



Support to the implementation of the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention in the Republic of Moldova

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Round table

Existing legislative basis for SEA and its further development

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- Espoo Convention
 - General information, objectives and
- Protocol on strategic environmental assessment
 - General information, objectives, benefits and procedure
- Technical assistance to support implementation of the protocol
- Introduction to the legislative review



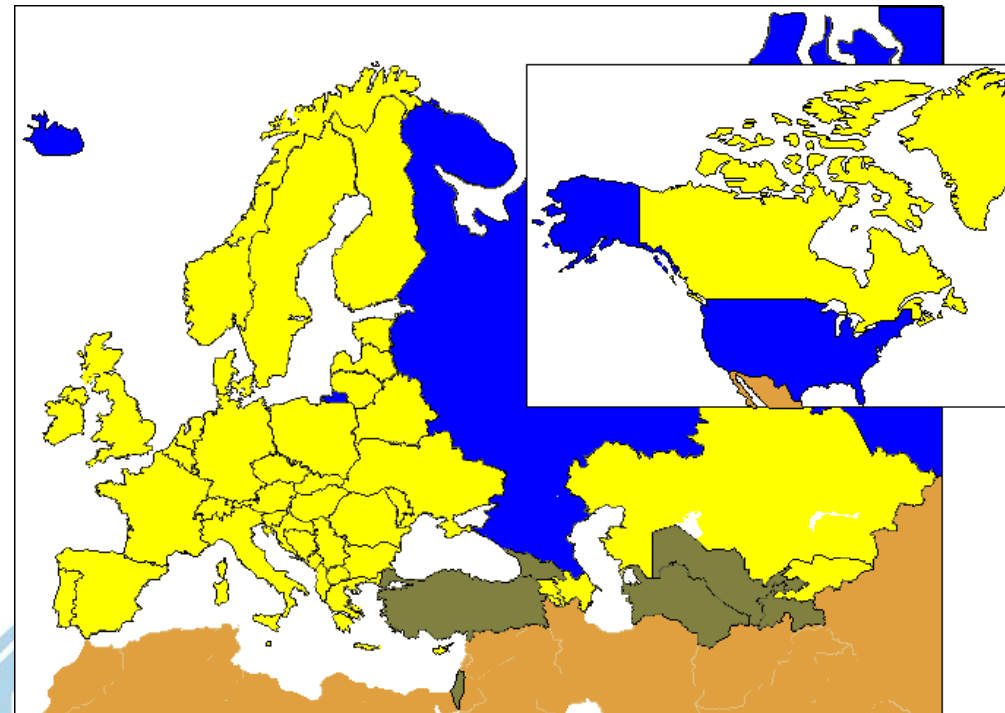


Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context

- Negotiated under United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
- Adopted and signed in Espoo (Finland) in 1991
- Came into force in 1997
- Has 45 Parties, in ECE region
- Accession by non-ECE countries
- possible in future

-  **Espoo Parties**
-  **Signatories**
-  **other UNECE**

Economic Commission for Europe region





Status of amendments

- **1st amendment only 20 Parties (not in force)**
Open Convention to all United Nations Member States
- **2nd amendment only 19 Parties (not in force)**

Make the review of compliance and reporting mandatory

Take into account scoping

Revise and extend the list of activities subject to the Convention

Clarify when amendments come into force





Espoo Convention's objectives (*implied*)

- To ensure environmentally sound and **sustainable development**
- To enhance **international co-operation** in assessing environmental impact, particularly in a transboundary context
- To develop **anticipatory policies**
- To **prevent**, mitigate and monitor significant adverse environmental **impact**
- To give explicit **consideration** to environmental factors at an early stage **in the decision-making** process by applying environmental impact assessment, at all administrative levels
- To improve the **quality of information** presented to decision makers – leading to environmentally sound **decisions**



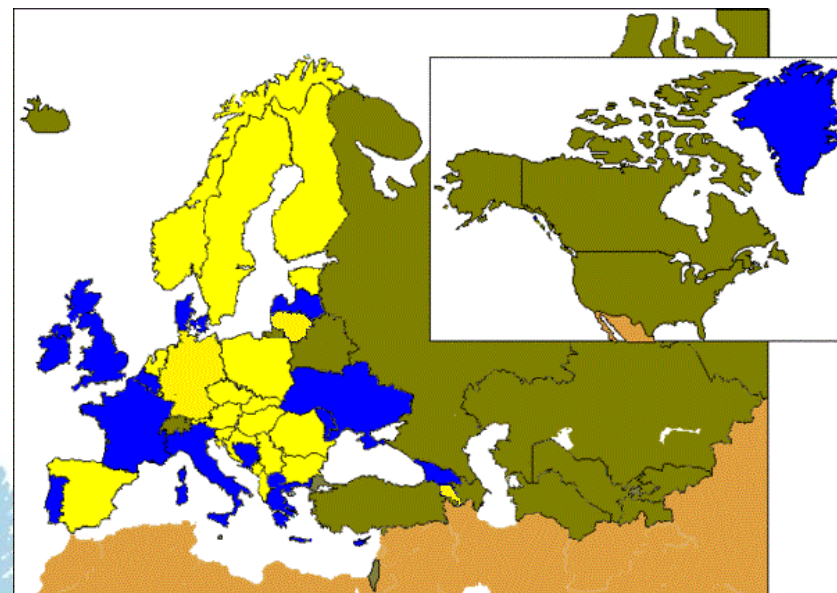


Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

adopted by an Extraordinary meeting of the Parties to the Espoo Convention, held on 21 May 2003 during the Ministerial “Environment for Europe” Conference (Kyiv).

- Entered on force on 11 July, 2010.
- Has 25 Parties, 38 Signatories
- Moldova signed the Protocol on 21 May, 2003, pending ratification
- Open to any Member State of the United Nations

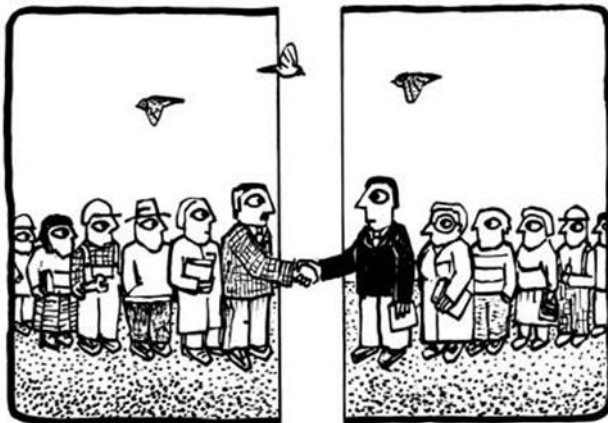
-  **Espoo Parties**
-  Signatories
-  other UNECE





Espoo Convention vs. Protocol

- Espoo Convention (EIA) – all about transboundary impacts of projects



- SEA Protocol – mainly about SEA of plans & programmes within a state, with consideration of transboundary effects being secondary





Objectives

To provide for a high level of protection of the environment by:

- Ensuring that **environmental, including health**, considerations are thoroughly taken into account **in the development of plans and programmes**
- Contributing to the consideration of environmental, including health, concerns **in the preparation of policies and legislation**
- Establishing clear, transparent and effective **procedures** for strategic environmental assessment
- Providing for **public participation** in SEA
- Integrating by these means environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed **to further sustainable development.**





The Protocol complements EU's SEA Directive by providing...



Broader **geographical coverage**: open to all UN member states (potential basis for globally consistent standard for SEA)

Non-mandatory framework for SEA of **policies and legislation** (article 13) with mandatory reporting

Special emphasis on **health**

- Reflects involvement of WHO
- Health issues must be considered based on mandatory consultation of health authorities

Extensive **public participation**

- Building on UNECE Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice..)
- Public has right to know, comment, have comments taken into account, be informed of the final decision and its reasons





Procedure

- Determination of whether SEA is required under the Protocol
- Determination of the scope of the Environmental report (and thus of the assessment)
- Preparation of Environmental report
 - Analyze the context & baseline
 - Contribute to the development & comparison of alternatives
 - Complete the environmental report
- Consultation with relevant authorities and the public
- Inputs into decision-making
- Environmental monitoring of implementation





Benefits

- High level of environmental protection
- Better planning and programming
- More efficient decision-making
- Identification of new opportunities for development
- Preventing costly mistakes
- Strengthened governance
- Transboundary cooperation
- Climate change adaptation





Technical assistance

Workplan 2011-2014 and draft workplan 2017-2013

- Technical advice
 - review of current legislation
 - legal drafting
- Pilot projects
 - test and improve national implementation mechanisms
- Capacity-building workshops, national and local
- Guidance documents
 - SEA Resource Manual (2010/2011) and Simplified Resource Manual (2012)





Guidance available...

Espoo Convention

- Guidance on practical application of the Convention
- Guidance on public participation in transboundary context
- Guidance on notification for the Convention
- Review of Implementation, 2006-2009

SEA Protocol

- Resource Manuals to support application of the Protocol, including Health chapter/annex (with REC-CEE); Simplified Manual
- Training courses based on the Resource Manual and on the OECD/DAC guidance on SEA in development cooperation

Both

- Decisions by Meetings of the Parties (e.g. notification formats)
- Opinions of the Implementation Committee (2001-2010)





“Towards Greener economies in the Eastern Partnership Countries” EaP GREEN programme

Regional programme, with a blend of regional-level and national-level actions targeting public and private sectors

Aims at supporting green transition in six Eastern Partnership countries

- Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine

Multi-partner implementation: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO

Multi-donor financing

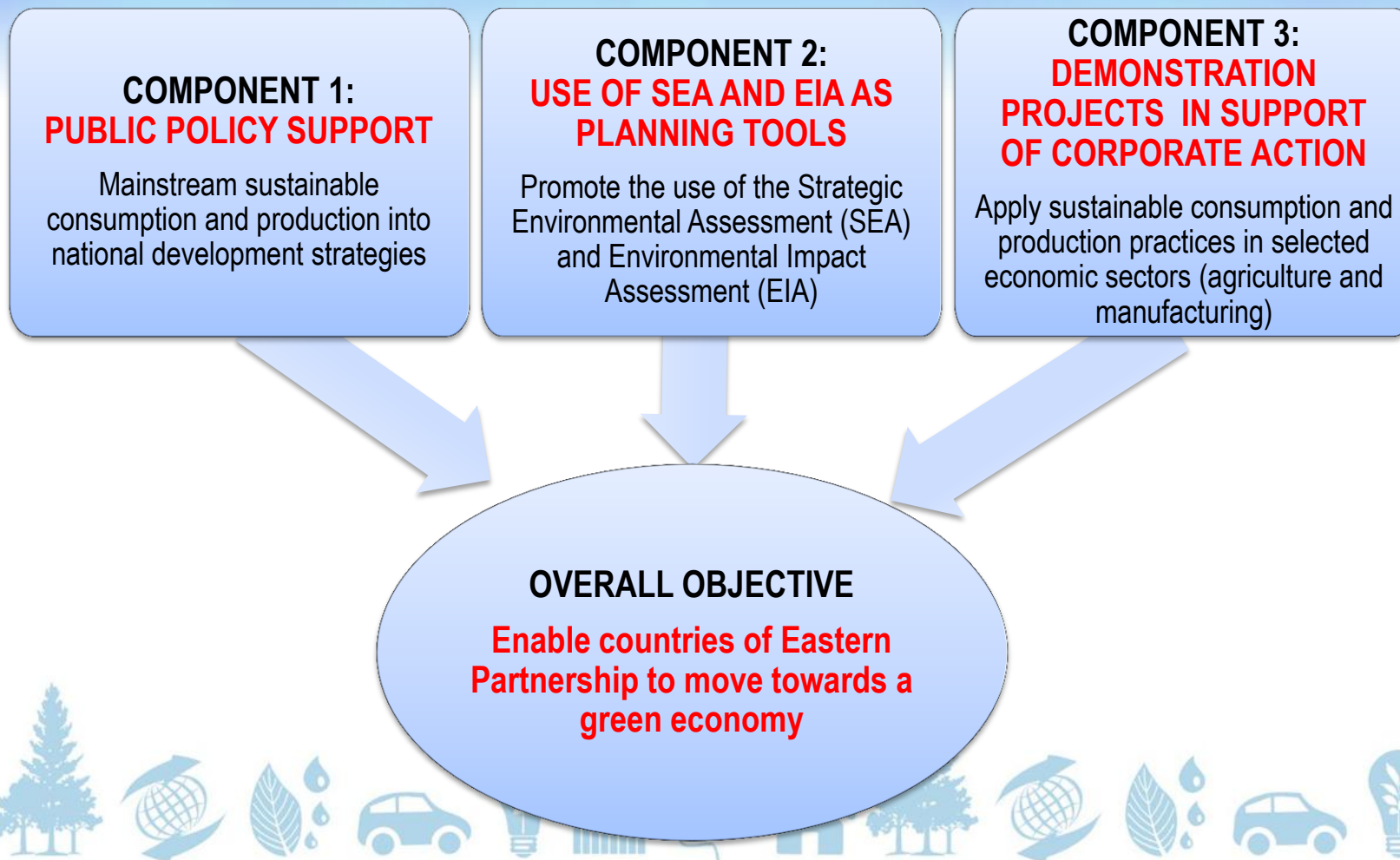
- European Union, Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, and the above four partner organisations

48 month implementation period as of January 2013





Programme goals and components



EaP GREEN programme: Component 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment (UNECE)



Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework

- Legislative review of SEA and, as appropriate, of EIA
- Legal drafting for SEA legislation
- Sub-regional overview

Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures

- National and sub-national level training on SEA
- Development of national guidance documents
- Coordination and experience-sharing events
- Pilot SEAs and EIAs

Strengthening of administrative capacities

- Legislative reviews and development of recommendations
- Policy dialogue
- Institutional reviews and recommendations



Component 2: Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework



- **Review** of the current systems and recommendations for strengthening legislation and institutional framework for SEA or EIA (5-6 countries).
- Assistance in **drafting** legislative amendments will also be offered (2 countries).
- The results incorporated in a **sub-regional overview**

STATE	ESPOO CONVENTION	SEA PROTOCOL
Armenia	Party (1997)	Party (2011)
Azerbaijan	Party (1999)	-
Belarus	Party (2005)	-
Georgia	-	Signatory
Republic of Moldova	Party (1994)	Signatory
Ukraine	Party (1999)	Signatory





Component 2: Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework



Expected outputs

- A review of (draft) legislation on SEA carried out.
- Proposals for legislative changes required for ratifying the Protocol developed.
- Proposals for required institutional and process changes developed.
- Further steps to be taken to strengthen Republic of Moldova's capacity to implement and comply fully with obligations of the Protocol identified.





Component 2: Training and guidance on SEA



National and local level training targets relevant sectoral ministries of economy, industry, agriculture and health, and civil society, consultants (practitioners), planners and environmental authorities.

Awareness raising event for senior decision makers.

Tailored case studies developed for each country.

National guidance documents for each EaP country



Component 2: Pilot SEAs and EIAs



	Example SEA pilot projects in EaP countries
Armenia	SEA of the Yerevan City Master Plan (2005), supported by UNDP and REC-CEE
Belarus	EIA 2013-2014 Post-project analysis of Hotislavkoe mining EIA 2010-2011 Hydropower plant (Neman river) SEA of 2006-2010 National Tourism Development Programme, supported by UNDP and REC-CEE
Georgia	SEA of draft Waste Law, supported by the Netherlands Commission on Environmental Assessment; also SEA of power sector
Ukraine	SEA and Autonomous Region of Crimea Regional Development Strategy to 2015 (2007-2008), supported by UNDP through the Environment and Security Initiative





Component 2: Coordination and experience-sharing



Sub-regional coordination and experience-sharing events follow the successful model of subregional cooperation workshops held under the Espoo Convention in Yerevan (2007) and Tbilisi (2011), for the Caucasus subregion, and in Chisinau (2008) and Minsk (2010), for the Eastern Europe subregion, and under the Belgrade Initiative on SEA in Chisinau and Minsk in 2008.

Factsheets will be developed on application of SEA/EIA to:

- industrial reconversion and investment plans;
- sustainable agricultural practices.





For more information

- **Visit our website:**
www.unece.org/env/eia

- **Or email:**
eia.conv@unece.org

