



Training workshop on SEA scoping

19 April 2016
Tbilisi, Georgia

19 April 2016



Outline of scoping procedure

UNECE International Consultants on SEA:

Mr. Martin Smutny
Mr. Michal Musil

9-10 March 2016

Main steps in scoping stage i. (according to Environmental Assessment Code)

‘Zero’ step: planning authority ensures scoping report is prepared

1. Planning authority

- Applies to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENRP) and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs (MLHSA) for scoping opinion
- Informs public about the application

2. MENR and MLHSA publish application and attached documents on their web sites

3. MENR establishes expert commission

9-10 March 2016

Main steps in scoping stage ii. (according to Environmental Assessment Code)

4. Planning authority ensures organization of scoping public hearing
5. MENRP, MLHSA, and planning authority inform about time and place of public hearing
6. Expert commission provides conclusions on scoping report
7. MENRP and MLHSA submit their view and notes on strategic document at the public hearing
8. Planning authority prepares protocol on public hearing and submits it to MENRP and MLHSA

Main steps in scoping stage iii. (according to Environmental Assessment Code)

9. MENRP and MLHSA issue the scoping opinion
10. MENRP and MLHSA send scoping opinion to planning authority
11. MENRP, MLHSA, and planning authority publish scoping opinion on their official websites within 5 days after it is issued

Issues for discussion – general aspects

- Purpose of scoping: not to ‘approve’ scoping report, but to **determine scope of assessment**
- Role of expert commission: primarily to **suggest** (based on the scoping report) **the scope of assessment**
- Role of MENRP and MLHSA: Based on scoping report, expert commission’s outputs and scoping public hearing to **determine the scope of assessment** – both from substantial and procedural points of view

Issues for discussion – technical aspects

- Application by planning authority – any format to be prescribed?
- Way of communication/cooperation between MENRP and MLHSA when
 - Communicating to the planning authority
 - Publishing information and documents
 - Establishing and coordinating expert commission
 - Preparing and issuing scoping opinion
- Composition of the expert commission – who will decide about it?

9-10 March 2016

Issues for discussion – technical aspects

- Information about time and venue of the scoping public hearing
 - Scoping application should already suggest timing and venue of the scoping public hearing, but...
 - MENRP, MLHSA, and planning authority shall publish this information no later than 20 working days before public hearing
- Publishing scoping opinion
 - MENRP and MLHSA send scoping opinion to planning authority, and it needs to be published on their official websites within 5 days after it is issued
 - **Will planning authority have scoping opinion in time?**

Issues for discussion – technical aspects

Timing of entire scoping procedure (max. 50 working days in total)

- Day 0: Registration of application
- Information about public hearing is published (in 5 days?)
- In 10 days: Expert commission is established
- **Expert commission's conclusions on scoping report (10 days before scoping hearing)**
- Scoping hearing (at least 20 days after publishing information about place and time)
- Protocol on public hearing (3 days after public hearing)
- **MENRP/MLHSA issues scoping opinion**

Suggestions for practical implementation of scoping procedure

- Unified way of informing public should be clearly defined
 - Websites of planning agency, MENR, MLHSA
 - Other ways?
- Optional expert commission involvement in scoping: Scope of assessment can be determined directly by the MENRP and MLHSA in less complicated cases
- Optional public hearing in scoping: Can be replaced by targeted consultations with key stakeholders

Questions or comments?

Thank you for your attention!

9-10 March 2016