



Addressing transboundary environmental impacts in EIB operations

Adina Relicovschi
Senior Environmental Expert
ECOSO/PJ
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EIB at a glance

- The **EU's bank**: The EIB is the European Union's bank being the only bank owned by and representing the interests of the European Union Member States. It works closely with other EU institutions to implement EU policy.
- **A major player**: As the **largest multilateral borrower** and lender by volume, EIB provides finance and expertise for sound and sustainable investment projects which contribute to furthering EU policy objectives. More than 90% of EIB's activity is focused on **EU** but it also supports the **EU's external and development policies**.

EIB at a glance

- Current **EIB external mandates** include:
 - Enlargement countries;
 - The European Free Trade Association
- Neighbourhood:
 - The Mediterranean Neighbourhood
 - EU Eastern Neighbours;
- Development and cooperation countries:
 - Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (and Overseas Countries and Territories);
 - South Africa;
 - Asia and Latin America;
 - Central Asia.

EIB Environmental Policy

- The **EIB Statement** on Environment and Social Principles and Standards – 2009 (art. 21 – “a formal EIA/SEA should identify and address any significant transboundary impact associated with the project/programme, conforming with the requirements of Espoo Convention/SEA Protocol”)
- The **EIB Environment and Social Handbook** – 2013;

EIB Environmental and Social Handbook

Structure of the handbook:

- Volume I: EIB Environmental and Social Standards (overarching standard 1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Impacts and Risks requires compliance with **Esposo Convention and its Protocol**) ;
- Volume II: EIB Environmental and Social Procedures and Practices;
- Volume III: EIB Sector and Thematic Guidance Notes.

Key Requirements

- All projects located in the **EU, Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries**, which are likely to have significant effects on environment, as well as on human health and well-being and may interfere with human rights will be subjected to an assessment according to the EU EIA Directive 2011/92/EU. In addition, provisions of relevant treaties and conventions also apply (e.g **Espoo Convention, if applicable**).

Key objectives and concepts

- The projects **outside of the EU, Candidate and Potential Candidate Countries** will also be subject of an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) procedure if they are likely to have significant effects on environment, human well-being and interfere with human rights. The ESIA must be carried out in compliance with **the principles** contained in the EU EIA Directive and best international practice, **where practical and feasible and taking into account national** laws and regulations and any obligations and standards of multilateral agreements to which the host country is a party to.

Cooperation EIB/Espoo Secretariat

- Providing financial support to the workplan for the implementation of the Convention and its Protocol for the next intersessional period:
 - **Preparation** of guidance on the implementation of the Convention (drawing on opinions of the Implementation Committee);
 - **Workshop** or half-day seminar within meetings of the Working Group on Global application of the Convention and the Protocol focus on non-ECE countries and IFIs;