EIA Training Resource Manual for South Eastern Europe

June 2003
Elaborated within the REReP 1.4 project
EIA Capacity-Building in South Eastern Europe

Funded by the European Union’s Obnova and Phare Programmes

Prepared by
Agata Miazga, Jiri Dusik and Barry Sadler
About the REC

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) is a non-partisan, non-advocacy, not-for-profit international organisation with a mission to assist in solving environmental problems in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE). The center fulfils this mission by promoting cooperation among non-governmental organisations, governments, businesses and other environmental stakeholders, and by supporting the free exchange of information and public participation in environmental decision-making.

The REC was established in 1990 by the United States, the European Commission and Hungary. Today, the REC is legally based on a charter signed by the governments of 28 countries and the European Commission, and on an international agreement with the government of Hungary. The REC has its head office in Szentendre, Hungary, and country offices and field offices in each of its 15 beneficiary countries which are: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia and Slovenia.

Recent donors are the European Commission and the governments of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, FYR Macedonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as other inter-governmental and private institutions.

The entire contents of this publication are copyright ©2003 The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe

No part of this publication may be sold in any form or reproduced for sale without prior written permission of the copyright holder

ISBN: 963 9424 307

Published by:
The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
Ady Endre ut 9-11, 2000 Szentendre, Hungary
Tel: (36-26) 504-000, Fax: (36-26) 311-294, E-mail: info@rec.org, Website: <www.rec.org>

This and all REC publications are printed on recycled paper or paper produced without the use of chlorine or chlorine-based chemicals

The views of the authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of relevant governmental organisations or the Regional Environmental Center of Central and Eastern Europe.
The presentations of national studies and best practice cases are the opinion of the national experts.

This publication has been produced with the assistance of the European Union.
The contents of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.
This manual was developed within the EIA capacity-building project for South-Eastern Europe, led by Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina and funded by the European Commission through Obnova and Phare Programmes. The project was chaired by Nenad Mikulic, Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning, Croatia. Implemented by Agata Miazga (REC project manager), Jiri Dusik (REC project manager) and Barry Sadler (UNEP and REC advisor on environmental assessment). It has been prepared under a memorandum of agreement between the REC and UNEP, Economics and Trade Unit, Geneva.

It has utilised and adopted selected materials from the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual (2002 version) and added extensive information relevant to the EIA needs and requirements of the countries of South Eastern Europe. Its development was also supported extensively by national ministries of environment and EIA practitioners from South Eastern Europe, as well as those from other European countries. Their specific contributions are described below. However, it should be mentioned that the full list of contributors and participants of the project should be much more comprehensive. In view of the space limitations of this publication, we wish to extend special thanks to all the people in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro who participated actively in national training workshops organised during the entire project, as well as regional networking events.

National input and references to the EIA systems in South Eastern European countries, as well as active involvement throughout the entire project and, especially, training activities, were provided by:

- Albania: Alma Bako (Ministry of Environment), Elvana Cani (Urban Integration Foundation) and Entela Cobani (Technical University);
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Irem Silajdzic (Hydro-Engineering Institute);
- Croatia: Alida Ban (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning);
- FYR Macedonia: Slavco Hristovski (St. Cyril and Methodiu University); and
- Serbia and Montenegro: Biljana Djurovic (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Montenegro), Aleksandar Vesic (Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment, Serbia) and Behxhet Shala (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning Kosovo - territory currently under UN administration).

Further valuable assistance in the planning stages of the project and regional networking, as well as the project’s national training component was received from:

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: Mehmed Cero (Federal Ministry for Physical Planning and Environment), Nada Bojanic (Ministry for European Integration), Dragom Nikolic (Ministry for Urbanism and Ecology, Republika Srpska) and Mirjana Karahasanovic (World Bank);
- Croatia: Nenad Mikulic and Damir Rumenjak (Ministry of Environmental Protection and Physical Planning);
- FYR Macedonia: Daniela Stefkova and Saso Apostolov (Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, Macedonia); and
- Serbia and Montenegro: Bratislav Krstic and Zoran Veljkovic (Ministry for Protection of Natural Resources and Environment, Serbia), Gordana Petkovic (Federal Secretariat for Labour, Health and Social Care, Serbia), Aleksandra Ivanovic (Coastal Zone Management Agency, Montenegro) and Adnan Pajaziti (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Kosovo).

Particularly valuable contributions to the regional and national training workshops were provided by Orlin Dikov (POVVIK OOS Ltd., Bulgaria), an EIA practitioner and consultant from Bulgaria. The additional transfer of lessons learned from other European countries was provided by Jacqueline Metodieva (Ministry of Environment and Waters, Bulgaria), Beata Wisniewska (freelance EIA consultant, Poland) and Richard Hook (formerly at the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, UK).
The encouragement of Wiek Schrage, Espoo Convention Secretary to conduct an analysis of international EIA requirements is appreciated.

We would also like to thank Austa Jurkeviciute for her support in processing the relevant information.

Gratitude should be extended to the directors of the REC country offices in South Eastern Europe, and to the staff of those offices responsible for project implementation at the national level. The involvement of the following persons should also be mentioned: Alken Myftiu (Albania), Jasna Draganic, Enisa Punic and Djordje Vojinovic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), Irena Brnada and Dalia Matijevic (Croatia), Slavjanka Pejinovska – Andonova (FYR Macedonia), Jelena Kis (Serbia and Montenegro), Shkipe Deda and Florina Skeja (Kosovo).

Credits
Publisher: The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe
Editors: Steve Graning, Nathan Johnson, Greg Spencer
Art Direction: Sylvia Magyar
Manual Layout: Drummer Design
Illustrations: Laszlo Falvay
Introduction

Overview of Current Reforms of EIA Systems in South Eastern Europe

Regional Overview
National Overviews

Comparative Analysis of International EIA Requirements Relevant to SEE Countries

Regional Network of EIA Trainers in SEE

Training Materials

Training Overheads (Albanian, Bosnian, English, Macedonian and Serbian-language versions)
- Introduction to EIA
- Public Involvement
- Screening
- Scoping
- Impact Analysis
- Impact Mitigation
- Reporting
- Review
- EIA and Decision Making
- Monitoring

Case Studies
- Lead and Zink Smelter
- Pharmaceutical Plant
- Regional Municipal Waste Landfill
Introduction

This manual is based on the training framework contained in the UNEP EIA Training Resource Manual, which was published in 1996 and revised in 2002. The UNEP Manual comprises a generic “tool kit for EIA capacity development” in developing and transitional countries that can be customised to meet the special needs of a particular region or country.

In this case, the focus is on SEE countries involved in the Stabilisation and Association process (SAP). The manual is designed for specific application in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration). It has been prepared to strengthen the EIA capabilities of a number of target groups. These include EIA-competent authorities, environmental inspectorates, developers, environmental consultancies, non-governmental organisations and other interested institutions and individuals.

The manual can be used as a basis for organising regional and national capacity-building programmes. It provides relevant materials that have been developed with advice and input from EIA administrators and other key stakeholder groups in the countries concerned. These materials can be easily adapted to the needs of specific countries and used in national workshops and training activities for various stakeholders. Thus various parts of the manual can be further modified to the needs of the audience, the nature of the event, the level of EIA development and other factors.

Overall Context of the Project

The Stabilisation and Association Process

The Stabilisation and Association Process (SAP) is a policy framework to support the efforts of five countries of South Eastern Europe (SEE) toward eventual entry into the European Union. It is an opening strategy for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration) to become familiarised with European values, principles and standards. This process is similar to the accession process now nearing completion in Central and Eastern Europe.

The 2003 edition of the European Commission’s Annual Report on the Stabilisation and Association Process for South Eastern Europe indicates that the above countries continue to make gradual progress in reforms that will pave the way to closer integration with Europe. However, shortcomings and slow progress in the reform process are evident in many sectors, and implementation is poor in all countries. Further transition, development and European integration will require the genuine political will and commitment of the countries themselves.

The Regional Environmental Reconstruction Programme for SEE (REReP)

Recent conflict and political instability has left SEE with a particular legacy of environmental problems that require strong regional collaboration. REReP was established in response to this challenge. Because of its political neutrality, this programme provides a unique platform for building trust and confidence to address transboundary environmental issues.

Ministers of Environment from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, FYR Macedonia and Romania endorsed REReP in March 2000 within the framework of the Stability Pact for SEE. Thus environmental problems were taken into account from the very beginning of the overall reconstruction process. The ministers also agreed on the “List of Immediate Project Priorities for the Implementation of REReP.” Serbia and Montenegro joined REReP following the political changes in 2001.

The REReP mechanism was reviewed and adjusted in September 2001 to ensure a link between environmental reconstruction and the Stabilisation and Association Process in SEE. Thus the REReP process in SEE combined SAP objectives for fostering lasting peace, prosperity and stability in the region with harmonisation of environmental policies, institutions and standards in SEE countries with those of the EU. A complementary link to the EU accession process in candidate countries was established through the participation of Bulgaria and Romania.

The implementation of priority REReP projects was supported by the European Commission and the governments of the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland and the United States.
The Capacity-Building Project for Environmental Assessment in SEE

REReP’s regional project titled “Capacity Building for Environmental Assessment in SEE” (hereinafter REReP 1.4) was implemented in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, FYR Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, including Kosovo (territory under UN interim administration). Croatia also participated in the regional activities offered through the project, but focused all national activities on strategic environmental assessment. The entire project was carried out in the period from August 2001 to August 2003 and was financed by the European Commission (See: http://europa.eu.int/comm/europeaid/projects/index_en.htm) through its Obnova and Phare Programmes.

Initiation of REReP 1.4 was correlated with the beginning of major reforms of institutional and legal systems for EIA in SEE countries (see the “Current Reforms” section for details). While reforms vary in details, their common feature is the serious attention given to several international points of reference for the development of EIA systems in the region. The immediate priority of all project countries is to achieve full compliance with the EC EIA Directive. Their common long-term objective is to ratify or accede to the UNECE Espoo Convention and UNECE convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention). Some elements of reforms (e.g. scoping) are partly influenced by EIA procedures of two major international lenders, the World Bank and EBRD.

Building on these developments, REReP 1.4 focused on training for the practical implementation of proposed EIA legal reforms. Specifically, the training resource manual focuses on the development of EIA process-management skills (e.g. EIA project management, conduct of screening, scoping or review) where skills were acknowledged to be relatively weak. For example, in a number of SEE countries, the decision-makers remarked that they would need more information and practical training on existing review systems of an EIA report. By contrast, knowledge of technical aspects of EIA (e.g. impact identification and mitigation) is much stronger in SEE countries.

The most important features of the entire project were the working exchanges and levels of cooperation among the participants from different countries. Representatives of national environmental authorities took part in all stages of project implementation from agenda setting to evaluation, and there was a considerable level of mutual assistance, support and cooperation among EIA trainers from various countries. This is the most impressive legacy of the project: it may also be the most enduring.