



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის
Project funded by the European Union

EU4Environment
Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine

Kick-off event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan

DRAFT AGENDA

**16 March 2022, 11:00 – 12:50 Tbilisi time
Tbilisi, Georgia**

Due to COVID-19, this kick-off event will be delivered as a virtual event, using the Zoom platform. All registered participants will receive connection details to access the platform.

Action implemented by:



Kick-off event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan

16 March, 11:00 Tbilisi time; 08:00 Central European Time

Background

Within the framework of the European Union-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme (2019 – 2023), UNECE is assisting Georgia in strengthening its SEA system in line with the Georgian Environmental Assessment Code that fully transposes requirements of the Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and of the European Union’s Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC).

Since late 2021, to further enhance capacities for practical application of SEA in Georgia, at the request of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA) and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), UNECE has supported the preparation of a pilot SEA project for the two interlinked draft spatial plans to be developed for Gurjaani municipality: Spatial Arrangement Plan of the Gurjaani Municipality and the Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan. The pilot SEA will be implemented in 2022-2023 in parallel with the development of the two plans.

The pilot SEA will provide hands-on learning for applying SEA to draft spatial plans (involving analytical and consultative tasks and including, as appropriate, methodological coaching on the preparation and quality control of relevant documentation etc.) This kick-off event will introduce the pilot to stakeholders and the public in Georgia and is to be followed back-to-back by a technical training on SEA procedures for national experts on the team of the pilot project.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- to introduce a pilot SEA project for the draft Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan
- to brief on the status of and milestones for the development of these two spatial plans
- to outline the benefits and potential main constraints related to the implementation of the pilot SEA project

The following outputs/strategic benefits will also be achieved:

- the event will position the pilot project as the reference case example it is intended to be for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Georgia
- it will provide visibility to the leadership of the national stakeholders in the implementation of the pilot.

Participants

The meeting will gather up to 30 participants from MEPA, MRDI, a planning team tasked with the development of the two spatial plans as well as environmental NGOs active in this area.

Practical Information

The kick-off event will be organized as a virtual event via Zoom. All registered participants will receive connection details to access the platform. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Georgian will be provided.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (**EU4Environment**) aims to help the six partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

The Action is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations: OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO and the World Bank based on a budget of some EUR 20 million. The Action implementation period is 2019-2023.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

For further information specifically on activities on SEA and transboundary EIA implemented by UNECE, please contact: leonid.kalashnyk@un.org

DRAFT AGENDA

Time (Tbilisi)	Item
10:50 – 11:00	Connection testing
11:00 – 11:25	<p>Opening and welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nino Tandilashvili, Deputy Minister of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA) • Ms. Mzia Giorgobiani, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MRDI) • Mr. Alexandre Darras, Attaché, Team Leader Connectivity, Energy, Environment & Climate Change, EU Delegation to Georgia (<i>TBC</i>) • Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager at United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
11:25 – 12:10	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The application of SEA to plans, programmes and other strategic documents in Georgia: legal requirements and practice – Ms. Salome Dvali, Head of Strategic Planning Division, Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA</p> <p>Spatial and development plans to be developed for Gurjaani Municipality and tasks to be accomplished – Ms. Nino Gventsadze, Head of Spatial Planning Department, MRDI</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:10 – 12:50	<p>Presentation of the pilot SEA project</p> <p>Application of SEA to spatial plans and other strategic documents related to spatial and urban planning and its benefits – Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert to UNECE</p> <p>Approach to conducting the SEA of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan – Ms. Nino Malashkhia, National Expert to UNECE</p> <p>Q&A followed by a discussion on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What added value is the pilot SEA expected to bring? - What are potential constraints and challenges to the application of SEA in this case?
12:50	Closure of the event