

**REPORT OF SLOVAKIA 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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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).*

- Act No. 24/2006 Coll. on environmental impact assessment (as amended)
- Edict of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 113/2006 Coll. on the List of Professionally Qualified Persons for Environmental Impact Assessment.

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

We are working with Poland on our bilateral agreement. Co-operation on bilateral agreements with Ukraine and Hungary has been stuck and we repeatedly have not received responses from them.

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

Transboundary – Ministry of Environment

Domestically - Ministry of Environment, District Environmental Authorities (for individual regions - 8), District Environmental Authorities (48)

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

Ministry of Environment

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

No.

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.*

Yes, in the annex No. 13 of the EIA Act, except for the item No. 15, "Offshore hydrocarbon production", which we do not have, because we are a land-locked country.

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?*

In general, we use Espoo contact points to notify the affected Party and through them also their public. We make sure the public of the affected Party is informed at an early stage, the public of the affected Party has the same or even longer period of time to send comments as our own public, they have the right to participate in public hearings and we have also experience with holding several public hearings (in more countries, not only in the territory of the Party of origin), comments from the public of the affected Party are analyzed and treated equally as the comments from the public of the Party of origin, they are included in the final EIA statement and the final decision is made available to the public through the affected Party authorities.

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".*

The notification is as a rule sent as soon as the competent authority identifies that there might be a negative transboundary impact, which usually is in the initial stage of the procedure, i.e. the same stage when our own public is informed.

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);*

Yes; SK notifies the affected Party without undue delay after having received the preliminary EIA documentation

- 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)?*

No; no.

- 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;*

We use the time frames used in our domestic EIA procedures. When an affected Party asks for an extension of a deadline, we have never had a problem agreeing.

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

Yes.

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

There are no specific provisions in the national EIA Act.

In general, we use Espoo contact points + bilateral agreement (with Austria). We make sure the public of the affected Party is informed at an early stage through the authorities of the affected Party, we initiate public consultations and hearings, comments from public are included in the final EIA statement and the final decision is made available to the public through the affected Party authorities.

- 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?*

There are no specific provisions in the national EIA Act.

We notify the authority of the affected Party and at the same time we make the information on the proposed activity available to the broad public on our webpage (www.enviroportal.sk). It is then up to the affected Party in what ways and through which media it notifies its own public in accordance with their national practice and legislation.

- 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?*

Provisions for the national EIA procedure are used.

Public is notified at an early stage – after the competent authority receives the preliminary EIA documentation and checks it. It is then distributed to the affected municipalities which make it publicly available and it is also made available on the webpage www.enviroportal.sk.

Content – preliminary EIA documentation (content is given in an Annex to the EIA Act) and all relevant annexes (maps, documents, graphs, studies, etc.).

- 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.*

We do not send specific notifications on transboundary EIA's to our public. We make use of the national EIA procedure provisions and we do not distinguish between a national and a transboundary process at this stage. Indeed, at the time of the notification it is not even clear whether or not the affected Party says Yes or No. All relevant EIA documentation is made available on the webpage and sent to the affected municipalities together with an accompanying letter, which of course does not have the same content as the letter, which serves as a notification to the affected Party. The documentation that is sent with such a letter is however the same.

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)?*

Yes.

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)?*

No specific detailed provision. Only Articles stipulating that SK as an affected Party has to comply with the deadline given in the notification and that the provisions of the national EIA Act are used as appropriate.

If the Party of origin notifies the Ministry about the proposed activity pursuant to Article 51 of the EIA Act, that is likely to cause a significant adverse impact at the territory of the Slovak Republic, the Ministry is obliged to reply to the notification within the time limit laid down by the Party of origin or without undue delay if no such time limit is laid down. In the reply the Ministry will state whether it will participate in the assessment. Information from the Party of origin which is sent with the notification is sent to all affected authorities, also to the affected municipalities, which then make it available to the affected public. The Ministry makes decision whether SK would like to participate in the transboundary EIA procedure based on the comments, standpoints and requirements from the affected authorities and the affected municipalities and public concerned.

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

This is reflected in the Art. 52 of the EIA Act.

At the request from the Party of origin, the Ministry provides available information about the impacts that are likely to occur at the territory of SK if it is 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);

In general, we use Espoo contact points+ bilateral agreements (with Austria). We make information available to the public at an early stage by means of the municipalities affected and the webpage (www.enviroportal.sk). If our public is interested in public consultations/hearings, we organize them in cooperation with the Party of origin and we make the information on the final decision available to the broad public.

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

Public is notified at an early stage – after the competent authority receives the notification and the EIA documentation. It is then distributed to the affected municipalities which make it publicly available and it is also made available on the webpage www.enviroportal.sk.

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);

The legal requirements for the EIA documentation content are set out in the Annex 11 of the EIA Act (Article 31) and are fully in compliance with the information included in Appendix II of the Convention. This documentation is used in domestic EIA, as well as in transboundary assessment.

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

The description and evaluation of the likely impacts of the proposed activity, including a comparison with the existing state of the environment in the area where the activity is to be carried out and in the area likely to be affected will be included by the proponent (developer) in the EIA preliminary documentation. The scoping and if necessary the timetable will be determined by the Ministry in cooperation with other competent authorities in the procedure, like the permitting authority, and after consultation with the proponent.

Article 30 of the EIA Act deals with the scoping and stipulates that it shall be issued also taking into account the opinions and comments received from the public and relevant authorities.

Inter alia, the following is determined in the scoping:

- a) which alternative of the proposed activity needs to be elaborated into details
- b) to which items of the Annex 11 of the EIA Act (structure and content of the EIA report) greater attention must be paid
- c) which of the related proposed activities according to Article 18(13) will be assessed jointly
- d) number of copies and the form of the environmental report

The timetable will determine the time sequence and if necessary also the time limits for the individual steps of the assessment.

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

Case-by-case. National legislation requires the developer to submit 2 alternatives as a minimum, including the zero alternative. Other alternatives may arise in the procedure, e.g. in the scoping phase.

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

The EIA documentation is submitted by the developer in hard copies and electronically. The hard copies are distributed to the affected municipalities and authorities and the electronic version is made available on the internet.

- 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;*

It is the same. The affected Party receives a hard copy and an electronic version.

- 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;*

1. the developer submits the documentation
2. the competent authority checks its format (whether it follows the requirements of the law) and its content
3. the documentation is then made available on the internet and forwarded to relevant authorities for comments which must be submitted within 21 days period (preliminary EIA documentation) or 30 days period (EIA report)
4. comments received on the preliminary EIA are then analyzed in a meeting with the developer and competent authorities including the permitting authority

5. after the meeting a scoping is issued and it includes all relevant comments received during the commenting period which the developer then has to analyse in the EIA report

6. comments received on the EIA report are analyzed by an expert who prepares an opinion that serves the competent authority in its decision making as a professional, technical and qualified opinion on the proposed activity and its impacts on the environment.

- 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;*

The comments from the affected Party are treated in the same way as all other, the procedure for analysing them is the same and the deadline usually stems from the national legislation, however, it often happens it must be prolonged. Hence, it's never shorter, but rather longer.

- h. The procedures for public hearings domestically;*

Art. 34 of the EIA Act – the affected municipality in cooperation with the developer organize the public hearing and send minutes to the competent authority.

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

It's always the developer who is responsible for the hearings in cooperation with the affected municipality and – if needed - with the help of the Espoo contact points.

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;*

The notification and all relevant received documentation are forwarded to all affected municipalities and relevant authorities for comments. We try and keep the deadline given in the notification, however, in case where translation or additional information is needed, we ask for a prolongation of the deadline.

- 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;*

Ministry; public send comments on the documentation and can participate in public hearings.

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

The notification and all relevant received documentation are forwarded to all affected municipalities and relevant authorities for comments.

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;*

Art. 47 (2) – when the affected Party asks to hold consultations, we invite as a rule the developer and the permitting authority.

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

Case-by-case agreed with the Party in question. The consultations are possible during the whole EIA transboundary process. We usually don't set any duration for consultations beforehand. We don't have any legal provisions regarding the situation when there is no need to carry out consultations, as a minimum this fact is included in the final statement.

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

Consultations can be in written form and in a form of a meeting or a public hearing. Participants are designated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the proposed activity and its likelihood of impacts. Authorities and the public are consulted at each and every stage of the national procedure except for the preparation of the expert's opinion.

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;*

No specific legal provisions. If the need for consultations arises during the procedure, we express our intention to carry them out.

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

No specific requirements. Case-by-case; participants – authorities, municipalities.

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;*

There is no such definition. The EIA process finishes with an EIA final statement, which means that the EIA process is separated from the following permitting procedures. The permitting authority can not make a decision under the special regulations concerning the permission of the activity which is the subject of an assessment without the EIA final statement. The final statement must be taken into account in deciding on the authorization of the activity.

- 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?*

1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 13 - IPPC permit - IPKZ povolenie
3 - Building + Atom permit - stavebne + jadrove povolenie
7, 8, 9, - Building + Road permit - stavebne + cestne povolenie
11, 12 - Building + Water permit - stavebne + vodopravne povolenie
16 - Building permit - stavebne povolenie
15 - we don't have such production
14 - Mining + IPPC permit - banske + IPKZ povolenie
17 - Forestry permit - suhlas
Yes, all activities listed require such decision.

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

Without undue delay the Ministry will deliver to the affected Party the final statement and also decision on the permission of the activity, issued in accordance with the special regulations. The final statement must be taken into account in deciding on the permission of the activity.

- a. *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)?*

Yes, taking into account that both Parties are responsible.

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

We don't have any special provisions, however, since the EIA procedure in our country is separated from the permitting procedure, there's still time before the final decision to take such information into account.

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);*

Article 39 (1 and 2) of the EIA Act:

Any person who carries out an activity assessed under the act is obliged to arrange the monitoring and evaluation thereof, inter alia

- a) systematic monitoring and measurement of the impacts thereof,
b) verification of the fulfilment of the conditions laid down in the permission of the activity and evaluation of their effectiveness,

c) arranging for expert comparison of the presumed impacts indicated in the environmental impact statement with the actual situation.

The extent and time limit of the monitoring and evaluation pursuant to Art. 39(1) will be determined by the permitting authority of the activity under special regulations, taking into account the final statement of the Ministry (parts of the final statement and environmental impact statement contain post - project analysis - "Proposed monitoring program and postproject analysis program", "Program of monitoring from the start of construction, through the course of construction and during the activity" and "Proposed control to ensure compliance with the conditions laid down in monitoring program").

It follows from the above mentioned that the monitoring is mandatory, but in order to prevent duplicity, no special monitoring measures have to be identified, but the existing ones are used.

Moreover, Art.49 stipulates that the Ministry can agree with the affected Party on including a requirement for monitoring of possible impacts on the territory of the affected Party in the EIA final statement.

b. Procedures for informing of the results of post-project analysis.

Pursuant to Article 39 (3): If the actual impacts of the activity assessed under this Act are worse than the environmental impact statement indicates, the person who carries out the activity is obliged to arrange for measures to ensure that the actual impacts correspond to the impacts indicated in the EIA report in accordance with the conditions laid down in the decision concerning the permission of the activity under special regulations.

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, we have one bilateral agreement with Austria. In general the agreement talks about the languages used in public hearings and consultations. With regards to the content of the agreement, it uses the provisions of Article 2 (a,b) of the appendix VI.

We are actively working on a bilateral agreement with Poland and talks with Ukraine and Hungary started, but remain unfinished.

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.

Slovak Environmental Agency, Institute of Landscape Ecology at the Slovak Academy of Sciences and relevant study programmes at Universities.

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?*

Ratification date - 29 May 2008

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?*

Ratification date - 29 May 2008

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

Ratification date - 29 May 2008

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.*

Party of origin Slovak Republic:

- Completing the transport infrastructure Horné Srnie/ Brumov – Bylnice (Affected Party : Czech Republic, finished: 2010)
- Thermal Park with hotel, Spišská Stará Ves (Affected party: Poland, finished: 2010)
- Nuclear power plant Mochovce VVER 4 × 440MW, 3rd construction (Affected Parties : Hungary, Austria, Czech republic, Ukraine, Poland, finished 2010)
- Energy park in Zlatná na Ostrove – (Affected Party: Hungary, finished 2011)
- Wind park in Čalovec– (Affected Party: Hungary, finished 2011)
- Railways of the Slovak republic, Modernization state border corridor CR/SR – Čadca – Krásno nad Kysucou (outside), railways end (Affected Party : Czech Republic, finished 2011)
- Green on the highway D2 - Moravský Sv. Ján (Affected Party : Austria, finished 2011)
- Interim Storage of Radioactive Waste (Affected Parties : Hungary, Austria, Czech republic, Ukraine, Poland, finished 2012)
- Wind park in cadastral territory of Svätý Peter (Affected Party : Hungary, finished 2012)
- Parking House – Portáš – saddleback (Affected Party : Czech Republic, finished: developer withdrew)
- Interreg IIIA, ensure the flow of the stream Tice (Affected Parties : Hungary, Ukraine, does not continue)

- Erection of the new large capacity F&D facility NPP V1 (Affected Parties : Hungary, Austria, Czech republic, Ukraine, Poland, in progress)
- Enlargement of NRR in Mochovce for disposal of LILW and erection of repository for VLLW (Affected Parties : Hungary, Austria, Czech republic, Ukraine, Poland, in progress)
- Motorway D2, Bratislava – state border SR/CR (Affected Party : Czech Republic, in progress)
- Final processing of liquid radioactive waste JAVYS in Mochovce, (Affected Parties : Hungary, Austria, Czech republic, Ukraine, Poland, in progress)
- Motorway D4, crossing DNV II/505 – st. border – AR (Affected Party : Austria, in progress)

Party of origin Hungary:

- Combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power plant in Bakony Plc. in Almásfüzitő
- Combined cycle power plant (CCPP) 2X400MW in Göny
- Expansions limestone quarry Tornanádaska I
- Modified stream Ronava in the urban section of Sátoraljaújhely in terms of flood protection
- The construction of Hungarian – Slovakian gas pipeline by OVIT ZRt.
- Construction of the border bridge between villages Abaújvár - Kechnec across the river Hornad and construction of the connecting roads
- Nógradszakál – Ráospusztá – Ipoly (Ipel') 125+210 river kilometre water withdrawal tool
- Paks NPP II – completion pressurized water nuclear power plant of the 3 generation (project Lévai - Paks NPP II)

Party of origin Czech Republic:

- Footbridge over the River Morava in the archaeological park Mikulčice and Kopčany, finished 2010
- The removal of old environmental burdens - insufficiently remediated oil wells - in the catchment area of the Moravian Nová Ves in CHOPAV Morava Quaternary – notification has been sent, but not followed by Transboundary EIA procedure
- New nuclear power plant at Temelin including output to Kočín

Party of origin Austria:

- Total water management treatment project on the Danube east of Vienna
- Extending wind farm in the village of Kittsee, finished 2011
- Changing the rail network in Vienna – Bratislava, finished 2011

Party of origin Ukraine:

- Khmelnytsky nuclear power plant, unite 3 and 4 (KhNPP) VVER-1000 (in progress)

Party of origin Poland:

- The system of drainage ditches and forest road in Poland
- Extending business objects Kojs in Jablonka
- Extending the enterprise and building wastewater treatment plants for companies and Kojs and Kabanos in Jablonka

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.)*

No, Slovakia does not object to the list of Transboundary EIA procedures to be made available on the website of the Convention.

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.*

Procedure duration depends on the type of project and mainly on the time needed for preparing and translating the documentation and is different on a case by case basis. There is no deadline for submission of the documentation.

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.*

In this stage it is too soon for such an evaluation of the projects, most of the projects which were assessed are not in operation yet.

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?*

Yes, we have a separate chapter on transboundary issues; it is based on scoping and also comments from NGOs, affected municipality and affected authorities.

- 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?*

The issue of translation is not included in the national law. It is however a major problem in transboundary EIA procedures, mainly due to the lack of financial resources. It is an advantage if a developer submits part of the documentation in the language of the affected party, however the quality of translation remains an issue.

- 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)?*

As a rule there is a public hearing in the territory of Slovak republic, depending on the legislation of the affected party there might be public hearings in the territory of affected party, too.

- 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?*

The main problem is over timing and the quality of translation. In principle, consultations do help to minimize possible significant transboundary environmental impacts.

- 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;*

Since the EIA procedure in Slovakia is divided in two procedures – assessment and permitting procedure, there are two procedures under different national legislation, and thus the final EIA statement with which the EIA procedure finishes is later supplemented by the development consent, and then is communicated to the affected party.

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

Post project analyses is always obligatory in the documentation, so it is part of the project

- 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, we don't have any

- 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"?*

- 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.*

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);*

Yes

- b. *Guidance on subregional cooperation (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex V, appendix);*

No

- c. *Guidelines on good practice and on bilateral and multilateral agreements (ECE/MP.EIA/6, annex IV, appendix).*

No

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?*

No

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.*

Ministry is planning to organize training for local authorities with related to the national Act no. 24/2006 Coll, where transboundary assessment is an integral part of.

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?*

Currently we are in the process of revising our national legislation, in that context we are also planning to improve the application of the Convention.

SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REPORT

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

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