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|  |  | ECE/MP.EIA/WG.2/2021/INF.3 27 October 2021English only |

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
on Environmental Impact Assessment in
a Transboundary Context

Meeting of the Parties to the Convention
serving as the Meeting of the Parties
to the Protocol on Strategic
Environmental Assessment

**Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment
and Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Tenth meeting**

Geneva, 1–3 December 2021

Items 3 and 4 of the provisional agenda
**Compliance and implementation
Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol**

 Workplan implementation status (until 27 October 2021)

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| *Summary* |
| This note by the secretariat presents for information of the Working Group on EIA and SEA the implementation status of activities in the workplan for 2021–2023 adopted by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention and the Protocol at their eighth and fourth sessions, respectively (Vilnius, (online), 8–11 December 2021), through decision VIII/2–IV/2, (see ECE/MP.EIA/30/Add.1-ECE/MP.EIA/SEA/13/Add.1). Annex I to that decision contained the workplan activities, with related resource requirements provided in annex II. One additional activity in Kazakhstan is described in annex to the present document. The Working Group is expected to take note of the information, and, as needed, to provide advice and agree on actions to ensure the implementation of or follow-to these activities.  |

 I. Management, coordination and visibility of intersessional activities

| **Activities** | **Implementation status** |
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| **A. Organization of meetings***Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the Bureau. For meetings hosted by a Party, the host country is responsible for the organizational aspects (and their costs) – in accordance with a detailed host country agreement to be concluded with the secretariat.  |
| (a) Prepare, edit, translate and publish on the website agendas and official meeting documents and prepare and publish informal meeting documents;(b) Send out invitations and information; (c) As relevant, organize/support the organization of parallel/side events;(d) Register participants and organize travel for funded participants and, as needed, facilitate the obtention of visas;(e) Support officers of the meeting, including by preparing detailed briefing notes;(f) Organize logistics at the meeting (related to the meeting venue and to United Nations security);(g) As relevant, collect and record credentials; (h) Provide conference services at the meeting;(i) Provide interpretation at the meeting in the three ECE languages;(j) Prepare, edit, translate and publish the meeting report;(k) As relevant, prepare press releases/media coverage;(l) Follow up on decisions taken; | The secretariat: * Convened, prepared, serviced and followed- up to three sessions of the Implementation Committee, including preparing their official agendas and reports, in agreement with the Committee Chair and members; supporting the Chair, and assisting the curators in their preparation of internal working documents and arranging for their availability online; and sending out follow-up letters.
* [49th session (online, 2 - 5 February 2021)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/350634)
* [50th session (online, 4 - 7 May 2021)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/350795)
* [51st session (online, 4 - 7 October 2021)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/350795)
* Convened and prepared a meeting of the Bureau (Online, 16-17 June 2021) in consultation with the Chairs; preparing 15 informal documents for consideration of the Bureau.
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| (m) In consultation with the Bureau, assist the Meetings of the Parties and their subsidiary bodies in possible further clarification of procedural matters of relevance to meetings with remote participation for consideration by the Meetings of the Parties in 2023. | At its meeting, in June 2021, the Bureau considered the matter and invited the EU delegation, and possibly other delegations, to clarify and justify possible further development needs of the paper on procedural issues (of 27 November 2020) that the Bureau had prepared with support of the secretariat in consultation with the Treaty Section of the UN Office of Legal Affairs. Such clarifications and possible textual proposals were asked well in advance of the Working Group’s 10th meeting, for consideration at the meeting.  |
| **B.** **Communication, visibility, coordination***Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, whenever needed, in consultation with the treaty bodies. Parties are to inform the secretariat of any changes to their focal points/points of contact |
| (a) Liaise with focal points, stakeholders and partner organizations within and outside the United Nations, responding to any queries and raising awareness of the treaties and their activities;(b) Coordinate the implementation of workplan activities, including cooperating with other ECE multilateral environmental agreement secretariats and subprogrammes, and, subject to the resources available, with other United Nations bodies and other international organizations;(c) Represent the Convention and the Protocol at relevant meetings and events, as needed, to promote and/or coordinate activities;(d) Ensure visibility and easy access to up-to-date information and documents on the treaty website, including online databases of focal points for administrative matters and points of contact for notification under the Convention and the Protocol and online meeting calendars;(e) Prepare correspondence and briefings for ECE senior management for high-level bilateral and multilateral meetings within and beyond the ECE region;(f) As needed, prepare press-releases and other advocacy materials. | The secretariat has:* Liaised with focal points and partners on a daily basis;
* Coordinated the workplan implementation within relevant ECE and other UN entities and legal instruments, e.g. as regards the regional seas cooperation activity with the secretariats of the UNECE Aarhus, Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions; and all the regional seas conventions; and regarding the seminar on sustainable infrastructure with EIB, UNEP, WHO; regarding the draft guidance on health with EIB and WHO; and with OSCE regarding the awareness raising activities Central Asia with OSCE;
* Maintained the official and password protected websites and the online databases and meeting calendars;
* Briefed the senior managers on a weekly basis;
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| **C. General programme management***Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat |
| (a) Prepare payment requests for donors’ contributions to the trust fund;(b) Prepare and submit for the Bureau’s agreement annual financial reports, prior to publishing them on the website; (c) If requested, and on an exceptional basis, prepare separate financial reports to individual donors;(d) Support the Bureau in preparing a proposal on how to better reflect the in-kind contributions and their monetary value in the financial scheme/as part of the resource requirements of the workplan under the Convention and the Protocol for consideration of the Meetings of the Parties in 2023;(e) Prepare annual and longer-term cost-plans and forecast meetings, documents and publications for processing by the United Nations administration and relevant services;(f) Report on substantive and administrative issues;(g) Recruit/contract and manage secretariat staff and consultants. | The secretariat has:* Prepared payment request on a weekly basis
* Finalized the financial report for 2017-2020 for the Bureau’s approval at its meeting in June 2021;
* Reported on the use of the Norwegian grant in 2018-2020;
* Prepared an informal document for the Bureau’s meeting in June 2021 on the consideration of in-kind contributions;
* Forecasted meetings in 2022 and documents in 2021;
* Responded to numerous administrative and substantive reporting requests within ECE
* Contracted consultants to support workplan activities (the Central Asian capacity building; regional seas cooperation activities);
* Managed the secretariat staff
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 II. Compliance with and implementation of the Convention and the Protocol

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| **Activities**  | **Implementation status**  |
| **A. Review of compliance***Entity(ies) responsible:* The Implementation Committee, supported by the secretariat.*Method of work:* The Committee is to hold three annual (in total, nine) meetings in 2021–2023, and, in between, as needed, work via email, and hold virtual (for example, Webex) meetings or audio/videoconferences.  |
| **A.1. Consideration of compliance issues**  | The Committee held the following sessions: * [49th session (online, 02 - 05 February 2021)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/350634)
* [50th session (online, 04 - 07 May 2021)](https://unece.org/info/Environmental-Policy/Environmental-Impact-Assessment/events/350795)
* 51st session (online, 4 - 7 October 2021)

Considered total 29 compliance issues, including * Follow-up to 5 MOP decisions ;
* 3 submissions: (for two of them, draft findings and recommendations to be completed in February 2022; hearings for the third preliminarily scheduled preliminary for February 2022, subject to delivery of sufficient information by the Parties concerned);
* 2 Committee initiatives: (draft findings and recommendations for one completed and sent for comments and representations to the Parties concerned in October 2021 – to be finalized in February 2022; hearings for the other, conducted in October 2021 with first draft findings and recommendations to be prepared by February 2022).

3 specific compliance issues: (one closed at IC 50)19 information gatherings: (4 closed (1 at IC49, 2 at IC 50, 1 at IC 51; informal consultations for two issues caried out in October 2021) |
| **A.2. Examination of the outcome of the sixth review of implementation of the Convention and the third review of implementation of the Protocol (by the end of 2021)** | Scheduled for the 52nd session (February 2022) The secretariat published the review reports in English and Russian in summer 2021. The French version is to be completed by mid-November 2021. |
| **A.3. As necessary, review and revision of the Committee’s structure and functions and operating rules** | Initial work started with some suggestions included in the Committee’s report on its 50th session. |
| **A.4. Report on the Committee’s activities** | To be prepared at the end of the intersessional period |
| **A.5. Collection of findings and opinions from the Committee regarding the Convention and the Protocol** | Updated by the secretariat until the end of 2020. Available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-02/Implementation%20Committee%20opinions%20to%202020_MOP-8_2020.pdf>. The update until the end of 2021 to be issued in December 2021. |
| **A.6. Exploring possible synergies with other relevant forums** | Cooperation with the Implementation Committee of the ECE Water Convention, in particular concerning the submissions of Montenegro regarding the compliance of Albania with the respective Conventions with respect to several small hydropower plants in the Cijevna River |
| B. Reporting and review of implementation*Entity(ies) responsible:* Parties, the Implementation Committee and the secretariat. |
| **B.1. Modification of the questionnaires for the report on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021** | Prepared by the Committee at its 50th session in May 2021 and finalized in September 2021 based on the comments of the Bureau at its meeting in June 2021;* In early September 2021 the questionnaires submitted as official documents for consideration of the Working Group at its meeting (1–3 December 2021)
* The secretariat to finalize them in December 2021 in advance of distribution, in consultation with the Committee.
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| **B.2. Distribution of the questionnaires for reporting on implementation of the Convention and the Protocol in 2019–2021** | The secretariat to distribute by the end of December 2021 for Parties to fill in and return by the end of April 2022. |
| **B.3. Preparation of draft reviews of implementation of the Convention and the Protocol** | The secretariat to hire consultants in early 2022 to support its preparation of the draft reviews for presentation to the Implementation Committee at its 54th session in October 2022 and the Working Group in December 2022, prior to their finalization for submission to the Meetings of the Parties at their sessions in 2023, for adoption (and subsequent publication by the secretariat). |
| C. Legislative assistance *Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, with support from consultants, to provide legislative assistance to beneficiary countries at their request and/or as recommended by the Implementation Committee, and in cooperation with those countries, and, as needed, in consultation with the Implementation Committee, the Bureau and/or the Working Group. The related activities will be implemented within the limits of the available project funding. |
| **C.1. Assistance in legal drafting****(a) Belarus (amendment of primary and secondary legislation);****(b) Republic of Moldova (amendment of primary legislation and drafting of secondary legislation);****(c) Ukraine (support in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement with Romania to implement the Convention) (to be confirmed);** **(d) Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (support in finalizing the primary legislation and in drafting the secondary legislation for the implementation of the Convention, tbc by the beneficiary Governments and Switzerland).** | Ongoing in the Eastern Europe and the Caucasus sub-regions (with funding from EU4Environment) and in Central Asia:(a) Belarus: A review of primary and secondary legislation, including recommendations for amendments, finalized in September 2021, inter alia, based on two online meetings with the MoE in April and September. Belarus was requested to re-confirm the need and timeframes for further legislative support (drafting of amendments). Funding still subject to the donor’s approval. (b) Republic of Moldova: advanced drafts of the revised law on SEA and of the revised law on EIA prepared and submitted to MoE for review and comments received in October 2021. Next drafts of the revised laws are under preparation;(c) Ukraine: support in finalizing a draft bilateral agreement with Romania to implement the Convention initiated based on the outcome of the training workshop on transboundary EIA for Ukraine and Romania on 16-17 March 2021 (see also item C.2 below); an initial joint draft prepared by legal experts to UNECE and submitted to both countries for comments on 12.10.2021 with a proposed deadline for comments by 29.10.2021.(d) Kazakhstan: review of a draft implementing regulation on environmental assessment and development of recommendations for its alignment with the Convention; Initiated in March 2021 with Swiss funding and in cooperation with Partnership for Action on Green Economy and completed June 2021 building on feedback from training workshops on SEA and EIA (see also items in annex to the present document)Uzbekistan and Tajikistan: no requests received from the countries, nor any funding available for 2021. |
| **C.2. Awareness-raising events to support the adoption of the legislation** Planned for 2021 and/or 2022 (to be confirmed) in Belarus.  | To be confirmed. |

 III. Promoting practical application of the Convention and the Protocol

| **Carried over activity from the 2017–2020 workplan** |
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| **Development of guidance for the assessment of potential health impacts of plans and programmes and for the involvement of health authorities, building on the chapter on health in the SEA Resource Manual.**  | * Based on ToR agreed by the Working Group at its 7th meeting May 2018 and with funding from EIB, draft guidance prepared by two consultants in consultation with the secretariat, WHO and EIB.
* Draft presented and discussed at a workshop co-organized by the secretariat, WHO and EIB during the WG8 (Nov 2019).
* Draft revised based on comments by WG8 and inputs from a task force (Austria, Finland, Ireland, Slovenia) and agreed by the Bureau in February 2020. Draft supplemented by selected case studies from Czechia, Estonia and the Netherlands
* Revised draft submitted in March 2020 for agreement by the WG9 (August 2020) prior to its submission to MOP/MOP4.
* WG9 decided not to forward the draft to MOP/MOP, as EU delegation considered that further work still needed. Aside from Slovenia, task force members no longer available for the further work.
* In December 2020, MOP/MOP4 urged Parties and stakeholders to finalize the work during the intersessional period 2021–2023, subject to availability of resources, and invited Parties to contribute in-kind expertise for that purpose. The Bureau was invited to consider the way forward.
* In June 2021, the Bureau in favour of proceeding with the finalization of the draft. Invited textual proposals by 1 October 2021 by the EU and other delegations, and to volunteer to participate in an editorial group.
* WHO provided comments and an executive summary of a forthcoming WHO publication of case studies of health in SEA and EIA.
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| **Activities** | **Implementation status** |
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| **III.A. Subregional cooperation and capacity-building**  |
| III.A.1. Baltic sea subregion *Entity(ies) responsible*: Lead countries – Estonia (virtual meeting) and Poland, as needed, with support from the secretariat.  |
| **Organize subregional meetings (preferably two) on cooperation on the Convention and the Protocol**, on topics of interest for the subregion that the lead countries concerned are to identify in advance of the meeting in consultation with the other countries, and prepare the minutes of the meeting on the outcomes for the secretariat to make available on the website | Subregional meeting organized by Estonia (Online, 3 November 2021) Subregional meeting to be organized by Poland, in 2022 (possibly in a hybrid mode)  |
| **III.A.2. Eastern Europe** *Entity(ies) responsible*:  The secretariat in consultation with the countries concerned. |
| **Organize a subregional event** (a training workshop or study tour) **for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,** to facilitate information exchange and experience sharing among the countries.  | Planned for the first half of 2022 (late spring or early summer, dates tbc). Needs assessment, planning and selection of a suitable modality to be initiated in December 2021.  |
| **III.A.3. Central Asia***Entity(ies) responsible*:  Lead partner, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) with support from the secretariat and in consultation with the concerned countries. |

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| **III.A.3.1****Finalize needs assessment exercises/feasibility studies and draft capacity-building strategies/action plans for introducing strategic environmental assessment systems in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan** | Kazakhstan: Needs assessment finalized and presented to the national stakeholders at a workshop on 14 December 2020 and the action plan finalised and presented to the stakeholders on 29 April 2021;Kyrgyzstan: Questionnaires collected in March 2021; Draft needs assessment and the action plan prepared and being translated into Russian and presented to the stakeholders on 11 October 2021; Tajikistan: Questionnaires collected in April 2021; Draft needs assessment and the action plan finalized in July 2021;Uzbekistan: Questionnaires collected and interviews conducted in March 2021; Draft needs assessment and the elements of the action plan prepared for presentation to the Government on 8 June 2021;Turkmenistan: Low commitment by the government. Draft needs assessment and the action plan e prepared in July 2021 based on desk research and limited number of questionnaires received in April/May 2021; and presented to the stakeholders on 14 October 2021. |
| **III.A.3.2. Organize national awareness raising workshops in some Central Asian countries to present and discuss them.**  | Kazakhstan: carried out on 14 December 2020 online;Kyrgyzstan: carried out on 11 October 2021online.Tajikistan: carried out on 17 March 2021 online;Uzbekistan: carried out on 8 June 2021 online;;Turkmenistan: carried out on 14 October 2021 online. . |
| **III.A.3.2. Organize a final sub-regional event in one of the Central Asian countries to share experience and discuss lessons learned** | Scheduled for 10 November 2021.  |
| III.A.4. Marine regions*Entity(ies) responsible:* Italy, as the lead country, together with other interested Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol and to the other regional seas conventions, supported by the treaty secretariats, within the limits of the available resources. The Bureau, assisted by the secretariat, would be responsible for the initial planning of the activity, to be implemented with the support of consultants.*Resource requirements:* €120,000 (or €40,000 per year), to be earmarked by Italy during the next three years (2021–2023) to cover all the costs, including those of the consultants and other organizational costs; possible contributions by other interested Parties. |
| **A.4.1. Carry out a feasibility study to map out synergies and benefits for possible future cooperation activities to improve the coherence and the links between the Espoo Convention, its Protocol and the (Barcelona Convention) and other regional seas conventions.** **A.4.2. Organize up to one joint technical (online) meeting per year,** with interested Parties and the secretariats of regional seas conventions, to discuss and further develop the outcomes of the feasibility study, with a view to identifying synergies and possible cooperation opportunities between the respective treaties As needed, for the Mediterranean subregion, the possibility of online French interpretation should be explored.Prepare reports on the outcomes of the joint technical meetings and make them available for information and consideration of the Parties to the respective treaties.**A.4.3. Prepare a final report presenting the identified synergies and a vision for the “way forward” and its benefits, and proposing possible joint activities for the subsequent workplans, starting with the workplan for 2024****–2026 to be considered by the Meetings of the Parties.** | * In June 2021, the Bureau agreed on the scope, the contents, the initial planning and the next steps of the activity based on a note prepared by the secretariat in consultation with Italy. A finalized note submitted for the 10th meeting of the Working Group (ECE.MP.EIA/WG.2.2021/5).
* After the receipt of the first tranche of the donor funding (end of September 2021), and following agreement on the ToRs with Italy, the secretariat initiated the recruitment of consultants (a consultant on EIA and SEA is expected to start at the beginning on November; a consultant on marine issues us under recruitment based on recommendations from the Barcelona Convention secretariat):
* The secretariat informed 6 regional sea convention/commission secretariats and collected expressions of interest and information requested by the Bureau (this far 4 of them interested and actively involved);
* The secretariat invited Parties interested in the activity to volunteer for following and commenting the activity in coordination with the national experts in regional seas matters, including attending technical meetings (this far 8 Parties volunteered);
* The secretariat, with support from a consultant and in consultation with Italy, organizes an initial/a kick-off technical meeting with interested secretariats of regional seas conventions and Parties (online, 19 November 2021), and overseesthe preparation of a meeting document (elements for a draft assessment report).
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| III.B. Exchange of good practices |
| **III.B.1. Organize half- or full-day workshops or seminars during the meetings of the Working Group in 2021–2023 and/or the sessions of the Meetings of the Parties in 2023 on specific themes/topics,** in order to produce a clear and concise document presenting advice on the most important problems identified for the theme in question, also referring to the contribution of the topics to the application of Sustainable Development Goals.*Entity(ies) responsible*: Lead-country(ies) or organizations, with support from the secretariat, within the limits of its resourcesCosts for speakers, provision and translation of materials to be covered in kind by lead countries, to the extent possible |  |
| **III.B.1(a) Smart and sustainable cities***Entity(ies) responsible:* WHO, together with interested Parties and partner organizations | No Parties or stakeholders have submitted related proposals this far.  |
| **III.B.1(b) Circular economy** *Entity(ies) responsible:* WHO, together with interested Parties and partner organizations | No Party or stakeholder has submitted related proposals this far - but the topic is identified by UNECE management as a key priority topic for action in 2021–2022. |
| **III.B.1(c) Sustainable infrastructure and greening the Belt and Road Initiative (related to the 2022 “Environment for Europe” Ministerial Conference)***Entity(ies) responsible*: Switzerland, IAIA and other interested Parties and partner organizations | As decided by the Bureau in June 2021, a seminar on the topic is co-organized by Switzerland and the secretariat during the Working Group’s 10th meeting and its outcomes presented to the EfE Ministerial Conference (Nicosia, 5–7 October 2022). The event is moderated by Switzerland. |
| **III.B.1(d) Biodiversity***Entity(ies) responsible:* WHO, together with interested Parties and partner organizations | No Party or stakeholder has submitted related proposals this far.  |
| **III.B.1(e) Energy transition***Entity(ies) responsible:* Lead-country(ies) or organizations to be identified; | No Party or stakeholder has submitted related proposals this far (but the sustainable infrastructure seminar will touch upon related issues) |
| **III.B.1 (f) Promoting the application of strategic environmental assessment in development cooperation***Entity(ies) responsible:* Italy and other interested Parties and partner organizations with support from the secretariat;*Resource requirements:* €20,000 per year pledged by Italy for 2021–2023 to cover the costs of two consultants for preparing documentation in consultation with treaty bodies and Parties’ authorities responsible for development cooperation | No Party or stakeholder has submitted related proposals this far.  |
| **III.B.1(g) Consideration of alternatives to and the rationale for selected options of the proposed activities in the environmental impact assessment documentation.***Entity(ies) responsible:*Belarus, the secretariat and interested PartiesFunds from the EU4Environment programme (to be confirmed). | No Party or stakeholder has submitted related proposals this far. Authorization by the EU for using the EU4Environment funding seems unlikely at this point. |
| **III.B.2. Fact sheets**on the practical application of the Convention and the Protocol, to be presented during the meetings of the Working Group and posted on the website.*Entity(ies) responsible*: All Parties, with support from the secretariat. | No Party has this far volunteered to present fact sheets. The draft questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as revised by the Implementation Committee, invites all Parties to provide examples of their treaty application, in particular in the key areas identified in item III.B.1 above, maritime spatial planning and linkages to SDG application.  |
| **III.B.3. Online database of Parties’ good practice, or collection and compilation of good practice***Responsible:* Parties to provide good practice; the secretariat, with support from a consultant, to collect, (analyse and summarize), compile and upload good practice.*Resource requirements:* Will require secretariat resources and funding for consultants of $15,000–$25,000. Implementation will depend on the availability of funding from Parties or partner organizations. | Funding for consultants not identified this far. The draft questionnaires on the implementation of the Convention and the Protocol, as revised by the Implementation Committee, invites all Parties to provide examples of their treaty application, in particular in the key areas identified in item III.B.1 above, maritime spatial planning and linkages to SDG application.Collection and compilation of good practice in the application of SEA and transboundary EIA in the marine regions possibly achieved through the activity funded by Italy (see activity III.A.4 above).  |
| III. C. Capacity-building |
| **III. C.1 Implementation of pilot projects** (on SEA):(i) Pilot project in Armenia (2021)(ii) Pilot project in Azerbaijan (2021) (iii) Pilot project in Belarus (2021–2022)(iv) Pilot project in Georgia (2021–2022)(v) Pilot project in the Republic of Moldova (2021–2022);(vi) Pilot project in Ukraine (2021–2022)*Entity(ies) responsible:* Subactivities 1 (i)–(vi) to be facilitated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, and implemented with the active participation of the beneficiary countries, and, as relevant, partner organizations. The European Union delegations to the beneficiary countries and the European Commission are to be consulted regarding selection of pilot projects. | Pilot projects in Georgia and Ukraine initiated in October 2021 following the donor’s approval.A draft plan for the pilot proposed by Azerbaijan still awaits the donor’s final decision. Donor’s confirmation to the funding of EU4Environment funded activities in Belarus is not available. Draft plans/programmes expected to be proposed by the other beneficiary countries before the year’s end and, subject to the donor’s approval, to be initiated in early 2022.  |
| **III.C.2 Training workshops on treaty application**Organization of the following training workshops to build capacities on the practical application of the Protocol:(i) Training workshop in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);(ii) Training workshop in Ukraine (2021 or 2022 (to be confirmed).*Entity(ies) responsible:* The secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries. | Azerbaijan: two SEA training workshops completed on 26-27 April and on 15 October 2021Ukraine: transboundary EIA training (focus on bilateral agreements on transboundary EIA) for Ukraine and Romania completed on 16-17 March 2021 |
| **III.C.3 National awareness-raising events** The organization of the following events to raise the awareness of sectoral authorities and other relevant actors on the need for and the benefits of the effective implementation of strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) legislation in accordance with the Convention and the Protocol:(i) Awareness-raising event in Azerbaijan (2021 or 2022);(ii) Awareness-raising event in Belarus (2021 or 2022);(iii) Awareness-raising event in the Republic of Moldova (2021 or 2022). *Entity(ies) responsible:* Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.  | Azerbaijan: country requested the event to be held in 2022, date tbcBelarus: donor’s confirmation to funding the event in Belarus is not availableRepublic of Moldova: completed on 23 April 2021 |
| **III.C.4 National awareness-raising materials** The preparation of the following awareness-raising materials on strategic environmental assessment (or transboundary environmental impact assessment) requested by the beneficiary countries (for example, a leaflet presenting good practice or a brochure on the role of public participation):(i) Awareness-raising materials for Azerbaijan (in 2021 or 2022);(ii) Awareness-raising materials for Belarus (in 2021 or 2022);(iii) Awareness-raising materials for the Republic of Moldova (2021);(iv) Awareness-raising materials for Ukraine (in 2021 or 2022).*Entity(ies) responsible*: Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries.  | Needs assessment for awareness-raising materials for the countries planned to start in Dec 2021-Jan 2022  |
| **III.C.5 National issue- or sector-specific guidelines** The preparation of the following guidelines to complement existing general guidelines on strategic environmental assessment, on selected issues/sectors, as agreed with the beneficiary countries:(i) Guidelines for Azerbaijan in the field of regional development/transport/ agriculture (sector to be confirmed), in 2021 or 2022; (ii) Guidelines for Belarus in the field of urban planning, in 2121 (to be confirmed);(iii) Guidelines for the Republic of Moldova on transboundary procedures, in 2021–2022;(iv) Guidelines for Ukraine in the field of urban planning, in 2021.*Entity(ies) responsible*: Coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries. | Azerbaijan: requested to postpone guidelines development until the initiation of the SEA pilotBelarus: donor’s approval for funding guidelines development is not available Republic of Moldova: first drafts of Guidelines on quality control of SEA documentation and of transboundary EIA documentation developed, translated into Romanian and (SEA guidelines) submitted to the MoE for comments, (EIA guidelines) planned to be submitted in early November 2021Ukraine: a first draft of Guidelines developed by August 2021, followed by an online stakeholder meeting on the first draft in September; a second draft is currently under preparation |
| **III.C.6 A model database on strategic environmental assessment** The development of a model for a database aims to support the application of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.*Entity(ies) responsible:* To be coordinated by the secretariat in 2021, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries. | Needs assessment and development of draft ToR for the model database are expected to start as of December 2021 |
| **III.C.7 Translating the video on the application of the Convention** *Entity(ies) responsible:* To be coordinated by the secretariat, with support from consultants, in cooperation with the beneficiary countries. | Russian, Romanian and Ukrainian versions were finalized in July 2021Armenian, Azerbaijani and Georgian versions are expected to be ready by Q1 2022 |
| **III.C.8 Preparation of Fas Tips**  | Updates to be provided by IAIA during the 10th meeting of the Working Group. |

**Annex**

**Additional activities to the workplan for 2021–2023 (decision VIII/2–IV/2 annexes I and II)**

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| **Activities**  | **Implementation status** |
| **Promoting practical application of the Protocol and/or the Convention** |
| Support Kazakhstan in establishing compliant national EIA and SEA systems with a view to implementing its new Environmental Code*Justification:* The activity stems from annex III to decision VIII/2–IV/2 and the new requests made by Kazakhstan during the last sessions of the Meetings of the Parties*Entity(ies) responsible*: secretariat, in cooperation with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Nur Sultan and the EU funded Partnership for Action on Green Economy*Funding:* 2021 funding from Switzerland | 1. Comments to draft road map to implement the Convention prepared in April/May 2021;
2. Round table to discuss the draft road map scheduled for 21 June 2021 (tbc);

(c) An awareness raising event on EIA and SEA carried out in 4 half-day online sessions for 61 participants on 30 March–2 April 2022;(d) An initial training workshop on strategic environmental assessment carried out online in two half-day sessions on 28–29 April 2021 for 60 participants;(e) A training workshop consisting of eighth online sessions has been implemented from 19 May to 16 June 2021 for 50 participants;(e) Terms of reference for a database on environmental impact assessment procedures planned for August–November 2021 ( cancelled due to lack of co-funding);(f) A training workshop on transboundary environmental impact assessment (scheduled for end of November 2021, date to be confirmed). |

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