



## Effective Stakeholder participation mechanisms for environmentally sound investment and development projects and programs



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## Effective Mechanisms for the stakeholders' participation in the decision making

- Identification of relevant public authorities, consult with them;
- Identification of the public and public concerned;
- Notifying the public and public concerned in effectively, accurately and timely manner;
- Establish reasonable time frames for public participation;
- Take in due account of the outcome from the stakeholders' consultation and public participation;
- Make the final decision accessible to the public along with the reasons and considerations on which it is based.



## The importance of transparency and stakeholder participation in the decision-making process

Stakeholders with an interest of successful design, implementation and sustainability of the project/programme through:

- Sharing information and knowledge;
- Presenting their own views, interests;
- Contributing the decision-maker in verifying its findings and conclusions

**Influence the final decision in order to tailor certain project/programme to local/regional/countries' interests.**



**Transparency and Stakeholder participation is important mechanism to avoid closed-door decision-making**

## Current Legislative framework in Georgia

Legislation

Legislation, regarded as government, which are of to regulate, to proscribe to sanction, to authorize separation of powers.

Current legislation reveals numerous shortcomings, in particular:

- Projects subject to EIA is unclear and not in line with the EU directive;
- The developer is responsible for public participation during EIA procedure;
- Not clear regulations on the access of information and spreading of information in effective manner during the process of EIA;
- There exists no legislation in the country on SEA.

## Obligations stemming from the Association Agreement and the process of Harmonization of National Legislation



Obligations of AA agreement:

- Designation of competent authority for EIA and SEA Procedures;
- Implementation of EIA and SEA legislation requirements;
- Establishment of a mechanism for providing the public with information;
- Establishment of the mechanism for public comments and opinions to be taken into account in the decision-making process;
- Guaranteeing effective, timely and not prohibitively expensive access to justice at administrative and judicial level in these procedures for the public.



## Draft Law On Environmental Assessment

- Establishes procedures for environmentally sound investment projects and lists the activities which falls under EIA procedures;
- Introduces the SEA as a new instrument;
- Establishes mechanisms for effective stakeholders' participation in EIA and SEA Process;
- Introduces transboundary procedures and involvement of relevant stakeholders;



## Main challenges for Georgia in Harmonization Process

- Need for Institutional Changes in the Ministry;
- Lack of financial Resources;
- Need for capacity-building;
- Lack of experienced professionals in the field of SEA;
- Lack of relevant database and statistical information.



## Concluding Remarks

**As the implementation of each and every environmentally sound investment project/programme is closely linked to the sustainable development of the country and its security, it is important to:**

- *Continue work on the public awareness issues;*
- *Support the creation/improvement of the „culture“ for Public and relevant authorities to Participate actively in the decision-making process;*
- *Exchange of „Best practices“ between different countries to support the transparency in the decision-making process.*



**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR ATTENTION!**

