



UNECE technical assistance within EaP GREEN in Armenia

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EaP GREEN

Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood (EaP GREEN) programme is a large regional programme implemented in 2013-2017 by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO to assist the six European Union's Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in their transition to green economy.

The programme is financed by the European Commission, the four implementing organisations and other donors.



EaP GREEN

The programme's overall objective is to assist the EaP countries ***to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion.***

The programme component that ECE is in charge of implementing, aims to ***promote the use of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) and environmental impact assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for an environmentally sustainable economic development.***

SEA/EIA work-streams

- Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework
 - Legal reviews and legal drafting
- Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures
 - Trainings and workshops (national and sub-regional)
 - SEA/EIA pilots
- Strengthening of administrative capacities
 - Facilitating policy dialogue
 - Recommendations on institutional framework for SEA/EIA

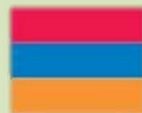
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Partnership for Environment and Growth



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Establishing legislative framework for SEA and EIA



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Georgia



Republic of
Moldova



Ukraine

Legislative review carried out



Support to drafting the legislation provided including awareness raising events to support adoption of the legislation



Draft legislation in intergovernmental discussion or submitted for adoption



Legislation adopted



Implementing SEA/EIA pilots

SEA/EIA pilots finalized



SEA/EIA pilots to be finalized in 2017



Preparing national SEA guidelines



Armenia



Azerbaijan



Belarus



Georgia



Republic of
Moldova



Ukraine

National SEA guidelines prepared



National SEA guidelines to be finalized in 2017



Organizing trainings on SEA

The training manual prepared English and Russian as a background for future trainings and workshops in the countries



Training materials on SEA tailored to national and local conditions produced



Relevant governmental staff, experts, representatives of NGOs trained on SEA



Participation of the country representatives at the sub-regional events



ACTIVITIES IN ARMENIA



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General approach and objectives

- The activities have been carried out in close cooperation with the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia
- Main objectives
 - Improve national legislative and institutional framework to fully comply with the Espoo Convention, its Protocol on SEA and relevant EU legislation;
 - Clearly define roles and responsibilities of various authorities in the SEA process;
 - Build national and local capacities, develop practical experience and national guidelines for application of the SEA procedures in line with the Protocol and relevant EU legislation;
 - Raise awareness and common understanding of the benefits of the SEA at national and local levels and in different sectors.

Legal development

- Initial review of the legislative and institutional framework for SEA and EIA procedures (2014)
- National legal roundtable (September 2014)
- Support to drafting of amended/new legislative including two roundtables (March 2016 and February 2017)
- Amended text of the Law on EIA and the draft Government Decision on SEA (2017)

Pilot SEA

SEA of the National Strategic Development Plan, Road Map and Long Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector in Armenia implemented in order to:

- Test and demonstrate opportunities of practical application of the SEA procedure;
- Provide recommendations for environmental optimisation and modifications of the plan;
- Develop recommendations for further improvement of national legislative and institutional frameworks on SEA in the country.

Capacity building and awareness raising

- Initial training on SEA (November 2013) to provide the participants with the step-by-step guidance on application of SEA as a tool for strategic decision making and planning for greening the economy
- Several training workshops organized during the SEA pilot to provide hands-on opportunity for relevant stakeholders to get involved in SEA practice
- Preparation of SEA Guidelines to:
 - Support implementation of a new legislative framework on SEA (after it is adopted)
 - Provide details on how to apply SEA procedure

Capacity building and awareness raising

- Preparation of SEA/EIA capacity building strategy to:
 - Identify existing challenges with the current SEA and EIA system and practices in Armenia;
 - Outline further priorities and actions.
- Brochure and video on SEA Protocol and SEA benefits on raise awareness on SEA among relevant stakeholders



SUB-REGIONAL ACTIVITIES



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Activities

Legislation

- Overview of legislative and administrative reforms for implementing SEA in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- General Guidance for Developing SEA Framework

Capacity

- Three sub-regional events organized:
 - Study tour on SEA to the Czech Republic (2014)
 - 1st Sub-regional conference & Training of trainers workshop: Enhancing SEA in selected countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (Georgia, 2015)
 - 2nd Sub-regional workshop: Sharing experience with introducing SEA and EIA in selected countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (Ukraine, 2017)

Training

- Manual for Trainers: Application of the Protocol on SEA

Awareness

- Video and brochure on SEA facts and benefits

Major outputs and achievements

Establishing legislative framework for SEA and EIA

Legislation adopted

Implementing SEA/EIA pilots

SEA/EIA pilots to be finalized in 2017

Organizing trainings on SEA

Participation of the country representatives at the sub-regional events

- The Law on EIA and Ecological Expertise adopted (2014)
- The draft amendments to the Law on EIA and Ecological Expertise and the draft Governmental Decision on SEA prepared (2017)
- Pilot SEA of National Strategic Development Plan, Road Map, and Long-Term Investment Plan for the Solid Waste Management Sector of Armenia carried out (2016 – 2017)
- Training workshops organized (as a part of the pilot SEA)
- Representatives of Armenia participated at the sub-regional events

Challenges and priorities

Legislation

- To achieve full compliance with the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA i.e. adoption of amended Law on EIA and the secondary legislation

Capacity

- To achieve full compliance with the Espoo Convention and the Protocol on SEA i.e. adoption of amended Law on EIA and the secondary legislation
- To ensure that environmental and health authorities have capacities to perform their role in SEA/EIA processes
 - Overall coordination
 - Expert inputs (e.g. in scoping)
 - Quality control
- To enhance capacities of practitioners to carry out SEA and EIA

Awareness

- To raise awareness on importance of SEA and EIA as a tools for sustainable economic development

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Thank you for your attention!

<https://www.unece.org/environmental-policy/greening-the-economy-in-the-pan-european-region/eap-green.html>