about their Governments plans for development of SEA legislation and the opportunity to share existing experiences.

The following suggestions for improvements in the organisation and delivery of the future workshops were made: ‘...use simpler language to set tasks for practical exercises; reduce duration of the workshop; discuss local/national planning examples and assessment techniques’. It was also noted that the training workshops would be most useful if combined with pilot SEA projects.

The feedback obtained from the participants will be taken into account in the preparation and delivery of the national training for workshops in Georgia scheduled for autumn 2014.

- ***Local level training on SEA***

Three local level training workshops on SEA of 2.5 days<sup>1</sup> were delivered in Belarus in 2013: in [Gomel on 7-9 October](#), [Brest on 21-23 October](#) 2013 and in [Grodno on 24-25 October](#). A case study on SEA for a Regional Development Programme was developed to maximally address needs of the target audience. Fifty five participants (13 participants in Gomel, 21 participants in Brest and 22 participants in Grodno) representing local planning organisations, local environment, health and other authorities, universities as well as civil society attended the training.

The participants of the workshop highly appreciated the training, in particular the learning-by-doing exercises, examples of application of SEA from other countries and possibility for experience exchange. However, many noted that in absence of a legislative framework which requires mandatory application of SEA and within the existing centralized decision-making structure there is little incentive for local authorities to voluntarily start SEA procedures when developing a local plan or programme.

At the same time, the participants observed that legislative changes alone will not be sufficient to implement an effective SEA system, despite the ample availability of technical expert capacities (with experience from EIA/OVOS field and others). SEA requires a proper institutional structure, cooperation between planning and environmental professionals, practical experience of and willingness to involving environmental professionals into the planning processes at early stages. Further cooperation among experts is also needed.

Participants also noted that to facilitate the development of proper SEA procedures and practice, a local level a SEA pilot might be needed. Grodno municipality expressed its preliminary interest in becoming a pioneer in this activity in Belarus. Taking into account that a number of national level pilot SEAs were already conducted in Belarus, it was suggested to prepare an assessment of the results of these pilot projects, prepare information materials on the benefits of SEA and disseminate them to the decision-makers. Based on the assessment it would be possible to further assess the feasibility of the new pilot SEA at the local level. Negotiations between the UNECE and the NFP regarding the pilot project to the Espoo Convention are ongoing.

Further local level training events are scheduled for autumn 2014 in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova. They will be designed to support implementation of the pilot projects on SEA.

- ***Pilot SEA and EIA***

A first pilot transboundary project on post-project analysis under the Espoo Convention was initiated between Belarus and Ukraine, with a start-up workshop held in Brest (Belarus) on 9-10 April 2013. Representatives of Poland also attended the workshop.

The objective of the pilot project is to establish practice in the post-project analysis of projects subject to a transboundary EIA procedure and to improve cross-border dialogue between Belarus and Ukraine in monitoring and mitigating transboundary impacts. It also aims to improve practices for providing the public of concerned countries with access to

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<sup>1</sup> Four day workshops were originally planned to be conducted at the local level. However, after discussion with national and local authorities, which pointed out that SEA is an emerging concept in Belarus and there are no legal requirements and guidelines for obligatory implementation of SEA, the number of training days was reduced to 2,5 and to use these events as awareness raising events.

information about transboundary environmental impacts. The pilot project takes stock of the environmental impacts of the exploitation of the “Khotislavskoe” chalky deposits in Belarus, located just 250 metres from the Belarusian-Ukrainian border, as well as the implementation of a joint monitoring programme by a bilateral working group subsequently set up by the two countries. The joint monitoring and evaluation of the environmental impacts of the project activities is focused on surface water and groundwater resources. The bilateral working group has worked actively to evaluate the ex-post environmental impact of the activity to verify if the environmental impacts and mitigation measures were predicted adequately.

Currently recommendations for post-project analysis in transboundary EIA in Belarus and Ukraine including recommendations for public participation and access to information are being developed by a task force set up for the project, together with an addendum on post-project analysis to the bilateral agreement between Belarus and Ukraine for the implementation of the Espoo Convention. Public participation workshops are scheduled for February 2014 and the final sub-regional conference, to share the results of the pilot project, for April 2014.

A process for identification of a suitable project, plan or programme for a pilot SEA or EIA was initiated in Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova. Bilateral discussions with the NFPs to the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA, interviews, round-tables and training workshops were used to initiate this challenging process. In the Republic of Moldova, a pilot project will focus on urban planning for a local community. The negotiations with the spatial planning institute and the NFP to the Espoo Convention are ongoing to select the pilot community in the Republic of Moldova.

More efforts are needed to identify a suitable pilot project in other countries. A successful pilot requires integration of the SEA into the strategic planning process. The planning authority must be willing to engage in the SEA, be open to cooperation with the SEA team and ready to incorporate the results of the SEA into the plan/programme. A competition process, including an awareness raising campaign targeting national planning authorities and local communities will be introduced where necessary to increase awareness and interest of planners in the application of SEA and improve inter-institutional collaboration. A set of selection criteria will be developed to assist the countries in the identification of the most suitable pilot project.

- ***Participation in regional meetings on SEA/EIA***

The participation of representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine in the meetings of the Working Group on EIA and SEA in Geneva (27-30 May and 11-15 November 2013) was financially supported. The Working Group provides a unique forum for countries within and beyond the ECE region to exchange good practices; and to develop and monitor capacity building activities, in accordance with joint work plans agreed by the Meetings of the Parties. In 2013, the Working Group reviewed the implementation of numerous national and sub-regional activities to improve countries’ legal frameworks and capacities for practical application of the two treaties, with a particular focus on the Protocol on SEA. A number of thematic seminars were organized during the Working Group meeting, including a seminar on [biodiversity in environmental impact assessment and strategic environmental assessment](#), a seminar on [sharing good practice and tools for communication, cooperation and conflict resolution, in particular in the context of countries with no diplomatic relations](#), and a [workshop on the impacts of nuclear-energy related activities](#).

- **Sub-regional coordination and experience sharing events**

The first sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing event is scheduled for 15-16 April, 2014 (Minsk, Belarus) to disseminate the results of the pilot project on post-project analysis. Participants from Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia, Poland and EaP GREEN countries will be invited. Part of the meeting will be dedicated to supporting the EaP GREEN countries in the identification and planning of a pilot SEA/EIA.

During the UNECE Working group on EIA and SEA, the EaP countries requested the Secretariat to organise a study tour to one of the 'New' EU focused on practical implementation of the SEA Protocol. The study tour should provide participants with an opportunity to familiarise themselves with a working SEA system, including legislation, institutional structure and procedures and study existing SEA practices in land use, plans, energy related plans, environment related plans, urban development plans, etc. The participants should be able not only to share their own experience in SEA, but also to meet a number of authorities, consultants and NGOs who deal with the SEA on the daily basis in one country. They will be able to study the transition process of introducing SEA in the 'New' EU countries. Discussions are on-going with Poland and Czech Republic, where there is a possibility to showcase various SEAs not only in a national, but also in a trans-boundary context.

### ***Work stream 2.3: Strengthening the administrative capacities***

11. Strengthening the administrative capacities of the authorities in charge of the environmental assessment is needed in order to clarify responsibilities and roles of competent authorities for SEA and EIA procedures, improve inter-institutional cooperation and involve all the relevant actors in the legislative reviews, technical assistance, training on and pilot implementation of SEA/EIA. The planned interventions are closely connected with the activities described above and include: carrying out legislative reviews of EIA and SEA, pilot projects, training and technical assistance seeking active involvement of relevant authorities and stakeholders; prepare recommendations that cover both legislative process and institutional improvements; share and discuss the recommendations with governmental authorities at roundtable events; include institutional building as part of the training objectives; define and clarify roles and responsibilities of national authorities in the national guidance documents.

12. A review of the existing procedures and institutional structures has been carried out during the revision of SEA related policy and legal frameworks in Belarus and Moldova and of EIA in Georgia (as described above). The roles and responsibilities of various actors, including the arrangements for public participation have been identified. These roles and responsibilities and suggestions for improving existing institutional structures and procedures were discussed during national events organised in Moldova, Ukraine, Armenia and Belarus in 2013. Relevant stakeholders, including decision makers from sectoral, environmental and health authorities working at the central and local levels took an active part in these events (as described above) and particularly appreciated opportunity for sharing experience and understating the current work of participating institutions.

### ***General observations***

13. During the implementation of the project activities a number of obstacles to the implementation of the SEA/ EIA systems common for the EaP countries were identified. They include low level of awareness of SEA and its benefits among public authorities; weak legislative and institutional framework for its application; lack of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of

various authorities in the SEA process; and the absence of specific guidelines and practical experience in the application of SEA.

14. Given that SEA legislation is not yet in place in the partner countries and that there is therefore no legal obligation to carry out SEA procedures it is crucial to have the backing of high-level national authorities for all project activities and efforts of the governments to comply with international treaty obligations. This does not only involve drafting of new legislation but very importantly investing in building the capacity of national and local officials, experts and representatives of the civil society which will be called upon to implement it. The project team is considering to design some interventions to obtain the high-level political backing, including targeted awareness training activities and media events.



**Table 1. Activity-by-activity progress during the reporting period and subsequent year plans under Component 2 of the EaP GREEN programme**

<b>2.1: Revision of national regulatory and legislative frameworks</b>		Lead partner: UNECE		Progress made: <b>ON TRACK</b>																						
<p><b>Context:</b> The existing environmental assessment legislation in many EaP countries, provides for environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures at the national and transboundary context, and contains elements of strategic environmental assessment (SEA). However, there were indications that gaps in legislation and practice prevented countries from conducting EIA and SEA procedures in line with the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on SEA, as well as with the relevant EU legislation. A review of national legislative and other regulatory framework on EIA and/or SEA in these countries has been recently undertaken, which has proven an efficient tool for identifying areas of concern and improvement.</p>		<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the integration of EIA and SEA systems into the national legal, regulatory, and administrative frameworks of the partner countries:</li> <li>Improve understanding for and acceptance of the necessary measures for efficient implementation of SEA and EIA among national stakeholders.</li> </ul>		<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased number of EaP countries, Parties of the Protocol on SEA and the Espoo Convention</li> </ul>																						
<b>PROGRESS IN 2013</b>																										
<b>Regional-level activities</b>		<b>National-level activities</b>		<b>Results achieved</b>																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">Guidance on resolving a possible systemic inconsistency between the Convention and the environmental assessment within the framework of State ecological expertise in countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia</a></li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA (Belarus, Republic of Moldova) and of EIA (Georgia).</li> <li>Consultation of the results of the reviews at round-table events with the national authorities and development of final recommendations</li> </ul>		<p><b>Two</b> review of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA conducted (planned up to 5). Between 10 to 16 recommendations describing necessary legislative, process and institutional improvements are developed for each country. See the review report and the documentation on the round-tables the links in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Belarus</th> <th colspan="2">Moldova</th> <th colspan="2">Georgia</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Review report</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> <td><a href="#">RUS</a></td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> <td><a href="#">RUS</a></td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> <td><a href="#">RUS</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Meeting materials</td> <td colspan="2"><a href="#">Chisinau, 3 September</a></td> <td colspan="2"><a href="#">Minsk, 5 September</a></td> <td colspan="2"><a href="#">Tbilisi, 4 November</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Belarus		Moldova		Georgia		Review report	<a href="#">ENG</a>	<a href="#">RUS</a>	<a href="#">ENG</a>	<a href="#">RUS</a>	<a href="#">ENG</a>	<a href="#">RUS</a>	Meeting materials	<a href="#">Chisinau, 3 September</a>		<a href="#">Minsk, 5 September</a>		<a href="#">Tbilisi, 4 November</a>	
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<b>ANNUAL PLAN 2014</b>																										
<b>Regional-level activities</b>		<b>National-level activities</b>		<b>Expected results</b>																						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional activities are not foreseen in 2014</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of the Draft Law on SEA in Moldova and on EIA in Georgia, including stakeholders consultations and targeted awareness raising events</li> <li>Review of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan</li> <li>Mapping exercise to identify scope of the draft law on SEA in Georgia</li> </ul>		<p><b>One</b> new legislation on SEA drafted in the Republic of Moldova  <b>First draft of a</b> new legal act on EIA and SEA is prepared in Georgia  <b>Two</b> action strategies to promote approval of these draft laws are elaborated  <b>Reviews</b> of national legislative and institutional framework of SEA in Armenia and Azerbaijan            Background document for development of a draft Law on SEA in Georgia</p>																						



2.2: Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures		Lead partner: UNECE	Progress made: ON TRACK								
<p><b>Context:</b> In absence of a legislative framework which requires mandatory application of SEA, the EaP countries lack capacities and practical experience in the application of the SEA in line with the Protocol on SEA and relevant EU legislation. Most of the plans and programme subject to SEA are sub-national or local land-use plan or other local plans which impact people's everyday life. The capacity building activities will thus target both national and local authorities, whose involvement is vital for the development of successful SEA/EIA systems. National authorities will be enabled to provide advice and training on SEA to the local authorities. For better efficiency, training courses will be combined with carefully selected pilot SEA or EIA projects.</p>		<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribute to the development of national SEA/EIA systems and practice</li> <li>• Increase awareness and understanding of the benefits of SEA/EIA and facilitating acceptance among decision-makers, relevant authorities and the public</li> <li>• Elaborate and support implementation of recommendations for further improving the effectiveness of SEA and EIA systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practical experience and national capacities for application SEA/EIA at the national and local level are available at the EAP countries</li> </ul>								
PROGRESS IN 2013											
Regional-level activities	National-level activities	Results achieved									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial support to participation of representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at a second and third meeting of the Working Group on EIA and SEA (Geneva, 27-30 May and 11-15 November 2013)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National training workshop on SEA in <b>Armenia</b> and <b>Ukraine</b></li> <li>• Three local SEA training workshop in <b>Belarus</b></li> <li>• Post-project analysis (PPA) of environmental impact in transboundary context in Belarus and Ukraine, including: a start up workshop, 9-10 April (Brest, Belarus); 3 meetings of a bilateral working group (10 April, 27 June, 28 October), development and implementation of a monitoring programme; development of draft recommendations for PPA (October 2013 -January 2014); meeting of the Task Force for project evaluation, 17 December 2013)</li> </ul>	<p><b>110 participants</b> completed the training course on application of SEA (31 in Armenia, 55 in Belarus, and 24 in Ukraine).  <b>Three sets of training materials</b> are produced based on the national conditions of Armenia and Ukraine and local conditions in Belarus.            Training methodology elaborated and used at the training events.            See the documentation about the training events following the links in the table below:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Ukraine</th> <th>Armenia</th> <th>Belarus</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meeting materials and report</td> <td><a href="#">Kyiv, 1-4 October</a></td> <td><a href="#">Yerevan, 28-29 November</a></td> <td><a href="#">(Gomel 7-9 October, Brest, 21-23 October Grodno, 24-25 October)</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Post-project monitoring of the exploitation of the "Khotislavskoe" chalky deposits in Belarus has been conducted by the bilateral working group. The final report on the results of monitoring of surface water and groundwater resources work is available.</p>			Ukraine	Armenia	Belarus	Meeting materials and report	<a href="#">Kyiv, 1-4 October</a>	<a href="#">Yerevan, 28-29 November</a>	<a href="#">(Gomel 7-9 October, Brest, 21-23 October Grodno, 24-25 October)</a>
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Meeting materials and report	<a href="#">Kyiv, 1-4 October</a>	<a href="#">Yerevan, 28-29 November</a>	<a href="#">(Gomel 7-9 October, Brest, 21-23 October Grodno, 24-25 October)</a>								

ANNUAL PLAN 2014		
Regional-level activities	National-level activities	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial support to participation of representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at the Meetings of the Parties of the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA (2-5 June, Kiev, Ukraine)</li> <li>• Coordination and experience sharing event (15-16 April, Belarus)</li> <li>• Study tour on Practical experience in application of the SEA to various plans and programmes in the EU countries, comparison of legal, institutional and procedural frameworks (September, 2014)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalization of the pilot project on the PPA of environmental impact in transboundary context in Belarus and Ukraine, including two public participation workshops and a final conference for disseminating results (by May 2014)</li> <li>• National training workshop on SEA in Georgia a; local level training on SEA in Armenia and Republic of Moldova (October – November, 2014)</li> <li>• Planning and implementation of SEA pilot projects in Armenia, the Republic of Moldova; planning of the SEA pilot projects in Azerbaijan and Georgia and (2014-2015)</li> </ul>	<p><b>At least 65 participants</b> completed the training course on application of SEA at the national and local level.</p> <p><b>Three sets of training materials</b> are produced based on the national conditions of Armenia, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>Training methodology updated and used at the training events.</p> <p>A pilot project on PPA of environmental impact in transboundary context in Belarus and Ukraine is completed.</p> <p>Two pilot SEAs are initiated in Armenia and the Republic of Moldova; two pilot SEAs planned to be initiated early 2015 in Azerbaijan and Georgia.</p>

2.3: Strengthening the administrative capacities of the authorities in charge of the environmental assessment		Lead partner: UNECE	Progress made: ON TRACK																												
<p><b>Context:</b> A clear definition of both the competent authorities in decision-making and the responsibilities for arranging public participation are needed for efficient EIA and SEA. In particular, in the case of SEA commitment and clear division of roles among other relevant authorities (planning, health, etc.) is required to achieve its targets of impacting strategic decision-making. For sectorial plans and programmes, joint capacity-development activities can help to strengthen coordination between government departments. This activity will provide for involvement of various authorities and include clarification of responsibilities for SEA and EIA procedures. It will be implemented through the activities 2.1 and 2.2.</p>	<p><b>Objectives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To define and clarify responsibilities and roles of competent authorities for SEA and EIA procedures,</li> <li>To improve inter-institutional cooperation and involve all the relevant actors in the legislative reviews, technical assistance, training on and pilot implementation of SEA/EIA</li> </ul>	<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhanced capacities of the administrative authorities in charge of the environmental assessment for conducting SEA and EIA.</li> </ul>																													
PROGRESS IN 2013																															
Regional-level activities	National-level activities	Results achieved																													
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial support to participation of representatives from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at a second and third meeting of the Working Group on EIA and SEA (Geneva, 27-30 May and 11-15 November 2013)</li> </ul>	<p>A review of roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders in the SEA process conducted in conjunction with the activity 2.1: Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework (Belarus, 3 June – 31 July; Moldova, 23 June – 31 July, Georgia, 9 September – 15 October);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relevant stakeholders were identified and took part in the national and local training workshops initiated in connection with the activity 2.2: Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures, following good practices including those in use in the EU (August 2013).</li> </ul>	<p>Relevant authorities were represented at the round-tables and training events</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>No of participants</th> <th>No of organisations</th> <th>Link to the LoP</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>National workshop on SEA, Armenia</td> <td>42</td> <td>15</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>National workshop on SEA, Ukraine</td> <td>31</td> <td>20</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Round-table, legislative review on SEA, R. Moldova</td> <td>22</td> <td>11</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Round-table, legislative review on SEA, Belarus</td> <td>23</td> <td>13</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Three local workshops on SEA, Belarus</td> <td>55</td> <td>27</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a> <a href="#">ENG</a> <a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Round-table, legislative review on EIA, Georgia</td> <td>30</td> <td>18</td> <td><a href="#">ENG</a></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Numerous recommendations on institutional improvements prepared and discussed at round table events dedicated to the results of the legislative and institutional reviews on SEA in Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and on EIA Georgia.</p> <p>Sections on roles and responsibilities of national authorities in SEA were incorporated at the agenda of two national training events on SEA (one in Ukraine and one in Armenia) and three local training events in Belarus supported institutional building.</p> <p>As a result of a pilot project on PPA of environmental impact in transboundary context in Belarus and Ukraine is initiated, a first draft recommendation for roles of the national authorities in the PPA are developed.</p>			No of participants	No of organisations	Link to the LoP	National workshop on SEA, Armenia	42	15	<a href="#">ENG</a>	National workshop on SEA, Ukraine	31	20	<a href="#">ENG</a>	Round-table, legislative review on SEA, R. Moldova	22	11	<a href="#">ENG</a>	Round-table, legislative review on SEA, Belarus	23	13	<a href="#">ENG</a>	Three local workshops on SEA, Belarus	55	27	<a href="#">ENG</a> <a href="#">ENG</a> <a href="#">ENG</a>	Round-table, legislative review on EIA, Georgia	30	18	<a href="#">ENG</a>
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ANNUAL PLAN 2014		
Regional-level activities	National-level activities	Expected results
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See planned activities under Activity 2.3.2. Capacity building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See planned activities under the Activity 2.3.1 Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework and 2.3.2. Capacity building</li> </ul>	<p>Relevant authorities were represented at the round-tables and training events</p> <p>Numerous recommendations on institutional improvements prepared and discussed at round table events dedicated to the results of the legislative and institutional reviews on SEA in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.</p> <p>Sections on roles and responsibilities of national authorities in SEA are incorporated at the agenda of the planned national and local training events on SEA.</p>