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EU4Environment

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

Second Training Workshop on the Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Regional and Spatial Planning

Draft Agenda

15 October 2021, 10:00-16:00 Baku time
Baku, Azerbaijan

Due to COVID-19, this workshop 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:



Second Training Workshop on the Practical Application of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Regional and Spatial Planning

15 October 2021

10:00 Baku time

Background

SEA is recognized as a practical and efficient planning and environmental governance tool applied in order to ensure that a wide range of public plans, programmes and other strategic documents that can have serious effects on the environment (e.g., draft government plans or programmes concerning land use, transport, energy, waste, agriculture, etc.) are developed while taking into account environmental, climate and health considerations. Following the principles and procedures laid down in the UNECE Protocol on SEA to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and in the European Union's Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC), Azerbaijan is implementing SEA to allow for identification of the most sustainable and cost-effective strategic development alternatives and attracting new investments, while safeguarding and improving the environment. Spatial planning, including regional plans, is one of the biggest and most comprehensive sectors of SEA application with considerable developments over the past decades and the vast experience available, in particular, from countries in the European Union.

Since 2004, UNECE has been providing technical assistance and capacity-building support related to SEA and transboundary EIA, including in the Caucasus and Eastern Europe. This support is currently being provided under the European Union funded EU4Environment programme (2019-2022) to assist the Eastern Partnership countries, including Azerbaijan, in comprehensive capacity-building and institutional building for SEA and transboundary EIA and in finalizing legal reforms in this area.

The application of SEA in practice however remains rather limited in the country as the overall institutional capacities for SEA require significantly more strengthening to be fully fit for purpose. There is still a need to support environmental, health and sectoral planning authorities through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities addressing, inter alia, relevant procedures and challenges as well as respective roles of different authorities and stakeholders in the implementation of SEA procedures.

This workshop is the second of the two SEA training workshops planned for Azerbaijan. Both focus on the application of SEA in regional and spatial planning, which is a very significant but also specific and challenging domain of the application of SEA. The workshop will be facilitated by SEA consultants to UNECE.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes

The main objectives of the workshop are to:

- Further enhance capacities for the application of SEA in Azerbaijan in line with the requirements of the UNECE Protocol on SEA, EU SEA Directive and the national legislation on SEA.

- Support the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources in raising awareness about the SEA, SEA-related regulatory framework and its application;
- Facilitate the exchange of experience in SEA for spatial planning from other Eastern Partnership countries;
- Facilitate the engagement of key stakeholders and continued exchange of experience on SEA in the national Regional and Spatial planning context.

The workshop is expected to facilitate expert-level discussion on the practical application of SEA for regional and spatial plans in Azerbaijan.

Participants

The workshop will gather up to 40 participants from the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, city planning authorities, Architectural Committee, selected line ministries/agencies as well as environmental NGOs active in this area.

Practical Information

The workshop will be organized as a virtual event via Zoom. All registered participants will receive connection details to access the platform. Simultaneous interpretation in English and Azerbaijani 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 better manage environmental risks and impacts.

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 2019-2022.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org

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

DRAFT AGENDA

Time (Baku)	Item
10:00 – 10:10	Connection testing (10 min)
10:10 – 10:25	Welcoming remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Representative of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan</i> • <i>Representative of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan (tbc)</i> • <i>Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, Environmental Affairs Officer, EU4Environment Project Manager at UNECE</i>
10:25 – 10:40	Meeting objectives and agenda
10:40 – 11:10	SEA and Regional and Spatial Planning <i>Questions and answers</i>
11:10 – 11:30	Experience from another Eastern Partnership country: Guidelines on SEA for Urban Planning Documents in Ukraine under development with EU4Environment assistance
11:30 – 13:00	SEA for Regional and Spatial Plans: Selected case examples <i>Interactive discussion/group work</i> <i>Survey/scoping exercise</i>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:00	SEA in Spatial Planning: Key issues in Azerbaijan
15:00 – 15:50	Concluding discussion and quiz
15:50 – 16:00	Concluding remarks