

Meeting Minutes

Subject: CEF project preparation, EIA issues, MP Application Púchov-Považská Teplá
Vienna, 21th December 2016, 09:30-13:00

Participants:

MoT → Dekánek, Bobula, a.o.
ZSR → Stecko, Hermanská, a.o.
GT → Vasko, Ondrejicka
VUD → Dorčík, Jánošíková – Topic No 3
JASPERS → Maj Vrábelová, Di Volo, Kaparová, Bessenyei

No.	Topic
1.	The MoT is preparing a number of projects for the next CEF call. It was agreed that JASPERS will assist on the following three major ones: Kúty-Devínska interlocking and signalling Žilina-Varín railway line modernisation Varín-Košice implementation of GSM-R
1.a	Kúty-Devínska interlocking and signalling The project scope will be interlocking, signalling and telecommunication, including ETCS and GSM-R, on the sections Devínska-Malacky and Kúty-State border SK/CZ. The project will be classified as works only, including the detailed design. Based on the question of the consultant, JASPERS proposed to submit the project under the Core Network priority, since the ERTMS part represents a minor share from the project budget. The beneficiary confirmed that no building permit procedure is expected for the signalling. The consultant intends to use the Natura 2000 and WFD declaration issued for the project during the last CEF call. JASPERS will check the suitability of these documents.
1.b	Žilina-Varín modernisation JASPERS reminded that this project should undergo the environmental compliance check procedure within the Ministry of Environment. It was recommended to submit the available documents (i.e. EIA, Natura 2000 and WFD assessments/declarations, zoning permit, building permits) to the MoE by the end of 2016 through the Managing Authority. It was understood that all the documents for a wider project Žilina Node should be submitted, according to the scope of the EIA procedure. Suitability of already available declarations prepared for the previous CEF call needs also to be verified. JASPERS will try to help the MoE to finish the compliance check within the CEF application deadline.

1.c	<p>Varín-Košice GSM-R</p> <p>JASPERS confirmed that pure GSM-R implementation is not defined within the EIA directive, nor Annex I or Annex II. However, depending on concrete works/implementation, some pre-caution measures have to be taken to identify the potential impacts on the environment, and these have to be presented in the application. It might happen that e.g. at least EIA screening could be applicable. Environmental requirements defined in other legislative acts have to be complied, too.</p> <p>Since the objective is to modernise the entire corridor until 2030, it is obvious that the GSM-R system specification should be compliant with ETCS Level 2, which will be implemented gradually according to the progress of the infrastructure modernisation.</p>
2	<p>ZSR presented an overview of the on-going EIA procedures. Specific JASPERS advice was provided on the following procedures:</p> <p>Modernisation of Liptovský Mikuláš-Poprad Modernisation of Poprad-Krompachy Modernisation of Žilina-Čadca-State border SK/CZ</p>
2.a	<p>The section Liptovský Mikuláš-Poprad was divided into 5 project implementation phases where the different activities are on-going:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">A new EIA is being prepared for Phase No1 (Poprad-Lučivná – 2016 CEF project) Another new EIA is on-going for Phase No5 (Paludza-Liptovský Hrádok)</p> <p>JASPERS believes that the current process should be reorganised due to the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite the fact that an EIA was already done for Phases 2, 3 and 4, the updated FS selected a different routing option (for which an EIA assessment was not done). - The complete section was identified as priority in the FS, consequently the modernisation is expected in the coming years. - Salami slicing approach is not acceptable. - Proper assessment of the cumulative impacts of the projects (sections) needs to be performed. - The requirement of DG-MOVE for a new EIA for Phase 1 was based on the wider project title and scope. JASPERS pre-discussed the issue with DG ENV and opened the possibility of amending the wording in the grant application agreement. <p>JASPERS proposes to extend the scope of the on-going EIA for Phase 5 to Phases 4, 3 and 2. In the same time, the assessment of the cumulative impacts also on Phase 1 will be included. A new EIA for Phase 1, based on the available information, is not necessary. Eventual minor changes of the project foreseen during the project implementation should be covered by the notification of change procedure.</p> <p>Further JASPERS advises to start negotiation with INEA (DG Move) regarding the wording of the condition related to EIA.</p> <p>JASPERS offered a full support during this process and also helped with the definition of the EIA scope.</p> <p>Following the question of the MoT, JASPERS stated that the detailed assessment can be prepared for the selected routing option, using and taking into account the selection procedure done within the FS. During the FS stage an assessment of environmental aspects was performed and the results were included in the alternative selection. This whole process should be used as justification within the EIA procedure to focus on identified important issues and to avoid duplication of assessments.</p> <p>Representatives of MoT and ZSR stressed that they need to inform the hierarchy who will then take the decision on this proposal.</p>
2.b	<p>The Poprad-Krompachy project is divided into two Phases. There is a need to update the permitting procedure on Spišská-Krompachy section and to carry on the EIA. JASPERS proposed, based on the above mentioned reasons, to extend the scope of the EIA and to cover the entire Spišská-Krompachy-Kysak-Košice section in one EIA. JASPERS offers help when defining the EIA scope.</p>

2.c	<p>JASPERS already advised the beneficiary that, since there are still different routing options in consideration on the non-modernised section, these have to be discussed and selected within a new Feasibility Study. Environmental considerations shall be taken into account during the selection of the preferred option and further the EIA procedure should follow taking into account the steps already performed.</p>
3.	<p>MP application Púchov-Považská Teplá</p> <p>ZSR informed that the consultant VUD is working on integrating preliminary JASPERS comments into the application. VUD completed a Climate Change assessment which will soon be submitted to JASPERS for comments.</p> <p>The project also needs to undergo the environmental compliance check procedure. Due to the urgency of the CEF call deadline, the compliance check for this project will follow after the CEF project Žilina – Varín is completed. All the relevant documents to be submitted to MoE by the end of January 2017.</p> <p>The MoT intends to submit the project for approval to IQR. JASPERS confirmed that issuance of the Action Completion Note is feasible within 8-10 weeks after submission of the final documentation.</p>