

**REPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA ON
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IN A
TRANSBOUNDARY CONTEXT**

in the period 2010–2012

Information on the focal point for the Convention

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Date on which report was completed: 09.05.2013

PART ONE – CURRENT LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION

In this part, please provide the information requested, or revise any information relative to the previous report. Describe the legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention. This part should describe the framework for your country's implementation, and not experience in the application of the Convention.

Article 2

General Provisions

1. *List the general legal, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2, para. 2).*

The Republic of Macedonia has developed an integral system for implementing EIA system. Namely, the Law on Environment ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 53/05, 81/05, 24/07, 159/08, 83/09, 48/10, 124/10, 51/11 and 123/12) in the Chapters X and XI generally stipulate procedure for implementation (all stages of the EIA/SEA processes). EIA procedure is detailed regulated with following subsidiary legislation:

Based on Article 77 of this Law, the Government of the Republic of Macedonia adopted the:

- Decree determining the projects for which and criteria on the basis which the screening for an environmental impact assessment shall be carried out ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 74/05, 109/09, 164/12).

The Minister of Environment and Physical Planning has adopted the following acts:

- Rulebook on the content of the requirements that need to be fulfilled by the study on the environmental impact assessment ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 33/2006);
- Rulebook on the content of announcement of the notification of intention to implement a project, of the decision on the necessity of an environmental impact assessment, of the study on project environmental impact assessment, of the report on the adequacy of the study on environmental impact assessment, and of the decision for approval or rejection of project realisation, and the manner of public consultation. ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 33/2006);
- Rulebook on the information contained in the notification of intent to undertake a project and the procedure for establishing the need for environmental impact assessment ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 33/2006);
- Rulebook on the form, content, procedure and manner of delivering a report on the adequacy of the study on environmental impact assessment and the procedure for authorisation of persons from the List of Experts of environmental impact assessment responsible for the preparation of the report ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 33/2006);
- Rulebook on the amount of the expenses covered by the investor for implementation of the environmental impact assessment procedure ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 116/09);
- Rulebook on composition of the committee and the manner of its operation, the program and the manner of carrying out the expert exam, the amount of the fee for taking the expert examination as well as the amount of the fee for the establishment and maintenance of the list of environmental impact assessment experts and the manner of acquiring and losing the status of environmental impact assessment expert, as well as the manner and the procedure for inclusion and exclusion from the list of experts ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 93/07);

Apart from this, there are also other relevant legal acts, containing some articles regarding EIA and all of them are in accordance with the Law on Environment:

- Law on Nature Conservation ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 67/2004)
- Law on Waste Management ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 68/2004)
- Law on Air Quality ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 67/2004)
- Law in Waters ("Official Gazette of RM" No.87/08,6/09,83/10,51/11 and 44/12)
- Law on waste ("Official Gazette of RM" No.68/04,71/04,107/07,143/08,102/08,124/10, 51/11 and 123/12)

Indicate any further measures to implement the provisions of the Convention that are planned for the near future.

3. *List the different authorities that are named responsible for the implementation of the EIA procedure in the transboundary context and domestically.*

The main participants of the EIA process in the Republic of Macedonia include the following institutions:

- Government of the Republic of Macedonia is responsible for adoption of the list of the project, which due to their character, scope or location of their implementation, may have significant impact on the environment.
- Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP). The Unit for EIA, within Administration of Environment, which is organ within the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning, is in charge of following stages of the EIA procedure: screening; scoping, review, public participation, transboundary consultation and decision-making.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs - responsible for transboundary EIA (sending the notification through diplomatic channels)
- Financial institutions, primarily banks, have developed their own regulations, according to which, in the process of approving credit for the implementation of major investment projects, the investor is required to submit the opinion of the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning on the submitted EIA study.
- Authorized experts. The MoEPP establishes Lists of Experts (In the moment we have 31 experts on the list).
- International financing institutions and donors. With regard to all projects carried out in the Republic of Macedonia with financial support from such bodies these institutions follow the EIA procedure according to their own regulations and requirements.
- Non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Macedonia's current legislation specifies details concerning public information and public participation in the decision-making process within the EIA process.

4. *Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary EIA cases? If so, please name it.*

Yes, EIA Unit and Espoo focal point, but in the Law is not strict determined who is responsible to collect all information about transboundary EIA cases.

5. *Does your country have special provisions for transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects (e.g., roads, pipelines)?*

We don't have special provisions for joint project, but according to the Article 93 paragraph 6 of the Law on Environment within the project environmental impact

assessment procedure, the body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment may undertake measures of direct consultations with the authorities of the affected country or to undertake measures for conclusion of specific bilateral agreements with the affected country which would regulate in detail the procedure of mutual consultation in the project environmental impact assessment procedure.

IDENTIFICATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY REQUIRING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT UNDER THE CONVENTION

6. *Is appendix I to the Convention transposed fully into your country's national legislation? Please describe any differences between the national list and appendix I to the Convention.*

The Annex 1 of the Decree determining projects and criteria on the basis of which the screening for environmental impact assessment shall be carried out (O.G. No. 74/05, 109/09, 164/12) is in compliance with the Appendix I to the Convention. In 2009 and 2012 we made changes to the Decree according to the Annex 1 and 2 from the EU Directive on EIA.

7. *Does your country's legislation already cover fully the revised appendix I in the second amendment (ECE/MP.EIA/6, decision III/7)?*

Yes

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

8. *How does your country, together with the affected Party, ensure that the opportunity given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to the one given to your country's public as required in article 2, paragraph 6?*

The Law on Environment is giving a legal basis for prescribing the procedure of transboundary EIA that shall contain provisions referring to the issue above.

In article 93 par.1 of the Law on Environment is stipulated that the MoEPP shall notify the affected country/countries within the time period applicable for the domestic public.

MoEPP in cooperation with the competent authority of the country affected shall create conditions for public information and for obtaining of opinions and comments by the affected country in the same manner as for the domestic public, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Macedonia.

MoEPP shall take into account the information received by the country affected together with the comments from its public while taking the decision for the project implementation approval.

Public is include in all stages in EIA procedure starting from the bening of the procedure

- Notification on the intention for project implementation - announce the notification
- Study on the Project Environmental Impact Assessment - publish the study on the project environmental impact assessment
- publishing the Report on the adequacy of the study on project environmental impact assessment
- Publishing the decision.

Article 3

Notification

QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

9. *Describe how your country determines when to send the notification to the affected Party, which is to occur "as early as possible as and no later than when informing its own public".*

In the beginning of the process when MoEPP during the environmental impact screening of a project it is established that the project is likely to cause significant transboundary environmental impact on the territory/territories of another country/countries, MEPP shall notify the affected country/countries within the time period applicable for the domestic public.

10. *Indicate whether and how the following provisions are reflected in your national legislation:*

a. *The stage in the EIA procedure when your country usually notifies the affected Party (art. 3.1);*

In the beginning of the process when MoEPP during the environmental impact screening of a project

b. *The format for notification. Please indicate whether this is the format as decided by the first meeting of the Parties in its decision I/4 (ECE /MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix). If not, does your country use a format of its own (in which case, please attach a copy of it)?*

The notification in particular contain:

- notification on the initiation of the project environmental impact assessment procedure,
- a description of the project and information on the likely environmental impact of project,
- information on the possible environmental impact of the project,
- information on the type of the decision that may be taken in relation to the project environmental impact assessment procedure, and
- deadline for response to the notification that may not be shorter than the deadline provided for the domestic public for submission of opinions on the decision for project environmental impact assessment screening.

Please see attachment (Notification letter).

c. *The time frame for the response to the notification from the affected Party (cf. art. 3, para. 3, “within the time specified in the notification”), the consequence if an affected Party does not comply with the time frame, and the possibility of extending a deadline;*

Within 30 days after receipt of notification.

d. *The request for information from the affected Party (art. 3 para. 6), necessary for the preparation of the EIA documentation;*

MoEPP may request from the country affected to provide information concerning the state of the environment on its territory on which the project could make significant impact where such information is of relevance for the preparation of the documentation for environmental impact assessment (Article 93, paragraph 7 - Law on Environment).

e. *How your country cooperates with the authorities of the affected Party on public participation (art. 3, para. 8);*

We still didn't have experience

f. *When and how the public in the affected Party is notified (what kinds of media, etc., are usually used). What is normally the content of the public notification?*

We still didn't have experience

- g. *When and how the public in the Party of origin is notified (what kinds of media, etc. are usually used). What is normally the content of the public notification?*

We still didn't have experience

- h. *Whether the notification to the public of the affected Party has the same content as the notification to your country's public. If not, describe why not.*

Notification to the public of the affected Party has the same content as notification to our country.

11. *Does your country make use of contact points for the purposes of notification, as decided at the first meeting of Parties (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex III, decision I/3), and as listed on the Convention website (http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm)?*

QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

12. *Indicate whether and how the following provisions are reflected in your national legislation:*

- a. *How your country decides whether or not to participate in the EIA procedure (art. 3, para. 3)?*

When the Republic of Macedonia receives a notification from a competent authority of another country on initiation of the implementation of a project on the territory of that country which is likely to have an impact on the environment in the Republic of Macedonia, MoEPP shall respond within the given term and shall at the same time inform the public in the Republic of Macedonia on the notification received.

MoEPP shall inform the relevant institutions and the public concerned in the Republic of Macedonia on how to take part in the environmental impact assessment procedure in the specific case and on the deadline within which they may submit their opinions and comments.

MoEPP may organize a public discussion on the area of the Republic of Macedonia that would be most affected by the project implementation. (Article 94- Law on Environment)

- b. *The request from the Party of origin for information (art. 3, para. 6), necessary for the preparation of the EIA documentation;*

- c. *How your country cooperates with the authorities of the Party of origin on public participation (art. 3, para. 8);*

- d. *When and how the public is notified (e.g., what kinds of media, etc., are usually used).*

When the Republic of Macedonia receives a notification from a competent authority of another country on initiation of the implementation of a project on the territory of that country which is likely to have an impact on the environment in the Republic of Macedonia, MoEPP shall respond within the given term and shall at the same time inform the public in the Republic of Macedonia on the notification received.

Internet, usually we put the notification on MoEPP web page.

Article 4

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

13. *Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to:*

a. *The content of the EIA documentation (art. 4, para. 1; appendix II);*

EIA documentation is regulated by Rulebook on the content of the requirements that need to be fulfilled by the study on the environmental impact assessment ("Official Gazette of RM" No. 33/2006).

b. *The procedures for determining the content of the EIA documentation on a case-by-case basis (scoping procedure) (art. 4, para. 1);*

Based on the request for determination of the scope of the environmental impact assessment study for the project and on the type of the project, MoEPP shall determine the scope of the study on environmental impact assessment.

While determining the scope of the study on environmental impact assessment, MoEPP shall consult the Investor and the Municipality, the City of Skopje and the Municipalities of the City of Skopje on the area of which the project is to be carried out, as well as other relevant bodies of the state administration and institutions that shall provide information and opinions within 15 days of the day of submission of the request for consultation.

For the purposes of determining the scope of the study on project environmental impact assessment, MoEPP may authorize persons from the List of Experts.

In drafting the opinion on the scope of the project environmental impact assessment study, MoEPP shall take into account the opinions of the Investor and the opinions obtained from other institutions.

The opinion on the scope of the study on project environmental impact assessment shall in particular contain:

- alternatives to be taken into consideration;
- basic review and research required;
- methods and criteria used for anticipation and assessment of the effects;
- measures for improvement to be taken into consideration;
- legal persons that should be consulted during the preparation of the study on the project environmental impact assessment; and
- structure, content and length of environmental information.

MoEPP may, in addition to the determination of the scope of the study on project environmental impact assessment, in the course of the further environmental impact assessment procedure, request additional information in case it maintains that it is necessary and request the information to be composed in the manner that is in line with the modern knowledge and methods of assessment.

The opinion shall be published within five days from the day of adoption (Article 82).

c. *The identification of "reasonable alternatives" in accordance with appendix II, paragraph (b);*

The opinion on the scope of the study on project environmental impact assessment shall in particular contain:

- alternatives to be taken into consideration;
- basic review and research required;
- methods and criteria used for anticipation and assessment of the effects;

- measures for improvement to be taken into consideration;
- legal persons that should be consulted during the preparation of the study on the project environmental impact assessment; and
- structure, content and length of environmental information (Article 82 paragraph 5).

During the preparation of the report on the adequacy of environmental impact assessment study, MEPP shall initiate consultations with the competent authority of the country concerned in relation to the measures for reduction or elimination of the likely transboundary impact of the project. The consultations shall take into account:

a) possible alternatives of the proposed project including the alternative not to implement the project and the potential measures for mitigation of transboundary impacts and/or monitoring of the effects of certain measures;

b) other forms of possible mutual assistance in the reduction of the significant transboundary impacts from the proposed project; and

c) other issues related to the proposed project (Article 93-b).

d. The procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation domestically;

e. The procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation to the affected Party. If there is a difference between the procedures and format domestically and for the affected Party, please explain;

f. The procedures for the examination of, and the deadlines for comments on, the EIA documentation domestically, and how the comments submitted domestically are addressed;

g. The procedures for the examination of, and the deadlines for comments on, the EIA documentation from the affected Party, and how the comments submitted by the affected Party are addressed;

h. The procedures for public hearings domestically;

According to article 91 from the Law on environment, MOEPP is responsible to provide for a public hearing at least five working days before the expiry of the term for preparation of adequacy report on the study on the project environmental impact assessment and ensure availability of information needed to the public for participation in the public hearing in accordance with Law, as well as inform citizens' associations established for the purpose of environment protection and improvement in the area in which the project would be implemented. MOEPP shall keep minutes from the public hearing in which it shall list the participants as well as the conclusions, and stenographic notes and video or audio records of the hearing shall be attached to the minutes. MOEPP is responsible to submit a copy of the minutes along with the attachments to the Investor, to the bodies of the public administration responsible for the activities to which the project relates and to the bodies of the municipality or of the City of Skopje and of the municipalities of the City of Skopje where the project would be implemented, and shall publish the minutes on its web site.

i. The procedures for public hearings held on the territory of the affected Party.

MoEPP in cooperation with the competent authority of the country affected shall create conditions for public information and for obtaining of opinions and comments by the affected country in the same manner as for the domestic public, in accordance with the laws of the Republic of Macedonia.

QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

14. *Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to:*

- a. *The procedures and deadlines for comments on the EIA documentation to be submitted to the Party of origin;*

When the Republic of Macedonia receives a notification from a competent authority of another country on initiation of the implementation of a project on the territory of that country which is likely to have an impact on the environment in the Republic of Macedonia, MoEPP shall respond within the given term and shall at the same time inform the public in the Republic of Macedonia on the notification received.

- b. *The procedures for public participation in the review of the EIA documentation domestically, and the authority responsible for the execution of the aforementioned procedures;*

MoEPP shall inform the relevant institutions and the public concerned in the Republic of Macedonia on how to take part in the environmental impact assessment procedure in the specific case and on the deadline within which they may submit their opinions and comments.

MoEPP may organize a public discussion on the area of the Republic of Macedonia that would be most affected by the project implementation.

For the purpose of the public discussion organization, the body of the state administration responsible for the affairs of the environment shall send an invitation to the competent authority in the country where the project will be implemented and to the Investor (Article 94).

- c. *The procedures for the examination of the EIA documentation domestically.*

Article 5

Consultations

QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

15. *Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to the following provisions:*

- a. *The procedures for cooperation with the affected Party related to consultations;*

- b. *The stages, procedures and deadlines for consultations with the affected Party;*

- c. *The stages, procedures and deadlines for consultations domestically, and who participates in the consultations.*

QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

16. *Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to the following provisions:*

- a. *The procedures for interaction with the Party of origin related to consultations;*

Within the project environmental impact assessment procedure, MoEPP may undertake measures of direct consultations with the authorities of the Party of origin or to undertake measures for conclusion of specific bilateral agreements with the Party of origin which would regulate in detail the procedure of mutual consultation in the project environmental impact assessment procedure.

- b. *The stages, procedures and deadlines for consultations domestically, and who participates in the consultations.*

According to the Law on Environment the consultations are held on national level by organizing public hearing, but the public in the different phases of the procedure have possibility to give comments in writing.

Article 6

Final decision

QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

17. *Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to the following provisions:*

- a. *The definition of "final decision" related to the implementation of the planned activity; the content of decisions; and procedures for their adoption;*

- b. *For each type of activity listed in appendix I, identify what is regarded as the "final decision" to authorize or undertake a proposed activity (art. 6 in conjunction with art. 2, para. 3); also provide the term used in the national legislation in the original language. Do all projects listed in appendix I require such a decision?*

Projects for which compulsory environmental impact assessment procedure shall be carried out are specified in Annex I to this Decree on determining projects for which and criteria on the basis of which the screening for an environmental impact assessment shall be carried out.

According to the Law on Environment MoEPP on the basis of the study on the project environmental impact assessment, the report on the adequacy of the study on the project environmental impact assessment, the public hearing of this Law and the opinions obtained, issue a decision on whether to grant consent to or reject the application for the project implementation (decision) within 40 days from the date of submission of the adequacy report.

- c. *The procedures for informing of the "final decision" domestically and for the affected Party;*

MoEPP shall, upon the issuance of the decision granting consent to or rejecting the request for project implementation, submit it to the competent authority of the country affected, together with:

- a) the main reasons on which the decision is based; and
- b) description where necessary of the main measures for avoiding, reducing and if possible eliminating the harmful impacts (Article 93-b paragraph 5).

d. Are the comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations taken into consideration in the same way as the comments from the authorities and the public in your country (art. 6, para. 1)?

MoEPP shall take into account the information received by the country affected together with the comments from its public while taking the decision for the project implementation approval (Article 93-a paragraph 2).

e. The opportunity to review the decision if, before the activity is implemented, additional information becomes available according to article 6, paragraph 3.

According to article 87 par.5 the decision shall cease to have a legal effect within two years from the date of its issuance if the project implementation has not commenced. Upon request by the Investor, the validity of the decision may be extended, provided that no significant changes have occurred in the conditions in the area affected, new information related to the main content of the study and the development of new technology that may be used in the project.

Article 7

Post-Project Analysis

18. Indicate the legal requirements in your country, if any, related to:

- a. Post-project analysis (art. 7, para. 1);*
- b. Procedures for informing of the results of post-project analysis.*

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral agreements

19. Does your country have any bilateral or multilateral agreements based on the Convention (art. 8, appendix VI)? If so, list them. Briefly describe the nature of these agreements. To what extent are these agreements based on appendix VI and what issues do they cover? If publicly available, also attach the texts of such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

YES, Republic of Macedonia, signed the Multilateral Agreement among the countries of the South East Europe for implementation of the Espoo Convention in Bucuresht, Romania on 14 May 2008. Law on ratification of the Multilateral Agreement among the countries of the South East Europe for implementation of the Espoo Convention, currently is in Parliamentary procedure.

20. Has your country established any supplementary points of contact pursuant to bilateral or multilateral agreements?

No

Article 9

Research programmes

21. *Are you aware of any specific research in relation to the items mentioned in article 9 in your country? If so, describe it briefly.*

Ratification of the amendments to the Convention and of the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment

22. *If your country has not yet ratified the first amendment to the Convention, does it have plans to ratify this amendment? If so, when?*

23. *If your country has not yet ratified the second amendment to the Convention, does it have plans to ratify this amendment? If so, when?*

24. *If your country has not yet ratified the Protocol on SEA, does it have plans to ratify the Protocol? If so, when?*

Ratification on SEA Protocol is in procedure. Expected date for ratification is 30 June 2013.

PART TWO – PRACTICAL APPLICATION DURING THE PERIOD 2010–2012

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures described in part one), whether as Party of origin or affected Party. The focus here is on identifying good practices as well as difficulties Parties have encountered in applying the Convention in practice; and the goal is to enable Parties to share solutions. Parties should therefore provide appropriate examples highlighting application of the Convention and innovative approaches to improve its application.

CASES DURING THE PERIOD 2010–2012

25. *If your country's national administration has a list of transboundary EIA procedures that were under way during the reporting period, in which your country was Party of origin or affected Party, please list it.*

Republic of Macedonia as a Party of Origin send the following notifications:

- Notification on the intention for realization of the Project: **Construction of Highway M-5 on the section, Border with Republic of Bulgaria (Crna Skala) – Delchevo – Vinica – Kochani – Shtip - Veles**”- Ministry of Environment and Waters, Republic of Bulgaria, November 2011
- Notification on the intention for realization of the Project: **“Construction and reconstruction of railway line - Corridor VIII - Eastern section”** - Ministry of Environment and Waters, Republic of Bulgaria, Octombar 2011
- Notification on the intention for realization of the Project: **“Construction of interconnection 400kv OHTL from SS Bitola 2 to Macedonian/Albanian border and SS 400/110kv Ohrid”** - Ministry of Environment, Forest and Water Managment , Republic of Albania, November 2012

- Notification on the intention for realization of the Project: **“Construction of railway line Kicevo – boundary of the Republic of Albania”** - (Ministry of Environment Forest and Water Management, Republic of Albania, June 2010)

Republic of Macedonia as a Affected Party received the following notification:

- Notification od EIA in relation to the project: **Upgrading-widening of road section 50.3 "Florina-Niki" on vertical axis 50 "Kozani-Florina-Niki" of Egnatia Odos** - Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change, 29.07.2010
- Notification od EIA in relation to the project: **“Modernization of railway line Radomir - Gyueshevo”** - Ministry of Environment and Waters, Republic of Bulgaria, May 2012.

26. *Does your country object to the inclusion of the above list of transboundary EIA procedures in a compilation of such procedures to be made available on the website of the Convention? (Indicate “yes” if you object.)*

27. *Provide information and explanations on the average duration of transboundary EIA procedures, both of the individual steps and of the procedures as a whole.*

Duration of the some of the steps of the transboundary EIA procedure are stipulate in the articles 70 and 71 of the Law of Environment.

EXPERIENCE IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE DURING THE PERIOD 2010–2012

28. *If your country has had practical experience in the transboundary EIA procedure during the reporting period, has the implementation of the Convention supported the prevention, reduction or control of possible significant transboundary environmental impacts? Provide practical examples if available.*

We don't have such experience.

29. *Please share with other Parties your country's experience of using the Convention in practice. In response to each of the questions below, either provide one or two practical examples or describe your country's general experience. You might also include examples of lessons learned in order to help others:*

a. *Indicate whether a separate chapter is provided on transboundary issues in the EIA documentation. How does your country determine how much information to include in the EIA documentation?*

b. *Translation is not addressed in the Convention. How has your country addressed the question of translation? What does your country usually translate? What difficulties has your country experienced relating to translation and interpretation, and what solutions has your country applied?*

We are sending Notification always on English language, but we had example where Bulgarian side ask from us translation of the Notification on bulgarian language and we did it for Project: Construction of Highway M-5 on the section, Border with Republic of Bulgaria (Crna Skala) – Delchevo – Vinica – Kochani – Shtip – Veles.

c. *How has your country organized transboundary public participation in practice? As Party of origin, has your country organized public participation in affected Parties and, if so, how? Has your country experienced difficulties with the participation of its public or the public of another Party (e.g., have there been complaints from the public about the procedure)?*

No experience.

d. *Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during consultations, for example over timing, language and the need for additional information. As an affected Party, have consultations under article 5 supported the prevention, reduction or control of possible significant transboundary environmental impacts?*

No experience.

e. *Describe examples of the form, content and language of the final decision, when it is issued and how it is communicated to the affected Party and its public;*

No experience.

f. *Has your country carried out post-project analyses and, if so, on what kinds of project?*

No experience.

g. *Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects? Please provide information on your country's experiences describing, for example, means of cooperation (e.g., contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (e.g., translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.);*

No experience.

h. *Name examples of good practice cases, whether complete cases or good practice elements (e.g., notification, consultation or public participation) within cases. Would your country like to introduce a case in the form of a Convention's "case study fact sheet"?*

No experience.

i. *Identify the most common means of applying the Convention (e.g., through focal points, joint bodies, multilateral agreements).*

Through focal points.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN PARTIES IN 2010–2012

30. *Does your country have any successful examples of how it has overcome difficulties arising from different legal systems in neighbouring countries? If so please specify.*

No experience

EXPERIENCE IN USING THE GUIDANCE IN 2010–2012

31. *Has your country used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online? Describe your country's experience with using these guidance documents and how they might be improved or supplemented.*

a. *Guidance on public participation in EIA in a transboundary context (ECE/MP.EIA/7);*

- b. *Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix);*
- c. *Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral and multilateral agreements (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex IV, appendix).*

CLARITY OF THE CONVENTION

32. *Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedure defined in the Convention, either as Party of origin or as affected Party? Are there provisions in the Convention that are unclear?*

AWARENESS OF THE CONVENTION

33. *Has your country undertaken activities to promote awareness of the Convention among stakeholders (e.g., the public, local authorities, consultants and experts, academics, investors)? If so, describe them.*

Yes, during the process of drafting the National Law of Environment.

34. *Does your country see a need to improve the application of the Convention in your country and, if so, how does it intend to do so?*

Yes, through revision of the Law on Environment.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REPORT

35. *Please provide suggestions for how this report may be improved.*

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