



## **Enhancing strategic environmental assessment in selected countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia**

**Sub-regional conference, 2 November 2015**

**&**

**Training of trainers workshop, 3-6 November 2015**

Lopota Lake Resort, Kakheti, Georgia

### **Background information**

In cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Ministries responsible for environment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (hereinafter Ministries) are in the process of reforming their respective national environmental assessment legislation and institutional frameworks with a view to joining and implementing the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). Kazakhstan plans to initiate similar reforms in 2016. The aim of the reforms is to establish and implement national SEA systems that are aligned with the provisions of the Protocol. In 2015, some of the countries have also initiated or intend to initiate pilot SEA procedures for selected national plans or programmes. These pilot procedures allow for: practical application of the draft legislation; building of national capacities on SEA; and development of recommendations for further reforms.

Despite significant efforts of the Ministries, countries still face a number of challenges that could delay the introduction of national SEA systems, lead to incorrect interpretation and to weak transposition into national level of the provisions of the Protocol on SEA, and delay their expected ratification of/accession of the countries to the Protocol. To date, Armenia is the only country in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia sub-region that is Party to the Protocol on SEA (since 2011). In particular, some of the reported challenges relate to difficulties in understanding and designing procedures on screening, quality control and transboundary SEA procedures; in engaging sectoral authorities that play crucial role in the SEA systems; and in creating their own pool of experienced national experts that can further support the reform processes.

To support legislative reforms of environmental assessment systems and build national capacities in implementing SEA, UNECE secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA organises a one day sub-regional conference and four day train-the-trainers workshop on SEA. Up to forty participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine are expected to actively take part in the events.

The events are mainly funded under the European Union (EU) funded Programme “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN). This funding is supplemented by the EU funded project ‘Supporting Kazakhstan's Transition to a Green Economy Model’ and a UNECE project in support of the development of the SEA system in the Russian Federation funded by the Swedish Government. The events are organized by the UNECE secretariat with the assistance of consultants. The logistical support is provided by the Georgian non-governmental organization ‘Georgia’s Environmental Outlook’.



## PROGRAMME

### Sunday, 1 November 2015

- 12:00 – 19:30           Arrival to the Lopota Lake Resort, Kakheti  
20:00 – 22:00           Welcome buffet and introduction to the events

### Monday, 2 November 2015

- 09:15 – 10:00           Registration of participants'  
10:00 – 19:00           Sub-regional conference on 'Developing legislative framework for the strategic environmental assessment in line with the Protocol on SEA'

### Tuesday, 3 – Friday, 5 November 2015

- 09:30 – 18:00           Training of Trainers Workshop on 'Design and Delivery of training events on Strategic Environmental Assessment'

## CULTURAL EVENTS

### Thursday, 3 November 2015

- 18:15 -21:30           Excursion and Dinner in Winery Khareba's

### Thursday, 5 November 2015

- 18:15 - 21:30           Excursion and Dinner in Chateau Mere, Kakheti Region

## DEPARTURE

### Friday, 5 November 2015

- 19:00                   Departure from Kakheti to Tbilisi (timing to be confirmed)





## ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

### Developing legislative framework for the strategic environmental assessment in line with the Protocol on SEA

#### Sub-regional conference

2 November 2015

The purpose of a one day sub-regional conference is to facilitate exchange of experience by countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia regarding the ongoing reforms of the environmental assessment systems, with a view to aligning them with the UNECE treaties and the relevant European Union legislation on SEA and EIA. The participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine will discuss various approaches to enhance their legal and institutional frameworks for the application of SEA. The focus of discussions during four working sessions of the conference will be identified based on the needs assessment that will be distributed to the nominated participants in September 2015. The discussion will be followed by a brainstorming session on pragmatic solutions for addressing any existing challenges that could delay or complicate the legal reforms. The results will be documented and included in the informal guidelines on developing national legislative and institutional frameworks on SEA, as well as the topics related to SEA practice will be further addressed in follow-up ‘training of trainers’ workshop

*Background document: Overview of legislative and administrative reforms for implementing strategic environmental assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus*

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| <b>09:15 – 10:00</b> | <b>Registration of participants</b>   |
| <b>10:00 – 10:30</b> | <p><b>Welcome addresses and introduction</b><br/> <i>Mr. Gigla Agulashvili</i>, Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia<br/> <i>Ms. Maia Bitadze</i>, Deputy Minister of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia,<br/> <i>Elena Santer</i>, UNECE secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA</p>               |
| <b>10:30 – 11:00</b> | <p><b>Overview of the legislative reforms of the environmental assessment systems in the participating countries</b><br/> <i>Elena Santer</i>, UNECE secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA</p> <p><b>Conceptual differences between SEA and OVOS/environmental expertise system</b><br/> <i>Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov</i>, Legal consultants to UNECE</p> |
| <b>11:00 – 19:00</b> | <b>Working sessions on transposition of the provisions of the UNECE Protocol on SEA (and EU SEA Directive) into the national legislation</b>  |



*All working sessions will be facilitated by Mr. Jerzy Jendroska and Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, Legal consultants to UNECE*

**Working session I: General provisions and definitions**

**11:00 – 11:45**

**11:45 – 12:15**

**Break**

**12:15 – 13:15**

**Working session II: Field of application of SEA**

**13:15 – 14:30**

**Working session III: Scoping and/or environmental report and quality control**

**14:30 – 15:30**

**Lunch**

**15:30 – 17:00**

**Working session IV: Consultations: with the relevant authorities, public and potentially affected Parties**

**17:00 – 17:30**

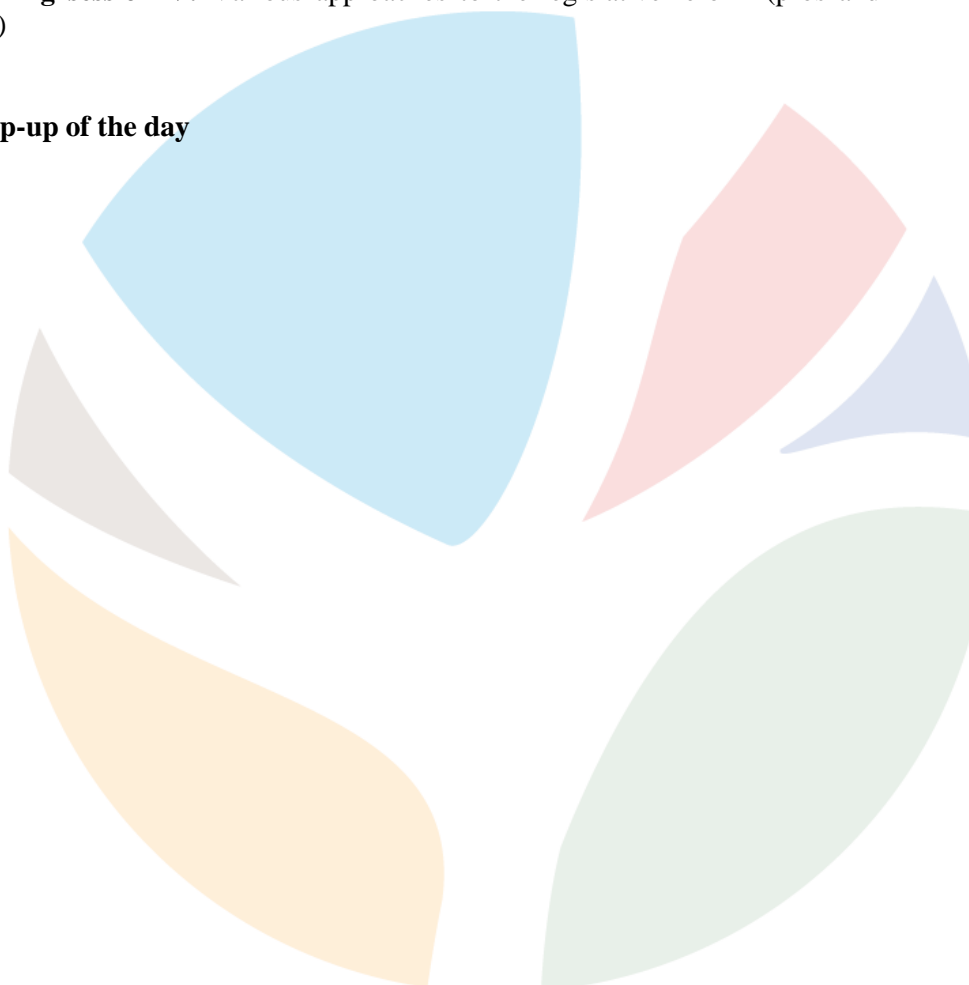
**Break**

**17:30 – 18:30**

**Working session V: Various approaches to the legislative reform (pros and cons)**

**18:30 – 19:00**

**Wrap-up of the day**





## **ANNOTATED PROGRAMME**

### **Design and Delivery of training events on Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Training of Trainers Workshop  
3-6 November 2015

The aim of the four-day Training of Trainers workshop (hereinafter also the ‘ToT workshop’) is to prepare national experts as trainers for carrying out further SEA capacity-building and awareness-raising events at national and local levels. It is organised back-to-back to the sub-regional conference on ‘Developing legislative framework for the SEA in line with the UNECE Protocol on SEA,’ which will introduce the legal aspects related to the transposition of the requirements of the Protocol into the national legislation.

During the ToT workshop the participants will address questions related to the practical implementation of SEA. They will have the opportunity to further substantiate their knowledge about SEA and learn about various techniques for designing and delivering effective capacity-building events. The ToT workshop that employs group work methods will provide an extensive opportunity to learn and practice training skills on SEA, and shall result in the preparation of draft country-specific training materials to be used in the subsequent SEA trainings organized at the national level in the participants’ countries. In addition, the participants will discuss the training strategies for their countries in order to prepare the first outline of these documents for further elaboration. In particular, they will identify (i) target groups for future training and awareness raising events; (ii) aims, objectives and focus of these events (e.g. procedures, methods etc.); (iii) needs for national guidance on the practical application of SEA; (iv) existing national capacities; and (v) needs for further support.

After the training workshop the participants will design and deliver their own training courses and awareness raising events for national stakeholders that are scheduled to take place in 2016.

A follow-up ToT session will be organised in autumn 2016 with the aim to review the experience gained through the national level training events and to (i) further enhance the training materials, (ii) improve the training techniques and skills of the trainers, and (iii) revisit the drafts of the country SEA training strategies.

*Background materials: Manual on Strategic Environmental Assessment for Trainers. The manual provides theoretical background on SEA as well as case examples for the group work.*



*All working sessions will be facilitated by Ms. Martin Smutny, Ms. Marina Khotuleva, Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Ms. Olena Borysova, Mr. Michal Musil and Ms. Olena Pometun, consultants to UNECE*

## **Day 1: Tuesday, 3 November 2015**

- 09:30 – 09:45**      **Welcome address and presentation of the aims of the workshop**  
*Elena Santer, UNECE Secretariat*
- 09:45 – 10:30**      **Introduction to the ToT scheme and the ToT workshop – design and schedule**  
*Ms. Martin Smutny, Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 10:30 – 11:45**      **Reflections on the conclusions of the Sub-regional conference and summary of the participants' views on the main SEA-related challenges to be addressed at the ToT**  
*Facilitated discussion*
- 11:45 – 12:15**      **Break**
- 12:15 – 13:00**      **Training and presentation skills – introduction**  
*Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 13:00 – 13:30**      **Introduction to the training manual and arranging the working groups**  
*Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 13:30 – 14:30**      **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 14:45**      **Introduction to SEA**  
*Mr. Martin Smutny*
- 14:45 – 16:00**      **Group work: Preparation of the training session on 'Introduction to SEA'**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 16:00 – 17:30**      **Delivery of the training session on 'Introduction to SEA' facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques used and the content of the session*
- 17:30 – 18:00**      **Wrap up of the day**
- 18:00**                **End of Day 1**
- 18:15 – 21:30**      **Excursion and Dinner in Winery Khareba's Unique Wine Cellar and Tunnel, Kakheti Region**



## Day 2: Wednesday, 4 November 2015

- 09:30 – 10:00**      **Summary of Day 1 of the ToT**  
*Facilitated by Ms. Olena Pometun and Mr. Martin Smutny*
- 10:00 – 10:15**      **Introduction to field of application and screening**  
*Ms. Olena Borysova*
- 10:15 – 11:15**      **Training skills – design and delivery of the group work exercises**  
*Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 11:15 – 12:15**      **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘Field of application and screening’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 12:15 – 13:30**      **Delivery of the training session on ‘Field of application and screening’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 13:30 – 14:30**      **Lunch**
- 14:30 – 15:30**      **Training and presentation skill – skills to carry out a facilitated discussion**  
*Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 15:30 – 15:45**      **Introduction to scoping**  
*Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku*
- 15:45 – 16:45**      **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘Scoping’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 16:45 – 17:45**      **Delivery of the training session on ‘Scoping’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 17:45 – 18:00**      **Wrap up of the day**  
*Facilitated discussion*
- 18:00**              **End of Day 2**



### Day 3: Thursday, 5 November 2015

- 09:30 – 09:45**      **Summary of Day 2 of the ToT**  
*Facilitated by Ms. Olena Pometun and Mr. Martin Smutny*
- 09:45 – 10:00**      **Introduction to baseline analysis and impact assessment**  
*Mr. Michal Musil*
- 10:00 – 11:30**      **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘Baseline analysis’ and ‘Impact assessment’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 11:30 – 12:30**      **Delivery of the training session on ‘Baseline analysis’ and ‘Impact assessment’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 12:30 – 13:30**      **Training and presentation skill – continuation**  
*Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 13:30 – 14:30**      **Lunch break**
- 14:30 – 15:15**      **Introduction to SEA report and quality control**  
*Mr. Martin Smutny and Ms. Olena Borysova*
- 15:15 – 16:00**      **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘SEA report’ and ‘Quality control’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 16:00 – 17:00**      **Delivery of the training session on ‘SEA report’ and ‘Quality control’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 17:00 – 17:15**      **Practical aspects of SEA – design of SEA process, ToR, budgetary issues, composition of SEA team etc.**  
*Introduction by Mr. Martin Smutny followed by a question and answer session*
- 17:15 – 17:45**      **Planning SEA events at the national level: target audiences, aims, objectives and focus of the events**  
*Facilitated by Ms. Elena Santer and Mr. Martin Smutny*





- 17:45 – 18:00**      **Wrap up of the day**  
*Facilitated discussion*
- 18:00**            **End of Day 3**
- 18:15 – 21:30**    **Excursion and Dinner in Chateau Mere, Kakheti Region**

## Day 4: Friday, 6 November 2015

- 09:30 – 09:45**      **Summary of Day 3 of the ToT**  
*Facilitated by Ms. Olena Pometun and Mr. Martin Smutny*
- 09:45 – 10:00**    **Introduction to stakeholders participation**  
*Ms. Marina Khotuleva*
- 10:00 – 11:30**    **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘Stakeholders participation’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 11:30 – 12:30**    **Delivery of the training session on ‘Stakeholders participation’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 12:30 – 13:30**    **Training and presentation skill – continuation**  
*Ms. Olena Pometun*
- 13:30 – 14:30**    **Lunch break**
- 14:30 – 14:45**    **Introduction to SEA and decision-making**  
*Mr. Martin Smutny*
- 14:45 – 15:30**    **Group work: Preparation of the training session on ‘SEA and decision-making’**  
*Participants will work in groups with the support from the international experts*
- 15:30 – 16:30**    **Delivery of the training session on ‘SEA and decision-making’ facilitated by selected participants**  
*Selected participants will deliver the session developed by them and be provided with feedback on the training techniques and the content of the session*
- 16:30 – 17:30**    **Concluding discussion**



- Integrating the SEA training and capacity building in existing trainings schemes in the participants' countries
- Guidance on practical implementation of SEA: focus, structure and format
- Workshop evaluation

*Facilitated discussion*

**17:30**

**End of the workshop**

**19:00**

**Departure to Tbilisi (to be confirmed)**

