



Seminar on the application of strategic environmental assessment in Armenia

EaP GREEN programme (Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood)

A G E N D A

23-24 March 2015, Hotel Congress, Italy 1 street, Yerevan, Armenia

The two-day seminar is organized by the Ministry of Nature Protection of Armenia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and NGO Eco-Globe within the framework of the EU funded Programme “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN). The aim of the seminar is to assist the Republic of Armenia with implementation of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in compliance with the provisions of the SEA Protocol to the Espoo Convention and relevant EU Directives. The objectives of the seminar are:

- raise awareness about the recent development of the national legislation related to the environmental assessment in Armenia
- clarify roles of various stakeholders in the SEA process
- facilitate debate about practical steps and arrangements for application of SEA
- facilitate debate about the scope of application of SEA (possible approaches to SEA screening)
- identify needs for further development of SEA-relevant legislation
- identify opportunities for conducting a pilot SEA in Armenia

In order to allow for addressing the above objectives, particular attention is paid to the establishment of common understanding not only on the very concept of SEA, but also on the system of strategic planning in Armenia. Therefore, sections presenting the national system of strategic planning and examples from individual sectorial ministries planning processes are important part of the seminar agenda. Thus, the seminar shall facilitate an informed debate among the national experts representing potential stakeholders in SEA processes.

The event will gather up to 30 participants from sectorial ministries, in particular those responsible for economics, industry, agriculture and health, as well as representatives of donor agencies/International Financial Institutions, civil society, practitioners, planners, and environmental authorities.

Monday, 23 March 2015

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| 09:30 -10:00 | Registration of participants |
| 10:00 – 10:10 | Opening by the representative of the Ministry of Environment of Armenia
<i>Mr. Symon Papyan, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA (tbc)</i> |
| 10:10 – 10:25 | Welcome remarks
<i>Representative of the Delegation of the EU Commission in Armenia</i>
<i>Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE secretariat to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment</i> |
| 10:25 – 11:00 | Introduction and expectations of the participants |
| 11:00 – 11:20 | Coffee break |



- 11:20 – 11:40 **Introduction to the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment and technical assistance within EU funded EaP GREEN Programme**
Ms. Elena Santer, UNECE secretariat to the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment
- 11:40 – 12:30 **Introduction into Strategic Environmental Assessment and the EU SEA Directive**
Presentation by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts
- 12:30 – 13:00 **Benefits of SEA (illustrative examples of successful SEA cases in EU and worldwide for different economic sectors)**
Presentation by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Lessons from the SEA of the Yerevan Master Plan**
Presentation of Ms. Azganush Drnoyan, Senior Expert of SER department, Ministry of Environment
- 14:30 – 15:00 **Potential benefits of SEA for Armenia**
- Discussion**
Led by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts
- 15:00 – 15:10 **Introduction of other EaP GREEN initiatives**
Ms. Anahit Aleksandryan, EaP GREEN Focal Point, Ministry of Nature Protection
- 15:10- 15:20 **System of strategic planning in the Republic of Armenia**
- Representative of the Ministry of Economy of RA, GREEN National Focal point, Ministry of Economy about the writing system of strategic planning (tbc):*
- Explanation of the term “baseline (planning) document” used by the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the environmental impact assessment and expertise"
 - Main types of the “baseline (planning) documents”
 - Typical structure, ways of preparation and approval, applied consultation procedures etc.
- 15:20 – 15:35 **Application of SEA in the context of the Law of the Republic of Armenia "On the environmental impact assessment and expertise"**
Brief presentation by Ms. Azganush Drnoyan, Senior Expert of SER department, Ministry of Environment
- outline of the key provisions of the Law with the focus on practical issues
- 15:35 – 16:00 **Potential for applicability of SEA and implications for sectorial ministries and other authorities in Armenia**
Coffee break to be served during this session
- Discussion (based on the two above sessions)**
Facilitated by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts
- 16:00 – 17:20 **Examples of strategic planning documents prepared by national authorities**



Presentations by the sectorial ministries (up to 10 minutes each, 5-6 presentations)

- *Overview of “baseline (planning) documents” recently prepared (or under preparation) by the Ministry*
- *Outline of the applied planning process (main phases, time frame, consultations, way of approval)*
- *Opinion on linkages of the planning document to the environment and applicability of SEA in the given sectorial planning context*

17:20 – 17:30 **Concluding discussion: Potential and barriers for the application of SEA in Armenia**
Led by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts

17:30 – 17:40 **Conclusions and closure of Day 1**

Tuesday, 24 March 2015

9:30 – 9:45 **Summary of Day 1**
Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts

09:45 – 10:45 **Practical aspects of the SEA application in accordance with the national legislation and SEA Protocol (namely for initiation of the SEA process)**

- *Simulation game: practical steps to be undertaken in order to initiate a SEA process (with participation of Competent authority as defined by Law on "On the environmental impact assessment and expertise" and volunteer Ministries who would like to initiate a SEA for their hypothetical plan/programme)*

Facilitation by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts

10:45 – 11:00 **Coffee break**

11:00 – 11:10 **Presentation by the United Nations Development Programme, tentatively proposed to cover:**

- UNDP (GEF) (10 min):
 - information regarding the plans for the preparation of the Integrated Forestry Project, city plans, green economy strategy, etc.
 - experience and lessons learned from dealing with comprehensive environmental assessment
 - possibilities of accommodating SEA in the planning process supervised by UNDP

11:10 – 12:00 **Presentations by International Financial Institutions (up to 10 minutes each, 3 presentations), tentatively proposed to cover:**

- ADB (10 min):
 - experience with the recent development of the national waste management strategy of Armenia (overview of planning process, time frame, consultations, etc.)
 - possibilities of accommodating SEA in the planning process supervised by ADB



- World Bank (10 min):
 - outline their general plans in supporting Armenia in strategic planning and possibility to accommodating SEA in their projects
- EBRD (10 min):
 - outline their general plans in supporting Armenia in strategic planning and possibility to accommodating SEA in their projects, including Regional Waste Management Planning

Questions – answers (20 min)

12:00 – 13:00	Identification of a potential plan / programme for the pilot application of SEA in Armenia Discussion <i>Led by Ms. Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku and Mr. Michal Musil, UNECE experts and National Coordinator</i>
13:00 – 13:15	Conclusions and closure of the workshop
13:15 – 14:15	Lunch