Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention

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Protocol on SEA
Status

- Adopted in Kyiv, in 2003
- In force since 2010
- 33 Parties, in UNECE region, including EU
  - Signatory States: BEL, FR, GEO, GR, IRL, UK
- Open to all UN Member States
Protocol on SEA
Developments and achievements

- Fosters sustainable planning across economic sectors, energy transition, achievement of most SDGs and climate commitments and safeguards biodiversity.

- Technical assistance and capacity building to 11 countries on SEA: that for ARM, AZE, GEO, MDA, UA cont’d with EU4Environment funding (2019-April 2024)

- Report on treaties’ role in energy transition, circular economy and green financing (with ITA funding) – to be discussed by a high-level panel (14 December)

- Document informing about assessment of health and involvement of health authorities in SEA (tabled for the MOPs)
Protocol on SEA
Lessons and challenges

- Lack of proper legal and regulatory basis (esp. Central Asia)
- **Insufficient awareness and understanding** of SEA and its benefits (seen as costly, time consuming and complicated)
- **Insufficient public interest** and high-level **political backing**
- Lack of implementation capacities at regional and local levels
- Lack of proper institutional structures/culture for consultation across sectors and tiers of governments and for public participation
- **Assessing health in SEA**, including transboundary effects; consultations with health authorities
- Need for capacity building and guidance to promote accessions
Protocol on SEA
Plans and prospects

- Increasing awareness and accessions (including by Central Asian countries)

- Key role continues in sustainable spatial planning, including maritime spatial planning, greening energy planning reaching SDGs, and climate commitments

- In the future, SEA will be key in sustainable planning of the post-war reconstruction of infrastructure and cities in Ukraine

- The Protocol’s potential to promoting circular economy to be further exploited
Thank you!

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