

Implementation of the Espoo Convention - Bulgarian-Romanian experience

*The case study: Second Bridge over the Danube river between Vidin (BG) and  
Calafat (RO)*

**Workshop on Transboundary projects**  
**Convention on EIA in a Transboundary Context**  
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↖ *Concerned Countries* - BULGARIA and ROMANIA

↖ Ratification of the Convention:

↖ Bulgaria - March 1995

↖ Romania - March 2001

↖ Party of Origin  $\Leftrightarrow$  Affected Party

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### *Activity*

- ↖ bridge as a part of the road and long distance railway
- ↖ of significant importance for the transport infrastructure of both countries
- ↖ part of the southern branch of the Pan-European Corridor 4, linking Western Europe to Greece
- ↖ priority project included in the Quick Start package of the projects in the Stability Pact for international assistance

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### *History*

- ↖ May 2000 - Foreign Ministries of both countries signed an Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Government of Romania on the technical, financial, legal and organisational issues related to the construction of a new cross-border combined (road and rail) bridge over the Danube river
- ↖ 2001 - Ratification of the Agreement by the Parliaments of both countries

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### ***Basis for the EIA procedure***

- ↖ Art. 3 of the Agreement - “EIA to be done at the stage of the preliminary design and in accordance with the existing legislation in Bulgaria and Romania as well as with the EU Directive on EIA, relevant regional or international conventions and treaties”
- ↖ Espoo Convention
- ↖ requirements of the financial institutions

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### *Preparation*

- ↖ Establishment of the Joint Committee chaired by the Ministers of Transport of Bulgaria and Romania
- ↖ Establishment of the Joint Working Groups
- ↖ JWG 2 - responsible for the environmental aspects which could be raised by the development of the project
- ↖ No formal notification procedure

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### ***EIA Procedure***

- ↖ Differences between the national EIA systems in Bulgaria and Romania:
  - ↖ Preliminary EIA on the feasibility study - BG
  - ↖ Final EIA on the detailed design - RO
- ↖ Environmental permits for the bridge – in both countries
- ↖ Joint procedure
- ↖ Formal developer - Bulgarian Ministry of Transport and Communications

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### ***EIA documentation***

- ↖ EIA reports – preliminary and final
- ↖ Joint EIA documentation for the activity
- ↖ Elaborated jointly by the team from German, Bulgarian and Romanian experts
- ↖ Language – English, Bulgarian and Romanian



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## ***Public involvement***

- ↖ Public consultation in both countries
- ↖ During the whole process
- ↖ Different forms, mandatory public hearings
- ↖ Translation on the national language of the country

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### *Decisions*

#### ↖ Preliminary EIA:

- ↖ Bulgaria - EIA Decision, including conditions
- ↖ Romania - opinion

#### ↖ Final EIA:

- ↖ Bulgaria – official opinion of the MoEW; water permit for the bridge
- ↖ Romania - EIA permit; water permit for the bridge