



Possible actions to overcome key barriers to implementing EPR recommendations related to strategic environmental assessment including in relation to energy transition

Elena Santer,
Environmental Affairs Officer
Espoo Convention secretariat



Strategic environmental assessment in environmental performance reviews



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EPR recommendations on SEA



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LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON SEA IS IN FORCE AND ALIGNED WITH THE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROCEDURAL STEPS of SEA, including consultations with environmental and health authorities, public participation and transboundary consultations, are well established and followed in practice

APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL MEANS for carrying out SEA are allocated by the governmental budget;

AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION OF THE PLANS AND PROGRAMMES are aware of their SEA-related responsibilities and tasks and have sufficient capacities to perform these tasks

ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES are aware of their SEA-related responsibilities and tasks and have sufficient capacities to perform these tasks

HEALTH AUTHORITIES are aware of their SEA-related responsibilities and tasks and have sufficient capacities to perform these tasks

THE PUBLIC IS AWARE of the opportunities to participate in SEA processes

THE DECISION-MAKERS ARE AWARE of their SEA-related responsibilities and tasks and have sufficient capacities to perform these tasks

THERE ARE PRACTITIONERS/EXPERTS ABLE TO CONDUCT SEA

RELEVANT METHODS AND TECHNIQUES are known and used/can be used in SEA by environmental assessment practitioners

A SEA QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM is established and performed

MECHANISM/PLATFORM enabling information sharing on SEA processes is in place

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KAZAKHSTAN

The integration of environmental requirements into sectoral policy documents has started. However, the lack of strategic environmental assessment (SEA) prevents systematic, coherent and comprehensive integration of environmental measures and requirements into sectoral policies. Key challenges for the introduction of SEA include poor understanding of the instrument and lack of training and expertise.

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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Sectoral ministries do not initiate SEAs for their draft strategic documents because there is no subsidiary legislation that would tell them how to do it. Active promotion of the SEA instrument has not been a priority for the Ministry of Environment and Tourism of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Republika Srpska

In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in Brčko District, the legislation includes no provisions on transboundary consultations.

The country's experience with SEA in a transboundary context is very limited.

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BULGARIA

The existing SEA legislation needs some improvement to guarantee the quality control of SEA, especially at regional level

Key common challenges



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- Absence of or gaps in the national legislative framework for SEA
- Limited awareness of decision-makers about SEA benefits and about their responsibilities and capacities to perform these tasks
- Low awareness of governmental planning authorities on SEA-related responsibilities and capacities to perform these tasks
- Limited capacities of environmental and health authorities to perform SEA-related tasks
- Limited knowledge of the public on the opportunities to participate in SEA processes
- Limited capacities of the environmental assessment practitioners to implement the SEA and ensure its quality

Overcoming challenges



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- Identify and acknowledge the challenges
- Commit to set up | improve the national SEA system at a strategic level and develop a step-by-step plan outlining priorities
- Obtain support of high-level decision-makers
- Establish intersectoral cooperation
- Ensure sufficient financial and technical support

Overcoming the challenges: example Uzbekistan



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PRIORITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVE SEA SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN IN LINE WITH THE PROTOCOL ON SEA

PREPARED BASED ON THE RESULTS OF THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

The aim of this strategy is to establish national SEA system in Uzbekistan enabling application of SEA in line with the Protocol on SEA

P1

Finalization and adoption of the legislative framework for SEA: The draft Law on SEA has been already prepared, however, its adoption represents the key step towards establishing the national legislative framework for SEA



P2

Support to practical application of SEA: conducting pilot SEAs has proven to be the most efficient capacity building as it provides 'hands-on' opportunity for the relevant stakeholders to participate in the SEA, and can be effectively combined with training and awareness raising activities



P3

Preparation of guiding documents on SEA to facilitate application of SEA: launching SEA practice (after adopting the SEA legislation) requires detailed guidance on SEA procedure.



P4

Organization of trainings and awareness raising for environmental and health authorities, decision-makers, environmental assessment practitioners, and CSOs.



P5

Supporting networking and information sharing to enable exchange of experience and distribution of information on SEA, which is very important for enhancing the SEA practice as well as for efficient public participation and consultations.



P6

Establishing institutional and financial arrangements for SEA: The application of SEA will represent a significant workload. Therefore, an institutional structure needs to be arranged to manage expected number of SEA procedures should be elaborated – in particular for SEA at the sub-national levels. Also, appropriate financial resources have to be allocated for application of SEA at various levels of program-making.



Overcoming the challenges

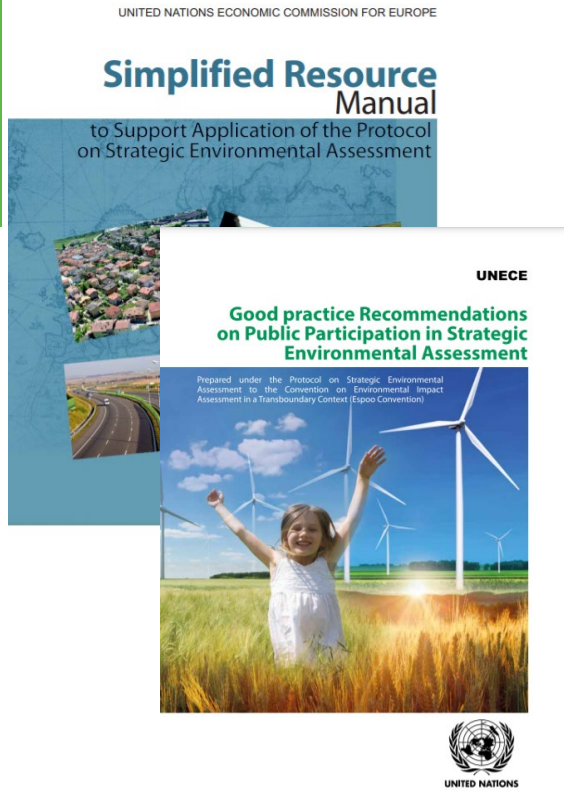
LIST OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO INTRODUCE AND DEVELOP THE SEA SYSTEM IN UZBEKISTAN

Activity	Tentative Priority Ranking	Description	Target group
Priority 1: Finalisation and adoption of legislative framework for SEA			
1.1 Organizing a high-level awareness raising event for the Cabinet of Ministers	H	A high-level event would promote an importance of adopting the national legislative framework on SEA, including presentation of examples of the good SEA practice illustrating its benefits. The agenda of the events should not exceed 2 hours, participation of representatives of international organisation (including UN agencies), EU member states, and/or international SEA experts is desirable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level decision-makers • Environmental authorities
1.2 Carrying out detailed legal analysis of the draft Law on SEA vis-à-vis the Protocol on SEA	H	The detailed legal analysis of the draft Law on SEA may be consider to verify its full compliance with the Protocol on SEA, which may provide inputs to be considered when finalizing the draft Law on SEA and/or when developing the secondary legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level decision-makers • Environmental authorities
1.3 Organizing the study tour on SEA	H	The study tour on SEA to the EU country or the country which has recently initiated the SEA practice (e.g. Georgia, Ukraine) would raise awareness on practical aspects of SEA and the added value it <u>bring</u> to the planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High level decision-makers • Environmental authorities • Health authorities • Planning authorities

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Resources

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<https://unece.org/publications/environmental-assessment>

Thank you