



‘Towards a fully-fledged SEA and EIA system in Georgia’ Final event on SEA and EIA component within the EaP GREEN

26 April 2017

Hotel Gallery Palace (5 Ingorokva St.)
Tbilisi, Georgia

The "Greening Economies in the European Union's Eastern Neighbourhood" (EaP GREEN) project assists six countries of the European Union Eastern Neighbourhood Partnership including Georgia in progressing faster towards a green economy framework.¹ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) have been promoted within the EaP GREEN as tools to integrate green economy targets and other sustainability issues into strategic and project-related decision-making to ensure that environmental and health implications of decisions are taken into account before they are made.

Since 2013, the UNECE within the EaP GREEN framework has been assisting Georgia in developing the national SEA and EIA system. The objective of the final event is to:

- To present the outcomes and results regarding SEA and EIA achieved within the EaP GREEN;
- To summarize the key principles of efficient SEA and EIA practice and its benefits;
- To discuss priorities and needs regarding further development of SEA and EIA system in the country.

The conclusions from the discussion will be integrated in the SEA/EIA capacity development strategy to be drafted in order to outline next steps and actions towards national SEA and EIA system meeting the requirements of international legal framework – especially the Espoo Convention and its Protocol on SEA, and EU SEA and EIA Directive.

The event is organized by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection of Georgia in cooperation with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and ‘Georgia’s Environmental Outlook’ (GEO) in the framework of the EaP GREEN.

The workshop will invite representatives of all relevant stakeholders – environmental and health authorities, planning agencies and institutes, local authorities, experts and practitioners, as well as representatives of NGOs.

Agenda

09.30 – 10.00	Registration of participants and welcome coffee
10.00 – 10.15	Opening of the workshop and welcome of the participants <i>Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i>

¹ The EaP GREEN programme is implemented with the financial support of the European Union and other donors, and is jointly implemented by the four partner organisations: OECD, UN Environment, UNECE and UNIDO. More information can be found at <http://www.green-economies-eap.org/>.



	<i>Ms. Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, European Commission, DG NEAR, tbc</i>
10.15 – 10.40	The progress we have made – an overview of the development of SEA and EIA system in Georgia since 2013, major results and achievement <i>Presentation by Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i> <i>Questions and answers</i>
10.40 – 11.00	Overview of the UNECE technical assistance within EaP GREEN <i>Presentation by Mr. Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN coordinator, UNECE consultant</i> <i>Questions and answers</i>
11.00 – 11.45	Main elements of a well-developed SEA and EIA system – what is important for efficient practice, examples from EU countries <i>Presentation by Mr. Matthew Cashmore, Senior Lecturer, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Uppsala</i> <i>Questions and answers</i>
11.45 – 12.15	Coffee break
12.15 – 12.35	What needs to be further enhanced – remaining challenges for establishing a fully-fledged SEA and EIA system <i>Presentation by the representative of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i> <i>Questions and answers</i>
12.35 – 13.45	Developing SEA/EIA capacity development strategy <i>Introduction by Mr. Martin Smutny</i> <i>Group work – identification of priorities and needs to further develop national SEA and EIA system</i> <i>Presentation of results</i>
13.45 – 14.00	Closing remarks – way forward <i>Ms. Maia Bitadze, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection</i> <i>Ms. Angela Bularga, Programme Manager, European Commission, DG NEAR, tbc</i> <i>Mr. Martin Smutny, EaP GREEN coordinator, consultant to UNECE</i>
14.00	Lunch