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**EU4Environment**  
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Public Hearing on  
the Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Master Plan of the  
city of Ganja**

**Draft agenda  
28 September 2023,  
09.30-13.00 (Baku time)**

**Leon Hotel  
73 Ruzigar Qasimov St.  
Ganja city, Azerbaijan**

This event will be organized as an in-person meeting in the city of Ganja. It will also provide a possibility for participants to connect using the Zoom platform. Invited participants who are not in Ganja/cannot participate in person will receive connection details to access the platform.

Action implemented by:



## Public Hearing on the Pilot Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja

28 September 2023,  
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### Background

Within the framework of the European Union-funded EU4Environment programme, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) has been assisting the Eastern Partnership countries, including Azerbaijan, in comprehensive capacity-building and institutional building on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and in finalizing legal reforms in this area since 2019.

Since 2022, to further enhance capacities for practical application of SEA in Azerbaijan, at the request of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources (MENR) and the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), UNECE has supported the implementation of a pilot SEA project for the draft master plan under development for the city of Ganja. The pilot SEA provides hands-on learning for applying SEA in urban planning (involving analytical and consultative tasks and, as needed, methodological coaching on the preparation and quality control of SEA related reports). This supports further building national capacities on SEA procedures and raising the awareness of the SEA in urban planning while demonstrating its sector-specific benefits.

Public participation is one of the cornerstones of effective SEA. It can increase the transparency and credibility of decision-making, help ensure that all relevant issues are considered during the plan-making process and allow the timely consideration of the public's opinions in this process.

The public hearing event is organized by MENR and UNECE with the involvement of SCUPA and Ganja City Executive Power to facilitate public participation in relation to the draft SEA Report and the draft master plan it is associated with. Its organization is consistent with the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on "Public Participation".

### Objectives of the public hearing:

- To enable the public concerned/local stakeholders to learn more of and comment on the draft Master Plan of the city of Ganja and the associated preliminary draft SEA Report.
- To present and discuss the preliminary draft of the SEA Report and its key findings;
- To inform the public concerned/local stakeholders about the means of providing their comments.

### Expected outputs and outcomes:

- Suggestions and comments on the SEA findings arising from the event will be considered in further refinement and finalization of the SEA Report, including formulation of recommendations for the finalization of the Master Plan of the city of Ganja

- Suggestions and comments to the content of the draft Master Plan will be taken into account in the course of the Master Plan finalization
- Stakeholders in the Ganja-Gazakh economic region will gain valuable experience for executing future SEA processes from this pilot SEA and the first ever SEA public hearing in the region.

### **Participants**

The event will invite representatives of relevant stakeholders in the city of Ganja, aiming to gather over 40 participants, including NGOs, state entities, representatives of municipalities, academia and SEA practitioners/experts.

### **Practical Information**

The event will be organized at Leon Hotel, Ganja on 28 September 2023, 09.30-13.00 local time. English and Azerbaijani are the languages of the event. English-Azerbaijani simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

Additionally, the event will provide a possibility to connect using the Zoom platform. Invited participants who are not in Ganja/cannot participate in person will receive connection details to access the platform.

### **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](mailto:EU4Environment@oecd.org).

For more information, please visit our website: [www.eu4environment.org](http://www.eu4environment.org).

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

Information on SEA/EIA activities at the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, please contact: [aysel.rzayeva@eco.gov.az](mailto:aysel.rzayeva@eco.gov.az)

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### DRAFT AGENDA

Time (Baku)	Item
09:00 – 09:30	Registration and welcome coffee
09:30 – 09:45	<b>Opening and welcome remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Head of subdivision, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MENR), National Focal Point to the Espoo Convention</li> <li>• Representative of SCUPA (tbc)</li> <li>• Representative of Ganja City Executive Authority (tbc)</li> <li>• Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)</li> </ul>
09:45 – 10:05	<b>Presentation of the draft Master Plan of Ganja</b> By SCUPA representative (tbc)
10:05-10:45	<b>Q&amp;A on the draft Master Plan</b> Moderated by SCUPA representative(s) - tbc
10:45-11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00-11:30	<b>Presentation of findings of the draft SEA Report</b> By Mr. Michal Musil, International SEA Expert to UNECE, and Mr. Amin Mammadov, SEA Expert, Team Leader
11:30-12:50	<b>Discussion on the findings</b> Moderated by Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
12.50-13.00	<b>Closing remarks</b> Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources