

# Serbian roadmap on integrating ecological aspects in spatial planning policy contains: key areas for building capacity and inter-sectoral dialogue

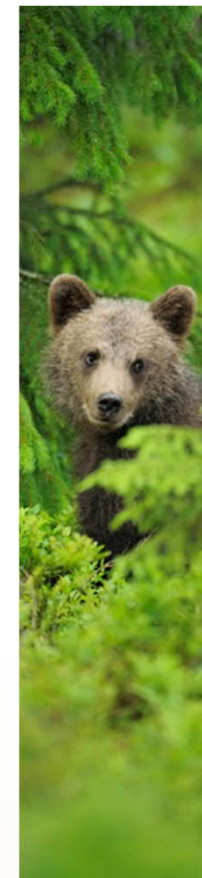
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## Vision on EIA process changes and expected results for Serbia

Republic of Serbia is not a member of EU, it has its own Law on Environmental Impact Assessment, from 2004/2009, fully harmonized with the EU DIRECTIVE 2014/52/EU.

Republic of Serbia will probably join the EU and adopt EU laws and directives. Transborder knowledge transfer on different aspects of EIA, improve cross sectoral knowledge transfer through harmonization of existing laws and regulations on planning and environmental protection, as well as all the other relevant sectors.

Improvement of the existing legislation - in early involvement of the stakeholders in the process of EIA through the scoping report process, which is not obligatory at the moment.



Ecological network in Serbia is regulated by REGULATION ABOUT THE ECOLOGICAL NETWORK ("Official Gazette of RS", No. 102/2010) and implementation solely depends on the specific investors, road designers, planners and environmental experts in charge for EIA. Problems during EIA process → direct conflict between planners and nature conservation experts, non harmonized existing legislative on spatial planning, environmental and nature protection, lack of adequate public participation proposed by the Law on EIA, no mandatory scoping report phase

Main databases available for EIA: national bases of quality of environmental parameters (air, water, soil, waste) provided by SEPA, reports on the environmental quality provided by LSG, specific reports conducted within different public enterprises, available spatial/urban plans and project, local ecological action plans etc.

Serbia does not have recognized and mapped network of ecological corridors on national and local level, area of protection of valuable habitats is the data planners receive from Nature conservation agency. These data are sometimes poorly and non adequately mapped and can make a serious problem in defining best location for the roads.

Spatial can serve as excellent data base on existing problems in the considered area, as well as to set strategic guidance and obligations related to the road design in terms of proposing potential locations for under and overpasses for wild animals, which can be elaborated in detail within the road construction projects and following EIA.

Main actor in major construction is MCTI Serbia

Non-resolved conflicts between stakeholders in spatial/urban planning, road construction and nature conservation, and on the relation ministries, public enterprises on one side and NGOs on the other side.

Monitoring of the activities are carried out by State Nature conservation agency which monitors the number of protected species, spread of invasive species. These data are collected on the small areas, and are not part of central register. Also, Serbia has not yet project or implemented over and underpasses for wild animals.

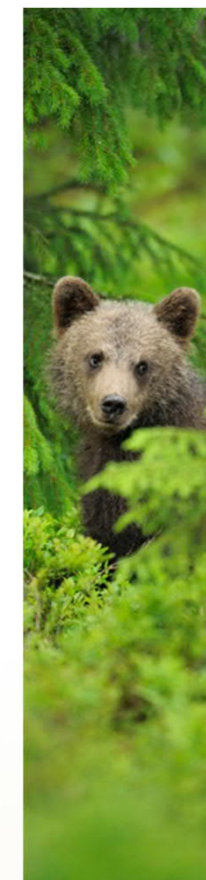
The first step should be mapping of all ecological networks for different wild species on the national level for construction of the over and underpasses as it is obliged by national regulation.

Serbia needs permanent convergence/harmonization of legislative in different area planning and nature and environmental protection (EIA) and future active involvement of all the affected target group in the process of environmental decision making..

## Problem area 1: conflicts

- spatial planning/road rail design
- spatial planning/authorities
- road/rail design/authorities
- infrastructure developers/every sector

	spatial planning	road/rail design	authorities	infrastructure developers	nature protection
spatial planning	developed spatial planning system, different methodological approaches	different knowledge background, non-compliance in practical implementation within the strategic and developing documents	changes in authority powers – problems in resolving public interest vs infrastructure developer interest	strong support of state authorities for development projects	different approaches – integral in spatial planning vs. sectoral in nature protection
road/rail design	different approaches – integral in spatial planning vs. sectoral in road/rail design	developing sectoral approach – old players vs. new players			
authorities	spatial planning authorities vs. infrastructure authorities – limitations in conflict resolving		green authority vs. infrastructure authorities – legacy changes		
infrastructure developers				competition for projects  strong support of state authorities for development projects	
nature protection	different approaches – sectoral in nature protection vs. integral in spatial planning	Conflicts on the development/protection relation	strong support of state authorities for development projects with limited nature protection	different sectoral aims – not embed to other sectors	



Protected Areas – Cornerstones of Ecological Connectivity in the Carpathians and Beyond

International Conference, Visegrád, Hungary, 28-30 September 2021 - Project co-funded by European Union Funds (ERDF, IPA)

Problem area 2:  
 actors involvement  
 - time frame  
 - selection process  
 - involved actors  
 reach  
 - involvement  
 method

	time frame	selection process	involved actors reach	involvement method	
spatial planning	Getting data too late	Long, hard and uncertain negotiation process	Public participation /procurement of citizens, local communities) is organized in the late phases of planning	Public consultations -at the start and for draft versions of plan  Sectoral and intersectoral meetings	
road/rail design	Must have the final plans for the public procurement	Little and scarce influence of other sectors and spatial planning		None	
authorities	Too short deadlines	Negotiation between sectoral authorities, spatial planners as mediators	Process defined by the legislation only for spatial planning and nature protection	Intersectoral meetings, spatial planners as mediators	
infrastructure developers	Time frame stress of building process	Interest for the cheapest development project	None. Only after the pressure of public and NGO	None.	
nature protection	Not involved in time, too short time frame for assess and survey made	Not enough flexible for evaluation, negotiation and selection between different options	Process defined by the legislation only for spatial planning and nature protection	Public consultations for draft versions of protection acts	



## - Identified target groups

### spatial planners

- individual reach
- chambers
- authorities

### road/rail designers

- individual reach
- chambers
- authorities

### specialists

- biologists
- nature protection experts

### infrastructure development

- project management

### Policy makers

- authorities
- NGO
- local stakeholders

	1st workshop	2nd workshop	CNPA conference	After party
Spatial planners	Individual chambers authorities	individual chambers authorities	individual	individual chambers authorities
road/rail designers	Individual chambers authorities	individual chambers authorities	individual	individual chambers authorities
biologists	individual chambers authorities	individual chambers authorities	individual	individual chambers authorities
infrastructure development	individual chambers authorities	individual chambers authorities	individual	individual chambers authorities





## Short term recommendations and proposed solutions of the problem areas

- cross sectoral knowledge transfer
- sectoral conversation starting immediately
- sectoral consensus
- change/update/delete the EIA detective
- change the EIA law
- change the practice

	Proposed solution as a vision (main focus areas)	Proposed recommendation [who, how, when should act]
1 problem area: different sectoral background knowledge	Cross sectoral knowledge transfer  Harmonization of the existing legislative on spatial planning, environmental and nature protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectors involvement to project workshops</li> <li>- start a new project proposal for better understanding with partners involving different sectors</li> <li>- Organizing round tables on knowledge transferring from different sectors of planning and protection</li> </ul>
Problem area 2: actors involvement	change/update/delete the EIA detective  change the EIA law  Change the practise  Obliging the decision makers to fully implement public participation given within the Law on EIA  Changing the Law in EIA in terms of defining Scoping report as mandatory phase of any planning process and conduction of EIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Start sectoral conversation on the feasibility of legacy change</li> <li>- Ministries responsible for environmental protection should change legislative in accordance with the proposed solutions (scoping report, full implementation of public participation) to ensure full participation</li> </ul>



## Long term recommendations and proposed solutions of the problem areas

	Proposed solution as a vision	Proposed recommendation [who, how, when should act]
1 problem area: different sectoral background knowledge	<p>Cross sectoral knowledge transfer</p> <p>Permanent convergence/harmonization of legislative in different area planning and nature and environmental protection (EIA)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Trainings for each sectors, - chambers, independent trainers</li> <li>- cross sectoral dialogue,</li> <li>- educational level changes – embed other sectors knowledge to university education</li> </ul>
Problem area 2: actors involvement	<p>change/update/delete the EIA detective</p> <p>change the EIA law</p> <p>Change the practise</p> <p>Future active involvement of all the affected target group in the process of environmental decision making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- change the implementation act of EIA national law</li> </ul> <p>Update EIA directive in order to support the national legacy change</p> <p>Ministries should adopt all the amendments of the EIA Directive and change national law on EIA accordingly</p> <p>In near future, Serbia (after the access to EU) should adopt and implement EIA directive in all the documents related to the nature/environmental protection and development planning</p>





Thank you!

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