Introduction to the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment to the Espoo Convention

Secretariat to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
26 September 2014
Yerevan, Armenia
Content

• General

• Objectives

• Procedure

• Benefits

• Technical assistance under the EaP Green
Protocol on SEA

- To the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention)

- Related to the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)

- Adopted in 2003 (Kyiv), in force since 2010

- 26 Parties, including the EU

- Armenia: ratified in January 2011

- Global instrument open to any Member State of the United Nations
Espoo Convention vs. Protocol

**scope of application**

Espoo **Convention:**
- Specific **activities** (projects)
- **Transboundary** procedures

Protocol:
- **Plans** and **programmes** (and policies and legislation)
- **National** procedures
Objectives (art. 1)

- To **ensure** that environmental, including health, considerations are **thoroughly taken into account** in the development of **plans and programmes**;

- To **contribute to the consideration** of environmental, including health, concerns in the **preparation of policies and legislation**;

- To establish **clear, transparent** and **effective** procedures for SEA;

- To provide for **public participation** in SEA;

- To integrate by these means environmental, including health, concerns into measures and instruments designed to further **sustainable development**
to ensure that the **necessary** legislative, regulatory and other **appropriate** measures are taken **to implement** the provisions of **the Protocol** within a **clear, transparent framework** (Art.3.1)
Main steps on SEA (under the Protocol)

- **Screening**: Is an SEA required? (Art. 4, 5)

- **Scoping**: What is the content of the assessment and the report? (Art. 6)

- **Environmental report**: Preparation of the report (Art. 7) (description & analysis of impact / alternatives)

- **Consultation**: Input from relevant authorities and the public (Art. 8, 9)

- **Transboundary** consultations (Art. 10)

- **Final decision**: into account the conclusions of the report and the consultation outcomes (Art. 11)

- **Monitoring**: unforeseen adverse effects during the implementation and remedial action (Art. 12)
Benefits

and why should we care for SEA?..

• Better plans and programmes, policies and laws, because
  • Efficient decision-making that
  • Prevents costly irreparable damage
  • Identifies new opportunities for development
  • Is solid and has community support
  • Enables transboundary cooperation

• Key to green economy and climate change adaptation

• High level of environmental protection and wellbeing of the individuals and communities
For more information

Visit our website:
www.unece.org/env/eia

Or email:
eia.conv@unece.org
Greening Economies in Eastern Neighbourhood Programme (EaP GREEN)

Technical advice and capacity-building to support the implementation of the Protocol: the role of the secretariat
A large sub-regional programme for the period **2013-2016**

- Implemented by **UNECE**, OECD, UNEP, and UNIDO

- Financed by the European Union, the four implementing organisations and other donors

- Aims to assist **Armenia**, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, in their transition to green economy
**Overall objective:** To assist the EaP countries to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion.

**Three pillars components**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMPONENT 1: Governance and finance tools</th>
<th>COMPONENT 2: SEA and EIA</th>
<th>COMPONENT 3: Demonstration projects</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1: Strategic policy setting</td>
<td>2.1: Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks</td>
<td>3.1: Development of capacity for RECP (Resource Efficient and Cleaner Production)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2: Green growth indicators</td>
<td>2.2: Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures, following good practices including those in use in the EU</td>
<td>3.2: RECP implementation, dissemination and replication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.3: Identifying environmentally-harmful subsidies and launching subsidy reform</td>
<td>2.3: RECP technology support</td>
<td>3.3: RECP technology support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.4: Creating market incentives for greener products</td>
<td>2.4: Sustainable public procurement</td>
<td>3.4: Sustainable public procurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.5: Improving investment policies and access to finance</td>
<td>2.5: Promoting organic agriculture</td>
<td>3.5: Promoting organic agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6: Greening of SMEs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.7: Promoting green procurement practices</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNECE Component 2 aims to** promote the use of SEA and EIA as essential planning tools to achieve the overall objective.
### Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative framework

- Legislative review of SEA and, as appropriate, of EIA
- Legal drafting for SEA legislation
- Sub-regional overview

### Capacity building on SEA/EIA procedures

- National and sub-national level training on SEA
- Development of national guidance documents
- Coordination and experience-sharing events
- Pilot SEAs and EIAs

### Strengthening administrative capacities

- Legislative reviews and development of recommendations
- Policy dialogue
- Institutional reviews and recommendations
EaP GREEN activities in Armenia

Past activities

• National level **training** workshop on SEA (26-29 November **2013**)
• **Legislative review** on SEA/opinion paper (May-October **2014**)
• The **national roundtable** (26 September **2014**)

Forthcoming activities

• **Possible** assistance to **drafting amendments** (determine the actors, the timeline, the process) (Oct 2014 - Jan 2015)
• **Pilot** application of SEA on an identified project (Master Plan in Dilijan has been cancelled) (end 2014-2015) (key for practical application to identify a new strategic document!)
• Additional **training** workshops (2015-2016)
• Development of the **national guidelines on SEA** (based on the new law and the results of the pilot) (end 2015-2016)
EaP GREEN activities in Armenia - subregional

- Technical advice and capacity-building activities to support the implementation of the UNECE Protocol on SEA in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (15 - 16 April 2014), Minsk

- Study tour in the Czech Republic “Application of SEA at the national level in the field of urban planning, waste management, agriculture and energy sector” (1 - 5 December 2014), Prague

- Lessons learned from pilot projects application (Autumn 2015), Tbilisi
For more information on EaP GREEN

Visit UNECE website:

OECD website:
Enjoy the workshop!

Your views are welcome!