

Enhancing Environmental Assessment Systems in Selected Countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus in line with the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

**Results and lessons learned from the 2013-2018 capacity-building activities
in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**



EaPGREEN



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ENHANCING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SYSTEMS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE AND THE CAUCASUS IN LINE WITH THE UNECE PROTOCOL ON STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

RESULTS AND LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE 2013-2018 CAPACITY-BUILDING ACTIVITIES
IN ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, GEORGIA, THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE

GREENING ECONOMIES IN THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME

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Disclaimer

This publication *Enhancing environmental assessment systems in selected countries of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus in line with the UNECE Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment - Results and lessons learned from the 2013-2018 capacity-building activities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine* (hereinafter also ‘Lessons Learned Publication’) was prepared based on the results of the ‘Greening the Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood’ programme (EaP GREEN) funded by the European Union. The views expressed herein are those of authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the EU, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe or the other EaP GREEN implementing organizations.

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The lessons learned publication was prepared by the consultants to the UNECE secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) Martin Smutny, Maia Gachechiladze-Bozhesku, and Michal Musil under the guidance of and with substantial contributions by Elena Santer, the project manager of the EaP GREEN at the UNECE secretariat. UNECE consultants Marina Khotuleva and Matthew Cashmore provided valuable comments and inputs during the preparation of the publication.

Preface

This publication was prepared by the consultants to the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA) with the support of the secretariat and with funding from the EU-funded “Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood” (EaP GREEN) programme. It responds to requests of the countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to produce material documenting lessons learned from five-year capacity building activities for Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine under the EaP GREEN.

The publication is intended to address the authorities and donors, as well as the public and other stakeholders, in countries that are in the process of establishing national environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) systems and/or promoting their systematic implementation. The countries and potential donors may find the publication useful in planning and carrying out further technical assistance and capacity building projects with the ultimate aim of acceding to the Protocol on SEA and the Espoo Convention (if not yet Parties) and effectively implementing them.

The publication briefly introduces the Convention and the Protocol and the procedures they set out. Activities carried out, their outcomes and achievements, remaining challenges and issues, lessons learned and recommendations for further development of SEA and EIA systems are presented on a country specific basis and for the sub-region as a whole. This structure of the document is intended to facilitate use of the information from the publication for planning and programming further technical assistance in each of the countries and in the sub-region.

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I. INTRODUCTION

A. ABOUT EAP GREEN

1. The 'Greening Economies in the Eastern Neighbourhood' (EaP GREEN) programme assisted six countries of the European Union Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine (see the picture below) – in progressing faster towards a green economy framework. The framework aims to foster decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation resulting in higher productivity and competitiveness, better natural capital management, enhanced environmental quality of life, and more resilient economies.



2. More specifically, the EaP GREEN aimed to:
 - (a) Promote the use of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) as essential planning tools for environmentally sustainable economic development;
 - (b) Mainstream sustainable consumption and production (SCP) into national development plans, legislation and regulatory frameworks with a view to providing a sound legal basis for future policy development in line with the regional and international agreements and processes and consistent with existing EU acquis in the relevant policy areas, and

- (c) Achieve a shift to a green economy through the adoption of sustainable consumption and production practices in selected economic sectors (manufacturing, agriculture, construction, etc.).
- 3. The EaP GREEN was structured around three components:
 - (a) Governance and financing tools;
 - (b) SEA and EIA: accompanying SCP policy implementation; and
 - (c) Demonstration projects.
- 4. The EaP GREEN supported the partner countries' commitments to move towards a green economy as stated in the Joint Declaration of the Warsaw Eastern Partnership Summit (29-30 September 2011) and in the Declaration of the Seventh "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference held in Astana (21-23 September 2011). Its objectives were consistent with the agreed vision in the outcome document of the Rio+20 Summit. It was implemented from January 2013 to April 2018 by the four implementing organizations: the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

B. ROLE OF UNECE

- 5. The UNECE secretariat to the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) and its Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment supported the beneficiary countries in developing and applying SEA and EIA legislation in accordance with the Protocol on SEA, the Espoo Convention, and the European Union SEA and EIA Directives, as required. The supported activities were linked to the workplans under the Convention and the Protocol, contributing to and focusing mostly on promoting the ratification and implementation of the Protocol on SEA. UNECE's assistance within the EaP GREEN addressed three main areas:
 - (a) Revision of the existing national regulatory and legislative frameworks, including legislative reviews of SEA and, as appropriate, of EIA, legal drafting for SEA legislation and sub-regional overview;
 - (b) Capacity building on practical application of SEA and, where relevant, EIA procedures, including national and sub-national level training on SEA, development of national guidance documents, coordination and experience-sharing events, and pilot SEAs;
 - (c) Strengthening of administrative capacities through the above-mentioned legislative reviews, training workshops, pilot projects and facilitation of a policy dialogue.

C. ABOUT THE LESSONS LEARNED PUBLICATION

- 6. The objectives of this publication are to provide:
 - (a) An overview of SEA and EIA activities implemented by the UNECE within the EaP GREEN;
 - (b) Main outcomes and achievements of the project;
 - (c) Lessons learned identifying remaining challenges towards implementation of SEA and EIA schemes in full compliance with the Convention and the Protocol;

(d) Recommendations for further development and reinforcement of those systems in the beneficiary countries.

7. The publication is based on the views of the national counterparts provided during various EaP GREEN funded training and awareness-raising events and the opinions of national and international consultants involved in the EaP GREEN implementation. The recommendations for further development of national SEA and EIA systems in the six beneficiary countries reflect statements made by the representatives of those countries at the final dissemination events carried out from November 2017 to February 2018.¹ They also take into account considerations and actions integrated into the national capacity building strategies or roadmaps prepared by Armenia, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova, and Ukraine.

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

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