



Implementing the Protocol on UNECE Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment

National training workshop for policy makers, administrative officials and NGO representatives

Hotel Regineh

Norki Ayginer st., 235 No1

**Yerevan, Armenia
26 - 29 November 2013**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a primary tool for ensuring that environmental, including health, considerations are thoroughly taken into account in the development of plans and programmes. SEA promotes sustainable development by mainstreaming the environment into economic and social development and integrating green economy and sustainable consumption and production targets into strategic decision-making process.

Armenia ratified the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in 2011. To ensure implementation of the Protocol at the national level Armenia in 2013 developed a draft law ‘On Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecological Expertise’ that provides basis and describes procedures for strategic environmental assessment of plans and programme in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol. Armenian public, business and representatives of international organisations express a great interest in the SEA provisions of the draft law which is currently been considered by the Armenian Parliament.

To facilitate implementation of the Protocol on SEA in Armenia, support approval and endorsement of the draft law, and enable systematic application of SEA to development of government plans, policies and programmes there is a need for further clarifying related procedures, building human capacities in use of SEA and development of national practices in application of SEA procedures.

The objectives of the national training workshop are:

- to strengthen understanding and capacity for the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, and in particular the Convention’s Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), in Armenia;

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- to provide a step-by-step guidance, including public participation, on application of the SEA as a tool in the strategic decision-making;
- to enable participants to independently utilize SEA in their own work; and
- to set up a pool of experts and trainers for their further involvement into a pilot SEA and other activities planned for 2013-2016 in order to develop a national SEA system and SEA implementation practice in Armenia.

The workshop is organised by the UNECE in close cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia and the non-governmental organisation ECOGLOBE in the framework of the four year EU funder programme 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN). It will bring together 25 participants from sectoral ministries, including those responsible for economics, industry, agriculture, energy, transport, spatial planning, representatives of local authorities, environmental and health authorities, and civil society.

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Agenda of the workshop

November, 26

09.30 – 9.50 **Opening the workshop**

Mr. Simon Papyan, Deputy Minister of Natural Protection of Armenia

Elena Santer, Secretariat Espoo Convention, UNECE

09.50 – 11.00 **Introduction**

- Presentation of participants and their expectations

Marina Khotueva, Olena Borysova,

- Practical information

Nune Darbinyan, ECOGLOBE

- Introduction to the workshop objectives

Elyanora Grigoryan, Espoo Convention National Focal Point

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee/Tea

11.20 – 11.50 **Introduction to the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment the Espoo Convention**

- Basic information
- Evolution of SEA

Elena Santer, Secretariat Espoo Convention

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11.50 – 13.00 **Evolution and current status of environmental assessment system, including strategic assessment in Armenia**

- Legal framework and institutional set-up
- Main issues of SEA practice

Azganush Drnojan, Environmental Expertise, Ministry of Nature Protection

“Green Economy”, policy, application and future perspectives in the Republic of Armenia

*Ms. Aneta Babayan, National Focal Point, EaP GREEN Programme,
Head of Economic Policy and Programs Division of Economic Development
Policy Department*

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.00 **Introduction to a case study for the application of the strategic environmental assessment (SEA) procedure**

Reading time for participants

15.00 - 15.20 Coffee/Tea

15.20 – 17.30 **Link Programme (P/P/P) and SEA**

- Introduction
- Case work

Wrap-up & Discussion on how the case work relates to the participants context

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November, 27

Olena Borysova, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Marina Khotueva, Ecoline Environmental Assessment Centre, Russian Federation

09.30 – 11.00 **Determining whether SEA is required and determining the scope of the assessment**

- Introduction
- Group work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee/Tea

11.20 – 13.00 **Determining whether SEA is required and determining the scope of the assessment (continued)**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **Analyzing the baseline trends**

- Introduction
- Group work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee/Tea

16.00 – 17.15 **Analyzing the baseline trends (continued)**

17.15 – 17.30 **Closure of the day**

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November, 28

09.30 – 11.00 **Analyzing proposed development priorities and their alternatives**

- Introduction
- Group work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee/Tea

11.20 - 13.00 **Analyzing proposed development priorities and their alternatives (continued)**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **Assessing the cumulative impacts of proposed activities**

- Introduction
- Group work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

15.30 – 15.50 Coffee/Tea

15.50 – 17.15 **Assessing the cumulative impacts of proposed activities (continued)**

17.15 – 17.30 **Closure of the day**

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November, 29

09.30 – 11.00 **Ensuring effective opportunities for public participation in SEA**

- Introduction
- Case work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

11.00 – 11.20 Coffee/Tea

11.20 – 13.00 **Ensuring effective public participation in SEA (continued)**

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 **Taking due account of the SEA outcomes in decision-making and monitoring**

- Introduction
- Case work
- Presentations, Wrap-up & Discussion

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee/Tea

16.00 – 17.00 **Closing session**

- Wrap-up of the training
- Training evaluation
- Participants' view
- Distribution of certificates

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