

## PROJECT INFORMATION

### Strengthening capacities and cooperation on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in Central Asia



Annual Meeting of the Aarhus Convention Centre 2019 in Vienna

Source: OSCE / Christian Melis

#### Background

Considering the recent economic development prospects for Central Asia and facing climate change related challenges, the lack of preventive procedures at a strategic planning stage may result in accelerated levels of environmental degradation in the region and lead to irreversible harms causing regional instability. Recognizing the potential of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to greening the economies and addressing climate change, as well as to identify and reduce environmental stresses impacting national and regional security, Central Asian countries expressed their interest in assessing the feasibility of SEA application.

#### Project details

The main objective of the project, implemented in collaboration with UNECE, was to strengthen national and regional capacities on implementation of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) to the Espoo Convention as an essential tool for environmentally sustainable economic development and as a means for addressing specific environmental challenges, including climate change. The project aimed at enhancing awareness and increasing capacities of government representatives about the benefits, principles and procedures of SEA through targeted activities as national workshops, regional conferences and a study tour on the practical application of SEA in Europe. In each of the beneficiary countries, a team of international experts developed an action plan including concrete steps to introduce a full-fledged national SEA system in compliance with the Protocol on SEA. The project enhanced regional environmental co-operation and thus contributed to strengthening confidence and trust among the countries of the region.

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**Project countries:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

**Duration:** 09/2019 – 12/2021

**Beneficiaries:** Ministries and agencies responsible for environment and economic development in the target countries, NGOs, Aarhus Centers

**Implementing organisation:** Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

**Project number:** 128262

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**Advisory Assistance Programme (AAP)** for environmental protection in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia and other countries neighbouring the European Union – a programme of the Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety

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[www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/project-database-advisory-assistance-programme)  
[www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme](http://www.uba.de/en/advisory-assistance-programme)

**Project website:**  
<https://bit.ly/UNECE-SEA>