



ევროკავშირი
საქართველოსთვის

Project funded by the European Union

EU4Environment

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

EU4Environment supports Georgia's commitment to applying strategic environmental assessment

Tbilisi, 16 March 2022

EU4Environment is assisting Georgia in enhancing its Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) system in line with the country's Environmental Assessment Code that has transposed requirements of the [European Union's Directive on SEA](#) and of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Protocol on SEA. A pilot SEA project for two spatial plans under development in Gurjaani municipality, Kakheti is the most important component of this assistance. SEA allows Georgia to mainstream environmental, climate and health objectives into its strategic documents and is an effective tool towards achieving sustainable development and global climate commitments. Applying SEA to spatial planning brings nature back to cities and towns and contributes to the greening of investments.

Speaking in the pilot project's virtual kick-off event, Mzia Giorgobiani, Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia, noted: *"There are important interlinkages between spatial planning and SEA. This pilot SEA project is important and will serve as a roadmap to guide other municipalities in the preparation of similar documents in the future."*

Georgia committed to applying strategic environmental assessment (SEA) to draft government plans, programmes and other strategic documents under the EU-Georgia Association Agreement. This pilot project will provide hands-on learning, including analytical, consultative and methodological support, for applying SEA in this area and will run in parallel with spatial plans development. Ultimately, this pilot SEA will serve as a reference case example for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Georgia. Spatial planning is one of the largest and most comprehensive sectors where SEA is systematically and effectively used to safeguard the environment.

A virtual event organised by UNECE in cooperation with the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia and the Ministry of Regional Development and Infrastructure of Georgia on 16 March 2022 kicked off this pilot project, familiarised the relevant national and local authorities, experts and non-governmental organisations with the objectives of the SEA and discussed in more detail the benefits and potential constraints of its implementation.

Alexandre Darras, Team Leader Connectivity, Energy, Environment and Climate Change of the EU Delegation to Georgia, noted: *"It is positive that the Environmental Assessment Code was adopted in Georgia, and that strategic environmental assessments now have to be conducted for key programmes and strategic documents. We are happy through the EU4Environment programme to implement a pilot SEA of two spatial plans for the Municipality of Gurjaani. There is no better way to learn than through doing. I hope that the work done in Gurjaani together with the experts of EU4Environment will serve as a reference for the future Strategic Environmental Assessments for spatial planning to*

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be conducted in Georgia, and will contribute to making Georgia's municipalities even more sustainable and environmentally friendly."

EU4Environment Action, funded by the European Union, aims to support Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to preserve and better use their natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being, and grasp new development opportunities. With a budget of some EUR 20 million for all six countries, EU4Environment is carried out from 2019 to 2022 with implementation support by five international partners: OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE and the World Bank.

<https://www.eu4environment.org>

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