

**EaP GREEN**



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**PILOT SEA OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN, ROAD MAP AND LONG TERM INVESTMENT PLAN FOR THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTOR OF ARMENIA**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Training Expert Workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment –**

**SEA for Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste**

**June 23-24, 2016  
Yerevan, Armenia,**

**Workshop report**

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## 1. Background

The 2<sup>nd</sup> expert workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Armenia was organized by the Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus (RECC), in close cooperation with Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia (RA) and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) within the framework of the EU funded Programme ‘Greening the Economies in the Eastern Neighborhood’. The workshop took place on June 23-24, 2016, in the Conference Hall of Ani Plaza Hotel, Yerevan, Armenia. It constituted a part of the pilot SEA for the Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector (hereinafter the Waste Management Plan or WMP).

The agenda of the workshop is attached.



*Picture 1. Opening of the SEA Expert workshop in Yerevan, 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 2016, Ani Plaza Hotel*

The workshop was built on the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> training workshop, which was held in February 2016 and it was devoted to the scoping phase of the Pilot SEA of the Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector.

The workshop was attended by Mr. Khachik Hakobyan (Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA), Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan (Adviser to the Minister of Nature Protection of Armenia, UNECE Espoo Convention National focal point), Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, (International SEA Consultants to UNECE), Ms. Nune Harutyunyan (National SEA Team Leader, Director REC Caucasus), the national SEA team experts.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Training workshop on SEA gathered representatives from relevant sectoral ministries (e.g. Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, Ministry of Health. The workshop was carried out by the international experts to UNECE, Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, and facilitated by the National SEA Team Leader - Ms. Nune Harutyunyan.

*Picture 2. Discussion of the scoping report and the process of SEA implementation/ legislative amendments package*



The workshop deployed the format of interactive sessions with elements of practical case-based work facilitated by UNECE international consultants on SEA.

Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA, Mr. Khachik Hakobyan welcomed the training workshop participants and thanked them for the experts` work done in the frames of the project. Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan, Advisor to the Minister of Nature Protection of RA also welcomed the participants. National SEA Team Leader and RECC Director, Ms. Nune Harutyunyan mentioned that the SEA scoping report and then SEA report will be worked on to prepare the final draft versions which will be presented to stakeholders. Ms. Harutyunyan also added that a meeting will be organized to discuss the report.

## **2. Workshop objectives**

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- Discuss findings acquired during the SEA scoping stage and assist with their integration in the Scoping report;
- Prepare the national SEA experts – members of the pilot SEA team - for conducting independently the assessment and compile the SEA report; and
- Assist national SEA experts to prepare for the SEA public hearings to be conducted in line with the national legal requirements and international good practice.

The participants of the training workshop were also invited to take part in the interactive process of designing the pilot SEA assessment approach, as well as to provide their feedback regarding preliminary findings of the pilot SEA scoping stage.

### 3. Summary of the Workshop outcomes

#### Introductory part

The meeting was opened and the participants welcomed by Mr. Khachik Hakobyan, Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan, Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, RECC Director, as well as UNECE SEA experts Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil.

Mr. Khachik Hakobyan, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection, mentioned the importance of work being implemented within the SEA component, as well as other components, of the EaP GREEN. He stressed that Armenia would continue implementing and support this strategic direction in the future, and will continue co-operation with REC Caucasus on this component, as a main partner of the Ministry.

#### Discussion



*Picture 3 . Presentation of scoping report results, by Team Leader Nune Harutyunyan, REC Caucasus*

Presentation was made by Ms. Nune Harutyunyan to present results of the Scoping report, as well as challenges which were identified currently in the scoping report on SEA for Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management. She particularly said that

- A package of amendments on national SEA law will be developed by the team in cooperation with international SEA experts and UNECE secretariat, the latter should comply with SEA Protocol requirements and procedural steps of SEA application in Armenia (including secondary legislation).
- SEA application process will be simplified,
- A guide about SEA application for the line ministries, describing the process, methodology, steps of SEA application at national level and in compliance with SEA protocol will be developed.

In her presentation Ms. Harutyunyan mentioned that research conducted in air pollution, climate change, biodiversity, land and mining, health, socio-economic, environmental and water sectors has been carried out within the scoping report development, and subsequent analysis of existing problems has been presented in the scoping matrix. The scoping matrix has been updated by the national experts in compliance with project targeted outputs, as well as in line with the guidelines suggested by UNECE. The group has also identified what kind of gaps and shortcomings were identified in the solid waste management sector related to the

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biodiversity, climate, air pollution, land and water pollution, environmental and health impact. Mr. Khachik Hakobyan, Deputy Minister MNP, has added that for the complete information should be delivered by the experts within the scoping report, which will help identification of the most urgent and important aspects affecting health and environment in relation to Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste elaborated by ADB.

Ms. Harutyunyan continued her speech mentioning that UNECE already has its methodological guides and a small guide on application of SEA in Armenia would be helpful in order to raise awareness on SEA within line ministries and different stakeholders which are supposed to order SEA and go through its procedures.



*Picture 4. SEA National expert presentations*

Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku has mentioned that EIA and SEA should be differentiated and that the participants must be able to explain the differences of these two concepts to other stakeholders. It must be made sure that everyone is engaged in the planning process to gather opinions, recommendations, and suggestions from all the target parties. People need to know why SEA is important and what the role of SEA in the environmental assessment is. Authorities must also be involved in the process.

A discussion about a potential form of the application for SEA expertise has been initiated. Mr. Michal Musil has asked to present the application form as soon as it is ready. Expert on Institutional and legal aspects of SEA Ms. Azganush Drnoyan added that 30 working days are given to fill SEA application form as per Armenian legislation, she has mentioned that she will present the structure and points of the application as soon as it is finalized.

Ms. Nune Harutyunyan encouraged the experts to get actively involved in the discussion process which will be aimed at finalizing the scoping report, as well as mentioned request to all participants to listen to all the presentations and scoping matrix presented by national experts and follow up with suggestions.

Mr. Michal Musil has mentioned the need to make sure that everyone is familiar with the scoping report and its content before moving forward that is why the draft version was provided to the participants.

Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku clarified if the experts had the access to the Armenian version of the Waste Management Plan so that the assessment could be plan-specific. She was assured that the document was available in Armenian.

Recommendations and suggestions from the Ministries of Nature Protection, Territorial administration, Health and others will also be considered to finalize the draft version of SEA scoping report. Materials of the scoping report as well as the scoping matrix, training materials and presentations were provided to the representatives of the Ministries of Territorial Development and Health, they were requested to study the details of the scoping report and matrix, as well as provide their feedback.

There is also a need to simplify the Matrix for the readers to present the content in a more simple and understandable manner.



*Picture 5. General discussion on challenges of SWM sector*

Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku addressed her question to Ms. Azganush Drnoyan about the finalization date of the SEA Law package (the new amendments). Ms. Drnoyan answered that there is no schedule.

Ms. Nune Harutyunyan added that the experts need to revise their parts in the scoping matrix. Integration of final comments and final feedbacks will be done to finalize the matrix.

Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan suggested organizing public hearings for SEA in parallel with the scoping process in July 2016, however the works on scoping report will need to be finalized by experts in the close future. The suggestion was accepted by the participants.

Expert Ms. Drnoyan has supported latest suggestion and added that it will not take long time to finalize the experts' parts in the report. She said also that 11 working days are given for public hearings according to the SEA law.

### **Presentations by national experts**

National experts have presented their findings through introduction of their research/reports and PPTs.

Commentaries were provided by the UNECE experts.

### **Comments to national expert presentations**

- Regarding the Socio-economic research: experts have mentioned that it would be good to mention the trends of population grow or decrease, which was argued that such analysis will not be very realistic (experts and the Focal point). There can be several scenarios developed, both positive and negative.
- Experts have suggested to include also information on affordability of tariffs in socio-economic analysis. Expert has mentioned that there is a need for development of mild tariff policies with regards

to the solid waste management issues. ADB has researched that there is a positive change and development of potential within communities.

- Other issues, like purchasing relevant technical equipment, are being currently discussed. For example, Russian technical assistance is more affordable at this stage for the country. Asian development bank has also decreased the percentage of their loan.
- Stakeholders have also discussed the cases of SEA use in case the whole policy documents has passed the SEA and when there is still 5 pilot projects – which procedure should be used – is this again SEA for each pilot or already the EIA? Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku suggested that due to the different donors assisting to the sector they would have different regulations and requirements.
- Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku has suggested the need for national experts to write down the objectives regarding their spheres (up to 5 main objectives) and cross relate them with other spheres presented by other experts. Experts need to work on this table. This table will later on be used for the general assessment.
- Mr. Musil opened discussion on the assessment of possible environmental impacts – estimate what impacts will have particular measures on the environment. Instructions for this stage of SEA had been given to the experts in past weeks in order for them to get familiar with the main principles. Discussion focused on addressing question of national experts related to the instructions provided.
- International consultants will support the work on improving the SEA report by making recommendations, suggestions, and concentrate on identification of the problems to finalize the report.
- Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan noted that national plan on Waste management will be approved in September of this year. The regional plans will be accepted later. Currently public hearings are planned and will be carried out and will be over by the time when recommendations of the amendments are ready.
- Question: Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku has asked if there are feasibility studies for 5 landfills currently being carried out in the frames of the EIA project.
- Answer: Mr. Zohrab from the Ministry of Territorial Administration has answered that feasibility studies in 5 landfills are currently in their documentation process yet. EIA project in Shirak region is being implemented, in Kotayq region is in preparation process and will start soon.

During the next stage UNECE SEA experts were working with the national expert group on development and improvement of the scoping matrix and have discussed possible cross-cutting issues related to the SWM scoping report.

#### **4. Workshop conclusions**

The second expert workshop fulfilled its objectives giving the opportunity for discussion of findings of the scoping report, detailed presentation and discussion of research findings in socio-economic, water, soil, waste management, biodiversity, climate, air pollution and other aspects which were described by the national team. Very active participation of the ministry of territorial development and health allowed to develop and support the ownership of the SEA implementation process at the national level. In addition, the deadlines of the important dates related to the waste management strategy (expected to be approved in September 2016) was an important impetus for timely delivery and actuality of the current work on SEA scoping in the waste management sector.

Following the results of the workshop, a number of agreed steps and key tasks were defined in order to progress with the Pilot SEA implementation:

- During the meeting it was agreed that UNECE experts will provide supplement material to the expert instructions – elaborated matrix for the assessment of the effects of individual WMS measures and a matrix for the comparison of alternatives available within the WMS. The international experts will provide this material in one week after the workshop.
- National experts should identify five policy objectives in their spheres of expertise in order to conduct the objectives-led assessment (the templates for this table is to be provided by UNECE SEA experts and distributed to national experts also within a week of the workshop)
- The national SEA team experts will work further on the issues that interrelate solid waste management and the environment, including climate change, air pollution, biodiversity, soil, water and ground water, etc.
- Public hearings for SEA scoping report will be organized in parallel with the scoping process in July 2016. Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan will determine in consultation with the Ministry and SEA Team Leader the schedule of public hearings within two weeks of the end of workshop;
- The works on scoping report will need to be finalized by experts in the close future. To this end, the following concrete actions and deadlines for finalizing the SEA scoping report were agreed:
  - The national SEA experts will revise their parts of the SEA scoping report as per the comments of the International UNECE experts within 10 days of the workshop (in Armenia).
  - The SEA Team Leader will revise the Armenian version of the SEA scoping report and issue a corresponding English version by the end of July 2016 ((in case all inputs by the national experts would arrive in a timely manner).
- It was agreed that assessment of possible environmental effects and estimate what impacts will have particular measures on the environment should be mentioned to the extent possible in the scoping report.
- It was agreed that the extended legal analysis in the draft SEA report could be used as a separate document to inform the legal experts revising the Law of Armenia on EIA and Expertise; whereas the legal analysis in the SEA scoping report can be shortened and kept in the report or summarized and moved to the appendix.
- Development of the SEA report will start in parallel with the finalization of the scoping report. The draft assessment results shall be available in August in order for SEA to be able to timely provide inputs to the planners before the WMP is submitted for the final approval. However, the preliminary recommendations from the SEA scoping stage can be passed to the WMP once the scoping report is finalized.

Annex 1. Agenda of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Training Expert Workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment – SEA scoping report preparation, impact assessment and mitigation measures**



**Pilot 'SEA for Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector in Armenia'**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Training Expert Workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment – SEA scoping report preparation, impact assessment and mitigation measures**

23 – 24 June, 2016

Venue: 'Ani Plaza' Hotel, Garni Hall, Yerevan, Armenia

**AGENDA**

The training workshop on practical application of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Armenia is organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection of the Republic of Armenia in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and the Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus (RECC) in the framework of the EU funded Programme 'Greening the Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood'. It will be held as a part of the pilot SEA for the Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector (hereinafter the Waste Management Plan or WMP).

The workshop will build on the results of the 1<sup>st</sup> training workshop, held in February 2016 and aims to support the implementation of the Pilot SEA of the Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector, namely to:

- Discuss findings acquired during the SEA scoping stage and assist with their integration in the Scoping report;
- Facilitate participation of statutory consultees in the pilot SEA process in line with the national legal requirements;
- To prepare the national SEA experts – members of the pilot SEA team for conducting independently the assessment and compile the SEA report; and
- To assist national SEA experts to prepare for the SEA public hearings to be conducted in line with the national legal requirements and international good practice.

The event will gather representatives from relevant sectoral ministries (e.g. Ministry of Nature Protection, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Energy, and others) as well as the experts participating in the pilot SEA process. The workshop will deploy the format of interactive sessions with elements of practical case-based work facilitated by the experienced UNECE international consultants on SEA.

The participants of the training workshop are also invited to take part in the interactive process of designing the pilot SEA assessment approach, as well as to provide their feedback regarding preliminary findings of the pilot SEA scoping stage.

**Day 1: Thursday, 23rd of June**

9.00 – 9.30	Registration of participants
9.30 – 9.35	<b>Opening the Meeting</b> Welcome of the participants <i>Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan, Adviser to the Minister of Nature Protection of RA</i>
9.35 – 9.45	<b>Introduction to the workshop objectives and agenda</b> Introduction of the UNECE pilot SEA project: SEA for Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector. <i>Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, National pilot SEA team leader Regional Environmental Center for Caucasus</i>
9.45 – 10.00	<b>Introduction of the participants</b>
10.00 – 10.40	<b>SEA process: Key elements and actors, purpose of the Scoping phase</b> <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
10.40 – 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Finalizing the Draft SEA Scoping Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of the key issues / gaps to be further developed/addressed to finalize the Draft SEA Scoping Report;</li><li>• Questions and Answers Session</li></ul> <i>Discussion to be facilitated by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
12.30 – 13.30	<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>
13.30 – 14.30	Lunch break
14.30 – 15.30	<b>SEA analytical methods II: Application of 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

17.00 – 17.30	<b>Wrap-up and agenda for Day 2</b>
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**Day 2: Tuesday, 24<sup>st</sup> of June**

09.30 – 10.00	<b>Summary of Day 1: Participants’ feedback and expectations for Day 2</b> <i>Facilitated discussion by Ms. Nune Harutyunyan, National pilot SEA team leader</i>
10.00 – 11.00	<b>Analysing alternatives in SEA: Problems, possible approaches</b> <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, Consultants to UNECE</i>
11.00 – 11.20	Coffee break
11.20 – 12.00	<b>Identifying mitigation measures and designing the monitoring scheme: Preparation of effective inputs to decision making process</b> <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, Consultants to UNECE</i>
12.00 – 12.50	<b>How to prepare the SEA Report</b> <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, Consultants to UNECE</i>
12.50 – 14.00	Lunch break
14:00-15.00	<b>Public participation and preparation for public hearing</b> <i>Presentation and facilitated discussion by Mr. Michal Musil and Dr. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, Consultants to UNECE</i>
15.00 – 15.30	<b>Further steps within the pilot SEA on the WMP considering legal requirements</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 – 16.30	<b>Concluding discussion</b> <i>Discussion by Ms. Eleonora Grigoryan, Adviser to the Minister of Nature Protection of RA</i>