



ევროკავშირი  
საქართველოსთვის

Project funded by the European Union

**EU4Environment**

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

**Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan**

**TRAINING REPORT**

**16 March 2022, 14:00 – 17:00 Tbilisi time  
Tbilisi, Georgia**

Action implemented by:



## Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan

16 March, 14:00 Tbilisi Time

### Training report

#### 1. *Training objectives*

The event has built capacities for the practical application of SEA in the municipal spatial planning sector (with a focus on the scoping phase of the SEA) and has introduced the main principles of efficient SEA application to the spatial plans, its benefits, legal requirements, practical steps and outputs.

The following strategic benefit has also been pursued:

- the event has further contributed to positioning the pilot project as the reference case example it is intended to be for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Georgia.

#### 2. *Summary of the online SEA training*

The event was conducted online on 16 March 2022 back-to-back with the kick-off event for the pilot SEA. The training included the participation of the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure (MRDI), Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture (MEPA), Environmental Health Department of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs Gurjaani Municipality, national experts identified as future consultants for the pilot SEA and an international SEA expert.

The event was opened by the **Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk**, EU4Environment Project Manager at UNECED. He highlighted the importance of the training as a final element of the preparatory phase of the pilot SEA project.

The training included two sessions: Introduction to SEA and Practical aspects of effective SEA implementation. Following a brief overview of SEA objectives and benefits, **Mr. Doug Hickman**, international SEA expert to UNECE, presented the main principles and case examples of efficient SEA application to spatial plans. He underlined several lessons learnt as regards applying SEA to spatial plans, including the need for ensuring a good integration with planning processes, customizing content to context, evaluating draft concepts and plans against sustainability objectives, and being open to public and stakeholder input. SEA to support Greater

Baku Regional Development Plan was presented by him as a case example from the South Caucasus region.

**Ms. Irma Melikishvili**, national SEA consultant to UNECE, made a presentation in Georgian outlining the national legal requirements for SEA and introducing relevant parts of the country's Environmental Assessment Code. She also responded to a few clarification questions from the audience.

The second session focused on practical aspects of effective SEA implementation. It started with a presentation by Mr. Hickman of a draft scoping matrix for the scoping phase of the SEA and his comments on questions regarding some elements of the matrix. The international SEA expert provided detailed explanations on types of effects: probable significant negative effects, probable insignificant negative effects, no significant effect/positive effects used in the matrix. Some tentatively proposed content examples in the matrix stimulated an active discussion among the training participants with a focus on the spatial plans to be prepared for the Gurjaani municipality and the existing environmental issues in the municipality. Part of the discussion was dedicated to taking into consideration of health issues in the SEA and opportunities and challenges for cooperation between sectoral, environmental and health authorities in this regard.

Following the above presentation, Ms. Melikishvili, presented a composition of a spatial plan according to Georgia's legislation and practice.

These presentations were then followed by an extensive Q&A with a focus on next steps in the process and clarification of several procedural steps between the ministries in this context.

### **3. Conclusions**

The training event has successfully contributed to building the capacity of stakeholders, including national experts, in Georgia in terms of their knowledge and familiarity with requirements for SEA in spatial and urban planning. It also allowed a more in-depth discussion between technical aspects as regards salient issues related to the future spatial plans and ways to make SEA of the plans more effective and smooth.



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## Annex I

**Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan**

### TRAINING AGENDA

**16 March 2022, 14:00 – 17:00 Tbilisi time**  
**Tbilisi, Georgia**

Due to COVID-19, this training 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:



## Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan

16 March, 14:00 Tbilisi 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.). The pilot SEA will be supported by a group of experts on SEA and experts in the fields relevant to the spatial plans in SEA team). This virtual training will be organized for the national experts to be engaged to conduct the pilot SEA of the above spatial plans. It will combine theoretical and practical aspects of the SEA procedure relevant to this pilot and introduce them to the members of the SEA team and other relevant stakeholders (e.g., spatial plans developers selected by MRDI) early on in the implementation of the pilot.

### Meeting the objective of the event

- to build capacities on the practical application of SEA in the municipal spatial planning sector (with a specific focus on the scoping phase in SEA?)
- to introduce main principles of efficient SEA application to the spatial plans, its benefits, legal requirements, practical steps, and outputs.

The following outputs/strategic benefits will also be achieved:

- the event will further contribute to positioning the pilot project as the reference case example it is intended to be for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Georgia

### **Participants**

The meeting will gather up to 15 participants, including the national experts to conduct the SEA of the draft spatial plans (SEA team), representatives from MEPA, MRDI, municipality, and a planning team tasked with developing the two spatial plans.

### **Practical Information**

The training event will be organized as a virtual event via Zoom. All 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 manage environmental risks and impacts better.

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](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org)

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

## AGENDA

Time (Tbilisi)	Item
<b>13:50 – 14:00</b>	Connection testing
<b>14:00 – 14:10</b>	<b>Introduction training agenda and the topics</b>
<b>14:10 – 15:15</b>	<p><b>Introduction to SEA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEA objectives and benefits – Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert</li> <li>• Main principles of efficient SEA application to spatial plans - Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert</li> <li>• Case examples of effective SEA on spatial plans - Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National legal requirements for SEA introduction to EA Code – Ms. Irma Melikishvili, National Consultant</li> </ul> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>15:15 – 15:30</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>15:30 – 16:50</b>	<p><b>Practical aspects of effective SEA implementation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction example scoping matrix - Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert</li> <li>• Preparation of scoping matrix for Gurjaani Municipality Spatial Arrangement Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identification of potential health and environmental issues associated with the plan</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Discussion facilitated by Mr. Doug Hickman, International SEA Expert; Ms. Irma Melikishvili, National Consultant, and Ms. Nino Malashkhia, National Coordinator</p> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<b>16:50 -17:00</b>	<b>Future steps/Closure of the event</b>



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## Annex II

### Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan

#### LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

16 March 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia

Action implemented by:





**Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Spatial Arrangement Plan of Gurjaani Municipality and Gurjaani Town Centre Development Regulation Plan**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
16 March 2022, Tbilisi, Georgia

**Total participants: 28**

**Female participants: 19**

#	Name	Title	Organization	Email
<b>Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia (MEPA)</b>				
1.	Ms. Salome Dvali	Head of the Strategic Planning Division	Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA	<a href="mailto:salome.dvali@mepa.gov.ge">salome.dvali@mepa.gov.ge</a>
2.	Ms. Keti Chokuri	Senior Specialist, Strategic Planning Division	Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA	<a href="mailto:keti.chokuri@mepa.gov.ge">keti.chokuri@mepa.gov.ge</a>
3.	Ms. Nino Kosiashvili	Strategic Planning Division	Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA	<a href="mailto:nino.kosiashvili@mepa.gov.ge">nino.kosiashvili@mepa.gov.ge</a>
4.	Ms. Sophio Gogichaishvili	Strategic Planning Division	Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA	<a href="mailto:s.gogichaishvili@mepa.gov.ge">s.gogichaishvili@mepa.gov.ge</a>
5.	Mr. Rati Zedginidze	Strategic Planning Division	Environmental Assessment Department, MEPA	<a href="mailto:r.zedginidze@mepa.gov.ge">r.zedginidze@mepa.gov.ge</a>
<b>Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia (MRDI)</b>				
6.	Mr. Kakha Potskhishvili	Deputy Head of Department	Spatial Planning Department, MRDI	<a href="mailto:k.potskhishvili@mrdi.gov.ge">k.potskhishvili@mrdi.gov.ge</a>
7.	Ms. Sophio Maisuradze	Spatial Planning Department	Spatial Planning Department, MRDI	<a href="mailto:s.maisuradze@mrdi.gov.ge">s.maisuradze@mrdi.gov.ge</a>
8.	Ms. Mariam Gogitidze	Spatial Planning Department	Spatial Planning Department, MRDI	<a href="mailto:m.gogitidze@mrdi.gov.ge">m.gogitidze@mrdi.gov.ge</a>
9.	Mr. Giorgi Kereselidze	Spatial Planning Department	Spatial Planning Department, MRDI	<a href="mailto:kerarchitecture@gmail.com">kerarchitecture@gmail.com</a>
<b>Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia</b>				
10.	Ms. Nana Gabrichidze	Head of Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:gabriadenana79@gmail.com">gabriadenana79@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:n.gabrichidze@ncdc.ge">n.gabrichidze@ncdc.ge</a>
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12.	Ms. Nino Dedabrishvili	Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:n.dedabrishvili@ncdc.ge">n.dedabrishvili@ncdc.ge</a>
13.	Ms. Keti Zaridze	Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:k.zaridze@ncdc.ge">k.zaridze@ncdc.ge</a>

14.	Ms. Ana Khachidze	Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:a.khachidze@ncdc.ge">a.khachidze@ncdc.ge</a>
15.	Ms. Ana Peikrishvili	Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:a.peikrishvili@ncdc.ge">a.peikrishvili@ncdc.ge</a>
16.	Mr. Robinzon Tsiklauri	Environmental Health Department	National Center for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC)	<a href="mailto:r.tsiklauri@ncdc.ge">r.tsiklauri@ncdc.ge</a>
<b>International Organizations and Consultants</b>				
17.	Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk	EU4Environment Project Manager, Environmental Affairs Officer	UNECE	<a href="mailto:leonid.kalashnyk@un.org">leonid.kalashnyk@un.org</a>
18.	Ms. Elena Kashina	EU4Environment Project Management Assistant	UNECE	<a href="mailto:elena.kashina@un.org">elena.kashina@un.org</a>
19.	Mr. Malkhaz Adeishvili	Environmental Expert, EU4Environment National Coordinator in Georgia	OECD Consultant	<a href="mailto:adeishvili.m@gmail.com">adeishvili.m@gmail.com</a>
20.	Mr. Douglas Hickman	International SEA Consultant	UNECE Consultant	<a href="mailto:pha@xcountry.tv">pha@xcountry.tv</a>
21.	Ms. Irma Melikishvili	National SEA Consultant	UNECE Consultant	<a href="mailto:irmamelikishvili@gmail.com">irmamelikishvili@gmail.com</a>
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25.	Ms. Salome Gelashvili	National Consultant	National SEA team	<a href="mailto:s.gelashvili@iset.ge">s.gelashvili@iset.ge</a>
26.	Ms. Marina Topuridze	National Consultant	National SEA team	<a href="mailto:topuridze.marina@gmail.com">topuridze.marina@gmail.com</a>
<b>Interpreters</b>				
27.	Ms. Tamar Nephariidze	Interpreter		<a href="mailto:tamunan@gmail.com">tamunan@gmail.com</a>
28.	Mr. George Askurava	Interpreter		<a href="mailto:gaskurava@yahoo.com">gaskurava@yahoo.com</a>