

Strengthening national and regional capacities and co-operation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Central Asia

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What is SEA?

The Protocol on **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** widens the scope of the Espoo Convention by ensuring that individual Parties analyse the environmental effects of proposed plans, programmes and other strategic actions at the earliest stages and integrate the findings into decision-making

Project info

- Project Duration: 09/2019 – 12/2021
- Implementing organizations: OSCE in close collaboration with UNECE
- Beneficiary Countries:
 - Kazakhstan
 - Kyrgyzstan
 - Tajikistan
 - Turkmenistan
 - **Uzbekistan**



UNECE



Donor: German Environment Agency/
Umweltbundesamt (UBA) under the
Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)

Project Objective

To strengthen national and regional capacities on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as an essential tool for environmentally sustainable economic development and as a means for addressing specific environmental challenges, including climate change.

Results

1. Awareness and competencies of national authorities about benefits, principles and procedures of SEA
2. Co-operation within and across countries
3. Needs assessments and action plans for establishing national SEA systems in compliance with the SEA Protocol



2019 Aarhus Centres Annual Meeting



- Vienna, October 2019
- 100 participants from 15 countries in the OSCE area
- Focus on public participation in EIA/SEA processes and engagement of Aarhus Centres in implementing the Espoo Convention and its SEA Protocol

- Linkages between Aarhus Convention, Espoo Convention and SEA Protocol
- Legislative reforms to introduce SEA/EIA systems at national level



Study tour to Germany

- 1-6 December, 2019
- 15 participants from Central Asia
- Meetings with:
 - German Environment Agency
 - Federal Ministry for Environment
 - Regional Planning Authorities
 - Federal Ministry for Traffic and Digital Infrastructure



- Main outcomes:
 - increased competencies of national experts involved in SEA process
 - best practices of application of SEA in strategic planning process in Germany
 - exchange of experience and basis for future cooperation

Needs assessments and action plans

current status and existing challenges

gaps and needs for introducing and/or improving SEA practice

estimate capacities (current and future) for conducting SEA

priorities and actions to introduce/develop national SEA system

target groups for capacity building and awareness raising

National awareness raising workshops on SEA

- Tentative period: *December 2020 - September 2021*
- Main objectives:
 - introducing main principles of SEA and its benefits
 - improving understanding of the effects of sectoral plans and programmes
 - presenting draft needs assessment and discussing needs and priorities

Regional conference on SEA

- Tentative period: *second half 2021*
- Main objectives:
 - increasing knowledge and awareness on SEA systems
 - sharing experiences and lessons learnt about national legislative reforms
 - presenting and discussing the second draft of needs assessment reports

Roadmap for Uzbekistan

Until MAY '21

Questionnaire survey / Interviews

JUN '21

National Workshop

JUN '21

First Draft Needs Assessment Report

SEP '21

Second Draft (including Action Plan)

OCT-DEC '21

Regional Conference

DEC '21

Final Needs Assessment and Action Plan



Thanks for your attention

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www.osce.org/secretariat/eea