



# Country Briefing

## on State of the Environment Information in Ukraine



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### Overall aim and specific objectives of the Country Briefing

The overall aim of the Country Briefing is to provide an overview of and make accessible state of environment information available at the country level.

More specifically, Country Briefing has three objectives:

- To provide interested parties with comparable, accurate and timely information on the environmental status in the six Eastern Partnership Countries of the ENI SEIS II East project that provides useful input into national environmental policy debates in international context.
- To demonstrate country performance and enable the user/reader to compare countries with other Eastern Partnership Countries
- To share good experience in the field of environmental assessment, information and environmental protection.

### Methodological approach to the Country Briefing preparation

The methodological approach is based on the approach used in the preparation of The European environment state and outlook report 2015 (SOER 2015) – Part Countries and regions and is slightly modified in relation to the needs of the ENI SEIS II East project.

The Country Briefings are presented in interactive online versions at the website of the ENI SEIS II East project. Each Country Briefing contains separate sections to address the four main topics:

#### **Main themes and sectors addressed in the national State of Environment report**

The purpose of this part is to provide an introduction to the national SOER and understanding of its structure as well as the main topics that are addressed in the report. The text addresses the legal requirement and frequency of the national SOER, methodological basis and use of indicators, structure of the report, overview of main themes addressed in the report and provides links to additional underlying information (e.g. national indicator system, additional reports if relevant, etc.). Suggested length: up to 250 words.

#### **Key findings of the State of Environment report/ Key finding of the state of the environment**

The purpose of this part is to provide brief overview of the state of the environment in the country. It provides a summary of the key messages as well as key findings within the topics addressed in the latest national SOE report. Suggested length: up to 800 words.

**Notice:** *By mutual agreement with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Moldova, the latest available official data on the environment was used for summary evaluations.*

#### **Main policy responses to key environmental challenges and concerns**

The purpose of this part is to reflect on the state of the environment in the wider national context, focusing on the main challenges, environmental concerns and existing policies addressing these challenges/concerns in the country. In this part there are also highlighted policy responses to improve the state of the environment. Suggested length: up to 500 words.

#### **Country specific issues**

The purpose of this part is to provide an opportunity to highlight country specific issues addressed in the SOE report or in relevant adopted policies, including emerging issues and how countries are dealing with them and, innovative policies supporting long term transition towards a more sustainable society in the country. The aim is to help to identify interesting developments and innovative approaches that could be an interest for other Eastern Partnership Countries. This includes the environmental political agenda; green economy, forward looking information and scenarios, regional issues etc. The suggestions mentioned below are based on the discussions during the country visit. Suggested length: up to 500 words.

## Main themes and sectors addressed in the national State of Environment report (SOER)

National report on the state of the environment is prepared annually in accordance with the Law of Ukraine on Environmental Protection<sup>1</sup> on the basis of information material of the central executive bodies, scientific institutions and organizations. Ukraine also prepares annual reports on the state of the environment in the regions of the country.

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MENR) of Ukraine has overall responsibility for preparation of the reports.

National State of the Environment Report of Ukraine, 2015 was published in 2017 in Ukrainian. The report was prepared by the State Ecological Academy for PostGraduate Education under the MENR with EU financial support.

The report apply the environmental indicators and methodologies used in the assessment report of the European Environment Agency (EEA).

The content of the SOE Report consists of following chapters:

- **General information**
- **Atmospheric air**
- **Climate change**
- **Water resources**
- **Protection of biological and landscape diversity, development of the natural fund and formation of the national environmental network**
- **Soil resources and lands**
- **Minerals**
- **Waste**
- **Environmental safety**
- **Industry and its impact on the environment**
- **Agriculture and its impact on the environment**
- **Energy and its impact on the environment**
- **Transport and its impact on the environment**
- **Balanced production and consumption**
- **State environmental management**

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<sup>1</sup> the Law of Ukraine on Environmental Protection

## Key findings of the State of Environment report

The main polluters of **ambient air** are enterprises of processing and extracting industry and enterprises of electricity and thermal power production. The pollutants being emitted into ambient air are nitrogen oxide, carbon oxide, dioxide and other compounds of sulphur, dust. According to the State Statistics Service, in 2015, emissions of air pollutants from stationary and mobile sources were 4521.3 thousand tons. Emissions of pollutants from mobile sources amounted to 36.8% and emission from stationary sources 63.2% of the total amount of emissions of pollutants into ambient air. The most pollutants 88.7% from mobile sources came from road transport. Total emissions of air pollutants between 2000 and 2015 decreased (by 23.5%).

**Water resources** of Ukraine consist of surface and groundwater. Surface water bodies cover 24.1 km<sup>2</sup>, 4% of total territory of Ukraine. In 2015, 9.13 billion m<sup>3</sup> of water were taken from natural water bodies, which was 1.8 billion m<sup>3</sup> less than in 2014. Also, groundwater abstraction, which reaches 1.2 billion m<sup>3</sup>, was declining. There are strong consumers of water resources such as industrial enterprises, housing, public services and agriculture, especially irrigation. In 2015, the most used water sources were for production needs – 4 491 million m<sup>3</sup>.

**Land resources** of Ukraine are characterized by an extremely high rate of agricultural development, significantly higher than ecologically sound limits. The estimate of the distribution of land resources of Ukraine for their economic use as of 1 January 2016 shows that agriculture has the largest share - 69.8%, secondly forestry - 14.7%, the thirdly the protected natural environment - 4.8% and other unused land - 5.4%. Compared to previous year, the increase in residential and other land increased by 53 200 hectares.

Based on the results of exploration work a powerful **mineral** reserve base was founded in Ukraine. In the depths more than 20000 deposits and occurrences of 95 kinds of minerals were revealed. As of January 2016, 522 deposits of drinking and process groundwater, 225 mineral water, 1 thermal power groundwater deposit, 12 deposits of medicinal mud, 3 medical field brine had been explored and approved. The industrial development in 2015 was about 3000 mineral deposits, on which there are more than two thousand mining and processing enterprises.

In general the situation in 2015 is characterized by the further development of environmental hazards associated with **wastes**: their generation, storage and disposal. For a long time it is still problem with waste recycling. In 2015 was in enterprises and households produced 312.3 million tons of waste, which was 12.1% less than in 2014. Of the total volume, waste from economic activities of enterprises accounted for 98.1% and households for 1.9%.

**Environmental safety** is an important component of the national security of Ukraine. In 2015, in the industrial complex of Ukraine about 1000 objects were operated where hazardous chemicals in quantities above 219 thousand tons were stored or used in the production. The largest number of chemically hazardous facilities is located in the Donetsk, Dnipropetrovsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv regions. About 11 million people live in areas of possible chemical contamination. In general, it should be noted that the condition of pollution of the environment by the activities of the chemical industry in 2015 has not changed significantly compared to previous years.

## Main policy responses to key environmental challenges and concerns

In 2013, the implementation of national and regional environmental policy was carried out in accordance with Ukraine law on the basic principles (strategy) of the state environmental policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2020.

In order to financially support the implementation of the activities set out in the Strategy, an agreement was signed between the Government of Ukraine and the European Union on the financing of the program „Support for the implementation of Ukraine’s National Environmental Policy Strategy for the period up to 2020“.

The main mechanism for implementing the strategy and an important programming document is the National Environmental Action Plan for 2011-2015<sup>2</sup> (NAP), which was approved by Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 25 May 2011 no. 577.

The plan provides the implementation of 278 activities under the 7 objectives:

- **raising the level of public awareness on the environment;**
- **improving the environmental situation and increasing the level of environmental security;**
- **achieving a safe environment for human health;**
- **improving the integrated environmental management system;**
- **promoting biological and landscape diversity and establishing an ecological network;**
- **ensuring environmentally balanced use of nature;**
- **improving regional environmental policy.**

In 2013, the Ministry actively implemented the basic plan for the adaptation of Ukrainian environmental legislation to the European Union legislation, which was approved by the Ministry of Nature Regulation no. 659 of 17 December 2012 laying down measures to adapt 31 of the EU Directive.

In order to fulfill the tasks entrusted to the Ministry of the Environment and to formulate state environmental policy, the Ministry drafted 92 draft regulatory acts, of which 78 were adopted.

In particular, the draft Concept for the introduction of cleaner production in Ukraine; the draft Law of Ukraine „on amendments to the Law of Ukraine“ on the State Biosafety System for the creation, testing, transport and use of genetically modified organisms, reporting and verifying greenhouse gas emissions“.

Work is currently underway to adapt Ukrainian legislation to EU requirements. Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 15 April 2015 no. 371-p approved a Plan for the implementation of EU legislation<sup>3</sup> prepared by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources

In order to improve the system of defining guidelines and tasks to ensure the development of the state environmental monitoring system and the level of fulfillment of its basic functions, the Concept of Reform of the State Environmental Monitoring System is being prepared.

<sup>2</sup> the National Environmental Action Plan for 2011-2015

<sup>3</sup> Plan for the implementation of EU legislation

## Country specific issues

The conduct of hostilities in eastern Ukraine carries significant environmental risks for the environment of the Donetsk and Lugansk regions.

The main environmental risks in the territories of the anti-terrorist operation (ATO) are air pollution resulting from the burning of large quantities of ammunition and the operation of large military equipment, violation of the nature reserve and forest lands, agricultural lands, forest and grass fires, soil pollution, violation of drinking water supply, surface and groundwater pollution and flooding of territories as a result of emergency situations at large industrial enterprises.

Today, there is a difficult situation with environmental monitoring in eastern Ukraine. The posts of air quality control of the Donetsk regional center for hydrometeorology in the cities do not work (Donetsk, Makeevka, Gorlovka, Torsk and Enakievo, air quality control posts of the Lugansk regional center for hydrometeorology in the cities Lugansk and Alchevsk). Also, the posts for monitoring the quality of surface water of the Donetsk and Lugansk regional centers for hydrometeorology and the Seversko-Donetsk basin water management in the occupied and parts of the partly liberated territories are not functionally working. The work of the State environmental inspections in the Donetsk and Lugansk regions is complicated.

Donetsk and Lugansk regions are the most technologically loaded regions of Ukraine and the current situation with environmental monitoring in the territories of these regions may lead to new environmental threats. To prevent and control the occurrence of environmental emergency situations in the ATO zone, it is necessary to develop and implement a modern environmental monitoring system in these territories.