UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT

- 1. Project title: Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP-Green)
- 2. Expected timing/duration: January 2013 December 2017

3. Objective(s) and brief summary of the project:

The overall objective of the project is to assist countries participating in the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Policy Initiative (NDPI) to move towards a green economy by promoting the use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development.

EaP-Green is a regional project, which will be jointly implemented by UNECE, OECD, UNEP and UNIDO.

The UNECE's project component will include the following activities in selected countries with economies in transition:

- 1. Review of existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks on and practical implementation of SEA and EIA;
- 2. Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures;
- 3. Strengthening the administrative capacities of the authorities in charge of the environmental assessments.

The focus of the activities will be on SEA because it is a primary tool for integrating environmental considerations into development plans and programmes (as well as policies and legislation) by ensuring that their likely adverse environmental impacts are effectively assessed at an early stage. In addition, present legislation and capacities for SEA in the beneficiary countries are significantly less developed than those for EIA.

The project will enable the secretariat of the Espoo Convention to effectively implement activities for promoting the ratification and application of the Convention and its Protocol, 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.

4. Expected results/impact of the project:

- 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 ECE 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.

5. Target group and beneficiaries of the project:

Beneficiary countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine which 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.

Target Group: 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.

6. Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:

The proposed 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.

7.	Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff): 4.8 work months of a P-4 staff and 4.8 work
	months of G staff in 48 months

	Chief of Division	Date	
	Mr. Marco Keiner	17.12.2012	
9.	Submitted by Division: Environment Division		
	European Union (DG DEVCO/"EuropeAid")	(2 million Euros)	
		US\$ 2.5 million	
	Donors	Amount	
3.	Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
	months of G staff in 48 months		