



**PILOT SEA FOR THE NATIONAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN  
OF GEORGIA**

**Training Workshop on practical application of strategic  
environmental assessment in Georgia (impact assessment and  
mitigation measures)**

**Tbilisi, Georgia**

**21-22 September 2015**

**REPORT**

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## 1. Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) effectively promotes sustainable development by mainstreaming environment into economic development at a national and local level. SEA is a well-established, practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool/system set out in the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context. It ensures that development plans in key sectors such as energy, water and waste management with likely significant adverse environmental impacts are efficiently developed taking into account environmental (and health) considerations. SEA, in particular, will allow identification of the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives in Moldova for attracting new investments and for improving its environment. SEA also helps strengthen the country's environmental governance through fostering transparency and consultation with relevant stakeholders and the public prior to the approval of plans and programmes. SEA in a transboundary context can also greatly facilitate regional cooperation on environmental matters.

Since June 2013, the UNECE secretariat to the Convention on the Environmental Impact Assessment in the Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) assists the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource Protection of Georgia in developing a national environmental assessment system in line with the Convention and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA). The activities are implemented in the framework of the EU funded programme 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) in several phases. Phase I of the programme was carried out from September 2013 to August 2014 and included reviews of legislative and institutional frameworks for the application of EIA and SEA procedures. Phase II extends from November 2014 to September 2015 and aims to develop a new draft law on EIA/SEA (draft law) (grant ECE/GC/2014/05/016). Phase III of the programme covers a pilot application of the SEA procedure (SEA pilot project) to Georgia's National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The aims of the SEA pilot project are:

- (a) to build national institutional capacities and expertise to conduct SEA at the national level;
- (b) to provide recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the Georgia's Waste Management Strategy, and
- (c) to test the SEA system proposed in the draft law and develop recommendations for its improvement.

The SEA pilot was initiated in July 2015. Based on the discussions with the Ministry of Environment, the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan in Georgia was selected as a document to be a subject of SEA. The SEA pilot is being conducted by the national SEA team supported by the international SEA experts in close cooperation with the waste management specialists drafting the Strategy and the Action Plan.

This report briefly presents the proceedings and conclusions of the first training workshop organised to support implementation of the pilot project. The main goals of the workshop were to present the findings and preliminary results of the scoping process and introduce participants with the techniques and methods how to proceed further with the next stage of the SEA on Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The event was attended by the representatives of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection, mainly representatives of the Environmental Impact Permits Department and Waste

Management Service and SEA team members. The training workshop was delivered by the consultants to the UNECE - Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil.

## 2. Workshop objectives and design

The Workshop was designed as a SEA training and awareness rising event related to the Pilot SEA process in Georgia. The training was organized as a back-to-back event to the Public SEA Scoping meeting in Tbilisi (i.e. the consultation meeting to inform stakeholders about the planning process and the preliminary results of the strategic environmental assessment (scoping phase)). In line with the general objectives of the Project, the workshop combined more theoretical SEA training components and real SEA steps relevant to the Pilot SEA application. Therefore, the agenda was intended to serve three main objectives:

- Re-introduction of the SEA concept and its procedural aspects and re-introduction of the Pilot SEA to the national stakeholders (with respect to the participants who did not take part in the 1st SEA Workshop held via Skype);
- To instruct participants on how to conduct impact assessment in SEA, develop alternatives and propose mitigation and monitoring measures; and
- Discuss the preliminary scoping results and facilitate generation of inputs to the Scoping phase of SEA, based on knowledge of relevant stakeholders.

## 3. Summary of the event

The workshop was attended by 19 people (of which 2 were international consultants, 7 – SEA team members, and the rest represented different departments / units of the environmental authorities). Its duration was 1.5 days. The first day of the workshop was devoted to the presentations of the main stages of SEA, introduction of scoping matrix and identification of key environmental and health issues to be addressed further in SEA. The international SEA experts also presented methods and tools to be utilized in the next stage of SEA. Significant part of the workshop was devoted to the presentations of the key findings of scoping process of the SEA pilot project of National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The key findings were presented by the national SEA experts with regards to their field of expertise.

One of the main goals of the workshop was to instruct participants on how to conduct impact assessment in SEA and propose mitigation measures for reducing negative impact of identified environmental and health issues on proposed actions of waste management. The workshop also introduced participants to the methods for identifying alternatives and predicting their effects on identified actions of the waste management action plan as well as proposing monitoring measures for determining compliance with identified actions and objectives. Some part of the workshop was devoted to the preparation of the next day public consultation meeting with stakeholders and preparation of initial recommendation to be considered by waste management strategy and action plan planning team.

## 4. Conclusions

The Workshop was carried out as planned and following the prepared agenda, and it fulfilled its objectives (as reflected also in evaluation by the participants – see below). The participants of the

workshop got familiar with the procedural aspects of SEA, the roles of various authorities and civil society in the SEA process, assessment methods applicable to the level of strategic planning and approach to the preparation of an SEA report, including mitigation and monitoring.

The Workshop also assisted the SEA team to finalize preparations for the subsequent public SEA Scoping consultation meeting organized in Tbilisi.

Following the results of the Workshop, key tasks were defined in order to progress with the Pilot SEA implementation:

- To finalize and send to all participants the draft Scoping report, both in Georgian and English.
- To carry out subsequent consultation between the SEA team and the planning team in order to follow up on how the preliminary SEA recommendations can be taken into consideration in subsequent stages of the planning.

## Annex 1. AGENDA

The training workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Georgia is organised by the Georgia's Environmental Outlook (GEO) with the support of the UNECE and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in the framework of the pilot SEA for the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The workshop is built on the results of the preliminary training workshop, held via Skype in August 2015 and aims to:

- Raise awareness of various stakeholders about SEA procedure developed under the new national legislation,
- Support the implementation of a Pilot SEA of the National Waste Management Action Plan, initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in order to test the draft law "Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia".

The participants of the workshop will get familiar with the procedural aspects of SEA, the roles of various authorities and civil society in the SEA process, environmental assessment methods applicable to the level of strategic planning and approaches to the preparation of an SEA report.

The event will gather representatives from environmental and health authorities, as well as the experts preparing the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan.

The workshop will be delivered by the experienced consultants to the UNECE. The workshop will deploy the format of interactive sessions with elements of practical case-based work.

The participants of the training workshop are also invited to take part at the scoping consultation meeting to provide their feedback regarding preliminary findings of the SEA of the National Waste Management Action Plan. The consultations will be chaired by Ms. Maia Bitadze, the Deputy Minister of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia, and will be held at the Hotel "Betsy" on September 22, 2015 (13.00 – 17.10). For detailed information regarding the scoping consultation meeting please see separate agenda.

### Day 1: Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> of September

9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.35	<b>Opening the Meeting</b> Welcome of the participants  <i>Ms. Tamar Sharashidze, Heads of Environmental Permits Department, Ministry of Environment and Resource Protection of Georgia (tbc)</i>
9.35 – 9.45	<b>Introduction to the workshop objectives and agenda</b> Introduction of the UNECE pilot SEA project: SEA for the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan  <i>Ms. Irma Melikishvili, National SEA Team Leader</i>
9.45 – 10.00	Introduction of the participants

The EaP GREEN programme is funded by the European Union and other donors, and is jointly implemented by the four partner organisations: OECD, UNEP, UNECE and UNIDO.

	<i>Facilitated by Ms. Irma Melikishvili, National SEA Team Leader</i>
10.00 – 10.40	<b>SEA process: Key elements and actors</b>  <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
10.40 – 10.50	<b>Scoping in SEA: Identification of the environmental and health issues to be addressed in the assessment, methods and tools</b>  <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
10.50 – 11.10	Coffee break
11.10 – 11.50	<b>Overview of the scoping stage for the WMAP of Georgia:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key findings</li> <li>• Main challenges and difficulties</li> <li>• Scope for further SEA analyses</li> </ul> <i>To be presented by the national SEA experts: Ms. Elena Bakradze, Ms. KetyMateshvili, Ms. Nia Giuashvili, Ms. Tamar Kvantaliani, Mr. Giorgi Gafrindashvili, Mr. Giorgi Natroshvili, Mr. IrakliKaviladze</i>  <i>Follow-up discussions to be facilitated by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
11.50 – 13.00	<b>SEA analytical methods I: Overview of methods, examples from other countries and/or sectors</b>  <i>Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.30	<b>SEA analytical methods II: Methods application for to SEA in the waste management sector</b>  <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
15.30 – 15.50	Coffee break
15.50 – 17.00	<b>Analysing alternatives in SEA: Problems, possible approaches</b>  <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
17.00 – 17.30	<b>Wrap-up and agenda for Day 2</b>

## Day 2: Tuesday, 22<sup>st</sup> of September

09.30 – 09.45	<b>Summary of Day 1: Participants' feedback and expectations for Day 2</b>  <i>Facilitated discussion by Ms. Irma Melikishvili, National SEA Team Leader</i>
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09.45 – 10.40	<p><b>Identifying mitigation measures and designing the monitoring scheme: Preparation of effective inputs to decision making process</b></p> <p><i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i></p>
10.40 – 11.20	<p><b>How to prepare the SEA Report</b></p> <p><i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i></p>
11.20 – 11.35	Coffee break
11.35 – 12.30	<p><b>Preparation for the Scoping Consultation Meeting</b></p> <p><i>(to be presented by national SEA experts with feedback from Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku)</i></p>
12.30 – 14.00	Lunch break
13.00 – 17.10	<p><b>Scoping Consultation Meeting</b></p> <p>(Details are provided in separate agenda for the event)</p>



## Annex 2. List of Participants

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