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EU4Environment

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

SEA and transboundary EIA in Azerbaijan

*Subregional Workshop on the Practical Application of SEA and
Transboundary EIA, 26 – 27 October 2020*

Action implemented by:



The progress achieved

- **EIA law - adopted** (1175- VQ, dated June 12, 2018): it is also established national legal framework for SEA tool in Azerbaijan. All subsequent related environmental legislation was amended.
- **“Control under EIA and SEA “ rule - adopted** (02.10.2019/ № 425)
- **“Expert Commission implementing State Ecological Expertize” rule - adopted** (05.02.2020/№31)
- **“Form of the Certificate of Qualification for EIA assessors and issuance, termination of validity, or cancellation of certificate, and procedure of registration of EIA assessors and organizations assessing the environmental impact, and control over their activity” rule – adopted** 27.11.2019/ № 457
- **“Implementation of State and Public Ecological Expertise” rule – adopted** 21.05.2020/ № 184
- **“Implementation of SEA” - not adopted yet**, aligned with SEA Protocol and respective international standards before submission to Cabinet of Ministers - **interministerial discussions are ongoing**
- **“Implementation and Duration of Environmental, including transboundary impact assessment” - not adopted yet**, aligned with Espoo Convention and respective international standards before submission to Cabinet of Ministers, **interministerial discussions are ongoing.**

The progress achieved in practice

- **Institutional changes**
 - **State Ecological Expertize Agency (SEEA)** was established in 2019 as a public legal entity under MENR.
 - **EIA division** is separated from other sectors serving for EIA and SEA applications at **SEEA**.
- Since 2018, SEA and transboundary EIA application case has not been determined.

Existing challenges and priorities for future

- **SEA – practice is poor.**

Awareness raising events among civil servants, support on SEA application are necessary.

- **SEA – very few human resources serve on SEA at SEEA**

Training of specialists of Agency

- **SEA/EIA- financial aspects – estimation cost for SEA and EIA are not clear.**

Evaluation scheme of the cost for these tools is needed to be legally. 5-10 % cost is in practice but no common methodological approach exist .

- **EIA – screening criteria is not identified.**

Having certain list in the Law on EIA as stipulated from Annex 1 Espoo Convention does not mean screening is not necessary. In practice, screening criteria is required for the activities that have no specific parameters in the list of activities or have negligible difference with set specifications and/or for the activities does not include in that list.

- **EIA/SEA – quality control scheme need to be improved in practice**

EIA sometimes seems to become mass of paper work and too much unnecessary information.