

Training workshop on SEA quality assurance / quality control in Georgia for the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs

November 28, 2016

Venue: Hotel Laerton, 14 Iliko Kurkhuli St, Tbilisi, Georgia

Background

The training workshop on SEA quality assurance/quality control is organized by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and ‘Georgia’s Environmental Outlook’ (GEO) in the framework of the EU funded Programme ‘Greening the Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood’ (EaP GREEN).

The aim of the training workshop is to introduce and discuss approaches to quality control in SEA with special emphasis on the role of environmental and health authorities. The training workshop should support practical application of the SEA procedure as stipulated by the draft Environmental Assessment Code of Georgia.

After the training workshop the participants should be able to check the quality of SEA in its key stages. The conclusions from the workshop should also support both ministries in developing a detailed procedure for cooperation between the environmental and health authorities during the SEA process. The training workshop will be based on the practical recommendations on the application of SEA in Georgia according to the draft Environmental Assessment Code.

Participants

The training workshop is designed for officials from the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, who are the authorities to play a major role in the SEA system after the adoption of the Environmental Assessment Code¹.

Approach and design

The training will be delivered by a national SEA expert supported by an international UNECE consultants. The experience gained during the pilot SEA application to the National Waste Management Action Plan (and Strategy) in Georgia will be utilized as a basis for exercises and discussions. In addition, approaches to quality control in SEA from the EU countries will be introduced to present a broader perspective on the possible arrangements to be established in Georgia when a full-fledge SEA scheme operates in the country.

In order to enhance the efficiency of the training, the participants are kindly asked to prepare the following home assignment **prior to the workshop**:

- Read the pilot SEA report

¹ The draft EAC requires cooperation of environmental and health authorities within the SEA process (e.g. Art. 23.6 or Art. 25.6).



- Read the relevant sections of the EAC (i.e. articles regarding scoping, preparation of the SEA report and its review)
- Formulate 2 – 4 specific questions related to quality control/quality assurance which should be addressed at the workshop and send proposals to the organizers

Agenda

09.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants
10.00 – 10.15	Opening of the workshop and welcome of the participants <i>Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i> <i>Mr. Alvaro Ortega, Program Manager, Delegation of the EU to Georgia</i> <i>Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE International Consultant on SEA</i>
10.15 – 10.45	Introduction to the workshop objectives and agenda Introduction of the participants and their expectations from the workshop <i>Facilitated by Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, National Project Coordinator, GEO</i>
10.45 – 11.30	Introduction to quality assurance/quality control in SEA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible approaches to QA/QC in SEA (30 min) <i>Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE International Consultant on SEA</i> • Legal requirements regarding quality stipulated by the draft Environmental Assessment Code (15 min) <i>Ms. Tamar Sharashidze, Head of Environmental Impacts Permits Department, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i>
11.30 – 12.00	Coffee break
12.00 – 13.00	Quality criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oveview of quality criteria to be applied in SEA (20 min) <i>Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE International Consultant on SEA</i> • Facilitated discussion to identify the most relevant criteria to be applied in Georgia (40 min) <i>Facilitated by Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, Project National Coordinator, GEO</i>
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 – 15.45	Quality control of SEA pilot <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the assignment (15 min) <i>Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE International Consultants on SEA</i> • Group work: quality control of selected elements of SEA pilot (60



	<p>min)</p> <p><i>Facilitated by the national and international UNECE consultants</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by working groups and discussion (30 min) <p><i>Facilitated by Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, Project National Coordinator, GEO</i></p>
15.45 – 16.15	Coffee break
16.15 – 16.45	<p>Procedural aspects of quality control in SEA – facilitated discussion on the most efficient approaches to quality control in Georgia</p> <p><i>Facilitated by Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, Project National Coordinator, GEO</i></p>
16.45 – 17.00	<p>Concluding session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of main conclusions • Further steps <p><i>Ms. Tamar Gugushvili, Project National Coordinator, GEO, and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE International Consultant on SEA</i></p>
17.00	End of workshop