

Environmental assessment system in Azerbaijan: The benefits and way forward

Final dissemination event on SEA and EIA component within the EU EaP GREEN

6 April 2018

Venue: Central Park Hotel Conference room,
Baku, Azerbaijan

The "Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN) project assists six countries of the European Union Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership including Azerbaijan in progressing faster towards a green economy framework.¹ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have been promoted within the EaP GREEN as tools to integrate green economy targets and other sustainability issues into strategic and project-related decision-making to ensure environmental and health implications of decisions are taken into account before they are made.

Since 2013, the UNECE within the EaP GREEN framework has been supporting Azerbaijan in developing the national SEA and EIA system. The objective of the final event is to:

- To present the outcomes and results regarding SEA and EIA achieved within the EaP GREEN;
- To summarize the key principles of efficient SEA and EIA practice and its benefits;
- To discuss priorities and needs regarding further development of SEA and EIA system in the country.

The event is organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) within the framework of the EaP GREEN.

The workshop will invite representatives of all relevant stakeholders – environmental and health authorities, spectral governmental authorities, planning agencies and institutes, experts and practitioners, as well as representatives of NGOs.

Agenda

09:30 – 10:00	Registration
10:00 – 10:10	Welcome addresses <i>Representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (tbc)</i> <i>Representative of EU Delegation to Azerbaijan (tbc)</i> <i>Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN project coordinator, consultant to UNECE</i>
10:10 – 11:00	UNECE technical assistance on SEA and EIA in Azerbaijan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief introduction of UNECE activities within the EaP GREEN <i>Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN coordinator, consultant to UNECE</i> • Lessons learned on the implementation of SEA and EIA activities

¹ The EaP GREEN programme is implemented with the financial support of the European Union and other donors, and is jointly implemented by the four partner organisations: OECD, UN Environment, UNECE and UNIDO. More information can be found at <http://www.green-economies-eap.org/>.

	<p>under the EaP GREEN in Azerbaijan <i>Aysel Babayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan</i> <i>Fikret Jafarov, National SEA Expert</i></p>
11:00 – 11:20	Coffee break
11:20 – 12:00	<p>Good SEA practice – case examples from EU countries <i>Matthew Cashmore, consultant to UNECE</i></p>
12:00 – 12:50	<p>What needs to be further enhanced – remaining challenges for establishing a fully-fledged SEA and EIA system and way forward <i>Moderated by Ms. Aysel Babayeva, Mr. Fikret Jafarov, and Mr. Martin Smutny</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Main elements of a well-developed SEA and EIA system – what is important for efficient practice</i> • <i>Discussion in groups – identification of priorities and needs to further develop national SEA and EIA system</i> • <i>Presentation of results by each group</i>
12:50 – 13:00	<p>Closing remarks – way forward <i>Representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan (tbc)</i> <i>Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN project coordinator, consultant to UNECE</i></p>
13:00	Lunch