

# EU4Environment supports Ukraine and Romania in developing an agreement on transboundary environmental impact assessment

Bucharest, 18 November 2022

Environmental impact assessment (EIA) and strategic environmental assessment (SEA) have an important role to play in helping the Eastern Partnership countries to achieve a sustainable and green post-COVID-19 economic recovery. These environmental assessments are also expected to be essential to ensuring the sustainability of Ukraine's post-war reconstruction in the aftermath of the aggression by the Russian Federation against Ukraine.

With help from the European Union and UNECE, Ukraine has benefitted from legislative assistance related to transboundary Environmental Impact Assessment.

On 18 November, the Minister of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine, Mr. Ruslan Strilets, and the Minister of Environment, Waters and Forests of Romania, Mr. Barna Tánzos, signed the bilateral Agreement on the Implementation of the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention). This concluded multi-year negotiations between Ukraine and Romania which are both parties to the Espoo Convention.

The Agreement is an inspiring example for the countries in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus. It places a special emphasis on the Carpathian region and the transboundary river basins, including the Danube Delta, shared by Romania and Ukraine. It will support Ukraine and Romania in improving their implementation of transboundary EIA procedures.

A clear framework for bilateral cooperation on transboundary EIA that the Agreement establishes includes setting up a joint commission as a forum for information exchange and advice, consultations and dispute settlement between the two countries.

The drafting of the Agreement has been supported by legal experts under the "European Union for Environment" (EU4Environment) programme (2019-2023). The process also built on good practice examples of similar agreements existing in the European Union.

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The use of bilateral agreements is a practical way for the countries involved in transboundary EIA to reconcile national legislative procedures, address differences in implementation practices and enable environmental ministries to coordinate transboundary EIA procedures more effectively.

Since 2019, EU4Environment has been supporting the Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries in building capacities for applying environmental assessments more effectively and systematically. A number of these countries are also supported in fully aligning their national legislation with the European Union's [Directive on EIA](#) and [Directive on SEA](#), the [Espoo Convention](#) and its [Protocol on SEA](#).

The EU4Environment programme, funded by the European Union, aims to support EaP countries to preserve and better use their natural capital, increase people's environmental well-being, and grasp new development opportunities. With a budget of some EUR 20 million, EU4Environment is carried out with implementation support by five international partners: OECD, UNIDO, UNEP, UNECE and the World Bank.

<https://www.eu4environment.org>

**Leonid Kalashnyk, EU4Environment Project Manager at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), [leonid.kalashnyk@un.org](mailto:leonid.kalashnyk@un.org)**

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