

**METHODS AND TOOLS  
FOR PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE ESPOO  
CONVENTION IN ROMANIA AND BULGARIA**

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**Developed by:  
Environmental Experts Association**

Project Manager:  
Mr. Florin Vasiliu

Project Assistant:  
Mrs. Arinda Cadariu

46-48 Calea Plevnei Ave. (UCECOM), Corp C  
010233 Bucharest, sector 1, Romania  
Phone/Fax: 0040 21 312 51 30  
E-mail: eea\_ngo@yahoo.com  
<http://eea.ngo.ro>

**Institute for Ecological Modernisation**

Deputy Project Manager:  
Mr. Lyudmil Ikonomov

Project Assistant:  
Mr. Doncho Angelov

8 "Ilarion Makariopolski" St.  
9000, Varna, Bulgaria  
Phone: 00359/0/52 612858  
Fax: 00359/0/52 621013  
E-mail: d.angelov@enviro-link.org

**Authors:**

Arinda Cadariu  
Lyudmil Ikonomov

**Co-authors:**

Florin Vasiliu  
Doncho Angelov

**Drawings:**

Ion Anghel

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## INTRODUCTION

*The guide "Methods and tools for practical application of the Espoo Convention in Romania and Bulgaria" is prepared jointly by the Environmental Experts Association and by the Institute for Ecological Modernization as a part of a transboundary project - "Building effective public participation in an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context".*

The Guidance reminds about the Convention's stages and it identifies the public participation practices. In practice this means that all procedural stages should be documented and that clear responsibilities should be identified in advance for all the stages of the application of the Espoo Convention.

The target audiences of this Guidance are primarily EIA experts, project proponents and public organizations (NGOs), but it may also be useful to the Bulgarian and Romanian competent authorities and to the national Points of Contact, as well as to other local, regional national authorities, and International Financing Institutions. This Guidance may also be used by members of the general public - by anyone who may become involved in the practical application of the Espoo Convention.

The Guidance is based on a needs assessment of the target groups, and on the direct requests made by their representatives regarding the public participation in the decision making process in Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in a Transboundary Context.

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Some of the leading Bulgarian and Romanian NGOs and media representatives have also participated in the meetings and in the discussions which have taken place in both countries.

The present document has used several case studies of transboundary EIA procedures which have been carried out by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters and by the Romanian Ministry of Environment.

*Project Manager:* Florin Vasiliu    *Deputy Project Manager:* Lyudmil Ikonov

Environmental Experts Association    Institute for Ecological Modernisation

## 1. Brief overview of the main procedural steps of the Espoo Convention

The UN Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context, the so-called Espoo Convention, hereafter the Convention, was signed in 1991. It requires that assessments are extended across borders between Parties of the Convention when a planned activity may cause significant adverse transboundary impacts. The Convention came into force in 1997.

The Convention is supervised by the Parties Meetings, which met in 1998, 2001 and 2004. The Reunion is supported by an office and the Convention Secretariat. The Reunion has started a Working Group on Environmental Impact Assessment, and an Implementation Committee. There was also established an ad-hoc Working Group on the Strategic Environmental Assessment Protocol.

Romania has ratified the Espoo Convention in Law nr.22/2001 (M.Of. no. 105/01.03.2001). The Espoo Convention is signed by the Republic of Bulgaria on 25 February 1991 in Espoo, Finland and ratified with a Law of the 37th Bulgarian National Assembly on 16.03.1995 (State Gazette 28/1995) and in Decree 87/23.03.1995. The Convention entered into force for the Republic of Bulgaria on 10 September 1997, amended in 1999 (State Gazette 89/1999). The convention was published by the Ministry of Environment and Water in State Gazette 86/1999, amended on 12.10.1999. The convention is in force for Bulgaria since 10.09.1997.

The Espoo Convention stipulates the Parties obligations to evaluate Environmental Impact of some projects, and the general obligation of the states to notify and consult the potential affected parts over all projects that may have significant transboundary environmental impacts.

The competent authority is nominated by the signing parties to implement the Convention at a national level and to have the decision making power regarding the proposed activity.

In Romania this authority is represented by the Romanian Ministry of Environment and Waters Management, and in Bulgaria by the Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters.

As a competent authority there are also the focal points, official contact points with other Parties and with the Convention Secretariat.

The information transfer is made by the two parties with procedural rules at a national level.

Regarding the management, the Espoo Convention requests are:

- To take all the necessary specific and efficient measures to prevent, reduce and control the adverse impacts on environment of the proposed activities.
- To initiate negotiations before initiating Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context on ad-hoc basis or by starting a permanent working group.

### *The procedure*

The procedure has distinct stages (table 1) as it follows. Putting them into practice requires a different approach for each particular case.

The procedure has distinct stages, each of which needs to be carried out in a way that serves the case in question, fits into the procedures and the culture of the Parties concerned and fulfils the requirements of the Convention.

<b>Table 1 - Stages of the Espoo Convention procedure</b>	
<b>Stage</b>	<b>Art./Appendix from the Convention</b>
<p><b>Initiating the process by the affected Party of Origin</b></p> <p>List of proposed activities Annex I of the Convention</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Crude oil refineries (excluding undertakings manufacturing only lubricants from crude oil) and installations for the gasification and liquefaction of 500 tones or more of coal or bituminous shale per day.</li> <li>2. Thermal power stations and other combustion installations with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more and nuclear power stations and other nuclear reactors (except research installations for the production and conversion of fissionable and fertile materials, whose maximum power does not exceed 1 kilowatt continuous thermal load).</li> <li>3. Installations solely designed for the production or enrichment of nuclear fuels, for the reprocessing of irradiated nuclear fuels or for the storage, disposal and processing of radioactive waste.</li> <li>4. Major installations for the initial smelting of cast-iron and steel and for the production of non-ferrous metals.</li> <li>5. Installations for the extraction of asbestos and for the processing and transformation of asbestos and products containing asbestos: for asbestos-cement products, with an annual production of more than 20,000 tones finished product; for friction material, with an annual production of more than 50 tones finished product; and for other asbestos utilization of more than 200 tones per year.</li> </ol>	<p><i>Art. 3.7 Appendix I</i></p>

<p>6. Integrated chemical installations.</p> <p>7. Construction of motorways, express roads and lines for long-distance railway traffic and of airports with a basic runway length of 2,100 meters or more.</p> <p>8. Large-diameter oil and gas pipelines.</p> <p>9. Trading ports and also inland waterways and ports for inland-waterway traffic which permit the passage of vessels of over 1,350 tones.</p> <p>10. Waste-disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of toxic and dangerous wastes.</p> <p>11. Large dams and reservoirs.</p> <p>12. Groundwater abstraction activities in cases where the annual volume of water to be abstracted amounts to 10 million cubic meters or more.</p> <p>13. Pulp and paper manufacturing of 200 air-dried metric tones or more per day.</p> <p>14. Major mining, on-site extraction and processing of metal ores or coal.</p> <p>15. Offshore hydrocarbon production.</p> <p>16. Major storage facilities for petroleum, petrochemical and chemical products.</p> <p>17. Deforestation of large areas.</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Notification</b></p> <p>The notification is the formal and mandatory start of the application procedure. This one must be sent the latest at the time when the Public of the Party of origin is being informed of the national EIA-process</p> <p>The notification has the following content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• information about the proposed activity, including information of its possible transboundary effects;</li> <li>• the nature of the possible decision;</li> <li>• an indication of a reasonable time within which a response is required</li> </ul>	<p><i>Art. 3.1, 3.2</i></p>



<p align="center"><b>Confirmation of participation at the Convention procedure (responding to the notification)</b></p> <p>Parties should always respond to notifications within the time specified by the Party of origin</p> <p>Also a negative response is important</p> <p>The time of carrying out environmental impact assessment specified in the national legislation of the Parties should be taken into account</p>	<p align="center"><i>Art. 3.3</i></p>
<p align="center"><b>Transmitting information</b></p> <p>When receiving the answer, the Party decides not to participate, and the application procedure ends or the Party indicates that it wants to participate at the EIA procedure. The affected Party wants either to be informed or to participate - the application procedure continues.</p> <p>The timetable given by the responsible body should be followed</p>	<p align="center"><i>Art.3.5, 3.6</i></p>
<p align="center"><b>The Contents of the environmental impact assessment documentation</b></p> <p>The contents of the EIA documentation is the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A description of the proposed activity and its purpose;</li> <li>b) A description, where appropriate, of reasonable alternatives (for example, location or technology) to the proposed activity and also the no-action alternative;</li> <li>c) A description of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed activity and its alternatives;</li> <li>d) A description of the potential environmental impact of the proposed activity and its alternatives and an estimation of its significance;</li> <li>e) A description of mitigation measures to keep adverse environmental impact to a minimum;</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><i>Art. 4/Appendix</i></p>

<p>f) An explicit indication of predictive methods and underlying assumptions as well as the relevant environmental data used;</p> <p>g) An identification of gaps in knowledge and uncertainties encountered in compiling the required information;</p> <p>h) Where appropriate, an outline for monitoring and management programs and any plans for post-project analysis; and</p> <p>i) A non-technical summary including a visual presentation as appropriate (maps, graphs, etc.).</p>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Distribution of the EIA documentation</b></p> <p>The documentation has to be provided to the affected Party</p> <p>In practice the documentation may be sent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To the Point of Contact of the affected Party or</li> <li>• To another authority of the affected Party, which is responsible for the step</li> <li>• To the public</li> </ul> <p>Both Parties are jointly responsible for the distribution and collection of comments</p>	<p><i>Art. 4.24.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Public participation</b></p> <p>The Convention is assuring the public right to be informed and the right to express views</p>	<p><i>Art. 2.6, 2.2, 3.8</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Consultations</b></p> <p>After completing the documentation, the Party of origin has to initiate consultations with the affected Party</p> <p>It is to be decided</p> <p>Which authorities and bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How and when the consultations will take place</li> <li>• How the Parties are informed</li> </ul>	<p><i>Art.5</i></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official consultations</li> </ul> <p>Consultations may relate to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible alternatives to the proposed activity</li> <li>• Other forms of possible mutual assistance</li> <li>• Any other appropriate matters</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Final decision</b></p> <p>The Party of origin has to provide the final decision with the reasons and considerations to the affected Party</p> <p>These should also reflect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the impact on the affected Party</li> <li>• how comments of the authorities and the public of the affected Party and the outcome of the consultations will be dealt with</li> <li>• All the comments must be equally treated</li> <li>• If the individuals in the affected Party have the right to appeal against the decision in the Party of origin, the information about such a right should be given in the decision</li> </ul>	<i>Art.6.1</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Transmitting of the final decision documentation</b></p> <p>The Party of origin shall provide to the affected Party the final decision on the proposed activity along with the reasons and considerations on which it was based.</p>	<i>Art.6.2</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Post-project analysis</b></p> <p>The post-project analysis objectives include:</p> <p>(a) Monitoring compliance with the conditions as set out in the authorization or approval of the activity and the effectiveness of mitigation measures;</p> <p>(b) Review of an impact for proper management and in order to cope with uncertainties;</p> <p>(c) Verification of past predictions in order to transfer experience to future activities of the same type.</p> <p>If unexpected results occur, the Party of origin has to inform the affected Party and carry out consultations concerning necessary measures</p>	<i>Art.7.1, 7.2 Appendix V</i>

Note: An important element is represented by the fact that could occur a joint EIA procedure in certain cases such as:

- Joint projects with impacts on one or both of the two Parties of origin (e.g. boundary-crossing motorway)
- Joint projects with impacts not only on the two Parties of origin but also on other Parties (e.g. pipelines in a water basin)



## 2. Practical benefits of public participation in an EIA in a transboundary context

*"The Public" is defined by the Espoo Convention as "one or more natural or legal persons".* The public involvement is part of EIA process in a transboundary context. Involving the public must be in relation to nature and activities (projects) goals and to reflect the affected interests and values. Therefore, the public's involvement can have several aspects: information, consultation, participation and mediation.

Public participation in Romania and in Bulgaria is demanded by law, knowing the fact that is a way of improving the project and the process, assuring the procedural integrity and providing relevant information.

The main advantages of public participation in environmental impact assessment are related to:

- Observing the democratic principles of decision-making
- Creating awareness among the general public and avoiding the ungrounded negative public reactions
- Obtaining useful information from the public
- Getting alternative solutions to technical problems

### **2.1. Compliance with the democratic principles of decision making**

Both Bulgaria and Romania are currently countries in transition. As future members of the European Union it is very important to base all important decisions concerning the large scale developments on sound democratic bases.

By raising the public interest, educating and informing and consulting with the public we could incorporate public values into decision-making, improve the substantive quality of decisions and ensure the support of the public. A democratically taken decision is increasing trust in institutions and investors and providing confidence in the taken decisions.

The participation of the public in the process of environmental decision-making is based on the fundamental human rights of the democratic societies:

- The right to know (access to information)
- The right to express freely
- The right to speak
- The right to associate
- The right to a clean environment

### **2.2. Avoiding conflicts due to lack of information**

When talking about public participation we have to keep in mind that one of the most important things is to rely on professional experts with the skills and experience. The stakeholder groups are always very diverse and need separate approach. The identification, assessment and prioritization of the stakeholder groups is important part of the public involvement process, however we can distinguish the following groups which most often participate in the process:

- People living near the suggested site of the project
- People having business interest related to the resources or the site of the project
- People intending to develop business related to the resources or the site of the project
- People not having intentions or business but still working in the area
- General users of the territory (recreation, etc.)
- People having scientific interest in the area (academic society)
- Public organizations (NGOs)
- Experts in certain fields of science
- Religious and school boards

The more complex structured and multilayered is the public the more detailed and planned must be the public involvement process. There are great advantages of including the citizens in the process of decision-making but there are also great threats. On one hand the residents could provide valuable information and assistance but on the other hand the uninformed public could endanger the project by starting groundless conflicts due to intentional and unintentional fallacies. When uninformed the citizens are also much more susceptible to negative influence and propaganda. Only the lack of knowledge often is the reason for negative reaction from the public and could be the reason for complex and long-lasting conflicts.

### **2.3. Acquiring valuable information**

The advantages of public involvement in decision-making are broadly acknowledged all over the world; however, in some countries in periods of transition, like Bulgaria and Romania, they are still being underestimated. As was common in the past, the practice of applying "science based decisions" is still popular among some decision-makers. These so called "science based decisions" are founded on "objective" measurements and analysis, which do not always reflect the current situation. Along with that the public opinion is being disregarded as "not objective" and respectively - "groundless". This practice of overriding the public opinion is ineffective because when professionally conducted the participation of the public in the decision-making process can provide information, which is as important as the data received from objective scientific analyses.

The most important groups of information which have to be obtained from the public are:

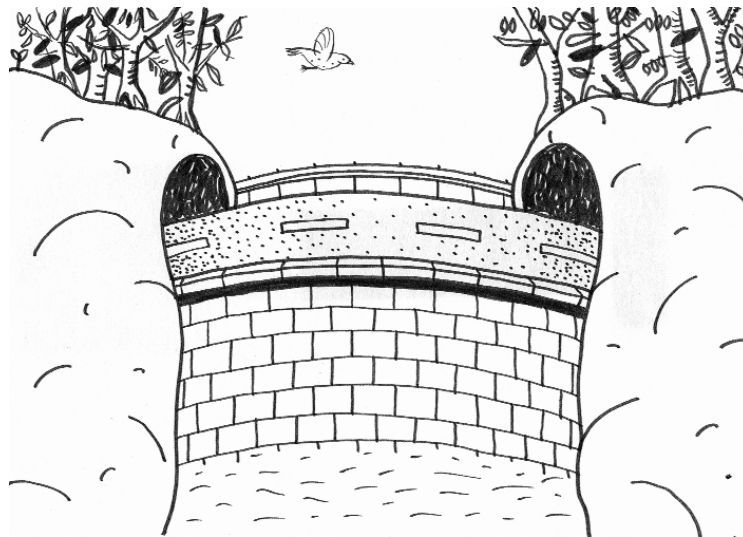
- Subjective information - the public perception, the intentions and the predominant public interest related to the local environment
- Objective information about the state of the environment. Both in Bulgaria and in Romania there are some underdeveloped border areas, where sometimes the available objective environmental information acquired through scientific measurements and analyses is not available or not enough. In such areas the local public is the only possible source of the information necessary for predicting the environmental effects of the project. Apart from that the inhabitants are most often the only possible source of information on rare natural or other phenomena which are not recorded officially (for example floods, land-slides, etc.)
- **Information on possible alternative technological solutions, not mentioned in the project**

### **2.4. Getting alternative solutions to technical problems**

It is not a secret that in the countries in transition like Bulgaria and Romania not all of the procurement procedures are being assigned to the best expert team participating in the competition (because of corruption or other reasons). This applies also for the process of selecting environmental experts in the EIA procedures. It is quite possible that there are much more experienced experts

among the public than among the project expert team. Experts from the local public usually have much larger experience in the area and in most of the cases are willing to assist. The opinion and the knowledge of these experts among the public is very important and could provide solutions crucial for the project.

The information received from the public should be professionally analyzed and placed under the disposal of the investors, the designers and the environmental experts to further apply it in the planning process and in the environmental impact assessment.



### **3. Public participation in an EIA in a transboundary context, as outlined in the Espoo Convention**

#### **3.1 Espoo Convention provisions concerning public participation**

The Convention requires that the public of the affected Party is given the opportunity to participate in the environmental impact assessment process.

Public involvement in EIA in a transboundary context procedure is the *participation*, the *Espoo Convention* articles stipulating this aspect are the followings:

*Art. 2.2. Each Party shall take the necessary legal, administrative or other measures to implement the provisions of this Convention, including, with respect to proposed activities listed in Appendix I that are likely to cause significant adverse transboundary impact, the establishment of an environmental impact assessment procedure that permits public participation*

*and preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation described in Appendix II.*

*Art. 2.6. The Party of origin shall provide, in accordance with the provisions of this Convention, an opportunity to the public in the areas likely to be affected to participate in relevant environmental impact assessment procedures regarding proposed activities and shall ensure that the opportunity provided to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to that provided to the public of the Party of origin.*

*Art. 3.1. For a proposed activity listed in Appendix I that is likely to cause a significant adverse transboundary impact, the Party of origin shall, for the purposes of ensuring adequate and effective consultations under Article 5, notify any Party which it considers may be an affected Party as early as possible and no later than when informing its own public about that proposed activity.*

*Art. 3.8. The concerned Parties shall ensure that the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected be informed of, and be provided with possibilities for making comments or objections on, the proposed activity, and for the transmittal of these comments or objections to the competent authority of the Party of origin, either directly to this authority or, where appropriate, through the Party of origin.*

*Art. 4.2 (...) The concerned Parties shall arrange for distribution of the documentation to the authorities and the public of the affected Party in the areas likely to be affected and for the submission of comments to the competent authority of the Party of origin, either directly to this authority or, where appropriate, through the Party of origin within a reasonable time before the final decision is taken on the proposed activity.*

*Art.6.1. The Parties shall ensure that, in the final decision on the proposed activity, due account is taken of the outcome of the environmental impact assessment, including the environmental impact assessment documentation, as well as the comments thereon received pursuant to Article 3, paragraph 8 and Article 4, paragraph 2, and the outcome of the consultations as referred to in Article 5.*

### **3.2. Responsibility of providing the information to the public**

For the provision of information to the public and the transmission of comments of the public there are various options:

- the responsibility is with an authority of the affected Party (Point of Contact or other authority);
- the responsibility for informing the public of the affected Party is with the authority of the Party of origin (competent authority) or the proponent (developer);



- there is a shared responsibility between authorities in both Parties.

### 3.3. Role of the public in the EIA process

The public should participate fully in transboundary EIA in order to make both the process of environmental decision-making on projects with transboundary effects and the final decisions on such projects more transparent and legitimate. The public should organize itself for effective participation in a transboundary EIA by:

(a) developing contacts and cooperation with relevant local, national, foreign and international NGOs and experts that may be involved in transboundary EIA;

(b) organizing and participating in activities of national and international public networks and public centers on EIA;

(c) taking part in education and training programs on EIA;

(d) supporting the dissemination of information about the provisions and the implementation of the Convention, case studies, and other relevant information dealing with transboundary EIA.

#### *Who are the authorities?*

- national authorities involved in the development of the procedure in a transboundary context, regional and local environmental competent authorities for control and implementation
- national and local authorities in the field of health
- national and local authorities in the field of territory planning
- national and local authorities in the field of public administration

#### *Who is the public?*

- landowners and residents
- current or future business owners in the area
- general users of the territory (visitors, tourists)
- employees, working in the area
- experts in certain fields of science
- general members of the local and wider public
- elected representatives of the local communities of the urban and rural environment such as religious leaders and teachers
- local community groups, resident groups

*Who are other interested Parties?*

- Local, national and international environmental and social (NGOs)
- International and transboundary frontier agencies whose interests may be affected e. g. cross border river basin commissions
- Employees' organizations such as trade associations
- Research institutes, universities and other centers of expertise

## **4. Methodological and procedural aspects of the joint implementation of the Espoo Convention and the Aarhus Convention**

There is a very strong connection between the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (the Aarhus Convention) and the Espoo Convention. The mechanisms and the methodology for public participation of the Aarhus Convention are directly put into practice in the stages of the procedure of Environmental Impact Assessment.

### **4.1. Procedural steps of public participation**

The tools of public participation in the Party of Origin must be adapted to the Affected Party. Apart from the broad public, bodies worth consulting include different authorities, specialists, IFIs and NGOs on both sides of the border.

In order to be effective the public involvement process should be well organized and carefully planned. The main stages of public participation may include:

1. Stakeholder groups identification and assessments of the local conditions
2. Public involvement planning:
  - Defining goals and objectives
  - Identifying and prioritizing stakeholder groups
  - Developing key messages
  - Identifying tools and tactics for public involvement
  - Developing implementation schedule
3. Analyzing the information (a task carried out by experts)
4. Incorporating the received information in the EIA documentation

It is important to be able to select the appropriate tool for the situation you are working and to achieve the aim you have set. In the following table are listed some of the tools that could be considered as appropriate to the situation.

*The selection of tools takes place against a backdrop of experience and cultural conditions. It is advisable to consider tools that are already known and creatively adapt to the specific requirements of the method and the exercise.*

*The tools most commonly used for the first phase - Stakeholder groups identification and assessments of the local conditions are described in the table below:*

<b><i>Tool</i></b>	<b><i>Applications</i></b>
Semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification and analysis of local criteria, perceptions, priorities, problems and opportunities</li> <li>• Identification and consultation with various social/interest groups, focus groups, key informants</li> </ul>
Resource profile	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of resource problems at individual resource level (e.g. a forest or grassland)</li> <li>• Changes in productivity of resource (for important local products), intensity of resource use, resource degradation</li> </ul>
Resource maps at forest, community or other locally defined level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analysis of resource problems</li> <li>• Identification of present land-use patterns and practices</li> <li>• Inventory of resources</li> </ul>
Social maps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explorations of land tenure and land management issues</li> <li>• Identification of different social groups using locally defined criteria</li> <li>• Assessment of the distribution of assets (e.g. land, livestock) across social groups</li> <li>• Identification of potential focus groups and key informants</li> <li>• Identification of local innovators</li> </ul>

Trends analysis (using maps and other diagrams)	<p>Baseline analysis of trends and changes in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land use patterns and practices (past, present and future use)</li> <li>• Agricultural productivity</li> <li>• Income and expenditure, and diversification of livelihoods</li> <li>• Institutional activities and interactions</li> </ul>
Venn diagrams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of key local and external organizations</li> <li>• Understanding local perceptions of the relative importance, and frequency, strength and quality of interactions between local and external groups and agencies</li> <li>• Identification and analysis of sources of conflict and cooperation between local and external stakeholders</li> </ul>
Village/towns meetings and exhibitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sharing, analysis and cross-checking of preliminary findings and information</li> <li>• Supporting use-to-user exchanges</li> <li>• Facilitating role reversals</li> <li>• Preparing participatory action plans</li> <li>• Conducting periodic monitoring and activities</li> </ul>

#### 4.2. Methods for public participation

The advantages of public participation in an EIA procedure for the proponent of the activity and the environmental experts are related to acquiring additional information on the state of the environment, on the intentions of the public and the predominant public interest in the region, and receiving new alternative technological solutions.

Different methods may be recommended for effective public participation in a transboundary EIA. As mentioned in the text, these methods are some of the most frequently used in practice. It is obvious, however, that the effectiveness,

benefits and/or disadvantages of each method or combination of methods depend on the circumstances of the particular projects. For that reason when planning the public involvement activities it is recommended to refer to a larger list of techniques - *see Annex 1*.

Although the methods for public participation concern equally the authorities and the public they could be formally divided in two categories:

1. Methods used by the Authorities *for Parties of Origin and for the affected parties as well, regarding public information, distribution of the documentation for EIA and public comments.*

Note: Most of these methods can be used also by the proponent of the activity *for promoting information to public.*

a) *Publish info-pack - reports, brochures, leaflets and posters*

*Important aspects:* has to be simple, with non-technical abstracts, in local language, if possible, containing useful information for the user, sufficient circulation to get to as many as possible public representatives; it has to provide clear instructions on the way the more information can be obtained; *have to be used for public information and documentation dissemination.*

b) *Advertisements*

*Important aspects:* advertisement placed to announce proposals, arrangements for meetings and other activities. The advertisement could potentially reach a large audience. Representatives of certain groups from the public could be *asked to assist in placing the advertisements.*

c) *Organizing exhibitions and presentations*

*Important aspects:* these events can serve public information and collecting comments; have to be localized in accessible locations in time and space for the target public

d) *Organizing meetings - workshops, seminars, public debates, round tables and conferences.*

*Important aspects:* workshops and seminars regarding the project, EIA etc. having as audience a certain target group creates an official information exchange between the founder, owner of the activity, authorities and the public. Experts can be invited to serve as information resource; workshops and seminars are used to inform the public, information dissemination and to collect information from the public; technical experts and representatives of the target groups can be invited. Professional facilitators could be invited to manage the meeting and *avoid potential conflicts.*

e) *Printed mass media - dailies, press releases, press conferences.*

*Important aspects:* can be disseminated to the public at a large scale; the dailies with a high interest in the project's issues and with the possibility to reach the *target groups have to be identified.*

f) *Electronic mass media - television, radio and video*

*Important aspects:* local and national audience. The information submitted to the media should be carefully planned, preferably by professionals (PR experts) in order to avoid misleading interpretations. It is possible to be perceived as propaganda.

g) *Centers for contacts with the public (can be organized as visiting centers or staffed exhibition of information on the project)*

*Important aspects:* can be located in or near by the proposed activity; used to inform the public, information dissemination and collecting information from the public; a selected representative group of the target audience can get the first hand information.

h) *Web sites, CDs, e-mailing lists*

*Important aspects:* a good way to present the information; assures the promotion for a diverse information; possibility for interactivity, provide, disseminate and collect information; possibility to control information traffic; addressed directly to urban population, rural population being excluded, as they don't have access to this information.

i) *The green line (staffed telephone line)*

*Important aspects:* collecting comments tool, providing information; can cover a large audience; promotes a feeling of accessibility.

2. *Methods used by the public and the organized civil society of the source party and the affected party as well, to pass the information to competent authorities.*

a) *Organizing meetings - workshops, seminars, public debates, round tables and conferences, trainings and campaigns.*

*Important aspects:* workshops and seminars regarding the project having as audience a certain target group creates an non-formal information exchange between the founder, owner of the activity, competent authorities, and the public. Independent experts could be invited to serve as independent information source, and to collect information from the public. Technical experts and representatives of the proponents should be invited. Professional facilitators could be invited to manage the meeting and avoid potential conflicts.

b) *Sending petitions, complains, collecting signatures*

*Important aspects:* this method could be part of an NGO campaign, and could be further corroborated with other methods. The number of signatures and the clarity of the in-depth analysis of the issue are equally important. Administrative complains could be very effective. Bringing formal charges is part of access to justice tool.

*c) Promote non-formal public participation: ad-hoc meetings and round tables*

*Important aspects:* very effective collecting comments tool, providing information; *can cover a large audience at the right time for early comments; promotes a feeling of accessibility and provides alternative solutions.*

*d) Organizing exhibitions and presentations*

*Important aspects:* those events can serve public information and collecting comments; have to be organized in accessible locations, at the right time and venue.

*e) Developing information centers*

*Important aspects:* can be located in or near by the proposed activity; used to inform the public, information dissemination and collecting information from the public; a selected representative group of the target audience can get the *first hand information*.

*f) Organizing post project monitoring*

*Important aspects:* independent post project monitoring could be used to inform both the public and the competent authorities. NGO technical experts can provide independent inputs, and comments.

*g) Printed mass media - dailies, press releases, press conferences.*

*Important aspects:* can be disseminated to the public at a large scale; the dailies with a high interest in the project's issues and with the possibility to reach the target groups have to be identified. Press conferences can be organized by NGOs as parallel events with "official" press conferences. Usually, NGOs disseminate *their own press releases*.

*h) Electronic mass media - radio and television*

*Important aspects:* can cover local, regional, and national audience. The information submitted to the media should be carefully planned, preferably by NGO PR experts in order to avoid misleading interpretations.

*i) Web sites and E-groups*

*Important aspects:* a good way to present the information; assures the promotion for a diverse information; possibility for interactivity, provide, disseminate and collect information; possibility to control information traffic; addressed mainly to urban population and NGO members. Some dedicated NGO E-groups are totaling *thousands of subscribers e.g. "nature conservation e-group"*.

*j) The green line*

*Important aspects:* collecting comments tool, providing information; can cover a large audience; promotes a feeling of accessibility.

k) Publishing printed materials - informative bulletins, brochures, and independent studies

*Important aspects:* independent NGO and community media is counterbalancing the influence of regional and national media - bringing into consideration new facets of the issue, and local comments and opinions. It can cover a local and regional targeted audience. It promotes a feeling of accessibility. Independent studies can provide alternative solutions or bring into consideration aspects not so well documented in the "official" studies.

## **5. Practical aspects and guiding principles for successful public participation**

### **5.1. Main principles of working with the public**

In order to maximize the benefits of public involvement, the following principles for success should be used:

**Commitment:** Leadership and strong commitment to information, consultation and participation in environmental decision-making is needed at all levels - from politicians, senior managers, public officials and investors.

**Rights:** Citizens' right to access information, provide feedback, be consulted and actively participate in environmental decision-making must be firmly grounded in law or policy. Government obligations to respond to citizens when exercising their rights must also be clearly stated and observed.

**Clarity:** Objectives for, and limits to, information, consultation and active participation during environmental decision-making should be well defined from the outset. The respective roles and responsibilities of citizens (in providing input) and authorities (in making decisions for which they are accountable) must be clear to all.

**Time:** Public consultation and active participation should be undertaken as early in the process as possible to allow a greater range of solutions to emerge and to raise the chances of successful implementation. Adequate time must be available for consultation and participation to be effective. Information is needed at all stages of the policy cycle.

**Objectivity:** Information provided by the authorities should be objective, complete and accessible. All citizens should have equal treatment when exercising their rights of access to information and participation.

**Resources:** Adequate financial, human and technical resources are needed if public information, consultation and active participation in environmental decision-making are to be effective. Authorities must have access to proper skills, guidance and training as well as an organizational culture that supports their efforts.



Co-ordination: Initiatives to inform, request feedback from and consult citizens should be coordinated across authorities and private units to enhance knowledge management, avoid duplication and reduce the risk of consultation fatigue among citizens and civil society organizations. Co-ordination efforts should not reduce the capacity to ensure innovation and flexibility.

Accountability: Authorities have an obligation to account for the use they make of citizens' inputs received through feedback, public consultation and active participation. Measures to ensure that the environmental decision-making process is open, transparent and amenable to external scrutiny and review are crucial to increasing government accountability overall.

Active citizenship: The authorities benefit from active citizenship and a dynamic civil society, and can take concrete actions to facilitate access to information and participation, raise awareness, strengthen citizens' civic education and skills, as well as to support capacity building among civil society organizations.

## **5.2. Practical aspects of public consultation and participation**

1. The public involvement and consultation is often being ignored or underestimated. It is a complicated process requiring professional skills and experience. To be effective, the public consultation and participation needs to be undertaken by people with the proper skills, knowledge and professional experience.

2. Often by saying "Public" we mean only the nongovernmental organizations (NGO). The public however is multilayered and diverse. Therefore the "interest groups" should first be clearly defined before planning the public participation process.

3. It is recommended that the list of the stakeholder groups and the focus groups which are to be suggested by the proponent of the project are further submitted to the competent authorities for approval.

4. The form of public consultation and the participation of individuals and organizations may vary depending on the nature and the scale of the project. It is for example often difficult for local representative groups to take a regional and a transboundary perspective, when their work and interests are focused on a particular locality.

5. The time needed for public consultations should be included into the overall time preparations for a project and the EIA report from the beginning or as early as possible. Very often the project proponents are "surprised" that public consultation is necessary and they find themselves in an awkward situation when they lack the time for the complex process of public involvement.

6. Practical non altered information for the public in the language what language requirements are set by the chosen target groups should contain the minimum information, such as:

(a) the name and address of the developer;

- (b) the name and address of the competent authority which will make the decision on the EIA of the proposed activity;
- (c) location of the proposed activity;
- (d) an address in the Party or origin or affected Party where the EIA documents relating to the proposed activity may be reviewed, and the latest date on which they are available for inspection;
- (e) whether copies of the EIA documentation, including the non-technical summary, are available and if so whether they are free of charge;
- (f) if they are not free of charge, what is the cost;
- (g) the address to which comment or objections about the proposed activity and/or EIA documentation should be made and
- (h) the final date for such comments.

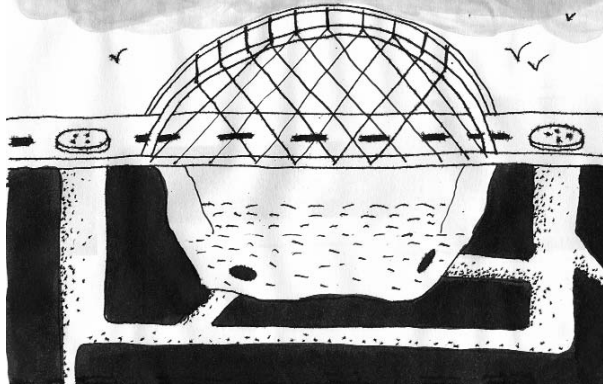
It is necessary to decide prior to starting the consultations:

- which parts of the documents are planned to be submitted to:
- the affected Party
- the regional/local level in the affected Party
- the public in the affected Party
- which documents will be translated into which language
- which languages the Party of Origin will receive comments
- who is responsible for the translations and the quality both in given and received information
- who covers the costs of translations both in given and received information

5. In the 21st century one of the most efficient and cost effective way of transmitting information is Internet. That is why it is important to have all the information relevant to the project published in Internet. It could easily be combined with a section for receiving comments and proposals.

6. The time schedule important in public consultation and participation and informing about the final decision. Where a project is likely to have significant transboundary effects on the environment, this is normally to be coordinated centrally. One should bear in mind the time needed for contact to be established between the government bodies concerned, the identification of and consultation with the public and environmental authorities in the affected Party, and consideration of the resulting comments. One should have in mind that the public consultation process in most cases lasts for no less than one month and if more complicated set of methods for public participations are used it lasts no less than two or three months.

6. A project prepared wholly in one part of Romania and/or Bulgaria may nonetheless have significant effects in another part (e.g. other counties in both countries), even it may even involve a transboundary impact. In such cases the Responsible Authority should make arrangements to consult the public in the affected areas.



## Annexes

### Annex 1

#### Methods for public participation in environmental decision-making

<i>Technique</i>	<i>Description and usage</i>
<b>Level 1. Education and information provision</b>	
<b><i>Leaflets/brochures</i></b>	Written material used to convey information. Care should be taken in establishing the boundaries of distribution. Can potentially reach a wide audience, or be targeted towards particular groups. Information may not be readily understood and may be misinterpreted. May be treated as junk mail.
<b><i>Newsletters/bulletins</i></b>	Written material used to convey information that may involve a series of publications. Care should be taken in establishing the boundaries of distribution. Ongoing contact; information can be updated. A flexible form of publicity that can be designed to address the needs of the audience. Useful to support liaison groups. Potential for feedback. Not everyone will read a newsletter.

<p><b>Unstaffed exhibits/ displays; Information repositories</b></p>	<p>Exhibits or displays set up in public areas (libraries, universities, community centers, local offices, shops) to convey information. Public comment periods to review and comment the documentation should be properly planned. People can view the displays at a convenient time and at their leisure. Graphic representations, if used, can help people envision proposals. Information may not be fully understood or misinterpreted. No staff available to respond to questions or receive comments.</p>
<p><b>Advertising</b></p>	<p>Advertisement placed to announce proposals, arrangements for meetings and other activities. Depending on the circulation of the publication, the advertisement could potentially reach a large audience. The information will only reach those who read the publication in which the advert is placed. Only limited information can be provided.</p>
<p><b>Local newspapers</b></p>	<p>An article published in a local newspaper to convey information about a proposed activity. Potentially a cheap form of publicity and means of reaching a local audience. Circulation may be limited. There may be problems associated with limited editorial control and misrepresentation of information.</p>
<p><b>National newspapers</b></p>	<p>An article published in a national newspaper to convey information about a proposed activity. Potential to reach a very large audience. Unless an activity has gained a national profile, it may be of limited interest to the national press and a national audience.</p>
<p><b>Television and radio</b></p>	<p>Use of television or radio to convey information about a proposed activity. TV and radio have a potentially large audience. People may be more likely to watch or listen to a broadcast than read leaflets and brochures. Broadcasts alone may be insufficient. Further information may need to be available in other forms so that people can find more about the issues raised. Relatively expensive.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Video</b></p>	<p>Production of a video to convey information. May incorporate computer graphics and other images.</p> <p>Under the control of the producer. Can be watched at the viewer's convenience.</p> <p>Relatively expensive to produce if the final product is going to look professional and credible.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Editorial Boards/Media Days</b></p>	<p>Visiting the editors of local media outlets. These events can evolve into larger media days that combine the editorial boards with site tours.</p> <p>In addition to learning more about the site, this will provide an opportunity for the media to take stock photos and video footage of the site for later use.</p> <p>Can be perceived as biased propaganda.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Site visits</b></p>	<p>Organized case studies through site-oriented meetings to provide first hand experience of a particular activity and the issues involved.</p> <p>Issues brought to life through real examples.</p> <p>Often difficult to identify a site which replicates all issues under consideration. Not suitable for large groups of people.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Success Stories</b></p>	<p>Capturing the appropriate success stories and communicating them through appropriate channels such as press releases, feature stories, or simple summaries. These stories can be marketed to media outlets, elected officials, regulators, and internal audiences.</p> <p>If carefully planned could build strong positive attitude among the public.</p> <p>Can also be perceived as biased propaganda and have negative effect</p>
<b>Level 2. Information feedback</b>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Administrative Record</b></p>	<p>An administrative record is the complete record of all the relevant decision documents developed and the transmitted official correspondence. The administrative record must be complete when a public comment period begins, allowing review of all pertinent documents during the comment period.</p> <p>The administrative record must also provide for easy access to and copying of documents.</p>

<p><b>Staffed exhibits /displays</b></p>	<p>Exhibits or displays set up in public areas to convey information and staffed by specialists who can provide information, answer questions.</p> <p>People can view the displays at a convenient time and at their leisure. Graphic representations, if used, can help people form a mental image. Requires a major commitment of staff time. May attract a small proportion of third parties.</p>
<p><b>Public Availability Sessions</b></p>	<p>Public availability sessions are types of public forums that facilitate face-to-face communications. Allows interaction with the public in a less formal and, often, a less adversarial setting, thus helping to establish and foster the relationships necessary for effective communication.</p>
<p><b>Staffed telephone lines</b></p>	<p>A telephone number for people to call to obtain information, ask questions or make comments about proposals or issues. A convenient way of receiving comments from interested parties. Not intimidating, therefore easier for people to participate and provide comments. Promotes a feeling of accessibility. Discussions over the telephone may not be as good as face-to-face. Operating staff may not have technical knowledge available to respond to questions.</p>
<p><b>Internet</b></p>	<p>A Web site on the Internet used to provide information or invite feedback. Care should be taken to keep the information up to date. More interactive forms of participation on the internet may also be developed, e.g. online forums and discussion groups.</p> <p>The audience is potentially global. Costs are reduced as no printing or postage costs are incurred. A convenient method of participation for those with Internet access. Not all interested parties will have access to the Internet, therefore alternative means of information dissemination will also be required.</p>
<p><b>Public meetings</b></p>	<p>A gathering of interested and affected parties to present and exchange information and views on a proposal. If run well, can provide a useful way of meeting other stakeholders. Demonstrates that the proponent is willing to meet with other interested parties.</p> <p>While appearing simple, can be one of the most complex and unpredictable methods. Public meetings may be hijacked by interest groups or vocal individuals. May result in no consultation, only information provision.</p>

<b>Surveys, interviews and questionnaires</b>	<p>Encompasses a range of techniques for obtaining information and opinions. May be self-administered, conducted face-to-face, by post, e-mail or over the telephone. Can gather information from people who could not attend public meetings or become involved in other activities. Confidential surveys may result in more candid responses. Can identify existing knowledge and concerns.</p> <p>Can have a poor response rate. Responses may not be representative and only reflect opinion at that time. Opinions may change. Designing and administering a good survey/questionnaire can be costly and time consuming.</p>
<b>Deliberative polls</b>	<p>Like opinion polling, but collects views after persons have been introduced to the issue and have thought about it. Meant to give an indication of what people would think if they had the time and information to consider the issue (instead of reacting "cold"). Includes a feedback session, sometimes with a high media profile (e.g. broadcast by television along with documentary inserts).</p> <p>Good for providing the informed views of a wide section of the population.</p>
<b>Level 3. Involvement and consultation</b>	
<b>Written consultation exercises</b>	<p>The public is invited to comment on policies and proposals set out in a document.</p> <p>Good for getting views on detailed and potentially complex proposals from interested parties and individuals.</p>
<b>Public hearings</b>	<p>Regulated, formal arrangements for times and places at which members of the general public and other types of stakeholders can ask questions and submit comments. Possibly with invited speakers.</p>
<b>Workshops</b>	<p>Meetings for a limited number of participants which can be used to provide background information, discuss issues in detail and solve problems.</p> <p>Can provide a more open exchange of ideas and facilitate mutual understanding. Useful for dealing with complex technical issues; allows for more in-depth consideration. Can be targeted at particular stakeholder groups. To be most effective, only a small number of individuals can participate, therefore, a full range of interests are not represented.</p>

<b>Focus groups/forums</b>	<p>A meeting of invited (or recruited) participants to discuss a theme or proposal. It is designed to gauge the response to proposed actions and gain a detailed understanding of people’s perspectives, values and concerns.</p> <p>Provides a quick means of gauging what public reaction to a proposal is likely to be.</p> <p>Selection of group members may exclude some sectors of the community, groups require facilitation and serving, time consuming.</p>
<b>Re-convening groups</b>	<p>Similar to focus groups, except that participants are invited to reconvene as a group on one or more occasion having had time to read information, debate the issues with others outside the group, and reflect and refine their views;</p> <p>Good for enabling participants to continue their discussion and develop their thinking in between meetings. Allowing a more in-depth discussion than focus groups;</p>
<b>Open house</b>	<p>Interested parties are encouraged to visit a designated location, (site or building), on an informal basis to find out about a proposal and provide feedback.</p> <p>An effective way of informing the public and other interested parties. People can visit at a convenient time, view materials and ask questions at their leisure.</p> <p>Preparation for and staffing of the open house may require considerable time and money.</p>
<b>Community advisory/liaison groups</b>	<p>Small groups of people representing particular areas of interest or areas of expertise, e.g. community leaders, meet to discuss issues of concern and provide an informed input. Can consider issues in detail and highlight the decision-making process and the complexities involved. Promotes a feeling of trust. Not all interests may be represented. Requires commitment from participants. A longer-term process requiring more resources than some other methods.</p>
<b>Working groups</b>	<p>These might involve one or more of the following groups in developing a specific policy: experts, citizens, representatives of civil society groups, Ministers, and government officials;</p> <p>Such bodies might be a consultative forum or charged with engaging different groups and individuals in policy-making. Good for drawing on the expertise of a range of people.</p>

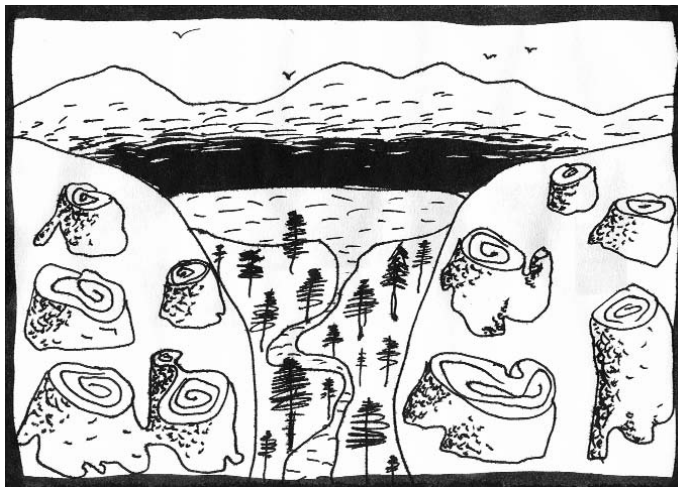


<b>Consultative groups</b>	Forums that call together key representatives of civil society (public organizations), economic and political spheres, to make recommendations and to improve the ongoing dialogue between these actors.
<b>Nominal group process</b>	A structured group interaction technique designed to generate a prioritized list of high-quality ideas It is particularly helpful for setting goals, defining obstacles, and gathering creative responses to a particular question.
<b>Multi-actor policy workshops</b>	Small groups mixing key stakeholders and technical experts, aimed at collecting a range of viewpoints on what are the important question raised by the dialogue issue. These may allow an innovative view of the problem to emerge, along with new approaches to its solution
<b>Charette</b>	From 20 to 60 persons work co-operatively to find solutions to a given problem within a set time period (usually one day). An experienced facilitator is needed. This technique is of interest to assemble practical ideas and viewpoints at the beginning of a decision process, and to address difficult matters involving many different interests
<b>Delphi process</b>	Persons with different expertise or interests relevant to a problem participate in a series of planned, facilitated discussions (either face-to-face or by correspondence). It is used to develop fact-based decisions and strategies reflecting expert opinion on well-defined issues. Because input is anonymous, more equal consideration may be given to the diverse views.
<b>Round tables</b>	Representatives of different views or interests come together to make decisions on an equal footing. May last for several days. Most valuable when used at the beginning of a process to set broad policy orientations
<b>Citizen task forces</b>	Persons with some special knowledge or representing some interest of the community may be appointed to a temporary task force, organized to consider in depth some issue on which decision is required. The group meets a number of times, often in the company of organizing entity representatives, to consider information and formulate recommendations

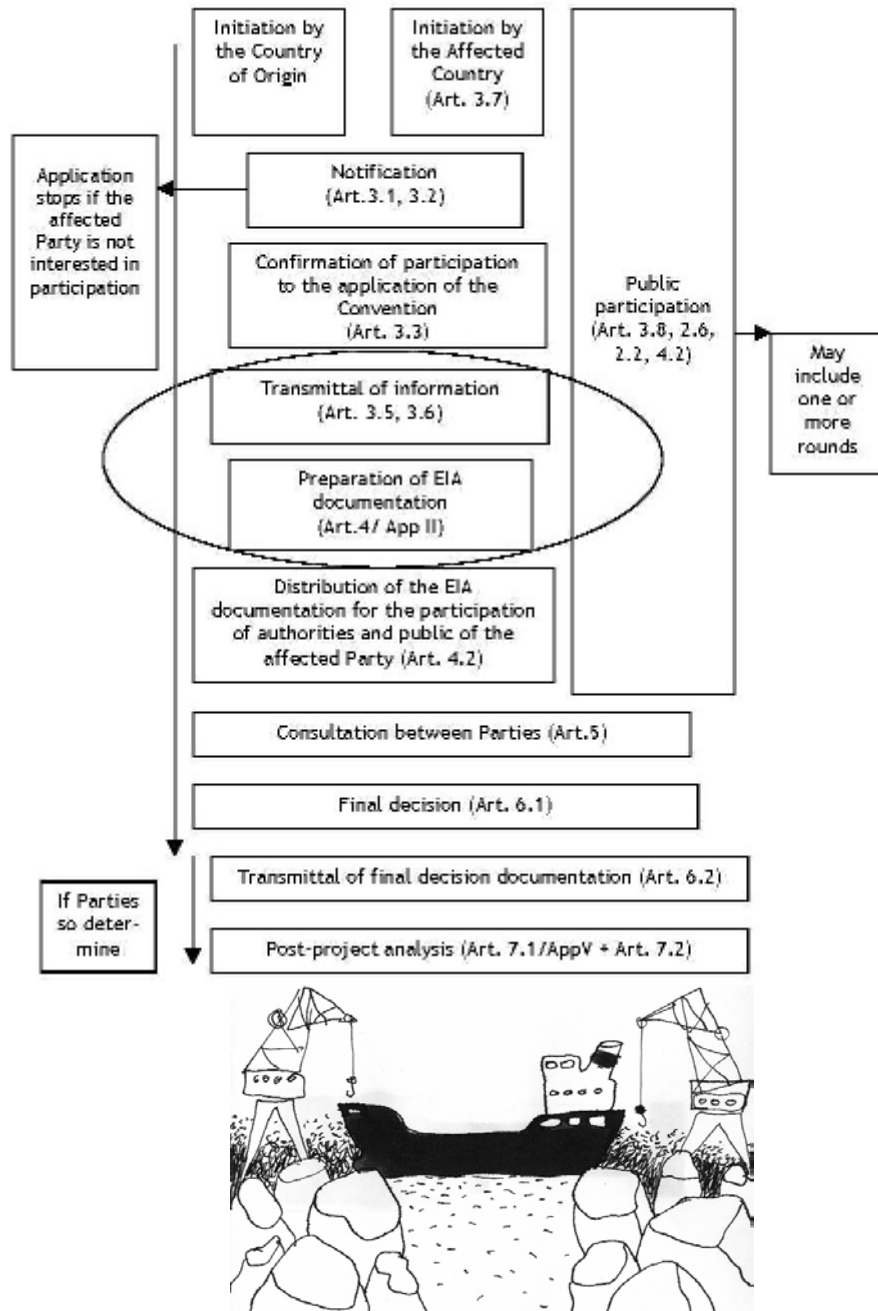
<b>Study circles</b>	<p>Five to 20 people agree to meet together 3-5 times to discuss a specific topic (or, meetings are scheduled on a weekly or monthly basis for more complex sets of topics). Information materials are provided over time.</p> <p>Promotes co-operative and integrated learning and mutual respect. Useful to monitor or document the evolution of a group's thinking in regard to a particular issue and generate recommendations based on a shared body of knowledge.</p> <p>A study group may call on different modes of participation (e.g., electronic) from a wider group of participants, and does not track change over time in regard to new information and learning.</p>
<b>Scenario workshop</b>	<p>A local meeting where scenarios are used to stimulate vision making and dialogue between policy makers, experts, business and concerned citizens. It is a technique of technology assessment in which the workshop participants carry out the assessments and develop visions and proposals for technological needs and possibilities. Allows the exploration of different possible future technological strategies and at the same time facilitates actual cooperation in the direction of the strategy chosen.</p>
<b>Referendum</b>	<p>For reasons of cost, the only very large-scale public decision format is the popular vote. All normally registered voters (or all persons meeting a stated criterion) can express their opinion. While this technique enjoys a high level of perceived legitimacy, complex decisions must be reduced to their simplest binary form to be proposed to the ballot. Setting up such a procedure can be an efficient way of attracting citizens' attention to the issue at hand and allowing citizens to collect information about the different positions taken by public figures.</p>
<b>Planning for real</b>	<p>A community model (three dimensional model) is made prior to the exercise to identify problems and issues and generate ideas and priorities through group working. Can be used to identify features of importance and collective aspirations. a public event displaying this model, the public is invited to attach cards to identify problems, issues</p>

	<p>of concern and possible solutions.</p> <p>Allows the community to take control and set the agenda, allows participation without the need for good verbal or written skills.</p> <p>These techniques' emphasis on visual materials encourages a range of people to participate in the events.</p> <p>Community needs to be aware of the constraints. Models need to relate to the real world.</p>
<b>Consensus conference</b>	<p>A forum at which a citizens panel, selected from the general public, questions specialists on a particular topic, assesses responses, discusses the issues raised and reports conclusions. A group of volunteers is chosen to be representative of the public at large, or, to represent a spectrum of viewpoints. At its first meeting discussion is facilitated, the panel is briefed on the subject and identifies questions that it wants to address. At the second meeting it investigates the topic and identifies witnesses to cross - examine. The participants finally produce a report with their conclusions and recommendations, to be delivered to public decision makers. Can provide a unique insight into the ways in which issues are perceived by members of the public. Suited to dealing with controversial issues of public concern. Not all interests are represented. Limited timescale for consideration of issues.</p>
<b>Citizen juries</b>	<p>A group of citizens brought together to consider a particular issue. Evidence is received from expert witnesses and cross-questioning can occur. At the end of the process a report is produced, setting out the views of the jury, including differences of opinion. They last for up to four days and use independent facilitators; Citizens are informed about the issue and receive evidence from 'expert' witnesses; Their conclusions are compiled in a report and presented to the commissioning body for a response. Can consider issues in detail and in a relatively short period of time. Good for developing creative and innovative solutions to difficult problems.</p> <p>Not all interests may be represented. Limited timescale may reduce time available for participants to fully consider information received.</p>

<p><b>Citizens' panels</b></p>	<p>These panels are made up of a statistically representative sample of the population; The views of panel members on different issues are sought regularly using a variety of methods, such as surveys, interviews or focus groups; A proportion of the panel is replaced over a period of time.</p> <p>Panels are cost effective once set up, and can be used flexibly. However, attrition can be a problem, as it affects the representativeness of the panel.</p>
<p><b>Visioning</b></p>	<p>A technique for developing a shared vision of a desirable future for a local community. It brings together a large group of stakeholders, selected because they have decision-making authority, an understanding of, or are affected by, the topic under discussion. Participants take part in a structured meeting, taking up to two and a half days, where they develop a shared vision for the future and commit to action towards the vision.</p> <p>Good for helping to create consensus amongst a range of different stakeholders.</p> <p>Develops a common view of future needs, promotes trust and a sense of purpose.</p> <p>Lack of control over the outcome. Needs to be used in the early stages of the decision-making process.</p>
<p><b>Based on:</b> Fell A. and B. Sadler, (1999). "Public involvement in environmental assessment and management: a preview of IEA guidelines on good practice," <i>Environmental Assessment</i>, 7.2: 36-39.[5]</p>	



The flow-chart of the stages of an assessment according to the Espoo Convention [6]



**Romanian and Bulgarian legislation on EIA in a transboundary context,  
and public participation**

***Romania***

**Espoo Convention:**

1. Law no. 22/2001 for the ratification of Convention of Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, adopted at Espoo February 25, 1991 (Of. J. no. 105/01.03.2001)
2. Governmental Decision no. 918/2002 concerning the establishment of the framework procedure on environment impact assessment and the approval of public or private projects under this procedure (Of. J. no. 686/2002)
3. MWEF Order no. 860/2002 on the approval of the environmental impact assessment procedure and issuance of the environmental agreement (Of. J. no. 52/30.01.2003)
4. MWEF Order no. 864/2002 for the approval of the environmental impact assessment procedure in a transboundary context and the public participation to the decision making process for projects with transboundary impact (Of. J. no. 397/09.06.2003)

**Aarhus Convention**

1. Law no. 86/2000 for the ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed at Aarhus in June 25, 1998 (Of. J. no. 224/2000)
2. Governmental Decision no. 1115/2002 concerning the free access at the environmental information (Of. J. no. 781/2002)
3. MWEF Order no. 1182/2002 for the approval of the methodology concerning environmental informational management and flow being in detained by the environmental protection authorities (Of. J. no. 331/2003)

***Bulgaria***

**Espoo Convention:**

1. Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a transboundary context, (State Gazette 86/01.10.1999, amended State Gazette 89/12/10.1999.
2. Environmental Protection Act, published in State Gazette 91/25.09.2002, amended State Gazette 98/18.10.2002, amended State Gazette 86/30 September 2003, amended State Gazette 70/10 August 2004
3. Regulation on the conditions and requirements for environmental impact assessment procedure regarding investment proposals on construction, activities and technologies (Council of Ministers Decree 59/2003, published in State Gazette 25/18.03.2003)

4. Regulation on the conditions, the routine and the methods for environmental assessment of plans and programmes (Council of Ministers Decree 139/24.06.2004, published in State Gazette 57/02.07.2004, in force since 01.07.2004

#### Aarhus Convention

1. Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters, signed at Aarhus in June 25, 1998 (State Gazette 33/23.04.2004)
2. Environmental Protection Act, published in State Gazette 91/25.09.2002, amended State Gazette ? 98/18.10.2002, amended State Gazette 86/30 September 2003, amended State Gazette 70/10 August 2004
3. Law on Access to Public Information (State Gazette No.55/07.07, 2000, amended SG No.1/04.012002, amended SG No.45/30.04.2002.

#### Annex 4

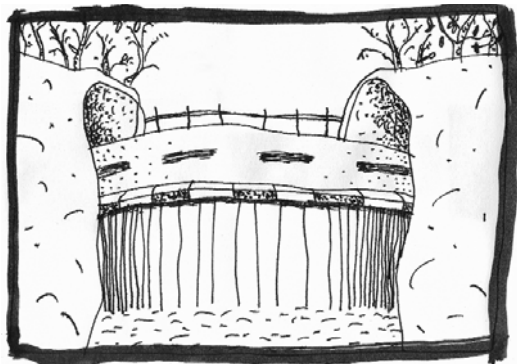
#### Points of Contacts for Notification and Focal Points for Administrative Matters (NOT notification)

Country	Points of Contacts for Notification	Focal Points for Administrative Matters (NOT notification)
<b>Romania</b>	<p>Mrs. Elena DUMITRU</p> <p>General Director - General Directorate for Environmental Regulation, Permitting Certification and Waste Management Ministry of Environment and Waters Management 12 Libertatii Blvd. Sector 5 P.C-70005, Bucharest Telephone: +40 21 411.02.98 E-mail: edumitru@mappm.ro</p>	<p>Mrs. Daniela Eugenia PINETA</p> <p>Counselor - Directorate for Strategy, Policy and Regulation Ministry of Environment and Waters Management 12 Libertatii Blvd, Sector 5, Bucharest, Romania Telephone: +40(21)335.6154 Fax: +40(21)410.2032 E-mail: legis3@mappm.ro</p>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<p>Mrs. Vanya GRIGOROVA</p> <p>Director, Ministry of Environment and Waters 67 W. Gladstone Street, 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria Telephone: +359 2 940.6227 Fax: +359 2 986.4848 E-mail: vaniagr@moew.government.bg</p>	

Note: the Points of Contacts for Notification and Focal Points for Administrative Matters (NOT notification) are in accordance with the ones mentioned on the Espoo Convention web site () in May 2005.

## Internet links

Canadian Agency for International Development	<a href="http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index-e.htm">http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index-e.htm</a>
Canadian Embassy in Romania	<a href="http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/romania/">http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/canadaeuropa/romania/</a>
Canadian Agency for EIA	<a href="http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index_e.htm">http://www.ceaa.gc.ca/index_e.htm</a>
European Commission	<a href="http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia">http://europa.eu.int/comm/environment/eia</a>
Espoo Convention	<a href="http://www.unece.org/env/eia">http://www.unece.org/env/eia</a>
Aarhus Convention	<a href="http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html">http://www.unece.org/env/pp/welcome.html</a>
International Association for Impact Assessment	<a href="http://www.iaia.org">http://www.iaia.org</a>
Romanian Ministry of Environment and Water Management	<a href="http://www.mappm.ro">http://www.mappm.ro</a>
Bulgarian Ministry of Environment and Waters	<a href="http://www2.moew.government.bg/index_e.html">http://www2.moew.government.bg/index_e.html</a>
Environmental Experts Association	<a href="http://eea.ngo.ro">http://eea.ngo.ro</a>
Foundation Institute for Ecological Modernization	<a href="http://enviro-link.org">http://enviro-link.org</a>
World Bank	<a href="http://www.worldbank.org/">http://www.worldbank.org/</a>
The Romanian National Agency for Environment Protection	<a href="http://anpm.utcb.ro/">http://anpm.utcb.ro/</a>
Bulgarian Executive Environment Agency	<a href="http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncesd/index.html">http://nfp-bg.eionet.eu.int/ncesd/index.html</a>





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