

Questionnaire for the report of REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA on the implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context in the period 2016–2018

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11. Date on which report was completed: **28 March 2019.**

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.

Please do not reproduce the text of the legislation itself but summarize and explicitly refer to the relevant provisions transposing the Convention text (e.g., EIA Law of the Republic of ..., art. 5, para. 3, of Government Resolution No. ..., para. ... item...)

Article 1 Definitions

I.1. Is the definition of impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details):
- (c) No (please provide the definition):
- (d) There are no definitions of impact in the legislation

Your comments: art.2 of EIA Law No.86/2014 (with subsequent modifications established by the Law No. 185/2017)

I.2. Is the definition of transboundary impact for the purpose of the Convention the same in your legislation as in article 1? Please specify each below.

- (a) Yes
- (b) Yes, with some differences (please provide details): Definition no. 8 of art. 1 of the Espoo Convention, is partly defined or better understood under the existing national regulatory framework under the definition of a transboundary assessment procedure.
- (c) No (please provide the definition): It defines the necessity of transboundary assessment procedure based on characteristics of location, which applies to planning activities that are situated wholly or in part on the territory of the Republic of Moldova.
- (d) There are no definitions of transboundary impact in the legislation

Your comments: (point 82 of the Guideline on the execution of procedures for environmental impact assessment, approved by Order No. 1 of the Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of 04.01.2019, published in the Official Gazette on 08.03.2019)

I.3. Please specify how major change is defined in your national legislation:

The ministry's work plan for 2019 includes the task of amending legislation on the field of environmental impact assessment. In this context, the above mentioned definition will be taken into account and the necessary additions will be made.

I.4. How do you identify the public concerned? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) Based on the geographical location of the proposed project
- (b) By making the information available to all members of the public and letting them identify themselves as the public concerned
- (c) By other means (please specify): The points no. 30, 40,42, 49 50,52,53,54,65 and others of the EIA Guideline, approved by Order No. 1 of 04.01.2019.

Your comments: The guideline includes rules on ensuring the involvement of the interested public at each procedural stage for all involved actors, such as the beneficiary, competent authority or local public authority, & the rest of interested public.

Article 2

General provisions

I.5. Provide legislative, regulatory, administrative and other measures taken in your country to implement the provisions of the Convention (art. 2, para. 2):

- (a) Law on EIA: the EIA Law No.86 of 29.05.2014
- (b) EIA provisions are transposed into another law(s) (please specify):
- (c) Regulation (please indicate number/year/name): the Guideline on the execution of procedures for environmental impact assessment, approved by Order No. 1 of the Minister of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of 04.01.2019, published in the Official Gazette on 08.03.2019
- (d) Administrative (please indicate number/year/name):
- (e) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

I.6. Please describe any differences between the list of activities in your national legislation and appendix I to the Convention, if any:

- (a) There is no difference, all activities are transposed in the national legislation as is
- (b) It differs slightly (please specify):

Your comments:

I.7. Identify the competent authority/authorities responsible for carrying out the EIA procedure in your country (please specify):

- (a) There are different authorities at national, regional, local levels
- (b) They are different for domestic and transboundary procedures
- (c) Please name the responsible authority/authorities: The Environmental Agency established by the Government Decision no. 549 of 13.06.2018. For procedures with potential transboundary impact, the process with the affected parties is coordinated with the Ministry of Agriculture Reg. Development & Environment
- (d) There is no single authority responsible for the entire EIA procedure:

Your comments:

I.8. Is there an authority in your country that collects information on all the transboundary EIA cases? If so, please name it:

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify): Environmental Agency and Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment

Your comments:

I.9. How does your country, As a Party of origin and as an affected Party, ensure that the opportunity given to the public of the affected Party is equivalent to the one given to the Party of origin's public, as required in article 2, paragraph 6 (please explain): art.13 pnt.4 and art.18 of EIA Law no.86/2014 and pnt. 87 and 112 of the EIA Guideline, approved by Order No. 1 of 04.01.2019

Article 3 Notification

I.10. As a Party of origin, when do you notify the affected Party (art. 3, para. 1)? Please specify:

- (a) During scoping
- (b) When the EIA report has been prepared and the domestic procedure started
- (c) After finishing the domestic procedure
- (d) At other times (please specify): art.10 pnt.3 and art.12 pnt.1 of EIA Law no.86/2014 and pnt. 86 and 90 of the EIA Guideline, approved by Order No. 1 of 04.01.2019. Notification is done at the same time as informing its own public.

Your comments: After the previously assessment stage (screening), the notification shall be transmitted for the Party considered affected, after it is submitted to the competent authority for coordination with the Ministry, unless the last decides otherwise.

I.11. Please define the format of notification:

- (a) It is the format as decided by the first meeting of the Parties in its decision I/4 (ECE/MP.EIA/2, annex IV, appendix)
- (b) The country has its own format (please attach a copy)
- (c) No official format used

Your comments:

I.12. As a Party of origin, what information do you include in the notification (art. 3, para. 2)? Please specify (more than one options may apply):

- (a) The information required by article 3, paragraph 2
- (b) The information required by article 3, paragraph 5
- (c) Additional information (please specify):

Your comments: annex V of EIA Law No.86/2014, the content of Notification is structured in accordance with the provisions of Article 3 of the Convention

I.13. As a Party of origin, does your national legislation contain any provision on receiving a response to the notification from the affected Party in a reasonable time frame (art. 3, para. 3, “within the time specified in the notification”)? Please specify:

- (a) National legislation does not cover the time frame
- (b) Yes, it is indicated in the national legislation (please indicate the time frame): 30 days shall be given to the affected Party for response (art.12 para.2 of EIA Law No.86/2014) and the same time for receiving when our country it is an affected Party in a transboundary procedure(art.16 para.2 EIA Law No.86/2014).
- (c) It is determined and agreed with each affected Party case by case in the beginning of the transboundary consultations (please indicate the average length in weeks): 6 weeks, unless otherwise provided for in bilateral agreements (pnt. 95, 99 of the EIA Guideline, approved by Order No. 1 of 04.01.2019).

Your comments: pnt. 90 to pnt.103 of the EIA Guideline, approved by Order No. 1 of 04.01.2019.

Please specify the consequence if a notified affected Party does not comply with the time frame, and the possibility of extending a deadline: The Party of origin will carry out the

procedure at national or in a transboundary level with other interested countries, without taking into account the delayed intentions of the notified Party (art. 4 para.3 of Convention)

I.14. How do you inform the public and authorities of the affected Party (art. 3, para. 8)? Please specify:

(a) By informing the point of contact to the Convention listed on the Convention website¹

(b) Other (please specify): After informing the national focal point of the Convention about the intention of the Party of origin, the Central Environmental Authority of the affected Party will be notified via diplomatic correspondence.

Your comments:

I.15. On what basis is the decision made to participate (or not) in the transboundary EIA procedure as an affected Party (art. 3, para. 3)? Please specify:

(a) Notified ministry/authority of the affected Party responsible for EIA decides on its own based on the documentation provided by the Party of origin

(b) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities of the affected Party

(c) Based on the opinions of the competent authorities and that of the public of the affected Party

(d) Other (please specify):

Your comments: art.16 para.2 of the EIA Law No.86/2014

I.16. If the affected Party has indicated that it intends to participate in the EIA procedure, how are the details for such participation agreed, including the time frame for consultations and the deadline for commenting (art. 5)? Please specify:

(a) Following the rules and procedures of the Party of origin

(b) Following the rules and procedures of the affected Party

(c) Other (please specify):

Your comments:

Articles 3.8 and 4.2

Public participation

I.17. How can the public express its opinion on the EIA documentation of the proposed project (art. 5)? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

As a Party of origin

(a) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point

(b) By taking part in a public hearing

(c) Other (please specify):

As an affected Party

(d) By sending comments to the competent authority/focal point

(e) By taking part in a public hearing

(f) Other (please specify):

¹ List available from http://www.unece.org/env/eia/points_of_contact.htm.

Your comments:

I.18. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of a public hearing on the territory of the affected Party in cases where your country is the country of origin:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Your comments: The competent authority have to participate together with the proponent of the planned activity and / or the holder of the EIA documentation at the public debate organized on the territory of the affected Parties (pnt.107 of EIA Guideline)

I.19. Please indicate whether your national EIA legislation requires the organization of public hearings in cases where your country is the affected Party:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No

Your comments: art.18 para.1 of EIA Law No.86/2014, provides that the affected party may only initiate public consultations on its own initiative. This provision does not involves the organization of public hearings. All the expenditures are incurred by proponent.

Article 4

Preparation of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.20. How do you ensure sufficient quality of the EIA documentation As a Party of origin? Please specify:

- (a) The competent authority checks the information provided and ensures it includes all information required under appendix II as a minimum before making it available for comments
- (b) By using quality checklists
- (c) There are no specific procedures or mechanisms
- (d) Other (please specify): The quality of the EIA documentation must correspond to the requirements previously coordinated by the competent authority at the scope stage (the check lists approved in Annex no. 11 of the EIA Guideline).

Your comments: As well, the EIA documentation is subject to quality control in accordance with the check lists approved in Annex no.14 of the EIA Guideline.

I.21. How do you determine the relevant information to be included in the EIA documentation in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1? Please specify (more than one option may apply):

- (a) By using appendix II
- (b) By using the comments received from the authorities concerned during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (c) By using the comments from members of the public during the scoping phase, if applicable
- (d) As determined by the proponent based on its own expertise
- (e) By using other means (please specify): pnt.42 para 6 b of the EIA Guideline

Your comments: art.13 para. 6, art.20 and art.21 of EIA Law No.86/2014

I.22. How do you determine “reasonable alternatives” in accordance with appendix II, paragraph (b)?

(a) On a case-by-case basis

(b) As defined in the national legislation (please specify): the way in which it will act to identify the most feasible alternative solutions for the site and the technologies used for the project is established at the scope stage (pnt.42 para 6 d of EIA Guideline).

(c) Other (please specify):

Your comments: art. 8 para 1 and art. 20 para. 2 b of EIA Law No.86/2014

Article 5

Consultations on the basis of the environmental impact assessment documentation

I.23. Does your national EIA legislation have any provision on the organization of transboundary consultations between the authorities of the concerned Parties? Please specify:

(a) Yes, it is obligatory

(b) No, it does not have any provision on that

(c) It is optional (please specify):

Your comments: the provision of art.11 para 3, art. 13 and art.14 of EIA Law and pnt.101 and pnt. 102 of EIA Guideline

Article 6

Final decision

I.24. Please indicate all points below that are covered in a final decision related to the implementation of the planned activity (art. 6, para. 1):

(a) Conclusions of the EIA documentation

(b) Comments received in accordance with article 3, paragraph 8, and article 4, paragraph 2

(c) Outcome of the consultations as referred to in article 5

(d) Outcomes of the transboundary consultations

(e) Comments received from the affected Party

(f) Mitigation measures

(g) Other (please specify): The final decision approved by the competent authority, that include in addition other conditions, measures, mentions. (annex 17 of EIA Guideline).

I.25. 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)?:

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

I.26. Is there any regulation in the national legislation of your country that ensures the implementation of the provisions of article 6, paragraph 3?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please specify): pnt.114 and pnt.141 para. 1 of EIA Guideline

Your comments:

I.27. Do all activities listed in appendix I (items 1-22) require a final decision to authorize or undertake such an activity?:

- (a) Yes
- (b) No (please specify those that do not):

Your comments:

I.28. For each type of activity listed in appendix I that does require a final decision, please indicate the legal requirements in your country that identify what is regarded as the “final decision” to authorize or undertake such an activity (art. 6 in conjunction with art. 2, para. 3), and the term used in the national legislation to indicate the final decision in the original language: art.15, 18, 24 of EIA Law No.86/2014

Your comments: the answer is laconic, because the question is not fully understood...

Article 7

Post-project analysis

I.29. Is there any provision regarding post-project analysis in your national EIA legislation (art. 7, para. 1)?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes (please specify the main steps to be taken and how the results of it are communicated): art. 20 of EIA Law and for transboundary final decision from pnt.115 to pnt.118 of EIA Guideline

Your comments:

Article 8

Bilateral and multilateral cooperation

(a) Agreements

I.30. Does your country have any bilateral or multilateral agreements based on the Convention (art. 8, appendix VI)?:

- (a) No
- (b) Yes Please specify with which countries:

If publicly available, please also attach the texts of such bilateral and multilateral agreements, preferably in English, French or Russian.

I.31. What issues do these bilateral agreements cover (appendix VI)? (More than one option may apply):

- (a) Specific conditions of the subregion concerned
- (b) Institutional, administrative and other arrangements
- (c) Harmonization of the Parties' policies and measures

(d) Developing, improving, and/or harmonizing methods for the identification, measurement, prediction and assessment of impacts, and for post-project analysis

(e) Developing and/or improving methods and programmes for the collection, analysis, storage and timely dissemination of comparable data regarding environmental quality in order to provide input into the EIA

(f) Establishment of threshold levels and more specified criteria for defining the significance of transboundary impacts related to the location, nature or size of proposed activities

(g) Undertaking joint EIA, development of joint monitoring programmes, intercalibration of monitoring devices and harmonization of methodologies

(h) Other, please specify:

Your comments:

(b) Procedural steps required by national legislation

I.32. Please describe how the steps required for a transboundary EIA procedure under your national legislation correlate to domestic EIA in the lead-up to the final decision. If there are differences in the procedures for screening/scoping or for preparation of the environmental impact assessment and consultation, please specify.

Alternatively, this question can be answered or supported by providing a schematic flowchart showing these steps.

Your comments: the rules on the execution of the transboundary EIA are drafted and govern the same principle and order established by the Convention. At each stage of the national EIA, the principle of is respected and thus correlated with the international provisions.

I.33. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects (e.g., roads, pipelines)?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify):

(i) Special provisions:

(ii) Informal arrangements:

Your comments:

I.34. Does your country have special provisions or informal arrangements concerning transboundary EIA procedures for nuclear power plants (NPPs)?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please specify):

(i) Special provisions:

(ii) Informal arrangements:

Your comments:

Part two

Practical application during the period 2016–2018

Please report on your country's practical experiences in applying the Convention (not your country's procedures described in part one), whether As a 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. 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.

II.1. Does your country object to the information on transboundary EIA procedures that you provide in this section being compiled and made available on the website of the Convention? Please specify (indicate "yes" if you object):

(a) Yes

(b) No

Your comments:

1. Experience in the transboundary environmental impact assessment procedure during the period 2016–2018

Cases during the period 2016–2018

II.2. If your country's national administration has a record of transboundary EIA procedures that were under way during the reporting period, in which your country was a Party of origin or affected Party, please list them in the tables II.2 (a) and II.2 (b) below (adding additional rows as needed).

Table II.2 (a)

Transboundary EIA procedures: As a Party of origin

Project name	Starting date (date notification sent)	Affected Party/ Parties	Timing of the notification (screening, scoping or preparation of the EIA documentation)	Length of the main steps in months			Final decision (date of issuing, if information is available)
				Submission of the environmental report	Transboundary consultations (expert), if any	Public participation, including public hearing, if any	
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
...							

Your comments:

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.

II.3. The Convention does not mention the translation of EIA documentation as an important prerequisite for the participation of potentially affected Parties in a transboundary EIA procedure. Please explain:

(a) How has your country addressed the issue of the translation of EIA documentation? Translations are provided as necessary, within the limits of the financial availability covered by the state budget. In some cases, they are taken from the web site of the competent Romanian authority, because we speak the same mother tongue.

(b) What difficulties has your country experienced with regard to translation and interpretation, both as a Party of origin and as an affected Party, and what solutions has it found?

(c) Which Party covers the cost of translation of EIA documentation?

(i) As a Party of origin: All the expenditures are incurred by the proponent.

(ii) As an affected Party: All the expenditures are incurred by the ministry.

(iii) Other, please specify:

(d) What parts of the EIA documentation does your country usually translate?

(i) As a Party of origin: all

(ii) As an affected Party: all

(e) Please indicate whether and how the issue of translation is addressed in bilateral agreements between your country and other Parties.

(f) As a Party of origin, in which language do you usually provide EIA documentation to the affected Party?

(i) English

(ii) The affected Party's language

(iii) Other (please, specify) for Romania in mother tongue.

(g) As an affected Party, from which language do you usually translate?

(i) English

(ii) Language of the Party of origin

(iii) Other (please, specify)

(h) Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during public participation procedures and consultations under article 5, for example with regard to timing, language and the need for additional information.

(i) As a Party of origin:

Experience with public participation
Experience with consultations under article 5

(ii) As an affected Party:

Experience with public participation

Experience with consultations under article 5

- (i) Please describe how the costs of interpretation during the hearings are covered:
- (ii) By the Party of origin: All the expenditures are incurred by the proponent.
- (iii) By the affected Party: All the expenditures are incurred by the ministry.
- (iv) Shared by both Parties concerned:
- (v) Developer:
- (vi) Other, please specify

II.4. Describe any difficulties that your country has encountered during transboundary public participation (expert consultation, public hearing, etc.), including on issues of timing, language and the need for additional information: it is not our case

II.5. Does your country have successful examples of organizing transboundary EIA procedures for joint cross-border projects or that of an NPP?:

(a) Yes

(b) No

II.6. If you answered yes to question II.5, please provide information on your country's experiences describing, for example, means of cooperation (e.g., contact points, joint bodies, bilateral agreements, special and common provisions, etc.), institutional arrangements, and how practical matters are dealt with (e.g., translation, interpretation, transmission of documents, etc.):

(a) For joint cross-border projects:

(b) For NPPs:

II.7. Please provide examples from your experience during the reporting period (either complete cases or elements such as notification, consultation and public participation) that, in your view, constitute good practice:

II.8. Would your country like to introduce a case in the form of a Convention "case study fact sheet"?

(a) No

(b) Yes (please indicate which cases):

II.9. Has your country carried out post-project analyses in the period 2013–2015:

(a) No

(b) Yes (please indicate which projects, along with the challenges in implementation and any lessons learned):

2. Experience in using the guidance in 2016–2018

II.10. Has your country used in practice the following guidance, adopted by the Meeting of the Parties and available online?

(a) Guidance on Public Participation in Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (ECE/MP.EIA/7):

No

Yes (please provide details):

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

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

No

Yes (please provide details):

Your experience with using this guidance:

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

(c) Guidance on the Practical Application of the Espoo Convention (ECE/MP.EIA/8):

No

Yes (please provide details): The guideline for the interpretation of definitions in the list of activities in Annex I to the Convention

Your experience with using this guidance: It was useful because we have been able to establish on the basis of the criteria in Annex III to the Convention whether the planned activities may or may not be subject to the EIA procedure.

Your suggestions for improving or supplementing the guidance:

3. Clarity of the Convention

II.11. Has your country had difficulties implementing the procedures defined in the Convention, either As a Party of origin or as an affected Party, because of a lack of clarity of the provisions?

No

Yes (please indicate which provisions and how they are unclear):

4. Suggested improvements to the report

II.12 Please provide further suggestions (preferably specific drafting proposals) for how this report could be improved.