



**KAZAKHSTAN**

**ACTION PLAN**

**TO DEVELOP A NATIONAL STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEM**

The Action Plan developed in the framework of the project “Strengthening national and regional capacities and co-operation on strategic environmental assessment (SEA) in Central Asia, including as a response to climate change” implemented by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE).

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# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AAP	Advisory Assistance Programme for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union
CSO	Civil Society Organization
E&S	Environmental and social
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment (OVOS)
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
EU	European Union
MEGNR	Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEE	State Environmental Expertise (Review)
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

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# EFFECTIVE SEA SYSTEM AND BENEFITS OF ITS IMPLEMENTATION FOR KAZAKHSTAN

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)** is internationally recognized as the key instrument for integrating environmental and health considerations into strategic planning and decision-making to prevent and mitigate possible damage from economic and regional development. It sets out the obligatory consultation of environmental and health authorities and the public to provide decision-makers early warning of unsustainable options and contributes to the reduction and management of health risks. It promotes sustainable development goals and principles, supports efforts towards the transition to a green economy, and increases the legitimacy of planning and decision-making processes and their outcomes. Moreover, it may allow countries to consider health risks and mitigation measures for pandemics as part of their planning processes, promoting healthy lifestyles, enhancing socioeconomic conditions to enable people to thrive and improving access to good quality health and social care.

The benefits of implementation of effective SEA system in line with the Protocol on SEA for Kazakhstan:



# EXISTING CHALLENGES FOR EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESMENT IN KAZAKHSTAN

- Gaps in the national legislative framework on sea vis-à-vis the Protocol on SEA
- Limited awareness of environmental, health and other relevant authorities, including those responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes on SEA-related responsibilities and capacities to perform these tasks
- Limited awareness of the public on the opportunities to participate in SEA processes
- Limited awareness of the decision-makers on their SEA-related responsibilities and capacities to perform these tasks
- Lack of mechanism/platform enabling information sharing on SEA processes

# STRATEGY TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE SEA SYSTEM IN KAZAKHSTAN IN LINE WITH THE PROTOCOL ON SEA

*The aim of this strategy is to enhance the current state of development of SEA in Kazakhstan in line with the Protocol on SEA*

Develop capacities for transboundary consultations

Support networking and information sharing

Develop legislative framework for SEA

1

Support practical application of SEA

2

Conduct trainings and awareness raising

4

Prepare guiding documents on SEA

3

Establish an institutional structure for SEA

6

7

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

**P1**

Development of legislative framework for SEA: The Environmental Code has been already adopted, however, there may be a need to develop a secondary legislation to support implementation of the Code



**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) is often challenging due to a lack of understanding on how the legal provisions should be practically carried out; therefore it is necessary to provide detailed guidance on SEA procedure as well as on the specific SEA-related topics



**P4**

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 an institutional structure for SEA: The application of SEA will represent a significant workload, in particular for the MEGNR and the Ministry of Healthcare. Therefore, the options on how the institutional structure should be arranged to manage expected number of SEA procedures should be elaborated – in particular for SEA at the sub-national levels



**P7**

Developing capacities for transboundary consultations: Transboundary consultations represent an important part of SEA, therefore sufficient capacities of relevant governmental agencies to carry out transboundary consultations and to consider its outcomes in SEA procedures need to be developed.





# ANNEXES

**1. CURRENT SEA SYSTEM IN  
KAZAKHSTAN VIS - A - VIS THE  
PROTOCOL ON SEA**

**2. LIST OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO  
INTRODUCE AND DEVELOP SEA IN  
KAZAKHSTAN**

# CURRENT SEA SYSTEM IN KAZAKHSTAN

## VIS – A – VIS THE PROTOCOL ON SEA

*The aim of this section is to demonstrate the main elements of effectively developed SEA system in line with the Protocol on SEA compared to the current SEA system in Kazakhstan (based on conclusions from the Needs Assessment Report)*

### THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF MODERN SEA SYSTEM DEVELOPED IN LINE WITH THE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

**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;

### STATE OF DEVELOPMENT OF SEA IN KAZAKHSTAN

#### NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK ON SEA

The Environmental Code was adopted and signed by the President in January 2021. It will begin gradually entering into force starting from 1 July 2021. The SEA provisions shall enter into force in 2025 having only recommendatory nature between 2021 and 2025. There are certain gaps in the Environmental Code vis-à-vis the Protocol on SEA – the scope of SEA application, and incomplete transposition of Article 11 of the Protocol on SEA. However, it needs to be stressed out that an in-depth legal analysis was not intended to be carried out as a part of the Needs Assessment Report, nor the adopted Environmental Code was analysed when drafting the Action Plan

#### PROCEDURAL STEPS

The SEA provisions reflected the main stages of SEA – however, an in-depth legal analysis would be needed to be carried out to confirm this conclusion. The survey also pointed out that arranging a SEA process in parallel with the planning process – as a precondition for an efficient SEA application – might be challenging in Kazakhstan without necessary adjustments of its current planning practice. Therefore, the detailed methodological guidelines will be needed to ensure effective application of the SEA procedure in the country.

#### ALLOCATION OF APPROPRIATE FINANCIAL MEANS FOR CARRYING OUT SEA

According to the survey, the respondents do not consider budgetary aspects as a significant challenge on the way to introduce SEA. However, further dedicated discussions might be necessary to properly address budgetary implications for carrying out SEA for governmental

strategic documents, including with regard to involving ‘in-house’ expertise (i.e. governmental staff), sub-contracting practitioners and consulting companies<sup>1</sup>, organizing efficient public participation, collecting environmental and health data, and conducting relevant analyses.

**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

#### **AWARENESS OF AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARATION OF THE PLANS AND PROGRAMMES ON SEA-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS AND CAPACITIES TO PERFORM THESE TASKS**

Awareness about SEA and its benefits and capacities within governmental authorities to coordinate environmental assessment procedures may be limited in Kazakhstan. Despite awareness raising efforts during the 2017 – 2018 legislative drafting and the pilot application of SEA in Kazakhstan in 2018, due to a high turnover of the governmental staff in the recent years, additional and continuous efforts are still needed to reach and sustain the results achieved at the time. The needs assessment report estimated that the planning authority might need approximately 40 – 60 person-days for one SEA process in order to carry out the necessary SEA-related tasks. It further calculated that this might represent between 280 and 420 working days in the period 2024 – 2029 on the side of the responsible planning ministries, if SEA would be applied only to the state programmes in the sectors stipulated by the draft SEA provisions.

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

#### **AWARENESS OF ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES ON THEIR SEA-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS AND CAPACITIES TO PERFORM THESE TASKS**

The Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Kazakhstan (MEGNR) is the lead environmental authority, and the survey concluded that a number of the Ministry’s staff was aware of its SEA-related tasks and able to perform them. However, when the SEA is applied in the scope stipulated by the Environmental Code the Ministry’s capacity to coordinate SEA processes might appear insufficient, also owing to regular staff rotation. The needs assessment report estimated that approximately 30 – 40 person-days might be needed for one SEA process for the MEGNR to carry out the necessary SEA-related tasks. It further calculated that this might represent between 210 and 350 working days of the MEGNR staff, if SEA would be applied only to the state

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<sup>1</sup> It was pointed out during interviews that ‘outsourcing SEA’, i.e. sub-contracting environmental experts and/or consulting companies to carry out SEA, could be the option preferred by the governmental planning agencies.

programmes in the sectors stipulated by the draft SEA provisions. In case the scope of SEA application fully follows the provisions of the Protocol on SEA (i.e. including SEA application at the sub-national level), it would require between 1,200 and– 1,600 working days per year for the MEGNR. The survey results also revealed that a role of regional and district authorities in SEA should additionally be examined, with a focus on environmental departments within the regional authorities that might need to enhance their skills when tasked with coordinating

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

#### **AWARENESS OF HEALTH AUTHORITIES ON THEIR SEA-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS AND CAPACITIES TO PERFORM THESE TASKS**

According to the draft SEA provisions, health authorities should be involved in the SEA processes – to provide their opinion in the screening, scoping, on the quality of the environmental report, as well as to publish relevant information on their websites. The needs assessment report estimated that approximately 10 person-days might be needed for one SEA process for the respective health authority to carry out these tasks. It further calculated that this might represent approximately 70 working days for the Ministry of Healthcare, if SEA would be applied only to the state programmes in the sectors stipulated by the draft SEA provisions. In case the scope of SEA application fully follows the provisions of the Protocol on SEA (i.e. including SEA application at the sub-national levels), it would require around 400 working days per year for the Ministry of Healthcare. Although the survey could not verify an assumption (based on the experience from other regions, e.g. from the EU Eastern Partnership countries<sup>2</sup>) that health authorities in Kazakhstan are not yet well equipped to perform its functions within the proposed SEA system, it suggested that there was a necessity to build their capacities to enable them to be properly involved in the SEA application.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.euneighbours.eu/en/policy/eastern-partnership>

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

#### **AWARENESS OF THE PUBLIC ON THE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN SEA PROCESSES**

The needs assessment results revealed that the public awareness regarding public participation opportunities afforded to it within the SEA procedure was limited, in particular at the regional and local levels. Moreover, the capacity building activities on SEA in Kazakhstan so far have mainly invited governmental officials from planning agencies and environmental and health authorities.

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

#### **AWARENESS OF THE DECISION-MAKERS ON THEIR SEA-RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS AND CAPACITIES TO PERFORM THESE TASKS**

The needs assessment report concluded that the level of awareness of the decision-makers on SEA and their capacities to perform relevant tasks were limited.

**THERE ARE PRACTITIONERS/EXPERTS ABLE TO CONDUCT SEA**

#### **CAPACITIES AND ABILITIES OF THE PRACTITIONERS/EXPERTS TO CONDUCT SEA**

The needs assessment results and previous experience with the pilot application of SEA suggested that Kazakhstan has sufficient expert potential to carry out SEAs on a regular basis. These experts can likely be recruited from EIA/OVOS practitioners of numerous companies performing EIAs in the current environmental assessment system. Several other organisations that should likely be able to provide their services in the SEA field were identified by the survey, including the Green Technologies Centre and civil society organisations (CSOs).

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

#### **KNOWLEDGE ON RELEVANT METHODS AND TECHNIQUES TO BE USED IN SEA**

The respondents of the survey were aware of a number of existing guiding documents on SEA – this indicates that there is a certain level of awareness about methods and techniques to be used in SEA. However, the needs assessment report concluded that only further national SEA practice, including examination of data availability, could help identify and develop SEA methods and techniques most suitable for the planning practice and the content of the plans and programmes developed by the governmental authorities of Kazakhstan.

**A SEA QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM is established and performed**

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

#### **A QUALITY CONTROL SYSTEM IN SEA**

The needs assessment report provided that the draft SEA provisions elaborate on the quality of the environmental report, and stipulate other requirements related to the quality, while the procedure of environmental report quality assessment is to be set out in the secondary legislation. However, the report pointed out that a performance of the quality control outlined in the draft SEA provisions should be evaluated after the SEA practice starts.

#### **MECHANISM/PLATFORM ENABLING INFORMATION SHARING ON SEA PROCESSES**

A need for establishing a database or register for SEA was mentioned during the interviews. As experience from other countries show, developing and launching such a system is a challenging process. Therefore, initiating the debate about the design, functions and technical features of the register was recommended by the needs assessment report.

# LIST OF SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES TO INTRODUCE AND DEVELOP SEA IN KAZAKHSTAN

The table below lists specific activities to introduce and develop SEA in the country together with their prioritisation, which follows the priorities formulated in section 3.2 above.

Each specific activity is tentatively assigned a 'high', 'medium', or 'low' priority, using the following ranking:

- High priority (H): A specific activity should be implemented in a short-term period i.e. ideally by the end of 2022;
- Medium priority (M): A specific activity should be implemented in a medium-term period i.e. between 2022 – 2024 (i.e. before the SEA provisions enter in force);
- Low priority (L): A specific action can be implemented after 2024.

Activity	Tentative Priority Ranking	Description	Target group	
<b>Priority 1: Development of legislative framework for SEA</b>				
1.1 Preparing secondary legislation	M	The Environmental Code stipulates that provisions on SEA regarding several SEA steps should be supported by 'instructions on environmental assessment'. Optimally, the secondary legislation would reflect experience with application of SEA procedure from the SEA pilots as well as consider conclusions of the detailed legal analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level decision-makers</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> </ul>	
1.2 Carrying out detailed legal analysis of the draft SEA provisions vis-à-vis the Protocol on SEA	M	The needs assessment survey revealed certain gaps in the draft Environmental Code vis-à-vis the Protocol on SEA, however an in-depth legal analysis was not carried out. Although the Environmental Code has been already adopted, the detailed legal analysis may be consider to verify a full compliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level decision-makers</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> </ul>	

		with the Protocol on SEA, and it may also provide inputs to be considered in the secondary legislation.		
<b>Priority 2: Support to practical application of SEA</b>				
2.1 Identification of sectors / specific plans and programmes to be a subject to pilot SEAs.	H	<p>At the initial stages of introducing SEA system, efforts on application of SEA should be focused on plans and programmes in the sectors of industry, energy, water management, and agriculture (i.e. sectors with high potential to cause significant environmental and health effects as resulted from the survey).</p> <p>The Environmental Code requires an SEA only for the state programmes, optimally the SEA pilot should be conducted for one of the state programmes in the above sectors to test the SEA procedures before the SEA provisions are in force.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> </ul>	
2.2. Organizing a workshop on SEA for the sectoral ministries in the selected sectors	H	<p>The purpose of the workshop would be to explain the key principles of SEA and to discuss preliminary selection of the plans and programmes to be a subject to the pilot SEA.</p> <p>The two main criteria to be considered when selecting the strategic documents are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Timing of the planning process: The SEA pilot – in order to demonstrate benefits of SEA – has to be carried out in parallel to the preparation of a plan and programme.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> </ul>	



		<p>2. Readiness to consider the SEA inputs: The aim of SEA is to integrate environmental and health considerations in the plan or programme. Therefore, the planning authority and the team should be ready and open for the discussion on recommendations formulated by the pilot SEA and – if agreed – to integrate them in the draft strategic document.</p>		
2.3 Conducting pilot SEAs	M	<p>In order to effectively utilize the learning opportunities provided by the SEA pilot application, it is essential to include capacity-building activities in the SEA pilots (i.e. training and awareness raising events) and open them to a wide range of stakeholders including health authorities, CSOs, and the public.</p> <p>Linking the SEA pilots to the training and awareness raising activities (see activities 4.1 – 4.3 below) can be recommended.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-makers</li> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Public</li> <li>• Practitioners/experts</li> </ul>	
2.4 Conducting financial analysis regarding costs of SEA	M	<p>Precise SEA-related cost estimates should be made for the sectors covered by the draft SEA provisions as a basis for allocating appropriate financial means for SEA application in the national budget (and/or in the budgets of respective sectoral ministries).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-makers</li> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority 3: Preparation of guiding documents on SEA</b>				

3.1 Preparing general guidelines on SEA	M	<p>The general guidelines on SEA should provide details on procedural steps outlined in the draft SEA provisions and to explain how to perform relevant tasks and responsibilities assigned to the key actors.</p> <p>It should also outline the opportunities for the public to participate in the SEA and describe how to proceed with transboundary consultations.</p> <p>An overview of the usual methods and tools used in SEA for evaluation of the likely effects should be included in the guidelines as well.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> <li>• CSOs/the public</li> </ul>	
3.2 Preparing the quality control check-list	M/L	<p>A quality control check-list should be primarily used by the environmental and health authorities when conducting the quality control of the SEAs. However, it can also help other key actors to get better understating what kind of quality criteria a good SEA should meet.</p> <p>It should cover both procedural and substance-related aspects of an SEA (in particular the content and information to be provided in the SEA report). The criteria should follow requirements of the SEA provisions and the principles of a good SEA practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> <li>• CSOs / the public</li> </ul>	
3.3 Preparing SEA guidelines on specific topics	L	<p>Preparation of two specific guidelines can be recommended – guidelines on addressing health in SEA, and guidelines on addressing climate change in SEA. The other topics may be determined after the secondary legislation on SEA is developed (which may cover a wide range of aspects).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority 4: Training and awareness raising</b>				

4.1 Preparing an information leaflet on the benefits of SEA	H	A leaflet will describe the importance and expected benefits of SEA for Kazakhstan. It can be built on promotional materials produced e.g. by the UNECE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level decision-makers</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• General public</li> </ul>	
4.2 Organizing awareness raising events on SEA for the high-management (ministers and deputy-ministers) of sectoral ministries, and relevant parliamentary committees.	H	<p>High-level events would promote an importance of implementation of the Environmental Code (its SEA provisions), and may also serve for the discussions regarding preparation of the secondary legislation on SEA. Importance of SEA should be supported by presentation of examples of the good SEA practice illustrating its benefits. The budgetary aspects (i.e. allocation of appropriate finances from the national budget) should also be discussed at the events.</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High level decision-makers</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	
4.3 Organizing awareness raising events on SEA for planning authorities	M	Several awareness raising events should be organized to explain the procedural SEA steps and the task and responsibilities to be performed by the planning authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes (including local executive bodies of administrative territorial units)</li> </ul>	
4.4 Organizing awareness raising events on SEA for the public	L	Several awareness raising events should be organized to explain the procedural SEA steps and how to use the opportunities the SEA provides to participate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The public</li> </ul>	

4.5 Organizing training workshops on methods and tools in SEA	M	A series of the workshops should be organized to present and discuss the methods and tools to be used in SEA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> </ul>	
4.6 Organizing workshop on quality control in SEA	L	A dedicated workshop for the staff of environmental authorities and health authorities involved in managing the SEA processes should be based on the quality control check-list (activity 3.2) and introduce the quality control criteria and their application.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> </ul>	
4.5 Developing a comprehensive training course on SEA	L	A training course on SEA can be developed in cooperation with international agencies and academic sector. Opening such course for the participants from other Central Asian countries may also be considered.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority 5: Networking and information sharing</b>				
5.1 Developing the technical description of the SEA (and EIA) online information system	M	The Information system on SEA (and EIA) should be established as the centralised register for SEA and EIA documents and other relevant information (e.g. information about the public consultation meetings, etc.), which should be publicly available. The	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>	

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<sup>3</sup> It role of the planning authorities regarding the SEA online information system will depend on the design of the system – it's management can be solely ensured by the MEGNR, but it also may allow the planning authorities to upload documents and information to the system, which relate to the SEA applied for the strategic documents under the responsibility of a given planning authority.

		<p>MEGNR should be responsible for managing the system – uploading the documents, publishing the information on ongoing SEA processes etc. However, providing an access to the system and the rights to make changes regarding specific SEA processes to the planning authorities could be considered in future.</p> <p>In principle, the structure of the information/documents to be provided for an individual SEA process should reflect the steps outlined in the SEA provisions.</p>		
5.2 Establishing the SEA (and EIA) online information system	L	Based on the technical outline (activity 5.1) a full system should be developed and established.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> </ul>	
5.3 Organizing regular annual coordination meetings	L	<p>After establishing the SEA practice, regular meetings, inviting all main actors in SEA, would provide an opportunity to discuss existing challenges of SEA application, and steps and activities to further enhance the SEA system in the country.</p> <p>These meetings should be organized by the MEGNR, and invite the representatives of planning authorities, health authorities, practitioners, as well as CSOs/the public active in the field of SEA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of the plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> <li>• CSOs/the public</li> </ul>	
5.4 Organizing the national SEA/EIA conference	L	Several years of SEA application should provide sufficient experience to be discussed at the national level. As there are many	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decision-makers</li> </ul>	

		common features and linkages between SEA and EIA, organizing the first national conference jointly for SEA and EIA can be recommended.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> <li>• Environmental assessment practitioners</li> <li>• CSOs/ the public</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority 6: Establishing an institutional structure for SEA</b>				
6.1 Organizing workshop on institutional arrangements for SEA	M	As estimated by the needs assessment report, the application of SEA in the scope stipulated by the Protocol on SEA will represent a significant workload, in particular for the MEGNR and the Ministry of Healthcare. Therefore, the event could introduce institutional arrangements for SEA in the selected countries as a basis for further discussion on how to manage the expected number of SEAs in Kazakhstan.  Experience from SEA pilots can also be used (in particular, it should enable to better estimate the workload connected with an individual SEA for the environmental and health authorities).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> </ul>	
6.2 Preparing outline of institutional arrangements for SEA	M	Based on the discussion at the workshops, institutional arrangements should be outlined to ensure effective coordination of the SEA processes both at the national and sub-national levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> <li>• Health authorities</li> </ul>	
<b>Priority 7: Developing capacities for transboundary consultations</b>				

7.1 Organizing workshop on transboundary consultations in SEA	L	A workshop should introduce and explain the tasks related to transboundary consultations in SEA and it should illustrate a good practice in accordance with the Protocol on SEA using practical examples. Such event should ensure that the planning and environmental authorities have sufficient capacities to carry out transboundary consultations and to consider their outcomes in SEAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Authorities responsible for preparation of plans and programmes</li> <li>• Environmental authorities</li> </ul>	
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## IMPLEMENTATION SCHEME

The implementation of the Action Plan should be managed by the MEGNR, which shall coordinate the implementation of the activities with the relevant partners. To streamline the Action Plan, it is recommended to prepare an implementation plan following a format proposed below:

Activity	Implementing period	Main responsibility for implementation	Partners for implementation	Comments
1.1 Organizing several high-level awareness raising events on SEA for the high-management (ministers and deputy-ministers) of sectoral ministries, and relevant parliamentary committees.	September 2021 – June 2022	MEGNR	UNECE, OSCE	
1.2 Preparing an information leaflet on the benefits of SEA	June – August 2021	MEGNR	UNECE, OSCE	The leaflet should be distributed to the participants of the events to be organized under 1.1
...				
...				
...				
...				



## MONITORING

In order to ensure monitoring of the Action Plan implementation, the MEGNR in coordination with the relevant partners should prepare a short monitoring report on a bi-annual basis. The monitoring report can follow the format proposed below and shall serve for the discussions with the relevant partners on necessary adjustments of the Action Plan.

Activity	Status of implementation	Proposed adjustments to the activity	Comments
1.1 Organizing several high-level awareness raising events on SEA for the high-management (ministers and deputy-ministers) of sectoral ministries, and relevant parliamentary committees.	Two events were organized in 2021, next two are planned for the second half of 2022.	Extension of implementing period until December 2022.	
1.2 Preparing an information leaflet on the benefits of SEA	Leaflet prepared in August 2021		The activity has been fully completed and can be excluded from the Action plan.
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