

**Training Workshop on Current Issues of the Strategic Environmental  
Assessment Procedure in Ukraine: Practical Application Aspects**

Online event, 26 May 2023

**TRAINING REPORT**

Action implemented by:



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## 1. Background

Within the framework of the European Union-funded EU4Environment programme, UNECE is assisting the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries, including Ukraine, in comprehensive capacity-building and institutional building on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and in finalizing legal reforms in this area.

In Ukraine, SEA is being implemented as a systematic process for comprehensive environmental assessment in the development of state planning documents, which involves consideration of possible alternatives, measures to mitigate adverse effects for the environment and public health and their integration into state planning documents (including urban planning documents).

The objective of SEA is to promote sustainable development of territories/areas by providing for a high level of protection of the environment, including health of the population, and integration of environmental considerations into the development and adoption of state planning documents.

SEA is conducted based on legality, transparency, scientific validity, holistic approach, prevention of environmental damage, long-term forecasting, public participation and involvement of expert community.

However, stakeholders' insufficient awareness of the purpose of SEA and some lack of understanding of their roles in the SEA procedure often require competent awareness-raising support as to avoid merely formalizing the application of this environmental assessment within the strategic planning process.

The event was the second one in a series of two trainings organised by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine and UNECE under EU4Environment<sup>1</sup>, aiming at raising the awareness of the audience on the specifics of the SEA procedure for urban planning documentation in accordance with Ukrainian legislation, and strengthening the institutional capacity of the regional and Kyiv city state administrations, as well as of local self-government bodies.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 the 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information contact: [EU4Environment@oecd.org](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org).

For more information please visit our website: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org).

## 2. Objectives and structure of the training

The main goal of the event was to highlight the practical application aspects of the SEA procedure in Ukraine. The objectives of the training included the following:

- familiarizing the target audience with a step-by-step procedure for carrying out the SEA of state planning documents;
- defining the main distinctive features of the SEA for urban planning documentation;
- explicating responsibilities in SEA;
- presenting the Unified SEA Register.

A detailed programme of the event is in Annex 1.

As noted above, the training participants were mainly representatives of the relevant environmental, health, urban planning and architecture departments of the regional and Kyiv city state administrations, as well as representatives of local self-government bodies. According to registration forms and Zoom recordings, the event was attended by more than 400 participants from different regions of Ukraine.

Prior to the event, invitation letters had been sent out to the regional and Kyiv city state administrations, as well as regional councils. Participants were pre-registered as they filled out Google forms.

The event was organised as a virtual event using Zoom, a video conferencing platform. All registered participants were provided with connection details to participate in the event.

The event made use of Mentimeter, an application that focuses on online communication between event organizers, speakers and participants, enabling the participants to take part anonymously in snap polls throughout the event with a view to enhancing interaction in a guided discussion.

### **3. Summary of discussions and results**

#### ***Welcome words:***

After presenting an agenda of the events, the participants were welcomed:

***Ms. Maryna Shymkus***, Director of the Environmental Assessment Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, welcomed the training participants, thanked for their activity and interest in the SEA, and stressing the importance of communication between all SEA stakeholders and the Ministry regarding practical application issues of SEA .

***Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk***, EU4Environment Project Manager at UNECE, welcomed the participants and expressed his sincere gratitude to the European Union for supporting the event within the framework of the EU4Environment programme. He further highlighted the role of the UNECE SEA Protocol and the European Union's SEA Directive in providing legal and institutional frameworks that will support Ukraine's efforts to make its post-war reconstruction green and healthy.

#### ***Survey:***

In order to establish communication with the audience and identify its needs, the participants were offered a short survey using the Mentimeter application. The vast majority of participants (about 200 people) took part in the survey. Taking into account the results, it can be concluded that, as on the first training day, the majority of the participants were representatives of local self-government bodies, who are potential customers of the SEA procedure. Unfortunately, the lowest number of representatives of structural units of oblast state administrations in charge of healthcare was recorded. As for the respondents' experience in implementing the SEA, the vast majority of the trainees said that they had already been involved in the implementation of the procedure. Among the aspects of SEA implementation that cause the greatest difficulties, they identified, first of all, the lack of qualified personnel and problems with collecting baseline data, as well as a complex algorithm for implementing the procedure. The greatest number of problems is caused by monitoring the effects of the implementation of state planning documents and determining the need for SEA and its scope. At the same time, the vast majority of respondents believe that the development of Guidelines and the introduction of a Unified SEA Register should become effective tools for optimising the implementation of SEA procedures.

Detailed results of the survey are presented in Annex 2.

#### ***The main part:***

Most of the training was devoted to a step-by-step review of the algorithm for conducting the SEA procedure.

In particular, **Mr Dmytro Skrylnikov**, consultant to UNECE, presented a basic algorithmic scheme for the implementation of SEA in Ukraine. The following key steps in the implementation of the SEA procedure were highlighted :

- ✓ determining the need for SEA;
- ✓ determining the scope of SEA;
- ✓ preparation of the SEA Report;
- ✓ public participation and consultations;
- ✓ making a decision to approve a state planning document;
- ✓ monitoring the effects of the implementation of the state planning document.

**Ms Nataliia Trofymenko**, consultant to UNECE, joined an expert-level step-by-step discussion of all the steps in SEA from the perspective of compliance with SEA legislation. In her turn, **Ms Maryna Zerkal**, consultant to UNECE, supported the discussion by focusing on the peculiarities of the SEA procedure for spatial planning documentation (including urban planning documentation).

Due to the large number of the workshop participants, the Q&A session was integrated into a general discussion of the practical steps of the SEA implementation through a Zoom chat where the consultants and experts were able to communicate with the audience.

The second part of the training was devoted to a presentation of the Unified SEA Register, an IT platform containing systematic and unified materials of all strategic environmental assessments. **Ms Maryna Shymkus**, Director of the Environmental Assessment Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, presented an outlook for putting the Unified SEA Register into action. The register had been developed with the assistance of the EU-funded Apena 3 project. She then outlined the main provisions of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of the Procedure for Maintaining the Unified Strategic Environmental Assessment Register".

**Mr Vitaliy Bilous**, Deputy Director of the Environmental Assessment Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, presented the operation of the Unified SEA Register in real time. Mr Bilous provided a detailed overview of the register's capabilities and demonstrated how to interact with the register as a SEA customer and as a representative of consulting authorities.

After the register's presentation, representatives of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine answered numerous questions from the training participants regarding the interaction with the register.

### ***Closing the event and summing up***

**Ms Maryna Shymkus**, Director of the Environmental Assessment Department of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, expressed her gratitude to the speakers/trainers and participants of the training. In addition, Ms Shymkus invited the

participants to join operational communication channels established by the Ministry's representatives with a focus on SEA issues.

**Leonid Kalashnyk**, *EU4Environment Project Manager at UNECE*, thanked the European Union representative, the experts and the training participants, informed them about the availability of the training materials on the UNECE website. He also invited the participants to take a short survey to support an overall assessment of the event.

#### **4. Evaluation**

The electronic questionnaire was available to the training participants via a separate link at the end of the event. They were asked to evaluate (on a five-point scale where five is the highest rating) the six aspects listed below and to give a score. The results of the evaluation are as follows:

- ✓ Training format: 4,49
- ✓ Time of the training: 4.28
- ✓ Presentations by the experts who moderated the training and made presentations: 4.62
- ✓ Quality of presentations: 4.54
- ✓ Quality of discussions: 4.31
- ✓ General organisation: 4.51
- ✓ Overall rating: 4.46



## 5. Conclusions

Strategic environmental assessment is an impactful practical tool for implementing the principles of sustainable development by taking environmental aspects into account in state planning processes in Ukraine.

The UNECE SEA Protocol, the European Union SEA Directive and relevant national legislation provide legal and institutional frameworks to help Ukraine to make its post-war reconstruction green, taking into account public health issues, as well as contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and the country's climate commitments.

According to the Law "On Strategic Environmental Assessment", the SEA procedure should include: determining the need for SEA, defining the scope of SEA, preparation of the SEA Report, conducting public discussion and consultations (if necessary, transboundary consultations), taking into account the results of the preceding steps in a state planning document, informing about the approval of the state planning document and monitoring the effects as the state planning document is implemented.

At the same time, the SEA is a unique procedure that provides for open and transparent processes that widely inform and involve the public concerned about the development of a state planning document.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine continues to make all state procedures digital/electronic, optimising environmental public services and ensuring public access to environmental information (as provided for by the Aarhus Convention and relevant EU directives). A milestone was the launching of the Unified SEA Register, which

- ✓ will ensure systematic, open and accessible information about SEA;
- ✓ increase the transparency of relevant procedures for stakeholders and potential investors;
- ✓ will promote greater public awareness and involvement in the SEA of state planning documents, their development and approval.

The training participants' unprecedented activity has demonstrated that, notwithstanding the situation in the country, there is a significant demand for information on the specifics of the SEA procedure from both state authorities and representatives of local self-government bodies.

Taking into account the participants' feedback during the event, numerous post-training requests for presentation materials and recordings, as well as the results of the evaluation, the training can be considered successful, contributing to the strengthening and promotion of the SEA institutions in Ukraine and demonstrating a continued need for SEA capacity building activities for various stakeholders.

## Annex 1: Training agenda

**Training Workshop on Current Issues of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Procedure in  
Ukraine: Practical Application Aspects  
26 May 2023**

### AGENDA

<b>Time (Kyiv)</b>	<b>Item</b>
<b>14:00 - 14:10</b>	Connection testing
<b>14:10 - 14:20</b>	<b>Goals and agenda of the meeting, tour de table</b> <i>Facilitated by Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, legal expert to UNECE</i>
<b>14:20 - 14:40</b>	<b>Opening and welcome remarks</b> <i>Ms. Maryna Shymkus, Director of the Environmental Assessment Department, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine</i> <i>Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager at UNECE</i>
<b>14:40 - 14:50</b>	<b>Get-to-know-you participant survey</b> <i>Ms. Maryna Zerkal, urban planning consultant to UNECE</i>
<b>14:50 - 15:50</b>	<b>Step-by-step procedure for conducting the SEA of urban planning documentation</b> <i>Ms. Natalia Trofymenko, SEA consultant to UNECE</i> <i>Mr. Dmytro Skrylnikov, legal expert to UNECE</i> <i>Ms. Maryna Zerkal, urban planning consultant to UNECE</i>
<b>15:50 - 16:00</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>16:00 - 16:30</b>	<b>Unified register of SEA</b> <i>Ms. Maryna Shymkus, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources</i>
<b>16:30 - 17:00</b>	<b>Q&amp;A session</b>
<b>17:00 - 17:10</b>	<b>Summing up and closing the event</b> <i>Ms. Maryna Shymkus, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine</i>

## Annex 2: Survey results



**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

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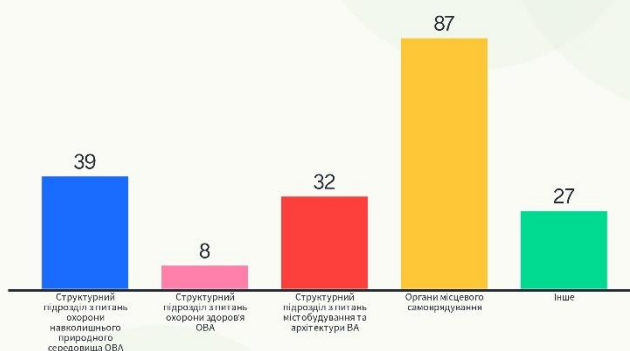
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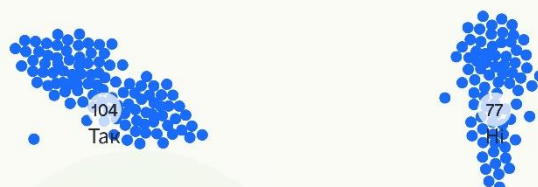
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## Який орган влади Ви представляєте?



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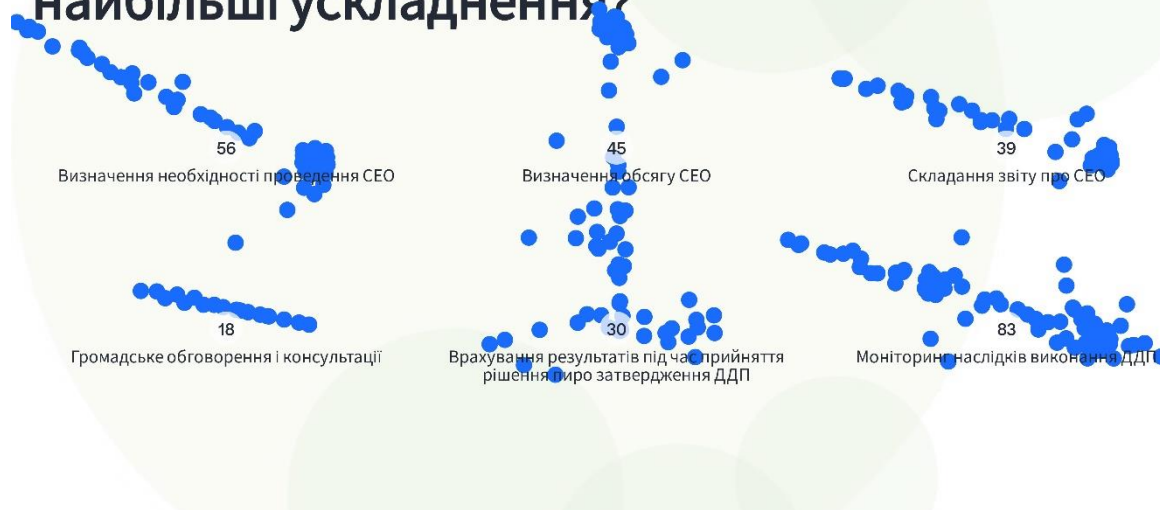
## Чи мали Ви досвід здійснення процедури SEO?



## Які аспекти реалізації процедури SEO викликають найбільші ускладнення



## Які етапи реалізації SEO викликають найбільші ускладнення?



## Що на Вашу думку має стати інструментом оптимізації здійснення процедур SEO?

