

## Final conference of IPA project related to environment in Serbian–Hungarian cooperation

On December 12, 2014, the final conference of a joint Serbian and Hungarian project, entitled ‘Strategic Noise and Air mapping related to border crossings and related infrastructure’, was held in Subotica. The project was realized as a result of cooperation between the Public Enterprise ‘Roads of Serbia’ and KTI Institute for Transport from Budapest. In the splendid building of the Town Hall, about 120 participants, in the presence of mass media, had the opportunity to become acquainted with the holders of the project, its activities, objectives and results of the research. The project, which is co-financed from the European Union IPA funds, began in mid-2013. PE ‘Roads of Serbia’ was included in the project in June 2014, after the Faculty of Technology from Novi Sad withdrew from it.

The conference was opened by Tomislav Veljković, Deputy Mayor of Subotica, who on behalf of the local government welcomed the participants and praised the work on this interstate project. Because of her business commitments, Zorana Mihajlović, Minister for Construction, Transportation and Infrastructure, did not attend the final conference in Subotica, but supported the work of the participants by letter.

The participants were also addressed by Biljana Vuksanović, Executive Director of the Strategy, Design and Development Department in the Public Enterprise ‘Roads of Serbia’. After a brief description of the activities of the Public Enterprise and activities related to the implementation of the adopted environmental policy, she stressed the importance of the project, saying that the collection of data on air pollution and noise level in the border area between Hungary and Serbia is significant in order to determine whether the population there is affected and at what level. The official results of the conducted research will most likely be available before the end of the year. One of the goals of the project is a commitment to the European Parliament and of the Council Directives on ambient air quality and management of environmental noise, which has been regulated by law in Serbia, but is not corroborated in practice. She expressed the hope that the agreement between the PE ‘Roads of Serbia’ and KTI Institute for Transport from Budapest is a beginning of long term cooperation on other projects related to environment, traffic safety and other aspects of the travel industry.



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Gábor Àlbert, a representative of KTI Institute which is responsible for the project on the Hungarian side, presented the basic information on the development of the project and praised the cooperation of the Institute from Budapest and the PE 'Roads of Serbia'. He expressed the hope that it will continue on new projects which are being planned.

The next speaker, Gábor Kende from the company Balcon d.o.o. Budapest, informed the participants about the details of the project and said that the project objectives are commitment to the implementation of the European Council Directives related to the assessment and management of environmental noise and of ambient air quality, the collection of data on the levels of noise and air pollution caused by traffic in the area of the Serbian–Hungarian border crossings and identification of the volume of pollution in that area, as well as of the population affected by noise.

Đordje Mitrović from the PE 'Roads of Serbia', project manager on the Serbian side, said that the strategic noise mapping of the state roads sections with over 3 million vehicles per year is a legal obligation which should be completed by 2015, as well as one of preconditions that must be fulfilled in the process of accession to the EU. This project is very similar to that.



Péter Miksztai from KTI Institute of Transport, head of the Hungarian part of the project, said that the research was carried out on the territory of 42 places on the Serbian side, and that the collected data will be displayed in the same form as Hungarian. That will allow the results to be comparable, while the compliance of procedures will enable future collaboration. The evaluation will show which sections are problematic in relation to the level of noise. With an estimate of costs, a plan of measures will be made for these sections as well as the suggestions for the reduction of noise levels that exceed the limit values.

Mostafa Naser from MHM Projekat d.o.o. Novi Sad, the company that is a leading member of the consortium to develop the project, described the methodology of collecting data on traffic loads and traffic counters that were used in the process, as well as the survey that will provide insight into transport flows on the road network in the border zone. Preliminary data show that the density of traffic, which under the terms of the Directive on ambient noise requires the development of strategic maps, is noticeable on a small number of sections in the metropolitan area of Sombor and on the road Subotica – Palic. However, in the vicinity of Svetozar Miletic, on the road Sombor – Subotica, the exceeding of noise level was registered despite the fact that the traffic load was below 3,000 vehicles per day. The reason is the large number of agricultural machinery in the traffic flow.



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In the final part of the conference, experts from partner companies Acoustics from Baja –Bálint Papp, Attila Tan and Zoltan Aladics – presented in detail the process of collecting data on air quality and noise and of making maps of pollution distribution. Monitoring of noise levels was performed in a 24-hour periods at 97 points in 34 places on the Hungarian side and at 98 measuring points in 34 settlements on the Serbian side. Air quality was measured at six locations on both sides of the border, two times per month - a month in the summer and one month during the heating season. The concentrations of nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, tropospheric ozone and suspended particles of size up to 10 m<sup>3</sup> were monitored. The presenters pointed out the important details about the strategic noise and air mapping in compliance with national regulations and standards.

The conclusion of the conference is that the project of strategic noise and air mapping in the border zone between Serbia and Hungary is a foundation of cooperation between the PE 'Roads of Serbia' and Hungarian partners. It is of great importance to continue it because it will contribute to the development of scientific and technical basis and synchronization of our regulations in the field of environmental protection with the European Union.



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