

## Bringing Espoo Convention to Citizens

This is the title of the project started on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 by three organisations, namely European ECO Forum, Resource & Analysis Center "Society and Environment" (RACSE) and Oekobuero (Austria). The project primarily aims at countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA). The project objectives are:

- To raise awareness of civil society organisations in EECCA about the developments under the Espoo Convention and its SEA Protocol, as well as about tools they may use to have their voice heard and environment protected;
- To strengthen their capacity to act by enhancing exchange of best practices and advising them on obstacles they face.

More information about the project will follow.

The project is funded by the German Federal Environmental Ministry's 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. It is supervised by the German Environment Agency (UBA).

The responsibility for the content of this Newsflash lies with the authors.



June 2018

Outcomes of the Working Group on EIA (Espoo Convention) and SEA (Strategic Environmental Assessment) – 28 to 30 May 2018

## Espoo Convention and SEA Working Group meets in Geneva

Working Group on EIA and SEA (the Espoo Convention) held its [7th meeting](#) on 28 - 30 May 2018 in Geneva. [Key issues](#) discussed and agreed by the participants were:

- ❖ **Intersessional (extraordinary) i-MOP of the Espoo Convention** will take place on Feb 5-7, 2019, in Geneva. The i-MOP will consider draft decisions on compliance (now as separate draft decisions), since at last MOP in Minsk (2017) the parties failed to agree and adopt a decision on implementation and compliance. All but the UK draft decisions were discussed at the Working Group meeting in May. The draft decision on UK (Hinckley Point C project) will be finalized by the Implementation Committee in September 2018, no open discussion of the draft is going to take place up until i-MOP therefore.
- ❖ **Nuclear life time extensions (LTE).** The LTE ad hoc group presented [draft terms of reference](#) for the development of the LTE guidance, which were discussed and adopted by the Working Group of the parties in Geneva. The newly mandated LTE ad hoc working drafting group will commence work on drafting guidelines on LTE and they are supposed to be adopted by next regular MOP in 2020 (tentative date: 9-11 December, 2020). The i-MOP will not adopt any guidelines on LTE.
- ❖ The LTE ad hoc working group, co-chaired by Germany and the UK, already held its meeting in Berlin on June 20-21, 2018. Further information is expected in early September 2018.
- ❖ **NGOs were not allowed to directly participate** in the work of the LTE ad-hoc working group, but the group will ensure timely and appropriate formats for participation. A special meeting with interested NGOs is planned in summer 2018 to inform and consult the NGOs on the work in progress.
- ❖ The i-MOP is supposed to adopt **guidelines on transboundary EIA for Central Asia countries**. The [guidelines](#) were developed in 2017-2018 and aim to encourage and support Central Asian countries in applying transboundary EIA procedure. Draft guidelines were discussed at the meeting, and should be adopted by i-MOP subject to integration of comments provided by the EU.
- ❖ A number of NGOs [were present](#) at the meeting, including the European ECO Forum which is a regular observer to these meetings.



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