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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Kick-off event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft
Micro-Regional Combined Spatial Plan for Gegharkunik Region
(Gegharkunik-2), Armenia**

Agenda

**18 November 2022, 12:00 – 13:45 Yerevan time / 9:00 – 10:45 CET
Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia
Republic Square, Government House 3, Floor 5
Yerevan, Armenia**

This kick-off event will be delivered as a hybrid event allowing participation in person and access via Zoom. Invited participants will receive further details.

Action implemented by:



Kick-off event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Micro-Regional Combined Spatial Plan for Gegharkunik Province (Gegharkunik-2), Armenia

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Background

Within the framework of the European Union-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme (2019 – 2023), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) is assisting Armenia 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 Armenia, at the request of the Ministry of Environment and the Urban Development Committee, UNECE has supported the preparation of a pilot SEA project for a draft micro-regional combined spatial plan for the country’s largest region Gegharkunik (the plan is shortly entitled Gegharkunik-2). The pilot SEA will be implemented in parallel with the development of Gegharkunik-2.

The pilot SEA will provide hands-on learning for applying SEA in spatial 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 spatial planning while demonstrating its sector-specific benefits. This kick-off event will introduce the pilot SEA to stakeholders and the public in Armenia.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

- to introduce the pilot SEA project for Gegharkunik-2
- to brief on the status and milestones for the development of Gegharkunik-2
- 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 Armenia;
- it will provide visibility to the leadership of the national stakeholders in the implementation of the pilot.

Participants

The meeting will gather up to 40 participants from the Ministry of Environment, Urban Planning Committee, a planning team tasked with the development of Gegharkunik-2, local authorities from Gegharkunik Province and environmental NGOs.

Practical Information

The kick-off event will take place at the **Conference Hall of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia: Republic Square, Government House 3, Floor 5, Yerevan**. The event will allow both participation in person and access via Zoom. Invited participants will receive further details regarding in-person participation and/or connection details in Zoom. Simultaneous interpretation (Armenian and English) will be provided.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment – Green Economy) Action helps the Eastern Partnership countries 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.

It is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – over 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

For more information please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org.

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

AGENDA

Time (Yerevan)	Item
11:40 – 12:00	Connection testing (for participants connecting via Zoom)
12:00 – 12:25	<p>Opening and welcome remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Tigran Gabrielyan, Deputy Minister of Environment of Armenia (7 min) • Ms. Nune Petrosyan, Deputy Head of Urban Development Committee (7 min) • Mr. Frank Hess, Head of Operations, EU Delegation to Armenia (7 min) • Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
12:25 – 13:15	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The implementation of SEA in the Republic of Armenia since the ratification in 2010 – Ms. Elyanora Grigoryan, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Environment</p> <p>Benefits of SEA and rationale for application of SEA to spatial planning documents – Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert to UNECE</p> <p>Preparation of the draft micro-regional combined spatial plan for Gegharkunik Province (Gegharkunik-2) – Ms. Nune Petrosyan, Urban Development Committee</p>
13:15 – 13:45	<p>Presentation of the pilot SEA project</p> <p>Approach to conducting the SEA of Gegharkunik-2 per the requirements of national and international law – Ms. Azganush Drnoyan, 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?
13:45	Closure of the event