

**REPORT OF BULGARIA 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**

Name and contact information:

Ms. Jacqueline METODIEVA  
Head of EIA/EA Department, Ministry of Environment and Waters  
22 Maria Louisa Blvd., 1000 SOFIA  
Telephone: +359 2 940 60 32  
E-mail: metodieva@moew.government.bg

**Information on the point of contact for the Convention**

Name and contact information (if different from above):

Ministry of Environment and Water  
22 Maria Louisa Blvd. 1000 Sofia  
Telephone: +359 2 988 25 77  
Fax: +359 2 986 25 33

Ms. Jacqueline METODIEVA  
Head of EIA/EA Department  
Telephone: +359 2 940 60 32  
E-mail: metodieva@moew.government.bg

Ms. Detelina PEICHEVA  
State Expert, International Cooperation Department  
Telephone: +359 2 940 62 15  
Fax: +359 2 987 38 67  
E-mail: dpeycheva@moew.government.bg

**Information on the person responsible for preparing the report**

- |      |              |                                   |
|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| i.   | Country:     | Bulgaria                          |
| ii.  | Surname:     | Dimitrova                         |
| iii. | Forename:    | Silviya                           |
| iv.  | Institution: | Ministry of Environment and Water |

- v. Postal address 1000 Sofia, 67 William Gladston str.
- vi. E-mail address sdimitrova@moew.government.bg
- vii. Telephone number +359 2 940 62 19
- viii. Fax number +359 2 988 53 16

Date on which report was completed: 06.03.2013

# 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).*

Environmental Protection Act (State Gazette, No 91/2002, last amendment State Gazete No 103/2009, State Gazete No 32/2012)

EIA Ordinance (State Gazette No. 25/2003, last amended State Gazete No 80/2009, State Gazete No 29/2010, State Gazete No 94/2012 )

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

No

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

Ministry of Environment and Water

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 and Water

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

Joint EIA: the EIA procedure is organized jointly, including preparation of the EIA documentation by common team of experts.

## 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, appendix I to the Convention is transposed fully in our environmental legislation.

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, our environmental legislation is a cover fully the revised appendix I in the second amendment (ECE/MP.EIA/6, decision III/7).

## 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?*

According to Bulgarian Environmental legislation (EIA Ordinance) the EIA procedure shall be determined by discussion between the Concerned Parties case by case. The Concerned Parties shall ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected is informed.

### **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".*

According the Environmental Protection Act, article 95, paragraph 1, the developer of the investment proposal is obliged to inform the competent environmental authority and the public concerned for its proposal in writing and ensuring preparation of the terms of reference for the scope of the EIA, at the earliest stage of the initiative. In the first information the developer should present and its assessment for the possible transboundary effects. The competent environmental authority based on the information presented by the developer makes its separate assessments based on the relevant existing data and if it is relevant – based on the additional opinions of other competent authorities (for example – water bodies, Natura 2000 department). Based on it if there are indications that some transboundary impacts could be expected the competent environmental authority asking the developer to present the fulfilled transboundary notification form.

*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);*

According the Environmental Protection Act, article 98, paragraph 1, the Minister of Environment and Water informs the concerned Parties for a proposed activity as early as possible as and no later than when informing its own public.

- 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)?*

Yes. The format for notification is the format as decided by the first meeting of the Parties in its decision I/4 ( ECE /MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix).

- 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;*

According the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 2, the Minister of Environment and Water notifies the affected Party and determined the time frame for a response.

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

According to the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 4, the requested information depends on the territorial boundaries and on the complexity and significance of the impact. The information from the affected Party is requested about territory's factories of the affected Party and its public.

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

According to the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 2, item 7 and item 9, the Minister of Environment and Water cooperates with the defined as a authorities for the transboundary procedures for the affected Party – for exchanging the official documentations and information as a part of the EIA procedure, including the public participation and the time duration.

- 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?*

According to the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 2, the Minister of Environment and Water informs the authorities of affected Party and through it – their public, for a proposed activity. The sented officially notification and all relevant documentations are published and on the website of the competent environmental authority. Usually the competent authority of the affected party is speeding the information.

- 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?*

According to the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 1, the developer is obliged to inform the authorities and the concerned public for the proposed activity. The public is notified via the media, by publishing the notification in a newspaper and through local authorities. The notification is short and presents the characteristics of the proposed activity. The public notification should contain clear information about the territorial and temporal boundaries of the proposed activity, a short description of activity itself (type of activity, technology used, etc.), a description of the purpose of activity, and brief information on the expected environmental impacts. The competent environmental authority published on its webpage the short information for the proposal and for the relevant EIA procedure, including and the information for the competent authority for the decision.

- 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.*

Yes.

10. *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](http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm))?*

Yes.

#### QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

11. *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)?*

According to the EIA Ordinance article 26, item 1, the Minister of Environment and Water informed the Party of origin about its decision whether or not to participate in the EIA procedure. The decision is taken based on the opinions of other relevant authorities, experts' opinions depending on the project and its location.

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

The Minister of Environment and Water obtained the requested information from other relevant authorities or publicly available websites.

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

According to the procedure, set in the EIA ordinance, article 26, item 1, "a" the national procedure of the country of origin should be followed, unless something else is set in a bilateral/multilateral agreement or international contract.

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

The notification, received from the country of origin, is submitted to the public through the MOEW web-page.

## **Article 4**

### ***Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation***

#### **QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN**

*12. 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 requirement for the content of EIA documentation is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 96, paragraph 1 and in the EIA Ordinance article 14, item 1.

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

The requirement for the procedure for determining the content of EIA documentation is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 95, paragraph 3 and in the EIA Ordinance article 9 and article 10.

The developer of a proposed activity prepares a terms for scope of the EIA. The competent authority of environmental makes a statement on the terms of reference. Other organizations and concerned authorities make to proposals on the content of the EIA.

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

"Reasonable alternatives" are the alternatives that will ensure the development of an activity with minimum adverse impacts.

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

The requirement for the procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation domestically is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 96 and in the EIA Ordinance article 11 and article 12.

- 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;*

The requirement for the procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation to the affected Party is set in the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 3, item 4, item 5.

There is not a difference between the procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation domestically and for the affected Party.

- 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;*

The requirement for the procedures for the examination of, and the deadlines for comments on, the EIA documentation domestically, and how the comments submitted domestically are addressed is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 96, paragraph 6 and in the EIA Ordinance article 13 and article 14.

According to the EPA, article 96, the developer shall submit the EIA documentation to the competent environmental authority for quality evaluation. The competent authority evaluating the quality based on the written internal and external consultations with the competent structures, including and the health authorities. According to the requirement, the deadline for the examination is 30 days. When the quality is not sufficient or there are some gaps of information, data or analysis, the competent authority puts the negative assessment and the documentation is returning for additional information or assessments.

- 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 requirement for the procedures and format for providing the EIA documentation to the affected Party is set in the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 6 and item 7.

When there are any comments and recommendations, the EIA documentation should be completed.

- h. The procedures for public hearings domestically;*

The requirement for the procedures for public hearings domestically is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 97 and in the EIA Ordinance article 16 and article 17.

When the results of the evaluation of quality of the EIA report is positive, the developer shall organize, jointly with the municipalities concerned as specified by the competent authority, a public hearing on the EIA documentation after the 30 days as a minimum public access of the EIA documentation. The comments of the affected public should be provided at the public hearing or not later than 7 days after the meeting.

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

The requirement for the procedures for public hearings held on the territory of the affected Party is set in the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 9.

The initiative for a public hearing in the affected Party is discussed between the concerned Parties case by case or through bilateral EIA agreements.

According to Ordinance on EIA the public of the affected Party, public authorities, organizations or other individuals could take part in the public hearings in the Party of origin as well.

A joint hearing with participation of public from the affected Party and Party of origin could be organized when there is a joint EIA. Usually the public hearing is organized separately in the affected Party and in the Party of origin. The representatives of the competent authority and the public from the affected Party could participate in the discussion in the Party of origin as well as the opposite.

#### QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

13. *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 requirement for the procedures and deadlines for comments on the EIA documentation to be submitted to the Party of origin is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 98, paragraph 2 and in the EIA Ordinance article 26, item 1. According EIA Ordinance requirements, the procedures and deadlines for comments on the EIA documentation are with relations to the EIA procedure of the Party of origin.

- 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;*

The requirement for the procedures for public participation in the review of the EIA documentation domestically is set in the Environmental Protection Act article 98, paragraph 2, item 1 and in the EIA Ordinance article 26, item 1, "b". The Minister of Environment and Water ensures public access to the EIA documentation through the internet with the announcement for the timeframe for the opinions. The received opinions are sent to the Party of origin.

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

The procedure for examination of the EIA documentation includes expert opinions and the positions of other authorities.

## Article 5

### *Consultations*

#### QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

14. *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;*

When the affected party indicates in writing its willingness to participate in the transboundary procedure, this party is involved in all steps of the EIA procedure including consultations on the terms of reference on the scope of EIA and on the EIA documentation. The consultations are arranged according to the agreement between Parties.

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



The consultations are arranged on governmental level as well as on regional or local level depending on the scope and potential environmental impacts of the proposed activity. The authorities with specific environmental responsibilities on central, regional or local level and concerned public from the Party of origin and affected Party usually take a part in consultations. The authorities mentioned provide information and clarify the specific requirements regarding the scope and content the EIA documentation. The consultations are conducted on meetings between the Concerned Parties as well as through exchange of written communications.

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

According to the Environmental Protection Act article 96, paragraph 6 and the EIA Ordinance article 25, item 6 after the completion of the EIA documentation the competent authority should evaluate its quality. In the consultations participates experts, health authorities, authorities with specific environmental responsibilities and the concerned public.

#### QUESTIONS TO AFFECTED PARTY

15. *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;*

According to the Environmental Protection Act article 98, paragraph 2 and the EIA Ordinance article 26, item 1, the Minister of Environment and Water is sending the received opinions as a result of the consultations to the relevant authority of the Party of origin.

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

The stages, procedures and deadlines are depending from the project, location and expected impacts. Usually the consultations are in written form by putting the announcements on the webpage of the competent authority – for the general public and by sending the requests for the opinions to the relevant authorities.

### **Article 6**

#### ***Final decision***

#### QUESTIONS TO PARTY OF ORIGIN

16. *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;*

In the Environmental Protection Act article 99 and the EIA Ordinance article 18, article 19 and article 20 is 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?*

The document on regard the "final decision" in the case of construction generally is the construction permit issued by the local authorities.

For some of the projects, listed in appendix I, the "final decision" will be issuing of a permit under the special legislation, regulating this kind of activities. Such permits are issued for water-management projects, waste-management projects, projects in the energy sector, etc.

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

The procedures for informing of the "final decision" domestically and for the affected Party are described in the Environmental Protection Act article 99, the EIA Ordinance article 20a and article 25, item 11. According to the EPA, article 99, the EIA decision shall contain the grounds of fact and law on which the decision is delivered also the reasons on which the decision is based.

All the EIA decisions are announced on the MOEW web-page. The authority responsible for the issuing the final decision is oblige to attach the EIA decision to the final one and to publish the announcement on its webpage for its issuing.

The Minister of environment and Water is sending the EIA decision to the affected party.

- 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)?*

yes

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

No practical experience yet.

## **Article 7**

### ***Post-Project Analysis***

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

- a. Post-project analysis (art. 7, para. 1);*

The Environmental Protection Act stipulates in Art.100 the requirements for PPA, as an obligation of the competent authorities (the Minister of Environment and Water and/or the Director of the Regional Inspectorate of Environment and Water) to oversee the implementation of the measures described in the EIA report and the compliance with the conditions specified in the EIA decision.

The requirement for carrying out a PPA in case of transboundary EIA is set in Art.25 of the Ordinance. It stipulates the order of the steps which Bulgaria should follow if it is a Party of origin. Point 12 specifies the control over implementation of the EIA decision: "where explicit preliminary agreement exists, the competent authority of the Party of origin shall notify the affected party about the implemented measures for control and the conclusions made."

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

There is no legal provision in the national EIA legislation. Provisions concerning post-project analysis are set in the conditions of the EIA decision.

## **Article 8**

### ***Bilateral and multilateral agreements***

18. *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.*

A multilateral agreement for the countries in South-East Europe has been signed by 7 countries at the 4-th Meeting of Parties to the Convention (Bucharest, Romania 2008) on 20 May 2008. Bulgaria has ratified the agreement on 23 Jan 2009.

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

Not yet.

## **Article 9**

### ***Research programmes***

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

No, we do not have specific research programmes.

## **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?*

Bulgaria has ratified the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment on 25.01.2007.

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?*

Bulgaria has ratified the 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment on 25.01.2007.

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

Bulgaria has ratified the Protocol on SEA on 25.01.2007.

## **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.*

List of transboundary EIA procedures in which Republic of Bulgaria is a Party of origin and affected Party:

“Construction of NABUKO transit gaz pipeline on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria”;  
“Construction of a natural gaz pipeline interconnector Greece – Bulgaria”;  
“Intersystem gas connection Bulgaria-Serbia on Bulgarian Territory”  
“Investment proposals for rubble removal from the Danube river dynamic reserve from km 582.500 to km 579.000; from km 556.500 to km 553.500 and from km 566.000 to km 564.600”;  
"South Stream" Gas Transmission pipeline on the territory of Republic of Serbia”;  
“Transmission gas pipeline South stream on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria”;  
“South Stream Offshore Pipeline – Bulgarian Sector”;  
“Burgas Alexandroupolis Crude Oil Pipeline and associated facilities”;  
“Technical assistance for the improvement of the navigation conditions on the Romanian-Bulgarian common sector of the “Danube and accompanying studies”;

List of transboundary EIA procedures in which Republic of Bulgaria is a Party of origin:

“Construction of a National Repository for Low and Intermediate Level Radioactive Waste Disposal”;  
“Modernization on railway line Radomir – Gyueshevo in the Republic of Bulgaria”;  
„Energy Project Lom Lignite“;  
“Extraction of sand and gravel from the alluvial deposits in the bed of river Danube, Kama section (from 510.5 to 508.0 km) in the region of Pirgovo village, Ivanovo municipality, Ruse district”;  
“Construction of one new latest generation nuclear unit in the Republic of Bulgaria”;  
“Facility for treatment and conditioning of solid radioactive wastes with a high volume reduction factor at Kozloduy NPP”;  
“Decommissioning of units 1 to 4 at Kozloduy NPP”;  
“Investment proposal for mining and processing of auriferous ores from the Krumovgrad License, Krumovgrad Municipality, by “Balkan Mineral and Mining” EAD”

List of transboundary EIA procedures in which Republic of Bulgaria is affected Party:

“Nuclear Power Plant Chernavoda”;  
“Rehabilitation and modernization of the water transport infrastructure in the ports outside ten-T network – Bechet Port, Becet locality, Dolj country, Romania”;  
“The Development of the Arges and Dambovita Rivers for Navigation and Other Uses”;  
„Romania – Turkey High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Interconnection Link”  
“Protection and Rechabilitation Measures for the Southern Part of the Romanian Black Sea Coast in the area of Mamaia South, Tomis North, Tomis Centre and Eforie North”

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.

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.*

The EIA procedure is conducted in the following steps:

- notification to the competent environmental authorities and concerned public – three weeks;
- screening – four weeks;
- scoping – four weeks;
- quality review – four weeks;
- organizing and holding public hearing – two month;

- issuing the EIA decision – six weeks;
- control of the implementation of the EIA decision – as contained in the final decision and a result of post-project analysis.

The average duration of the procedures as a whole is more than nine months.

#### EXPERIENCE IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE DURING THE PERIOD 2006–2009

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 any PPA 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?*

Yes. The EIA documentation includes information for characteristics of the proposed activities and impact on the components of the environment case by case.

- 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 Bulgarian country translates notification; ToR for the scope of the EIA of the investment proposal; the EIA documentation; the EIA decision. Usually we translate the documentation into English language and usually we received the documentation as a affected party into the same language. The public expect to have an information into its own language, sometimes there is no time or enough financial resources to obtain a quality translations into the national languages.

- 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)?*

The transboundary public participation are organised based on the preliminary agreement between the the Party of origin and the Affected Parties based on the written communications. Usually as a party of origin we informed the affected party for the organised public hearings on our territory and we asking the affected party to participate or if they ask to organise the separate hearing on their territory through their competent authority.

- 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?*

There are no difficulties for timing. Usually the developer organise the translations into national languages .

- 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;*

The form, content and language of the final decision are according the Bulgarian's Environmental Protection and the EIA Ordinance. As a party of origin we send the translation of the issuing decision to the affected party and put it on the webpage.

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

We don't have any PPA 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.);*

Yes, for the Nabucco gas pipeline in the section crossing the Danube rives as a Bulgarian-Romanian border. Based on the preliminary agreement between the competent environmental authorities of the both countries and the developer we decided to have a joint transboundary chapter of the EIA for those common section of the pipeline which was one and the same to the both national EIA reports. Those chapter has been translated into our national languages and into English language. This common chapter has been consulted with the public in Bulgaria and we invite and the Romanian authorities and public to participate. The procedure is not finalized yet.

- 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"?*

The prosedure for "Construction of a natural gaz pipeline interconnector Greece – Bulgaria" and Nabucco gaspipeline are a good examples.

No, we don't want to introduce those cases.

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

Our practical experience is only 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 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);*

Usually we are following the agreements between concerned parties and the provisions of the national legislations.

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

Not exactly during those period.

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

No practical experience.

#### 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.*

Yes. The undertaken activities to promote awareness of the Convention are consultations to the EIA experts, developers and local authorities.

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?*

No.

#### SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REPORT

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

For the report don't have any suggestions.

\* \* \* \* \*