

# EaPGREEN

Partnership for Environment and Growth



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## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the UNECE Protocol on SEA as a tool to facilitate investments in the renewable energy sector

**Sub-Session**

**'The role of SEA in renewable energy development'**

21 October 2016

Baku

# What is SEA

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is an efficient procedural tool **to integrate environmental and health considerations into plans, programmes** as well as to policies and legislation alongside the economic and social considerations



SEA is not a mega-EIA, it should not duplicate EIAs. It ideally covers strategic issues of concern that cannot be effectively addressed through project-level decision-making

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# Main tasks for SEA

- To analyse the environmental and health effects of proposed development
- To suggest measures to mitigate likely adverse effects / enhance likely positive effects
- To bring stakeholders' opinions and inputs into planning
- To inform planners, decision-makers and other stakeholders about likely effects

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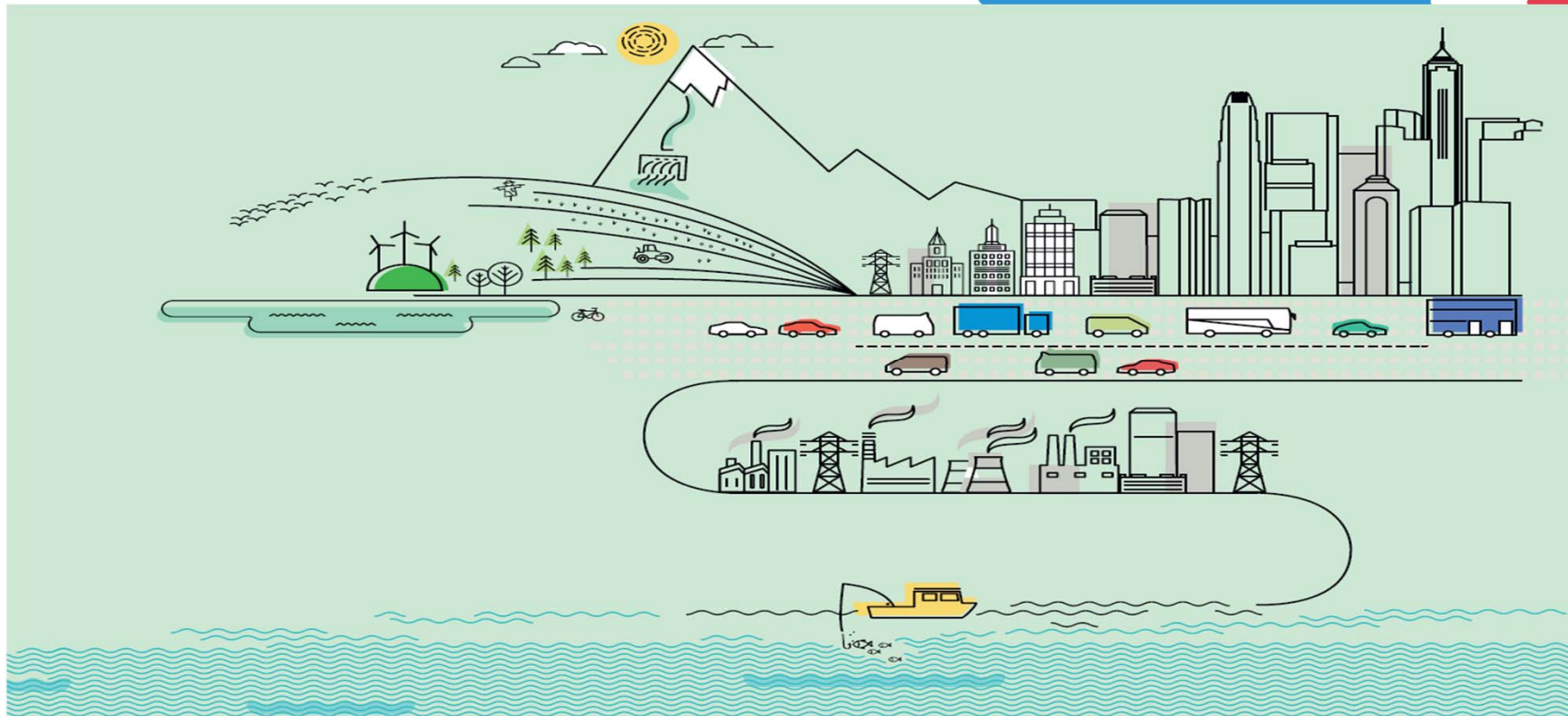
# Why we need SEA

- To support the preparation (i.e. planning) and implementation of good quality planning documents
- To ensure that sustainability considerations inform & are integrated into planning and decision-making
- To ensure that economic planning is consistent with environmental obligations and policies (e.g. regarding climate change, air quality, biodiversity)

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# Protocol on SEA

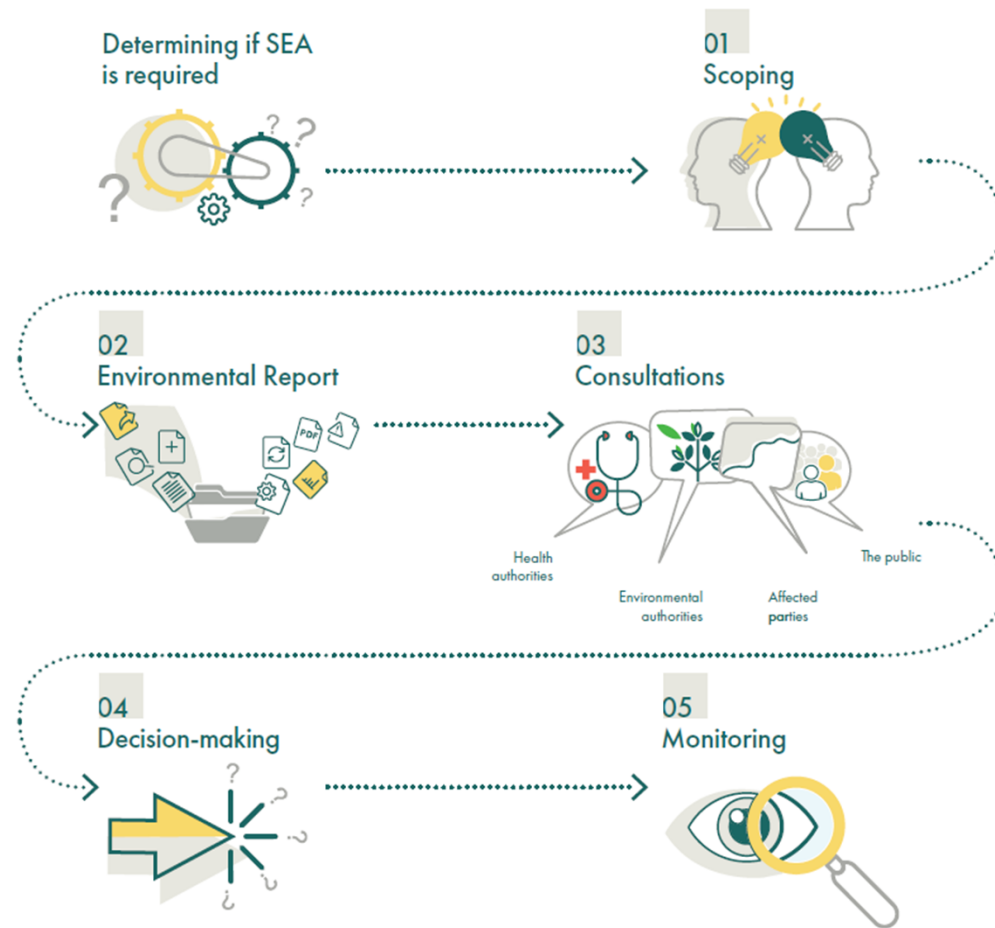


the advantages of a harmonized SEA procedure in the UNECE region and beyond



# Procedure set by the Protocol on SEA

mainstreams environmental and health considerations into development planning and policy making



## SEA IS OBLIGATORY FOR PLANS AND PROGRAMMES IN:

- Agriculture
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Energy
- Industry, including mining
- Transport
- Regional development
- Waste management
- Water management
- Telecommunications
- Tourism
- Town and country planning
- Land use

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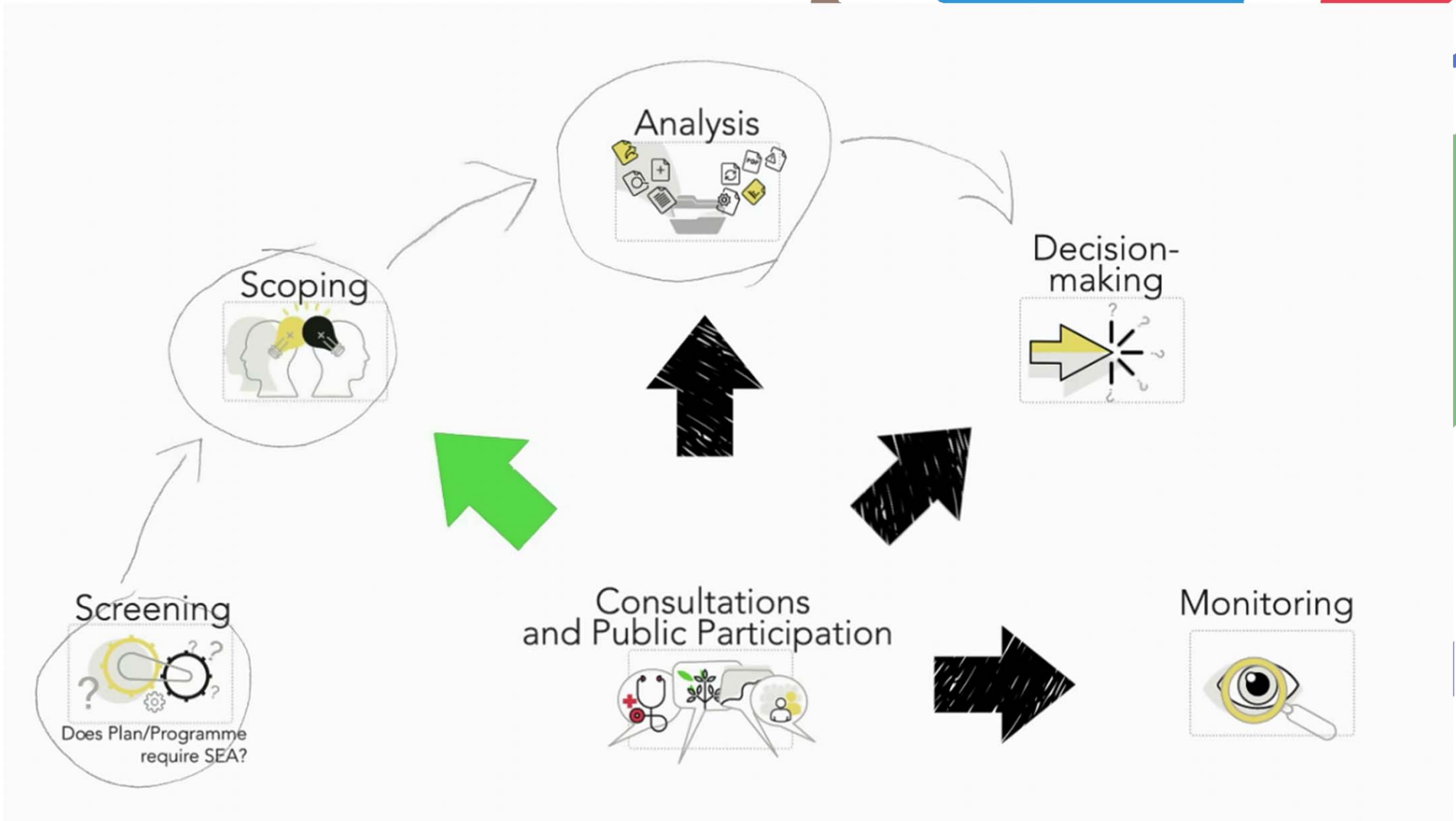


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# Protocol on SEA

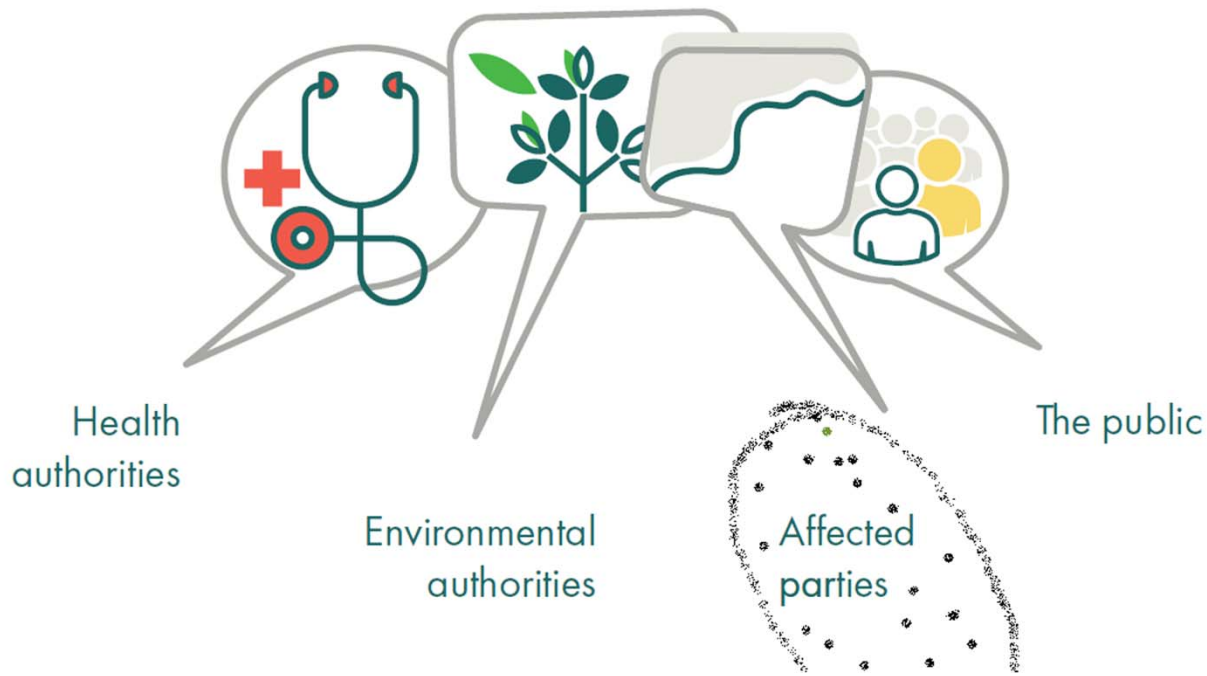
instrumental for good governance, better planning, transparency and trust in a decision making process



# Protocol on SEA

provide well-defined rules for information sharing and constructive consultations across the national borders

## Consultations



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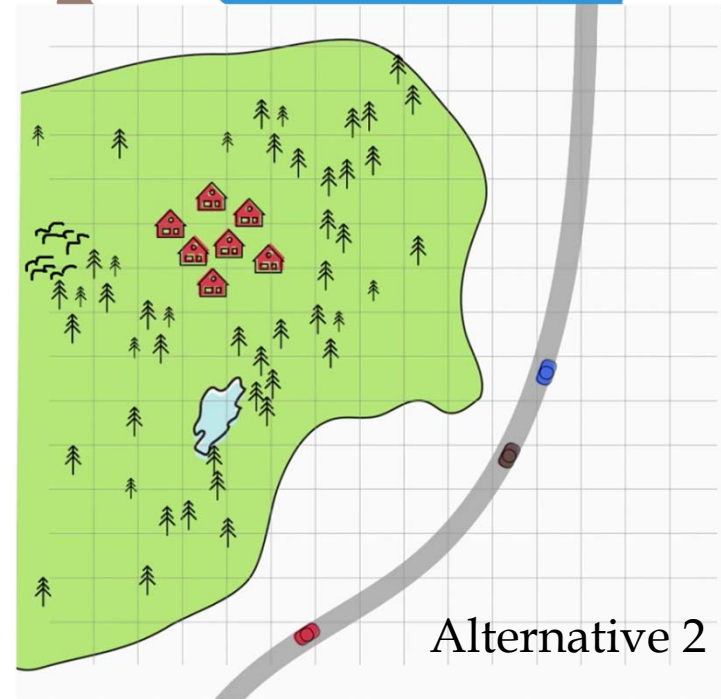
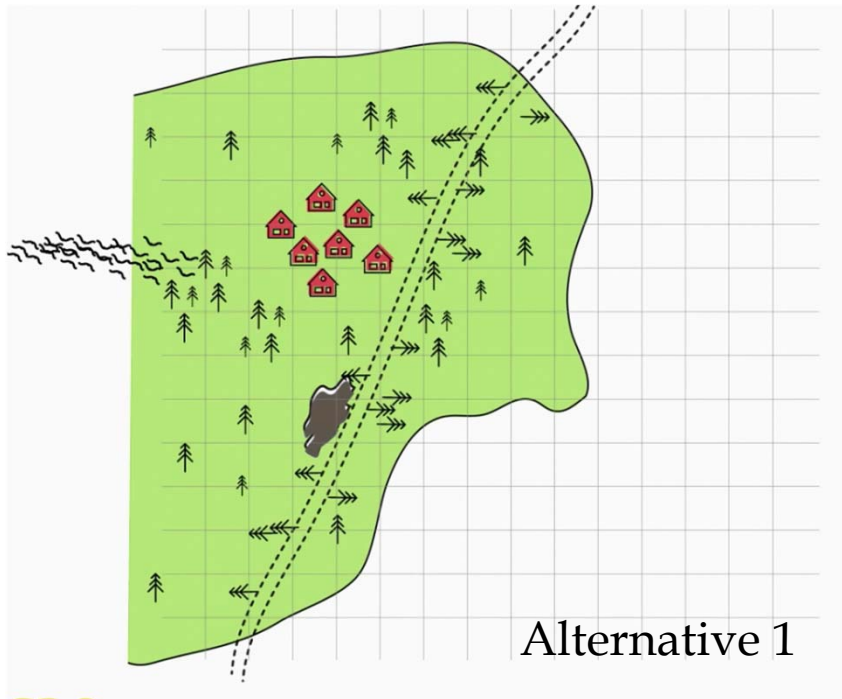
  
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# Protocol on SEA

stimulates innovation in the business environment, prevents costly mistakes



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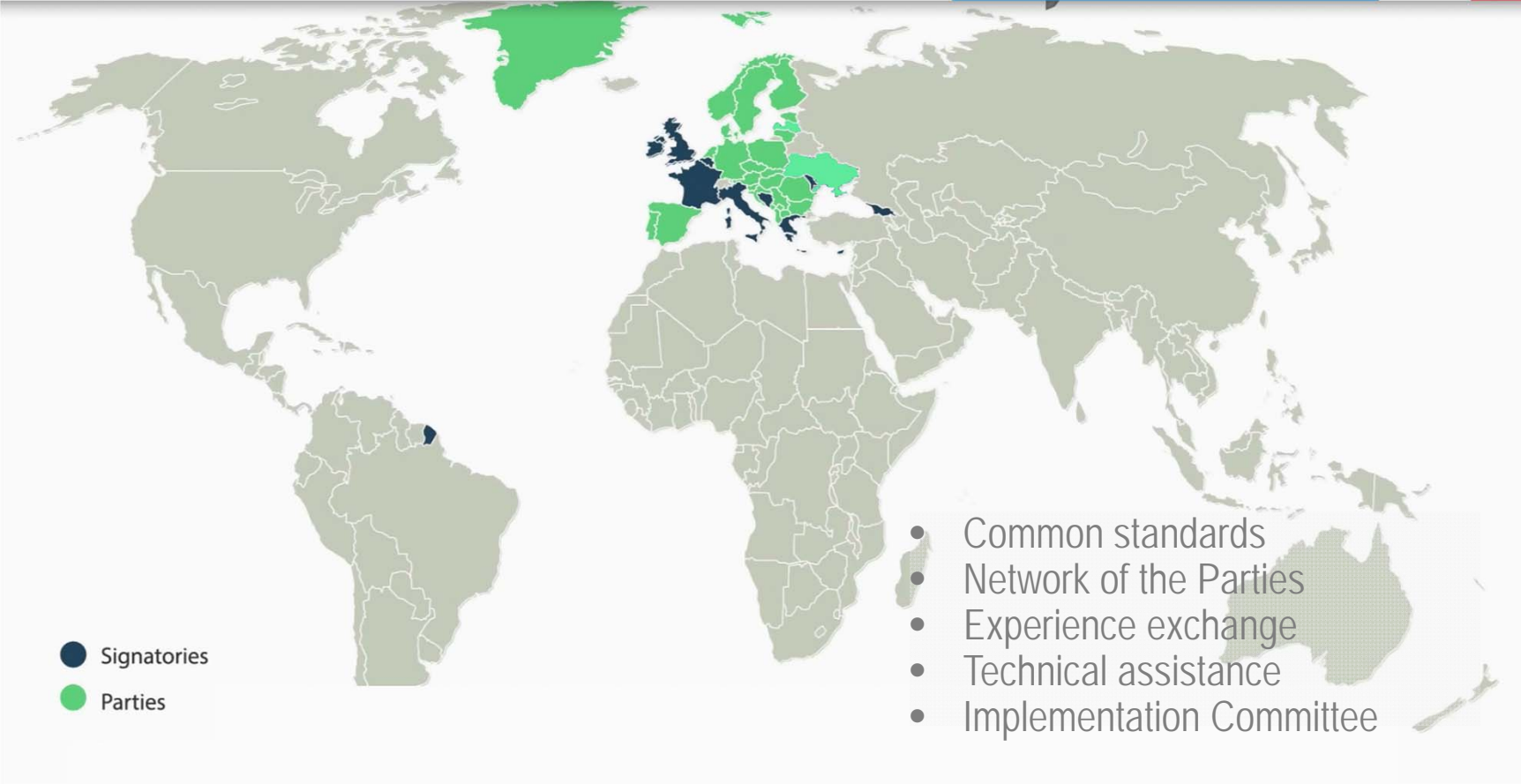


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# Protocol on SEA

## Global instrument



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# Role of UNECE secretariat

Works under the Espoo Convention & Protocol on SEA with focus on:

- Compliance with & implementation of the Protocol and the Convention
- Sub-regional cooperation & capacity-building (Central Asian Guidelines on transboundary EIA)
- Exchange of good practices
- Promoting ratification & application of SEA Protocol (e.g. introduction of SEA in Kazakhstan and in the countries of Eastern Europe and Caucasus, EU funded EaP GREEN programme, etc.)

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# Role of UNECE secretariat – examples of technical assistance

- Technical advice
  - Review of current SEA/EIA legislation, legal drafting – ongoing as of September 2016 in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan (2015), Russian Federation (2015), Tajikistan (2010)
  - Overview of legislative and administrative reforms for implementing strategic environmental assessment in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- Pilot projects
  - SEA for the renewable energy strategy (Azerbaijan, 2015-2016)

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# Role of UNECE secretariat – examples of technical assistance

- Sub-regional cooperation workshops
  - Exchanges of experiences
  - Dialogue
- Guidance documents
  - Manual on SEA for trainers (2016)
  - Resource Manual to Support Application of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, UNECE (2012)
  - National Guidance Documents on Application of SEA (Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova)
  - Practical guidance on reforming legal and institutional structures with regard to the application of the Protocol on SEA

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# SEA 'added-value' in renewable energy development

- SEA can ensure that renewable energy development is in line with environmental and health objectives and commitments a given country has adopted
- SEA can facilitate the discussion on scenarios for renewable energy development
- SEA can support proper consideration of renewable energy development in sub-subsequent planning schemes
- SEA can streamline development of specific projects and relevant project-level assessment (EIA)

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# As a result...

SEA can help to **maximise environmental and social benefits** resulting from renewable energy, while **avoiding or minimizing potential adverse effects** and thus support sustainable energy development

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**Questions or comments?**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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