

UNECE



Integration of SEA into the existing environmental assessment and decision- making system

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Feasibility

- There are linkages between OVOS/SER and SEA (UNECE SEA Protocol)
- Selected differences are mostly related to:
 - Absence of screening (OVOS/SER is required to too many PPs even with minor environmental impacts);
 - Consultations with authorities are absent during screening and scoping;
 - Scope of the SEA and analytical approaches are not adapted to “strategic nature” of PPs;
 - Public may not always be give opportunity to express opinions on the proposed PP and the SEA report.



Key options for integration of SEA elements into elaboration of plans and programmes

By integration into the planning process:

- SEA separated from planning
- SEA partially integrated into planning
- SEA fully integrated into planning

By integration into environmental assessment process:

- External environmental experts (objective, open competition);
- National environmental authority (a branch or a centre under the MoE) (expensive)
- Within the planning team (subjective);



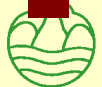
Assumptions and preconditions for transposition

- *Availability of the national practice in SEA (at least several pilots conducted in the country by local experts) using SEA Protocol requirements;*
- *Capacity development and awareness raising of the planners and assessment experts on the SEA Protocol requirements (stakeholders have to be acquainted with the requirements before participation in discussions on transposition);*
- *National discussion on the proposed transposed requirements of the UNECE SEA Protocol;*
- *Detailed analysis of relationship between the Protocol and the local environmental framework requirements for OVOS/SER.*



Benefits of transposition

- Improves the existing assessment system by making it more efficient, open and functional;
- Increases coherency of strategic planning via inputs into the planning process;
- Reduces unnecessary assessment costs (though screening);
- “Upgraded SEA” provides inputs to the planning process from the concerned institutions and the public during more stages of the assessment and encourages consultations via meetings;
- Mobilizes support of key stakeholders for implementation of optimized PPs;
- Enables stronger linkages with other PPs.



Challenges

- Requires strong stakeholder coordination action;
- Requires changes of the existing legal and regulatory framework;
- Takes time (due to consultations and preparation) and costs (administrative).

