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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Kick-off event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment
of the draft Master Plan for the City of Ganja, Azerbaijan**

AGENDA

25 July 2022, 11:00 – 13:00 Baku time / 9:00 – 11:00 CEST

Baku, Azerbaijan

This kick-off event will be delivered as a virtual event via Zoom. All registered participants will receive connection details to access the platform.

Action implemented by:



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Within the framework of the European Union-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme (2019 – 2022¹), UNECE is assisting Azerbaijan in strengthening its SEA system in line with the requirements of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (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 April 2022, to further enhance capacities for practical application of SEA in Azerbaijan, at the request of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), UNECE has supported the preparation of a pilot SEA project for the draft master plan under development for the City of Ganja. The pilot SEA will be implemented in parallel with the development of the master plan.

The pilot SEA will provide hands-on learning for applying SEA in urban planning (involving analytical and consultative tasks and, as needed, methodological coaching on the preparation and quality control of SEA related reports). It will further build national capacities on SEA procedures and raise the awareness of the SEA in urban planning while demonstrating its sector-specific benefits. This kick-off event will introduce the pilot to stakeholders and the public in Azerbaijan and beyond.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- to introduce the pilot SEA project for the master plan for the City of Ganja;
- to brief on the status of and milestones for the development of this master plan;
- 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 urban planning in Azerbaijan;
- 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 MENR, SCUPA, a planning team tasked with the development of the master plan of the City of Ganja, Ganja city authorities, environmental NGOs as well as representatives of EBRD Green Cities.

¹ Currently, the programme is in the process of being extended until December 2023.

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 Azerbaijani 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 2019-2022.

For more information, please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org or contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

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

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Time (Baku)	Item
10:50 – 11:00	Connection testing
11:00 – 11:25	<p>Opening and welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Faig Mutallimov, Head of the Environmental Policy Division. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MENR) • Mr. Rainer Freund, Program Manager, Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Azerbaijan • Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)
11:25 – 12:10	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The master plan under development for the City of Ganja – Ms. Shahnaz Badalova, Deputy Head of Urban Planning and Spatial Development Department, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan</p> <p>Q&A</p>
12:10 – 12:50	<p>Presentation of the pilot SEA project</p> <p>Rationale for application of SEA to urban planning documents – Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert to UNECE</p> <p>Approach to conducting the SEA of the Master Plan for the City of Ganja – Mr. Amin Mammadov, National SEA 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