Contribution of the Espoo Convention & Protocol on SEA to implementation of SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

George Kremlis, Chair of the Bureau

Espoo Convention and Protocol on SEA =

- Cross-cutting legal instruments that can facilitate achievement of targets under nearly all SDGs;
- Provide for early integration of environmental and health considerations into all economic and regional development planning - and foster international cooperation in this;
- Enshrine precautionary approach: allow anticipating, preventing and mitigating environmental damage;
- Contribute to rendering decision-making more inclusive, transparent and participatory by requiring consultation of authorities and the public

SDGs: Key messages and outcomes from Meetings of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (Minsk, June 2017)

- **Minsk Declaration** emphasized the Treaties' role in translating global commitments into practical action at national level;
- **Panel discussion on SDGs** confirmed the contribution of the Convention and the Protocol to achievement of SDGs and targets;
- **Workplan for 2017-2020**: with planned activities to contribute to SDG implementation; e.g.
  - Development of guidance on application of SEA to urban planning (for target 11.3)
- Decision on **possible long-term strategy and action plan** to identify actions, partnerships and funding, including for SDG implementation

Main outputs from UNECE activities financed by EU (EaP GREEN)

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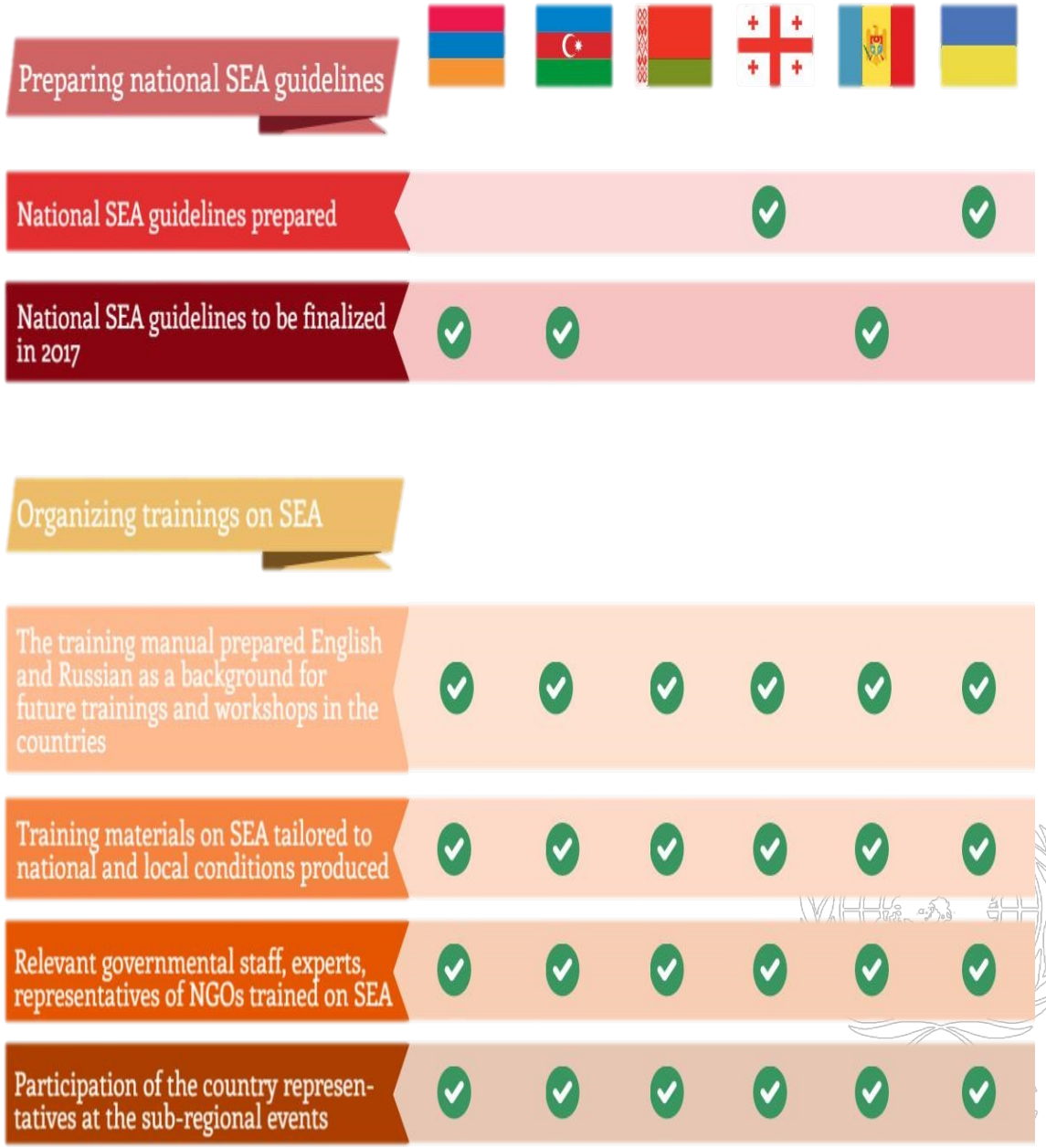

Overview of the main outputs from UNECE activities in Central Asia

- **New EIA legislation in Kyrgyzstan** (with Swiss funding)

- **Legislative assistance on SEA in Kazakhstan,** to be followed by pilot application of SEA to Kazakh Fuel and Energy strategy (funded by EU)

- **Draft revised Guidelines on application of transboundary EIA for Central Asian countries,** including to address likely environmental challenges from Belt and Road Initiative (funded by Switzerland)

Thank you

More information from:
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