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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Micro-Regional Combined Spatial Plan for Gegharkunik Region (Gegharkunik-2)

TRAINING AGENDA

18 November 2022, 14:00 – 17:00 Yerevan time
Yerevan, Armenia

Action implemented by:



Training event: Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Micro-Regional Combined Spatial Plan for Gegharkunik Region

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Background

Within the framework of the European Union-funded “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment) programme (2019 – 2023), UNECE is assisting Armenia in strengthening its SEA system in line with the requirements of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context and of the European Union’s Directive on SEA (2001/42/EC).

Since April 2022, to further enhance capacities for practical application of SEA in Armenia, at the request of the Ministry of Environment and the Urban Development Committee, UNECE has supported the preparation of a pilot SEA project for a draft micro-regional combined spatial plan for the country’s largest region Gegharkunik (the plan is shortly entitled Gegharkunik-2). The pilot SEA will be implemented in parallel with the development of Gegharkunik-2.

The pilot SEA will provide hands-on learning for applying SEA in spatial planning (involving analytical and consultative tasks and, as needed, methodological coaching on the preparation and quality control of SEA related reports). It will further build national capacities on SEA procedures and raise the awareness of the SEA in spatial planning while demonstrating its sector-specific benefits. This training will introduce the pilot SEA, the national and international law requirements concerning the SEA and international best practices to the selected experts in Armenia.

Meeting the objective of the event

- to build capacities on the practical application of SEA in the municipal spatial planning sector (with a specific focus on the scoping phase in SEA)
- to introduce main principles of efficient SEA application to the spatial plans, its benefits, legal requirements, practical steps, and outputs.

The following outputs/strategic benefits will also be achieved:

- the event will further contribute to positioning the pilot project as the reference case example it is intended to be for the application of SEA to spatial planning in Armenia

Participants

The training will gather up to 10 participants from the Ministry of Environment, Urban Development Committee, a planning team tasked with the development of Gegharkunik-2, national experts.

Practical Information

The training will take place at the **Conference Hall of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia: Republic Square, Government House 3, Floor 5, Yerevan**. The event will allow both participation in person and access via Zoom. Invited participants will receive further details regarding in-person participation and/or connection details in Zoom. Simultaneous interpretation (Armenian and English) will be provided.

About EU4Environment

The “European Union for Environment” (EU4Environment – Green Economy) Action helps the Eastern Partnership countries preserve their natural capital and increase people's environmental well-being, by supporting environment-related action, demonstrating and unlocking opportunities for greener growth, and setting mechanisms to better manage environmental risks and impacts.

It is funded by the European Union and implemented by five Partner organisations - OECD, UNECE, UNEP, UNIDO, and the World Bank – over 2019-2024 period, with a budget of EUR 20 million.

For further information contact: EU4Environment@oecd.org.

For more information please visit our website: www.eu4environment.org.

For further information specifically on activities on SEA and transboundary EIA implemented by UNECE, please contact: leonid.kalashnyk@un.org

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Time (Yerevan)	Item
13:50 – 14:00	Connection testing
14:00 – 14:10	Introduction of the training agenda and its topics
14:10 – 15:15	<p>Introduction to SEA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA objectives and benefits – Mr. Michal Musil , International SEA Expert • Main principles of efficient SEA application to spatial plans - Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert • Case examples of effective SEA on spatial plans - Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert <p>Q&A</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National legal requirements for SEA: introduction to Law “On environmental impacts assessment and expertise” – Ms. Azganush Drnoyan , National Consultant <p>Q&A</p>
15:15 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 16:50	<p>Practical aspects of effective SEA implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA Scoping, SEA coordination with the planning process - Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert • Preparation of scoping matrix for the draft Micro-Regional Combined Spatial Plan for Gegharkunik Region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identification of potential health and environmental issues associated with the plan <p>Discussion facilitated by Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert; Ms. Azganush Drnoyan, National Consultant, and Ms. Elyanora Grigoryan, Legal Advisor to the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia and National Focal Point under the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA</p> <p>Q&A</p>
16:50 -17:00	Future steps/Closure of the event