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EU4Environment
Green Economy in Eastern Partner Countries

**Awareness-Raising Event on the SEA and EIA Component of the
EU4Environment Programme in Azerbaijan**

**Draft agenda
29 September 2023,
10.00-13.00 (Baku time)**

**Leon Hotel
73 Ruziqar 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:



Awareness-Raising Event on the SEA and EIA Component of the EU4Environment Programme in Azerbaijan

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10.00-13.00 (Baku time)

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.

The event is organized by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan and UNECE to raise awareness of the benefits of environmental assessment and relevant results of the EU4Environment-supported activities in Azerbaijan among a variety of stakeholders, particularly those at the local level.

Meeting objectives, expected outputs and outcomes.

- To present the key outcomes and results regarding SEA and EIA achieved in Azerbaijan within the EU4Environment programme;
- To summarize the main principles of efficient SEA practice and benefits of SEA with a focus on stakeholders at the local level;
- To discuss priorities regarding further development of the SEA and EIA system in the country.

Participants

The event will invite representatives of relevant stakeholders in the city of Ganja, aiming to gather over 40 participants, including state, public, private entities, academia and other interested parties.

Practical Information

The event will be organized at Leon Hotel, Ganja on 29 September 2023, 10.00-13.00 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.

A leaflet on SEA- and EIA-related activities under the EU4Environment and practical guidance documents will be presented to the participants of the event.

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

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

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DRAFT AGENDA

| Time (Baku) | Item |
|---------------|---|
| 09:30 – 10:00 | Registration |
| 10:00 – 10:15 | Opening and welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Head of subdivision, International Cooperation Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of Azerbaijan, National Focal Point to the Espoo Convention Representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Azerbaijan (tbc) Mr. Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) |
| 10:15 – 11:00 | UNECE technical assistance and capacity building activities on SEA and EIA in Azerbaijan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A brief introduction of UNECE activities with support from the EU4Environment Programme Mr. Michal Musil, International Expert to UNECE National capacity-building activities on EIA\SEA under the EU4Environment in Azerbaijan, outcomes and lessons learned Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources |
| 11:00-11:15 | Q&A |
| 11:15-11:30 | Coffee break |
| 11:30-12:10 | Principles of efficient SEA practice and benefits of SEA for strategic documents Mr. Michal Musil, International Expert to UNECE |
| 12:10-12:40 | Priority areas and remaining challenges for enhancing the SEA and EIA system in Azerbaijan - moderated by Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, and Mr. Michal Musil, International Expert to UNECE |
| 12:40-12:55 | Discussion |
| 12.55-13.00 | Closing remarks Ms. Aysel Rzayeva, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources |
| 13:00 | Lunch |