

# Introduction of EIA and SEA Systems in Georgia



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# Deficiencies of Old Regulations and Practice

## Incomplete list of activities subject to EIA

- Number of activities that are likely to have significant impacts on the environment were not regulated

## Absence of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

Economic and spatial planning of the country were undertaken without considering environmental and social interests

## Holding public hearings by developer

- Absence of effective mechanisms for public participation in decision-making and dissemination of information
- Additional costs and responsibilities for developer

## Absence of screening and scoping procedures

- High risk of developer's financial losses
- High risk of obstacles to the project implementation
- Low quality of EIA report

## Wrong practice of one-stop shop principle

- Complicated procedures for developer

## Association Agreement

- Obligations envisaged by Article 302 and Annex XXVI of Association Agreement between EU and Georgia

## Developing Process of New Regulations on EIA/SEA

The Environmental Assessment Code was elaborated in the framework of **EaP GREEN program**;

The drafting group included **international and national experts**, as well as different departments of the Ministry of Environment and Agriculture;

Number of **public hearings** were held with governmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector and general public;

A number of **experts were trained** on EIA and SEA (national training workshops, seminars and sub-regional events);

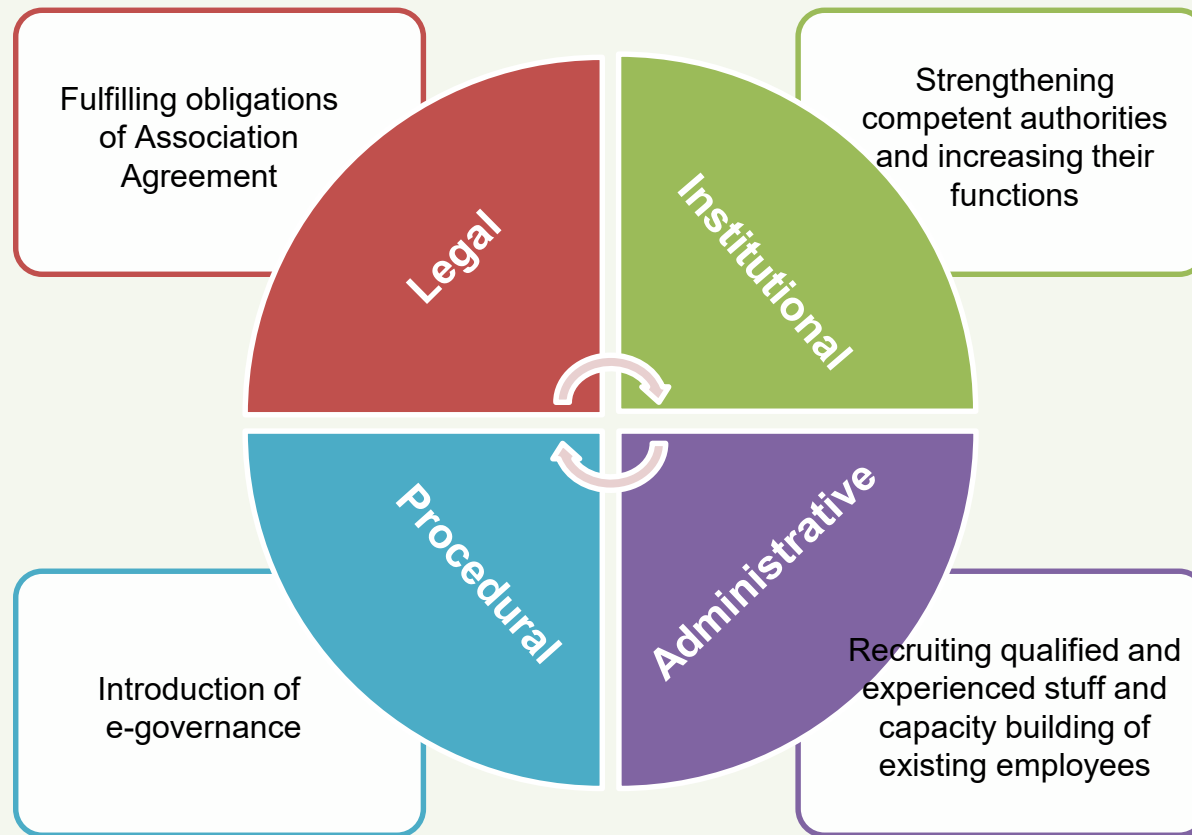
**Guidelines** on Practical Implementation of EIA and SEA were prepared;

**Awareness** of public on SEA was raised;

The draft Environmental Assessment Code underwent **3 parliamentary hearings** before its approval;

Environmental Assessment Code entered into force from **January 1, 2018**;

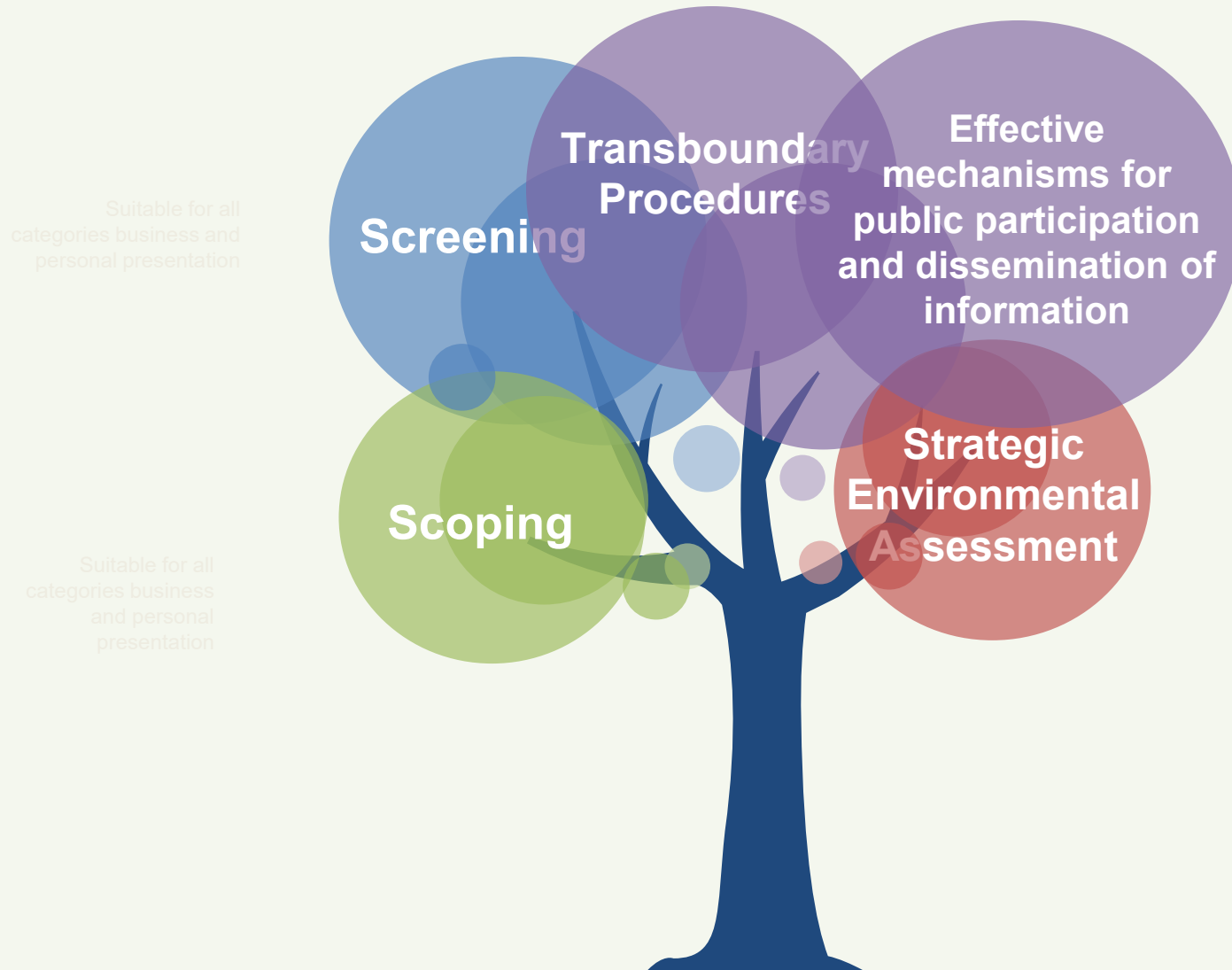
# Needs Related to the Enforcement of New Regulations



- Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects (EIA Directive)
- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive)
- Directive 2003/35/EC providing for public participation in respect of the drawing up of certain plans and programmes relating to the environment

- Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA
- Aarhus Convention

# Main Achievements of the Environmental Assessment Code



➤ **Extended list** of activities subject to EIA and regulation of any project likely to have a significant impact on the environment

✓ **Annex I activities - subject to screening procedure**

✓ **Annex II activities - subject to obligatory EIA.**

➤ Introduction of **screening and scoping** procedures;

➤ Improved quality of environmental assessment **reports**;

➤ Establishment of effective mechanisms for **public participation** and **dissemination of information**;

➤ Introduction of **Transboundary** EIA procedures.

## Features of New EIA System

# Benefits of Introduced SEA System

- Integrating *environmental* and *social* concerns in the formulation of strategic documents (policy, plan, program) likely to have a significant impact on the environment
- Gathering and analyzing the information necessary for *sound decision-making*, including inputs from relevant stakeholders;
- Evaluating likely significant *environmental* and *health* effects of strategic options and proposed actions;
- Increasing efficiency of decision-making of the *planning process* and improving governance;
- Setting conditions for environmentally sound implementation of *strategic decisions*;
- Leading to better *environmental protection and management* and promoting sustainable development.

## Strategic Document

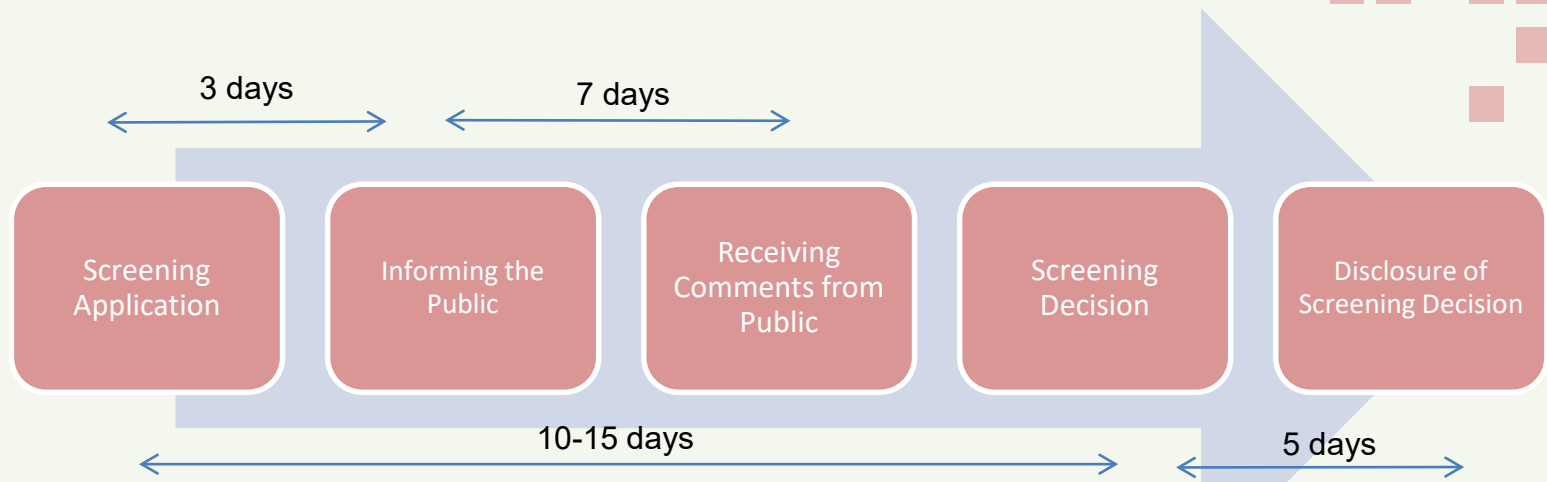
Sub-legal *normative act* adopted/approved by the *public authority* of Georgia, which sets a framework for future development projects in specific sectors and includes specific parameters and/or capacities of projects envisaged by *I and II Annexes* of EA Code

# Means for Informing the Public

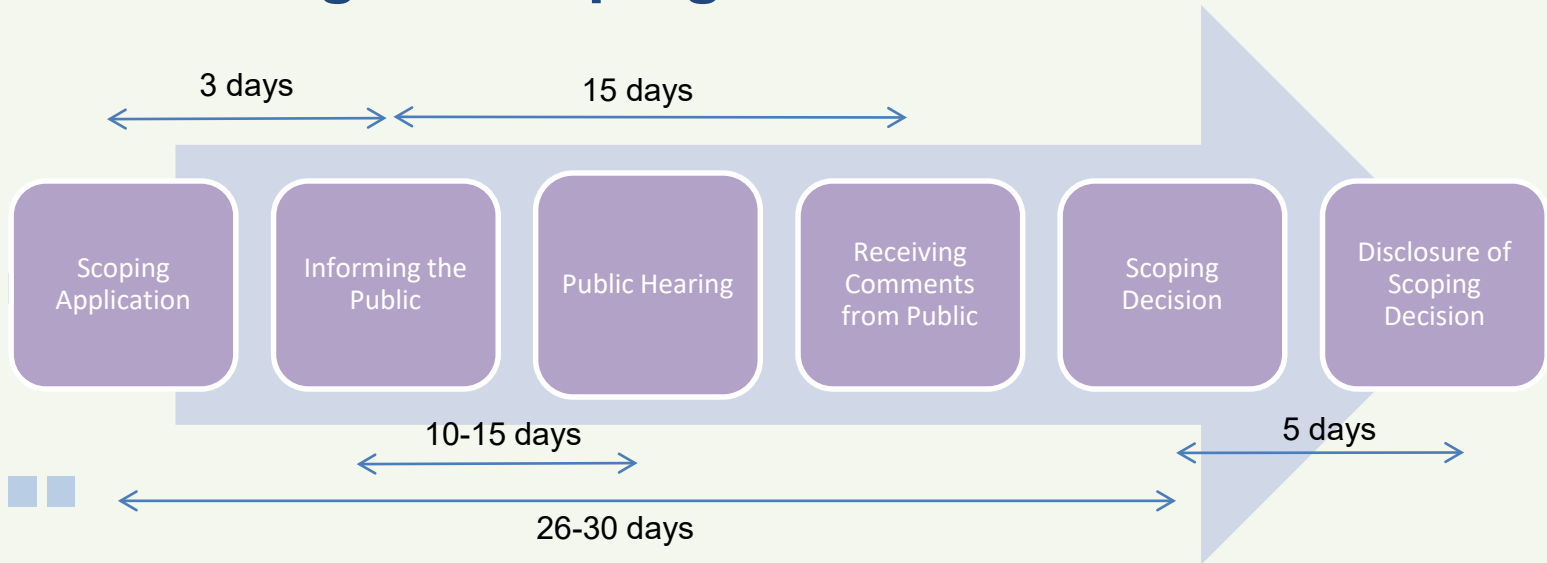
- **Notice Board** – *which is publicly accessible*
- **Websites** - *of the planning authority and Environmental and Health Ministries;*
- **Newspaper** - *which is widely spread in the geographical scope of likely affected territory and is available for the majority of the public concerned;*
- **Public Places** – *which are widely used for information dissemination, such as notice boards of public bus stops, kindergartens, schools, commercial centers, postal offices and other public areas*
- **Nearest Public Place** – *which is in the vicinity of the proposed project or strategic document.*



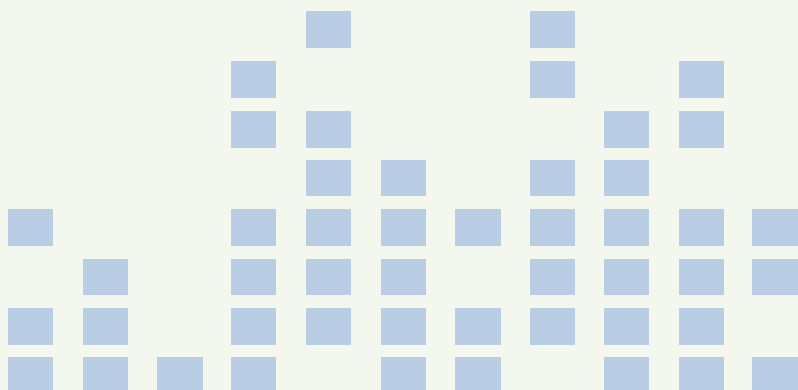
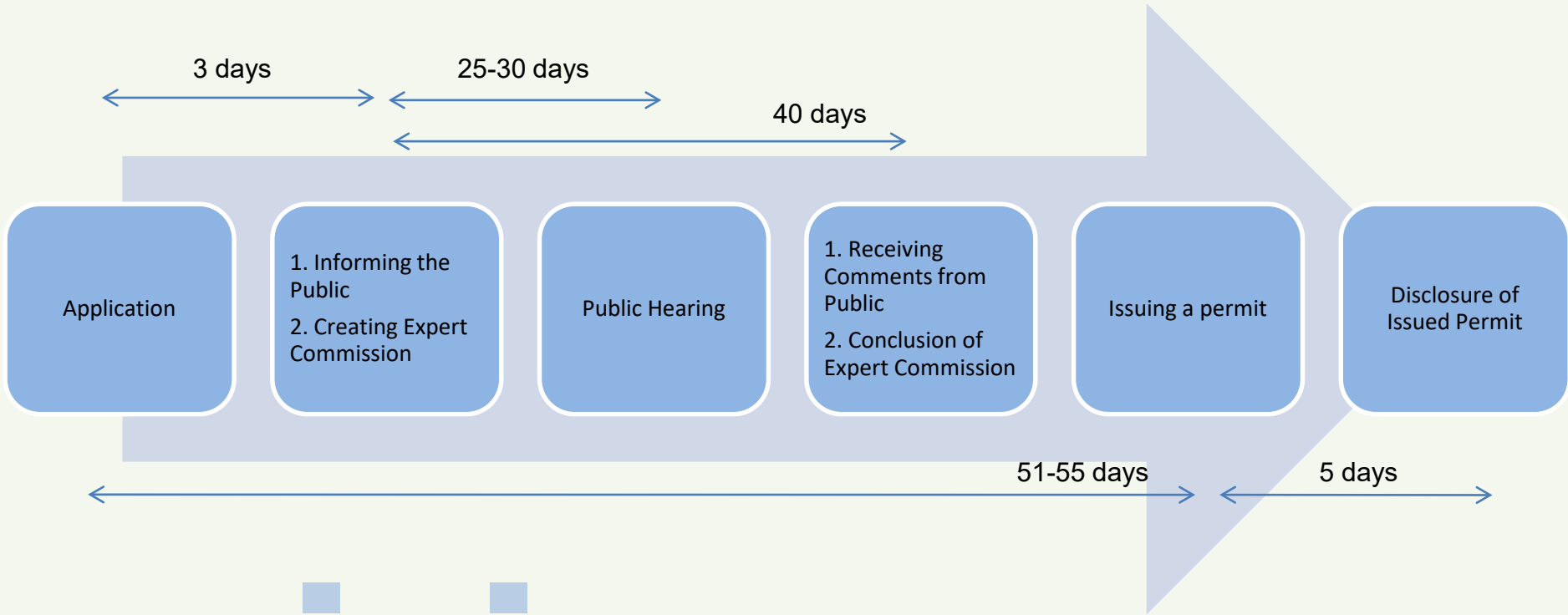
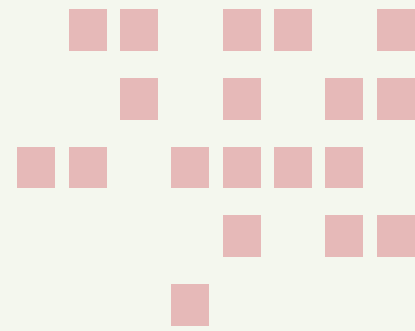
# Decision-making on Screening in EIA



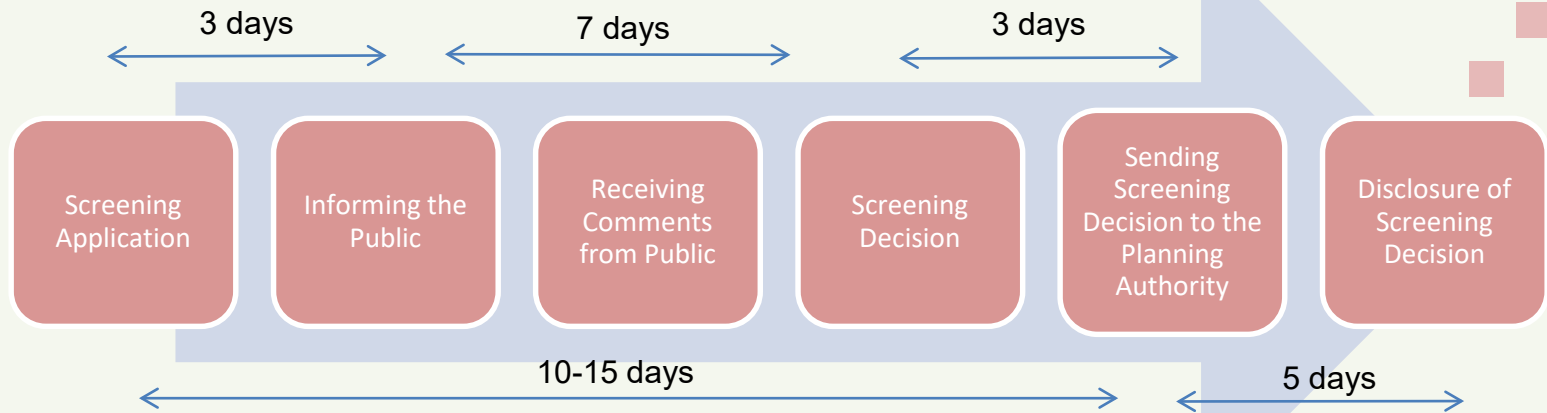
# Decision-making on Scoping in EIA



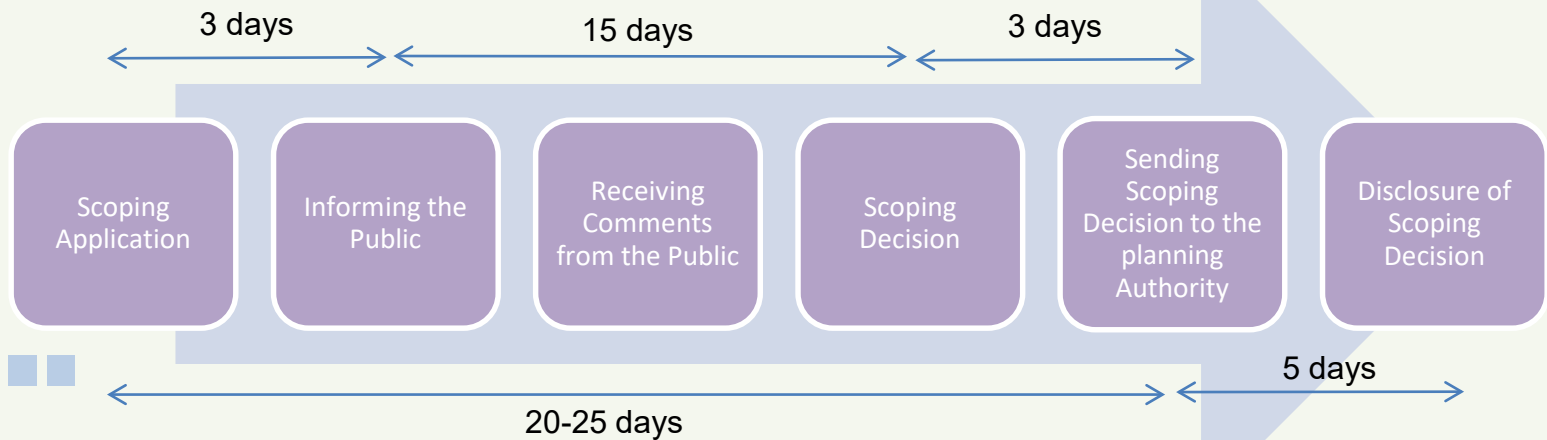
# Issuing EIA Permit



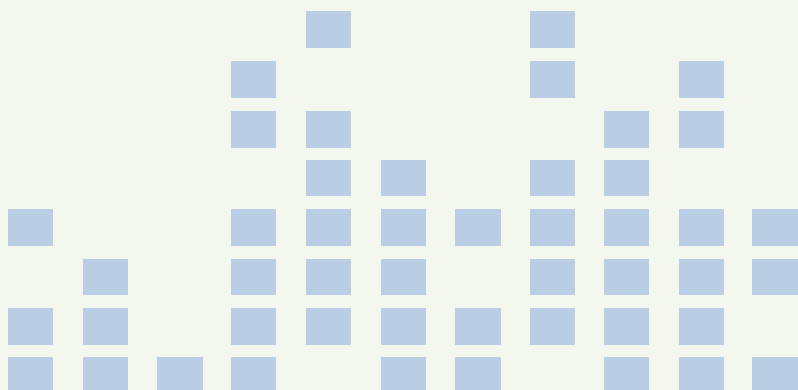
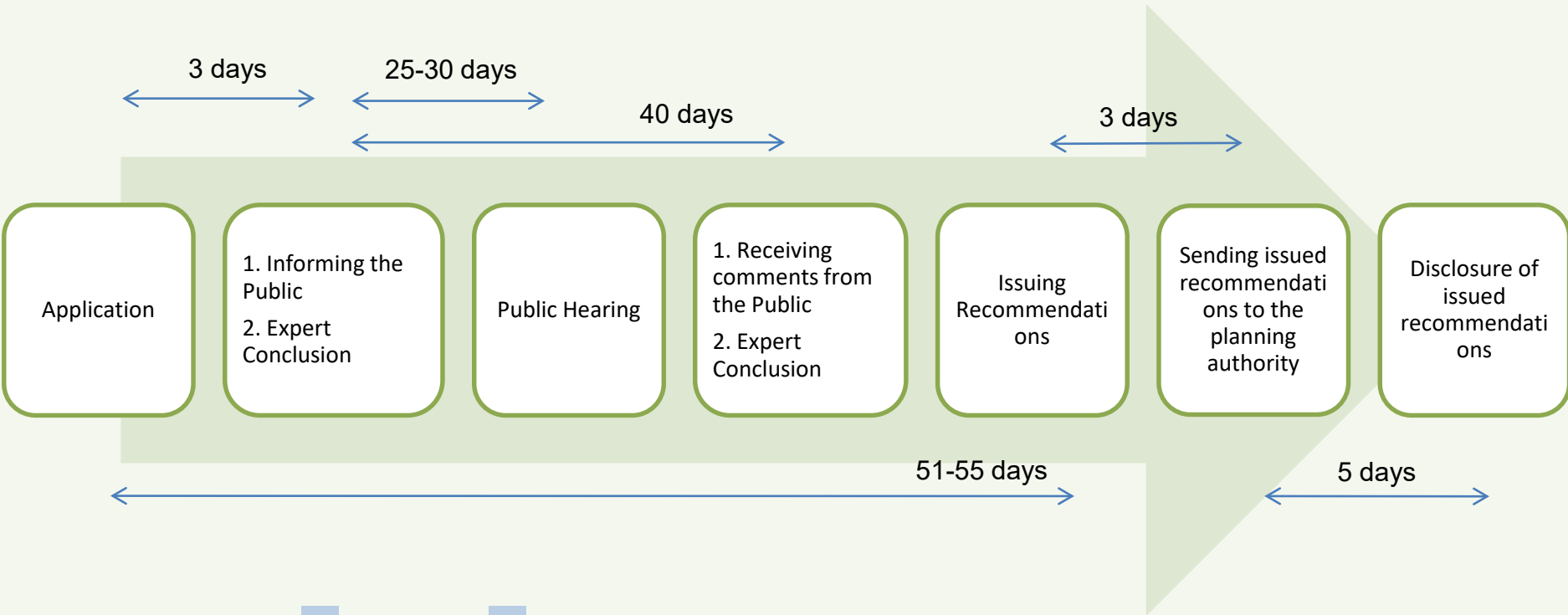
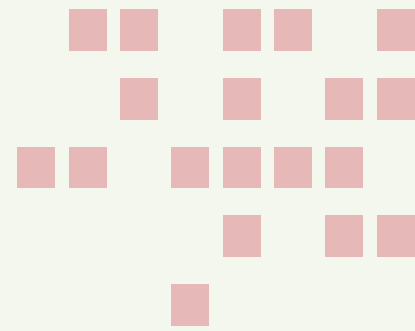
# Decision-making on Screening in EIA



# Decision-making on Scoping in EIA



# Issuing Recommendations on a Strategic Document



# Challenges and Future Priorities

- After enactment of new regulations, a number of SEA and EIA *cases shall expand* and thus it will:
  - Increase the demand of *additional human recourses*;
  - Further increase the demand on the *capacity building* of the environmental and health *ministries*, planning authorities, as well as practitioners and SEA/EIA consultant companies ;
  - *Increase the costs* (additional steps in SEA/EIA procedures);
- Considering above mentioned, there will be a demand for:
  - Assessment of institutional and financial capacities of the department responsible for EIA/SEA and development of relevant recommendations based on the best available practice of EU countries;
  - Elaboration of *secondary legislation* and harmonization of the existing technical regulations with EU standards;
  - Elaboration of *sector specific guidelines* for efficient EIA/SEA practice;
  - Introduction of *mandatory certification system* of consulting companies;
  - Capacity building on the *practical application* of SEA/EIA (e.g. further pilots with built-in training activities, training system possibly linked to qualification scheme for SEA/EIA experts);
  - Capacity building of the environmental and health ministries to ensure *quality control*;
  - Enhanced sharing of information on SEA/EIA procedures (e.g. *e-database*).



**Thank you for your attention!**

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