

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

106th meeting
Geneva, 8 July 2019

Item 8

Informal Document No. **2019/31**

Extrabudgetary project

**Improved production of the UNECE set of environmental indicators
and implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA)
in the Eastern Partnership countries**

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM**

Project title: Improved production of the UNECE set of environmental indicators and implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) in the Eastern Partnership countries		
Expected timing/ duration: July 2019 - January 2020		
Objective and brief summary of the project: The EU-funded European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI) Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) II EAST project represents the continuation of an on-going cooperation between the UNECE and the European Environment Agency (EEA) on SEIS in the six countries of the Eastern Partnership with the EU (EaP) (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine), addressing the challenge of organizing a vast array of environmental statistics, data and information necessary for regular environmental reporting, based on the SEIS principles and practices. The objective of the proposed project is to further improve environmental reporting and national assessments and promote the comparability of environmental datasets and indicators in line with the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators. This would have a positive impact on national capacities of the countries of the EaP to monitor and report on progress towards the SDGs at all levels. The project will be implemented through the following activities: A1.1. Participation of the target countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine) in the planned sessions of the 16 th session of the Joint Task Force on Environmental Statistics and Indicators (Geneva, 28-29 October 2019); A1.2. Participation of the target countries in a seminar on the implementation of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) (Geneva, date to be determined); A2.1. Review of the UNECE set of environmental indicators as part of updating and publishing the next edition of the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in 2020.		
Expected results of the project: EA1. Strengthening capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies of the countries of the EaP to collect and produce the required data sets, with quality assurance/quality control standards comparable with EU/EEA as input to the production and use of the UNECE set of environmental indicators in accordance with SEIS principles and practices; EA2. Improved capacities of the countries of the EaP to prepare regular state-of-the-environment, indicator-based assessments and thematic assessments using comparable indicators and assessments in line with EU/EEA and UNECE best practice and the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (FDES).		
Target group and beneficiaries of the project: Beneficiary countries are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. The target group are experts from relevant ministries and agencies responsible for the development and production of environmental indicators and statistics.		
Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work: The project is directly linked to the Expected accomplishment (c) “Strengthened national capacity for environmental monitoring and assessment systems in the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe” of the Subprogramme 1 “Environment” of the UNECE Strategic framework 2018-2019 and the objective of the Subprogramme 1 “Environment” “to improve environmental governance and performance throughout the ECE region for safeguarding the environment and human health” of the UNECE Proposed programme budget for 2020.		
Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff): 10 days of RB /P3 and 2 days of RB /P5		
Estimated extra budgetary resources:		
Donor	Amount (€)	
European Environment Agency (EEA)	50,000	
Project Manager: Nicholas Bonvoisin 11.06.2019	Section/Division: Environment	
Cleared by Programme Management Unit: Catherine Haswell Chief 11.06.2019	Approved by EXCOM¹	08.07.2019

¹ See paragraph 31 (a) of Commission decision A(65).

Annex
Results-based budget for the extra-budgetary project

Expected Accomplishments	Planned activities	Estimated costs (EUR €)
EA1. Strengthening capacities of national environmental authorities and statistical agencies of the countries of the EaP to collect and produce the required data sets, with quality assurance/quality control standards comparable with EU/EEA as input to the production and use of the UNECE set of environmental indicators in accordance with SEIS principles and practices;	A1.1. Participation of the target countries in the planned session of the Joint Task Force and the seminar on the Implementation of System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SEEA) 1,600 € per participant x 2 participant per target country	19,200 19,200
	A1.2 Participation of the target countries in the seminar on the Implementation of System of Environmental- Economic Accounting (SEEA) 1,600 € per participant x 2 participant per target country	19,200 19,200
	A2.1. Review of the UNECE set of environmental indicators as part of updating and publishing the next edition of the UNECE Guidelines for the Application of Environmental Indicators in 2020: 1 international consultant to provide general support to review the UNECE Guidelines on Environmental Indicators as well as support the preparation of any relevant inputs for national roundtables of the ENI-SEIS II East project and the work of the Task Force on Access to Information under the Aarhus Convention 2 work months x 2,800 €/month	8,100 5,600
	UNECE participation at the ENI SEIS II Steering Committee meeting 1 mission x 2,500 €	2,500
Budget summary		46,500
7% of Programme Support Costs		3,500
Total		50,000