



Case Study

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Experience of implementation
in Ukrainian cities



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This publication features photographs from monitoring visits to study progress in implementing municipal development strategies developed with the support of the PLEDDG in partner cities.

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Summary

From April 2015 to December 2020 the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, with the financial support of Global Affairs Canada, is implementing the project “Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance Project” (PLEDDG), a technical assistance project aimed at strengthening Ukraine’s municipal sector, ensuring effective democratic governance and fostering municipal economic development.

This publication has been prepared to highlight the project experience of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), which has become an important component in creating development strategies for partner cities. The first application of SEA in Ukraine was undertaken in support of Comprehensive Development Strategy of Dnipropetrovsk 2013-2020 with support from the Government of Canada through its projects Building Capacity in Evidence-Based Economic Development Planning in Ukrainian Oblasts and Municipalities (EBED) and Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED). Subsequently, PLEDDG has supported the application of SEA to support both regional development strategies and municipal development strategies in 2015–2020. This history has provided the widest and deepest experience of SEA in Ukraine prior to 2018, and has been a primary input to the adoption in that year of Law No. 2354-VIII of 20 March 2018 “On Strategic Environmental Assessment” by the Government of Ukraine.

This publication sets out the experience of SEA application through the PLEDDG, and the contribution of this experience to the current and future application of SEA in Ukraine as a result of the Law “On Strategic Environmental Assessment”.

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Introduction

The Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG) project is a 6-year (2015-2021) technical assistance project implemented by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) in partnership with:

- Oblast administrations and oblast councils of 4 regions: Vinnytsia, Zaporizhia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Poltava
- City administrations and city councils in 16 cities:
 - Ivano-Frankivsk, Kolomyia, Dolyna, Yaremche (Ivano-Frankivsk Oblast)
 - Vinnytsia, Khmilnyk, Zhmerynka, Ladyzhyn (Vinnytsia Oblast)
 - Poltava, Myrhorod, Kremenchuk, Horishni Plavni (Poltava Oblast)
 - Zaporizhia, Energodar, Melitopol, Berdyansk (Zaporizhia oblast).
- Association of Ukrainian Cities

The project aims to strengthen Ukraine's municipal sector by increasing capacities in partner cities and Oblasts to advance local democracy and economic development. Among other activities, the project has therefore supported the preparation of local economic development (LED) strategies in partner cities, and has responded to economic development priorities at Oblast level.

The Canadian Environmental Assessment Act (2012) requires that international projects undertaken with the support of the Government of Canada must identify and mitigate, as necessary, potential negative effects associated with project activities. Accordingly, the project has evaluated the potential negative environmental effects associated with the LED strategies it has supported and, as appropriate, other economic development strategies that it has reviewed.

The tool for these evaluations is strategic environmental assessment (SEA). This case study tells the story of how SEA has been applied by PLEDDG and how this experience has contributed to the development and application of a legal framework that requires the application of SEA to strategic planning and other planning documents in Ukraine.

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WHAT IS

STRATEGIC

ENVIRONMENTAL

ASSESSMENT?



Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

is a process of analyzing planning documents at intergovernmental, national, regional or local level for the purpose of identifying potential environmental effects (positive and negative) that may be associated with the implementation of the documents. This allows measures to be defined for avoiding or mitigating potential negative effects that are identified – and also for enhancing positive environmental effects. The process as defined internationally necessarily includes stakeholder and public inputs, and accordingly is an important demonstration of democratic governance at national, regional and local levels.

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SEA is based on a simple principle: It is easier (and cheaper) to prevent the negative environmental effects of activities at the planning stage than it is to identify and correct them at the implementation or later stages.

Different countries have different specific requirements for undertaking SEA. SEA has been regulated at the federal level in Canada since 1990. In 2001 the European Union adopted Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, widely referred to as the SEA Directive; all member states of the EU must incorporate the requirements of the Directive into their legal frameworks, but there is nevertheless wide variation between EU members in how SEA is undertaken. Many countries still do not have any SEA requirements.



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WHY STRATEGIC
ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT IS
IMPORTANT IN
UKRAINE

Some of the most significant problems in Ukraine are ecological problems

Carbon emissions that result in climate change are widely known, but many other ecologic problems directly impact public health, community well-being and economic performance.

Two-thirds of Ukraine's population presently live in areas where atmospheric air conditions do not meet hygienic standards, while the land and surface water bodies are classified as polluted and highly polluted.¹ According to studies conducted by Ukrainian scientists, the greatest environmental impact is caused by transport, industry, energy enterprises, and agriculture.

The main causes of the country's major ecological problems are linked to the system of governance (aspects of which have remained unchanged since Soviet times), poor regulation of certain spheres of environmental protection and nature management, inadequate environmental monitoring, unrealistic norms and standards, and the non-inclusion of environmental issues in many aspects of decision-making.

The integration of environmental considerations into all aspects of the socioeconomic development of the territories makes it possible not only to stabilize environmental conditions in Ukraine, but also to transition to a model of sustainable development. The application of SEA ensures that environmental issues are identified and that measures to address these issues are included into strategic planning documents at earliest points in development planning. Strategic environmental assessment is therefore a first step to achieving sustainable development objectives.

¹ According to the data from the Ukrainian Government Portal available at www.kmu.gov.ua; see the section News / Ostap Semerak: State Environmental Policy Strategy Until 2030 Passes First Reading. For more on the assessment of the environmental living conditions of the population, see <http://geomap.land.kiev.ua/ecology-13.html>



3

THE CONTRIBUTION OF PLEDDG TO STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT IN UKRAINE

The application of SEA by the PLEDDG has been framed by close linkage to national policy and the application of “good practice” adapted to the Ukrainian context, and to the context of the specific cities that have worked with the project.

SEA Policy in Ukraine

In 2003 Ukraine was one of 37 European countries to sign the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, a document coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in the frame of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context. The Protocol sets out the key elements of SEA including:

- The sector plans and programmes to which it applies.
- The key steps for performing a SEA.
- Criteria for defining environmental effects.
- The integral role of public participation to the SEA process, together with consultation with the relevant health and environment authorities.
- Transboundary consultations.
- Reporting.
- Monitoring of the implementation of SEA recommendations.

In the following years the Government of Ukraine adopted several policy documents that either made reference to SEA or to initiatives that would benefit from SEA. In particular, the Law on Basic principles (strategy) of the state ecological policy of Ukraine for the period till 2020 (Number 2818-VI of 2010) made specific reference to SEA and the importance of SEA as a planning tool to achieve a broad improvement in environmental quality in Ukraine. Other policy statements and legal documents over several years have also identified that environmental and sustainable development objectives could be achieved faster and more effectively with support from SEA processes.

The Response of PLEDDG to the SEA Opportunity

At the outset of the PLEDDG initiative it was clear that the relevance of SEA as a policy tool to support environmental and sustainable development objectives was accepted within government, and that further steps to implement SEA would be undertaken in accordance with the Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement. What was missing, however, was experience in the application of the SEA that could inform government and other decision-makers regarding how SEA could be most effectively implemented in the Ukrainian context. What was needed were demonstrations of SEA as a practical tool for implementing the concept of sustainable development by taking environmental considerations into account in political, economic, and social decision-making processes.

The LED strategies that each PLEDDG partner wished to prepare provided the project with a leadership opportunity to

demonstrate the application of SEA at a scale that had not been previously undertaken in Ukraine. The number of project partners, their wide distribution across Ukraine and the diversity of their socio-economic circumstances allowed the project to apply the SEA tool in widely varying circumstances allowed decision-makers a wide perspective of not only the tool itself, but the response of stakeholders and the public to the application of the tool and the benefits that could be achieved by it.

SEA and LED Strategic Development Planning in PLEDDG

The absence of a legal framework for SEA when the PLEDDG started meant that not only was there no obligation for PLEDDG partners to participate in SEA, there was also no approved methodology for performing SEA. Nevertheless, there was a basis for beginning:

- By the early 2010's, international agencies had undertaken a few SEA's in support of their activities. Most relevant, in 2013-2014 the Government of Canada had supported SEA's of regional development strategies for Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv oblasts within the framework of the projects Building Capacity in Evidence-Based Economic Development Planning in Ukrainian Oblasts and Municipalities (EBED) and Ukraine Municipal Local Economic Development (MLED). The results had been well-received, particularly in Dnipropetrovsk.
- The Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment, coordinated by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), provided a basis for both the design of SEA and a related methodology which had been agreed by Ukraine at the international level even if it had not yet been implemented into the national legal framework.

To this we can add the recognition by decision-makers that new approaches to strategic planning were required that will lead to outcomes that are supported by the people and which will not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Overview of SEA Process Adopted By PLEDDG



As indicated in the diagram, public and stakeholder input and review in parallel with environmental analyses was integral to each step of the process, and to the outcome of the SEA process as a whole. Public and stakeholder inputs contributed to both the development of draft documents and to their finalization. The coordination of public and stakeholder inputs and review through a Working Group allowed all segments of the community to participate in the process and to be heard. This approach facilitated discussion and – as far as possible – resolution of differing points view and perspectives and particularly with respect to key issues and how these should be addressed. The success of this approach required:

- agreement by the Working Group participants regarding the development goals that were targeted and the environmental issues that should be addressed
- a credible documentation and analysis of the relevant environmental issues to be addressed
- documentation and recommendations that reflected the perspectives of the Working Group.

SEA and Democratic Governance

Public and stakeholder participation is integral to SEA. The purpose of public and stakeholder participation in the SEA process is to allow communities to define how best to address environmental quality priorities while also addressing the development proposals that will build the socioeconomic fabric of the community. The SEA process is therefore a tool for addressing change in the community – in this case, change to environmental quality that may be expected as a result of the implementation of development plans.

The benefits of public and stakeholder engagement in the SEA process rest on a shared understanding that socioeconomic development objectives and environmental priorities need not be in conflict. The experience of SEA in the PLEDDG demonstrated that focus may then be placed on the measures that are needed to address environmental objectives in the context of the development plans that are proposed. Key issues included who should take the required measures, how the measures should be paid for and what should be the timing of the measures.

These issues will be seen in different ways by different people and different stakeholders. The development of options in these regards (which is also integral to SEA) together with their advantages and disadvantages helped to bridge differences, and fostered discussions on how options might be adjusted to reduce disadvantages. The experience of SEA applied through the PLEDDG identifies that “agreement” may not always be feasible among all participants; “consensus”, however, is generally achievable if the coordination of public and stakeholder engagement is trusted by the participants and is seen by the participants to be even-handed, respectful and open, and without a prior agenda.

An effective public and stakeholder engagement is facilitated by a structure that records and coordinates stakeholder and public inputs and responses to those inputs. In the PLEDDG experience, the format of a “Working Group” provides a structure for the expression and consideration of stakeholder and public perspectives, but this does not need to limit the number or variety of voices that contribute. Stakeholders or residents may not be able to attend meetings of a Working Group – or they may not wish to – but they can contribute their perspectives through social media, phone and other ways. Boundaries, however, are also important: as with any community-based endeavour, voices that are disrespectful, hateful or prejudiced against the legitimate presence or activities of others should be censored.

The outcome of an effective public and stakeholder participation in support of SEA will be not only an enhanced environmental quality, but also a strengthened community. The experience of SEA delivered through the PLEDDG has been that the process of working together towards a common goal – improved socioeconomic conditions while maintaining or enhancing environmental quality – builds common understandings between people and interests regarding opportunities and constraints, and this builds community cohesion.

Documentation of the public and stakeholder engagement process is important so that participants in the process can see the linkages between the outcomes of that process and the recommendations and later actions of the SEA. It may be that not all issues can be addressed to a point of full consensus by all participants; outstanding issues, and the key elements that have limited consensus, can also be recorded in the SEA documentation. This ensures that “minority perspectives” are nevertheless recognised – and these may be the basis for further consideration and action in future.

Case Examples of SEA Supported by PLEDDG

The PLEDDG has developed SEA documents in support of local economic development strategies in 13 cities in the 2015-2017 period. In all cases, expertise was retained by PLEDDG to prepare the required documents; the implementation of the SEA process was coordinated through the city administration. The experience of developing SEA's in 3 cities is summarized below.

City of Zaporizhia

PLEDDG has supported the Zaporizhia City Development Strategy Until 2028³. SEA was incorporated into the development of the strategy with the support of the Zaporizhia municipal administration. A Working Group was established that included members of the public, ecological organizations, the city council, the municipal executive committee, businessmen, educators and scientists—a total of 48 people. Additionally, interested local residents, members of environmental community organizations,

³ <http://pleddg.org.ua/wpcontent/uploads/2018/09/Strategiya-Zaporizhzhya.pdf>

and independent experts participated in the environmental assessment process, which demonstrated the keen interest of Zaporizhia's residents in improving the ecological condition in this industrial city. Considering that the procedure was conducted in Zaporizhia for the first time and that it raised a number of questions, PLEDDG experts helped the Working Group members to understand the SEA methodology.

The environmental community was extremely active during the implementation of SEA in Zaporizhia. During the work of the SEA Working Group, there was a continuous dialogue among the representatives of the government, business, and the public, which helped bring important environmental issues to a new level of constructive understanding.

"As soon as we formulated the strategic directions, our point of view as experts was that environmental issues were so important for Zaporizhia that it made no sense to single out a separate ecological direction. Everyone agreed unanimously that measures related to environmental protection had to be present in each strategic direction. However, throughout the strategy development process, the public insisted that all measures related to ecology be channeled in a separate direction. As a result, it brought together all measures related to environmental protection from completely different fields: the economy of the city, education, transport, and industrial production." Larysa Olenkovska, Executive Director of the Kherson branch of the Association of Ukrainian Cities.

One of the issues raised initially by businesses then by the public was ecological taxation: If an enterprise pays an ecological tax, then these funds must go directly to environmental protection. And since enterprises contribute significant sums in the form of special taxes to the budget of Zaporizhia every year, information on the city's budget expenditures must be made public.

The developers of the Zaporizhia City Development Strategy Until 2028 considered the proposals from the SEA Working Group and took most of them into account, so they are already being implemented. The experts also listened to urban community members and included "City with a Healthy Environment and Conservation of Resources" as a separate ecological component among the strategic directions.

"Unlike environmental impact assessment, where a completely erroneous practice is now taking shape whereby public opinion is neglected and the interests of the relationship between the environment and the economy are blatantly ignored, SEA is a more public and transparent procedure. In the case of Zaporizhia, this assessment made it possible to involve motivated and professional community representatives both at the level of discussions and proposals and their implementation. One positive fact is that the SEA Working Group is made up of a large number of members of environmental community organizations, local experts, and activists who are genuinely interested in a safe and healthy environment, so it is almost impossible to manipulate their opinions. SEA also allows for a systematic approach to program development and planning at the local level. What is important

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LARYSA OLENKOVSKA,
Executive Director of the
Kherson branch of the
Association of Ukrainian Cities

“

IRYNA PIROHOVA,
Leader of the Zaporizhia
Regional Organization of the
All-Ukraine Environmental
League

and what I recommend to other cities is that high-quality, fruitful work requires preparation. And this is absolutely natural, because this kind of assessment is being conducted for the first time, and it often brings together people who have no previous experience of cooperation with each other.”

Along with the emergence of a separate ecological direction in the Zaporizhia Development Strategy, the founding of Eco-Coalition of Zaporizhia, an informal association of residents, may be seen as one of the results of SEA implementation. The association’s initial goal was to lobby for the inclusion of an ecological component in the development strategy, and subsequently it has held public hearings on air monitoring in the city. Thus, SEA implementation enabled the city to look at the environment not only as a resource but also as a high-priority urban development factor for Zaporizhia residents.

City of Ivano-Frankivsk

The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Ivano-Frankivsk Development Strategy Until 2028⁴ was carried out in 2017. The SEA Working Group included representatives of the municipal authorities, environmental community organizations, scientific institutions, and various experts. A total of 23 specialists worked on the SEA for over two months. City residents had an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the draft SEA report and submit their proposals and amendments via the official website of the Ivano-Frankivsk City Council.⁵

SEA analysis of ecological conditions on the city – including inputs from the community – identified the following major challenges:

- The lack of an updated city master plan.
- Air pollution from vehicle emissions, which account for nearly 96% of all emissions. This problem is particularly serious in the downtown area, where traffic flows exceed the capacity of streets.
- Unregulated property development.
- An insufficient number of green spaces. Green spaces constitute 18% of the total surface area of the city, well short of the 40–60% that is desired.
- Lack of transport infrastructure (parking lots, bicycle and pedestrian paths, and modern public transport),
- Problems with solid waste disposal and treatment. Large quantities of household waste are generated and accumulated in Ivano-Frankivsk, yet there is essentially no mechanism for their efficient placement and disposal.

⁴ <http://pleddg.org.ua/wpcontent/uploads/2018/09/Strategiya-IF.pdf>

⁵ <http://pleddg.org.ua/wpcontent/uploads/2019/11/Report-Strategic-Ecological-Evaluation-IF.pdf>

“The SEA has had a significant impact on the process of formulating an urban development strategy. At present, the city is faced with the urgent need to address the following issues: solid waste management, recycling of waste from water production, and air pollution caused by transport and industrial emissions. Thanks to SEA, the Ivano-Frankivsk Development Strategy Until 2028 includes measures that should not have a negative impact on the city’s environment. This is definitely a relevant action plan for the city. For example, increasing the share of municipal electric transport and the area of green spaces in the city is exactly the kind of measure that is needed and will be implemented in Ivano-Frankivsk as early as this year.”

A modern, clean, green, energy-efficient, and comfortable city with a well-developed infrastructural set-up that is convenient for residents and guests—this is how the residents of Ivano-Frankivsk see their city in the future. That is why one of the strategic directions is formulated as the “City of Energy-Efficient and Environmentally Friendly Infrastructure” for the purpose of maximizing efforts to improve the city’s ecological condition.

The Ivano-Frankivsk City Development Strategy Until 2028 envisages the improvement of atmospheric air quality through the introduction of a modern integrated transport system, increasing the public electric transport fleet, and developing bicycle infrastructure. It also envisages the construction, reconstruction, and improvement of parks and squares, as well as the preservation and expansion of lakes. In addition, actions have been planned aimed at reducing the generation of solid waste and improving the rate of recycling such waste.

“SEA makes it possible to see what challenges exist in the context of ecology, how to minimize their negative impact, what actions are needed to prevent or optimize existing threats. The SEA team met separately with representatives of different Ivano-Frankivsk population groups for the sake of completeness and submitted a report containing recommendations to be included in the strategy at the final stage of strategy formulation. In fact, we included a maximum of these recommendations of the SEA Working Group in the Ivano-Frankivsk development strategy at the level of both indicators and operational objectives.”

Additionally, the development and implementation of construction regulations for the central core of the city is of the utmost importance to Ivano-Frankivsk. Starting in 2019, urban planning regulations and restrictions regarding apartment buildings include the mandatory requirement of setting up underground garbage container sites. As regards the construction of municipal parking lots, a scheme and an electronic map of parking spaces will be developed, and a mobile application will be created to show free parking spaces in real time.

“

ZYNOVII NYKORAK,
Head of the Department
for Energy Efficiency and
Ecology at the Directorate
for Economic and Integration
Development, Executive
Committee of the Ivano-
Frankivsk City Council

“

ANDRIY ZALUZHNYI,
PLEDDG Project Consultant

City of Kremenchuk

The SEA was performed in 2017 on the draft Kremenchuk City Development Strategy Until 2028.

The document identifies 19 key issues affecting the city's ecological condition, air pollution by industrial enterprises and road transportation being the main problem. The increased level of environmental pollution and water scarcity in Kremenchuk is caused by high industrial concentration, a large proportion of environmentally hazardous industries, and the lack of proper environmental protection systems.

Stakeholder and public inputs were coordinated within a Working Group composed of nearly 30 members, including representatives of the executive committee of the Kremenchuk City Council, led by the first deputy mayor, representatives of communal enterprises, municipal branches of public services, design organizations, environmental community organizations, Kremenchuk City Council members, as well as the Faculty of Natural Sciences at Mykhailo Ostrohradsky Kremenchuk National University. In particular, eight local environmental community organizations actively participated in the SEA process, and their activists were involved in the discussion and submission of proposals.

At the initial stage of the SEA, determining the general scope and adopting a methodology for activities turned out to be the most difficult task for the Working Group. Subsequently, the Working Group analyzed how well the objectives of the Kremenchuk City Development Strategy Until 2028 met the regional environmental goals and provided recommendations on additional operational objectives that could contribute substantially to achieving the operational goals of the municipal development strategy.



NATALIYA BOYKO,
Executive Director of the
Luhansk regional branch of
the Association of Ukrainian
Cities

“For me, SEA promotes the effective implementation of local development initiatives, ensuring the integration of environmental sustainability with development initiatives. Even after identifying possible positive and negative impacts, the municipal development strategy can be refined at any time, if necessary, as it is a flexible plan for the development of the Kremenchuk community. In our experience, SEA has had an exceptionally positive impact on the overall strategic planning process of the city's development because it has been consciously perceived as an excellent tool for preventing negative impacts on the environment and, therefore, for improving the quality of life of Kremenchuk residents.”

As a result of the SEA, the vision for the city's development strategy involves the introduction of state-of-the-art environmental technology . One of the strategic development directions is “Energy Efficient and Environmentally Safe City,” which is aimed at improving the ecological condition of the city's territory and reducing the anthropogenic load on the environment.

While environmental initiatives proposed within the framework of SEA are in the pipeline, the city has already successfully implemented local environmental and resource management programs, and environmental community organizations have submitted many environmental projects to be included in the implementation plan for the municipal development strategy.

“At a time when the state is actively implementing changes to environmental legislation and adapting it to the acquis communautaire, SEA is becoming increasingly important. A significant advantage of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Kremenchuk City Development Strategy Until 2028 was the opportunity to identify a number of ecological problems specific to our city, take into account all directions leading to their solution, and prioritize them with the help of experienced specialists. In the future, consideration of these ecological issues in the city’s socioeconomic development should help prevent or at least mitigate environmental consequences.”

The city has developed a project for the Kremenchuk environmental network, which delimits buffer zones for the protection of the network’s key territories and ecological corridors, identifies restoration areas, and outlines prospects for developing the city’s ecological network to help curb the decline in biodiversity. Moreover, the Procedures for Operational Atmospheric Air Pollution Monitoring and Response in Adverse Meteorological Conditions in the city have been approved. They oblige industrial enterprises to adopt measures to regulate air pollutant emissions in adverse weather conditions and make it possible to inform the residents about such conditions.



OLEKSII FEDIUN,
Head of the Environmental
Safety Unit of the Executive
Committee of the Kremenchuk
City Council



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THE FUTURE OF SEA IN UKRAINE

The application of SEA by PLEDDG has provided the key basis of experience to support the adoption in 2018 of Law No. 2354-VIII “On Strategic Environmental Assessment” by the Government of Ukraine. In accordance with the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement, the law applies the requirements of the EU SEA Directive to strategic planning and other planning documents in Ukraine. The law reflects a similar overall framework to the methodology adopted by PLEDDG for its project activities, and in addition it defines roles and responsibilities for stakeholders (both state and others) and the public, establishes specific timing for SEA activities and elaborates details of the SEA process.

The value of the contribution of PLEDDG to the application of SEA in Ukraine is evidenced by the requests of stakeholders for PLEDDG to assist in the application of the law:

- The Ministry of Communities’ and Territories’ Development of Ukraine (“Minregion”) asked the PLEDDG to provide SEA training for oblast officials. It was connected with the development of Strategies of Regional Development and inclusion of SEA procedure in the Methodology of Regional Strategy Development. Accordingly, PLEDDG has delivered trainings on SEA to relevant officials from all 24 oblasts in the country and city of Kyiv.
- PLEDDG has prepared the SEA for the State Strategy of Regional Development on behalf of Minregion.
- SEAS’s have been prepared by PLEDDG in support of the regional development strategies for Ivano-Frankivsk, Zaporizhia, Poltava and Vinnytsia oblasts
- At the request of the Association of Ukrainian Cities, PLEDDG has delivered trainings on the application of SEA to city officials from across Ukraine.

The effect of the law is to embed a process into development planning that necessarily requires the consideration of environmental sustainability as a factor in decision-making.

The role of democratic governance principles within this process is fundamental:

- State planning entities are required to consult and receive input from stakeholders and citizens generally regarding development plans.
- State planning entities must report on the consultations they have undertaken and the inputs they have received.
- State planning entities are required to take the inputs of stakeholders and citizens into account in the planning documents they develop, and are required to report their decisions in these regards, and to make their reports available to the public.

These requirements establish an open and transparent planning process that places citizens at the centre of development planning. State planning entities (and the elected and other officials responsible for their activities) are now and in future accountable to the citizens who will be affected by the plans.

The legacy of environmental degradation caused by planning that did not take environmental effects into account will progressively yield to a greener and more prosperous future as SEA continues to be applied and as projects born from SEA are implemented. A more prosperous future that is also a greener and more democratic future is the legacy of the contribution of the PLEDDG to the development and application of SEA in Ukraine.



This publication uses photographs from monitoring visits to study progress in implementing municipal development strategies developed with the support of the PLEDDG project in partner cities.

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