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EIA/SEA national capacity building activities, results and lessons learned in Azerbaijan under "EU4Environment" program

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National capacity building for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) - main documents

- UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (the Espoo Convention) The Work Plan for 2021-2023
- EU4Environment Program for 2019-2022 - was extended by the end of December 2023

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Legislative Support for SEA and EIA

- Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Environmental Impact Assessment No. 1175-VQ dated June 12, 2018 - improved with the support of the EaP GREEN Program
- “Regulation for Conducting Strategic Environmental Assessment” – approved by Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 354, September 15, 2022 - improved with the support of the EU4Environment
- “Regulation for Conducting of Environmental Impact Assessment, including Transboundary Impact Assessment and its Duration” - approved by Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 362, September 21, 2022- improved with the support of the EU4Environment

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Support to the development of Human Resources for SEA and EIA

- Two sub-regional workshops on the practical application of SEA and transboundary EIA (26-27 October 2020; 29 June 2022);
- The first event on SEA in the region of the country is planned for the purpose of raising awareness in the city of Ganja on September 28, 2023 (current meeting) under SEA pilot project.

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Implementation of SEA for the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja – general targets

- Strengthening SEA implementation skills and human resources in the urban planning sector
- Bringing environmental issues to the fore in the urban planning sector in the country and showing the possibilities of applying international experience in this field
- Strengthening the capacity of and raising awareness for SEA in the regions outside Baku
- Promoting and expanding the implementation of the EIA Law (2018) as well as the newly adopted SEA Implementation Regulations (2022)
- Supporting the planning authority in making environmentally efficient decisions regarding Ganja Master Plan
- Ensuring that the SEA draft for the Master Plan of the city of Ganja is a role model in this sector

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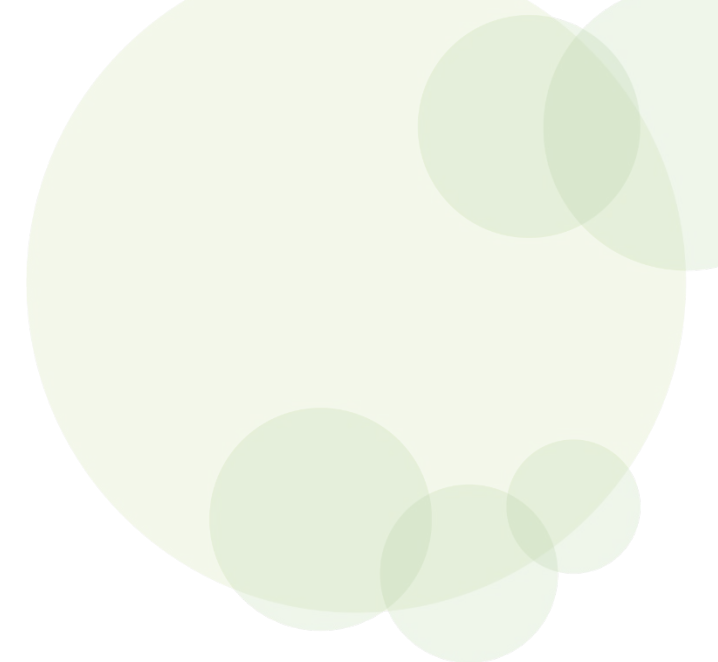


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Results

- Need for capacity building for SEA
- Little or no awareness of regions and executive structures in the country for SEA
- Poor coordination of SEA or EIA activities with MENR regional offices
- Need to improve SEA/EIA database and facilitate public accessibility
- Little public awareness for SEA/EIA

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Results and lessons learned – EIA/SEA

- Strengthening EIA quality control – state and public control, timely implementation and monitoring of screening and scoping consultations
- Developing environmental criteria and indicators or drafting guidelines for EIA screening procedure, as well as assessment;
- Capacity building of the State Environmental Expertise Agency and regional offices of MENR for EIA/SEA;
- Creating a web-database on individual EIA/SEA of the State Environmental Expertise Agency of MENR, posting reports and information on that page and ensuring its public accessibility
- Strengthening coordination of EIA/SEA activities with MENR regional offices;
- Continuing awareness raising on EIA/SEA in the regions.

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Thank you!

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