



Capacity building strategy on SEA and EIA

Martin Smutny
Consultant to UNECE
Tbilisi, 26 April 2017

A full-fledged SEA/EIA system...

- Legislative framework is in line with requirements of international documents
- SEA/EIA is recognized as a standard practice
- There are sufficient capacities for coordination, administration and conducting SEAs and EIAs
- It is conducted for relevant plans, programmes, and projects in accordance with existing legislation
- Outcomes and results are accepted by relevant stakeholders/decision-makers
- Public is aware of opportunities offered by SEA and EIA

Capacity building strategy

- To identify existing challenges in current SEA and EIA system and practice in Georgia
- To outline priorities (and possibly also specific activities) for further capacity building on SEA and EIA in Georgia
- To determine main target groups for capacity building

Proposed structure of capacity building strategy

- Introduction – purpose of the document and a brief overview of existing SEA and EIA system in Georgia
- Capacity building needs
- Objectives and priorities of SEA/EIA capacity building (long-term)
- Specific actions (short-term, e.g. for next two years)
- Implementation and monitoring ('who should do what and when')

Altogether around 10 pages

Capacity building 'elements' for consideration

- System capacity
 - Legislative framework (secondary legislation)
 - Specific methodologies and guidelines
- Institutional capacity
 - Capacities of environmental and health authorities
 - Financial aspects (especially for SEA to ensure planning agencies have sufficient budgets to cover SEA)
 - Information sharing system (e.g. SEA/EIA database)
- Human capacity
 - Training schemes and awareness raising (national SEA/EIA Conference, network of practitioners etc.)
 - Quality mark

Group discussion

Please discuss the questions below and present your opinion:

1. What are the main existing challenges related to SEA/EIA in Georgia and the ways to overcome them?
2. What are the benefits and costs of application of SEA/EIA in Georgia?
3. What needs to be done to make SEA and EIA operational (i.e. that is it applied as a standard tool)? You may suggest:
 - Three priorities for further capacity building on SEA/EIA
 - Three specific actions/activities to be organized in 2017 – 2018

Questions or comments?