

LIBERTY LINE

Strășeni – Gutinaș 400 kV Transmission Line Stakeholders Engagement Plan - SEP

INVESTMENTS IN DEVELOPING ENERGY ASSETS (IDEA)

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Prepared for:

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Date: 08/25/2026

This study is made possible by the generous support of the United States government. The contents are the responsibility of Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. (BV) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Government.

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

BV	Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp.
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
DOS	U.S. Department of State
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Commission
ENSTO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators
EIB	European Investment Bank
EPC	Engineering – Procurement - Construction
ES	Electrical Substation
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
ESMMP	Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan
EU	European Union
FS	Feasibility Study
IFC	International Financing Corporation
kV	Kilo Volt
MD	Republic of Moldova
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RO	Romania
SEP	Stakeholder Engagement Plan
T-Line	Overhead Transmission Line
UG	Underground
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WB	The World Bank Group

Acknowledgements

The Black & Veatch and CCEM team would like to express our deepest appreciation for the support and guidance provided by Moldelectrica and Transelectrica. The contributions of these important stakeholders were essential to the overall success of the project and the great level of detail the project team was able to provide.

1.0 Introduction

Once adopting the Law no.117/2009 the Republic of Moldova joined, as a contracting party, the Treaty establishing the Energy Community. One of the main objectives of the Energy Community Treaty is to create an integrated energy market allowing for cross-border electricity trade and integration with the European Union (EU) market through connections with the European grid - European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity (ENTSO-E).

For Republic of Moldova (MD) connecting its electric grid to Southeast Europe and Black Sea region is a must, considering its dependency on imports and the current geopolitical background intensified by Russian aggression against Ukraine.

According to both countries' Electricity Transmission Grid Development Plans¹, the process of synchronous interconnection of the two national power systems is in full development, thus, considering the MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING² of December 11, 2023, the increase in the electricity exchange capacity has the following overhead transmission line (T-Line) configuration:

- 1 x 400 kV T-Line „Isaccea (RO) – Vulcănești (MD)” - existing;
- 1 x 400 kV T-Line „Suceava (RO) – Bălți (MD)” - ongoing;
- 1 x 400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)” - current project;

To this end, in 2022-2024 the U.S. government through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) expanded its presence in the Republic of Moldova through its regional project “Investments in the Development of Energy Assets” (IDEA) and initiated planning the construction of the future 400 kV T-Line Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)” by supporting the preparation of the:

1. Feasibility Study covering the technical and economic analysis, including Multi Criteria Assessment (MCA) for choosing the optimum T-Line route.
2. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Scoping package, including the preliminary environmental and social impact assessment together with the Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP) – this Report.

¹ Planul de Dezvoltare a RET perioada 2024 – 2033, CN Transelectrica, Romania <https://web.transelectrica.ro/noutati/noutati/word/PPDRET%202024-2028-2033.pdf>; Plan de Dezvoltare a Rețelelor Electrice de Transport în perioada anilor 2021-2033, I.S. Moldelectrica, Republica Moldova [https://www.moldelectrica.md/files/docs/TYNDP%202025-2034%20\(RO\).pdf](https://www.moldelectrica.md/files/docs/TYNDP%202025-2034%20(RO).pdf)

² MEMORANDUM DE ÎNȚELEGERE din 11 Decembrie 2023 între Guvernul României și Guvernul Republicii Moldova privind realizarea proiectelor necesare interconectării rețelelor de gaze naturale și energie electrică din România și Republica Moldova <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocument/279687>

Black & Veatch Special Projects Corp. (BV) is the prime implementer for the IDEA project. BV engaged Compania de Consultanță în Energie și Mediu S.A. / Energy and Environment Consultancy Company (CCEM) for the preparation of ESIA tasks.

In 2025, the management of the project transitioned from USAID to the U.S. Department of State (DOS).

1.1 SEP Purpose and Scope

Stakeholders' engagement and social impacts are considered in all project's international donors/lenders programs. It is an integral step in ESIA preparation and is required by all IFIs standards and regulations, including U.S. Code of Federal Regulation, Part 216, Title 22 (22 CFR 216) – Reg. 216³.

Stakeholder engagement is the best practice to include when preparing complex Initial Environmental Examinations (IEE).

During the scoping process Reg. 216 requires stakeholder engagement and 22 CFR 216.3(a)(4)(i) states that, “persons having expertise relevant to the environmental aspects of the proposed action shall also participate in this scoping process.” Participants may include, but are not limited to, “representatives of host governments, public and private institutions, the AID Mission staff, and contractors.” International best practices recognize the importance of early engagement with local communities, indigenous peoples, and individuals who may be impacted by the proposed project.

This preliminary SEP, included in the ESIA Scoping Stage information disclosure package will help/guide the Consultant team in determining whether this standalone report together with a preliminary social impact assessment suffice, or whether a full social impact assessment is necessary to understand potential impacts, manage risks, and plan for the mitigation of adverse impacts.

Another purpose of SEP is to provide a basis for a constructive relationship between the contract owner and the affected stakeholders over time.

This SEP has been developed considering the nature and scale of the risks, impacts and development stage of an electricity transmission line type of project, namely 400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)” Project.

The SEP will cover the whole life of the project, including construction and operation. The nature of and frequency of engagement is defined by the risks and impacts that the project will have.

SEP will be an instrument for both operators of the national electricity grids TRANSELECTRICA, Romania and MOLDELECTRICA, Republic of Moldova in describing their strategy and program for engaging with stakeholders, through the various stages of this Project (planning - studies and consulting,

³ U.S. Code of Federal Regulations - PART 216—ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES, January 2026
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-II/part-216>

engineering; construction - commissioning and operation), by ensuring relevant and understandable information and by providing, to all the project's targeted public, opportunities to express their views and receive responses.

The SEP is a living document which is to be periodically reviewed and adapted to new developments as the project progresses and to cultural specificity. It will include information or presentation of methods to handle the following items:

- Description of the regulatory framework requirements for consultation and disclosure;
- Identification and prioritization of key stakeholder groups;
- Development of strategy and timetable for sharing information, engaging and consulting with each of these groups;
- Definition and identification of resources and responsibilities for implementing stakeholder engagement activities;
- References and links to the grievance mechanism.

Benefits of stakeholders' engagement include:

- Stakeholders often offer knowledge and information about local environmental issues, conditions, or concerns;
- Stakeholders may be able to devise creative solutions not considered by an implementing entity;
- Social problems and conflicts may be avoided or minimized when stakeholders are consulted.
- Consultation may increase the commitment of the stakeholders to projects, plans, or programs;
- Stakeholder engagement raises awareness regarding a particular project; and
- The process provides an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss, ask questions, and raise concerns, in a format that is documented and acknowledged.

2.0 Project Description

2.1 Brief Description of the Project

Project Title:

400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)”

Project Duration and Category:

Planning Stage: 8-10 months

- Feasibility, environmental and social impact assessment (ongoing)

Implementation Stage: 3.5-4 years

- 18-20 Month – Procurement, Basic-Detail Engineering, Permits, Land Acquisitions (expropriations)
- 22-24 Month – Construction, including work-site organization, tests and commissioning

Operation & Maintenance Stage: 30-40 years

Decommissioning Stage / Closure: 3-8 months

Project Category for type of projects that are likely to have adverse environmental or social impacts, and issues during the construction and operation phase, mainly:

According to national legislations T-Line projects are included in:

- MD and RO – Law no. 86/2014, Annex 2 and Law no. 292/2018, Annex 2 “List of planned activities / projects for which the requirement to undertake an EIA is to be determined; item 3.b) Industrial installations for the transmission of gas, steam and hot water; electricity transmission via overhead lines”

According to U.S. Code of Federal Regulation (22 CFR 216) and USAID requirements related to sectoral environmental guideline:

- “Construction of transmission lines” is part of the Sector Environmental Guideline for Construction⁴

⁴ Sector Environmental Guideline – Construction, USAID, 2017 <https://usaidgems.org/sectorGuidelines.htm>

Project Scope of Work

Project planning stage (current phase): Assessing the feasibility of the 400kV T-Line Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO), environmental and social impact for the development of the high voltage T-line, including necessary upgrading works at the electrical substation (ES) 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș (RO) and a new construction for a 400 kV ES near the existing ES 330/110 kV Strășeni (MD).

Project Description

After the feasibility study (FS) approval and the environmental permits are obtained, the project will enter the implementation stage, including the preparation of the FEED - Front-End Engineering Design, construction and other permits, on-site preparation, construction and installation of equipment, and commissioning.

The funding for the Feasibility and ESIA Scoping studies, for the entire route of the 400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)” Project, was initially provided by USAID (2022-2024), through the Investments in the Development of Energy Assets (IDEA) program and transferred, in 2025, to the DOS Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of the Coordinator of US Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (EUR/ACE).

The 400kV T-Line Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) route starts from the new 400 kV Strășeni ES, neighboring the existing 330/110 kV Strășeni ES, in the North of Strășeni Municipality, Strășeni Raion, Central Region of Republic of Moldova via MD/RO border up to the ES 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș located South-East of Onești Municipality, Bacău County, NUTS2 region RO, in the East part of Romania.

In order to develop the 400 kV T-Line Strășeni – Gutinaș investment, definitive land areas as well as temporary land areas are needed. The land areas occupied definitively are designed for:

- T-Line towers’ foundations, according to the type and length of the towers (approx. 225 / MD and 472 / RO tower structures);
- The new ES 400 kV Strășeni (MD), double bus – double breaker arrangement, as an expansion of the existing ES 330/110 kV, covering about 2.5-3.5 ha, to be built nearby.

The land areas occupied temporarily are needed for working site preparation and construction period and include service platforms for mounting the suspension towers and for the angle towers; service platforms for phase conductors and conductors’ service corridors (access area).

In the first stage of the preliminary/scoping analysis, four route options (**Figure 2-1**) were investigated in order to choose the optimal route for the future 400kV T-Line Strășeni - Gutinaș:

1. T-Line Strășeni-Gutinaș- Option 1 (red route), starting East in Gutinaș ES and crossing in Romania - Bacău, Vaslui and Iași counties, and in Republic of Moldova - Nisporeni and Strășeni Raions with ending point in Strășeni ES in Central Region, MD; estimated length 203 km (146/RO, 57/MD);
2. T-Line Strășeni-Gutinaș- Option 2 (orange route), starting East in Gutinaș ES and crossing in Romania - Bacău and Vaslui counties, and in Republic of Moldova - Hîncești, Nisporeni and Strășeni Raions with ending point in Strășeni ES in Central Region, MD; estimated length 206 km (134/RO, 72/MD);
3. T-Line Strășeni-Gutinaș- Option 3 (blue route), starting East in Gutinaș ES and crossing in Romania - Bacău and Vaslui counties, and in Republic of Moldova - Hîncești, Nisporeni and Strășeni Raions with ending point in Strășeni ES in Central Region, MD; estimated length 210 km (144/RO, 66/MD);
4. T-Line Strășeni-Gutinaș- Option 3 (magenta route), starting East in Gutinaș ES and crossing in Romania - Bacău, Vaslui and Iași counties, and in Republic of Moldova - Leova, Cimișlia, Ialoveni and Strășeni Raions and Chișinău Municipality, with ending point in Strășeni ES in Central Region, MD; estimated length 238 km (130/RO, 108/MD).

Regarding the new ES 400 kV Strășeni (MD), the proposed expansion, covering about 2.5-3.5 ha, is planned to be developed adjacent to the existing 330/110 kV Strășeni ES, on a neighboring plot privately owned to be acquired for the project, and the connection will be made via T-line. Two location options for this expansion were analysed in the FS.

Related to the connection point in 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș ES, the location of the upgrading works will be inside the precinct of the existing ES with exits as underground connection lines (UG), transition to overhead T-Line being performed after:

- about 210 m of UG line for T-Line Option 3 (blue route);
- about 2,570 m of UG line for T-Line Options 1, 2 and 4 (red, orange and magenta routes).

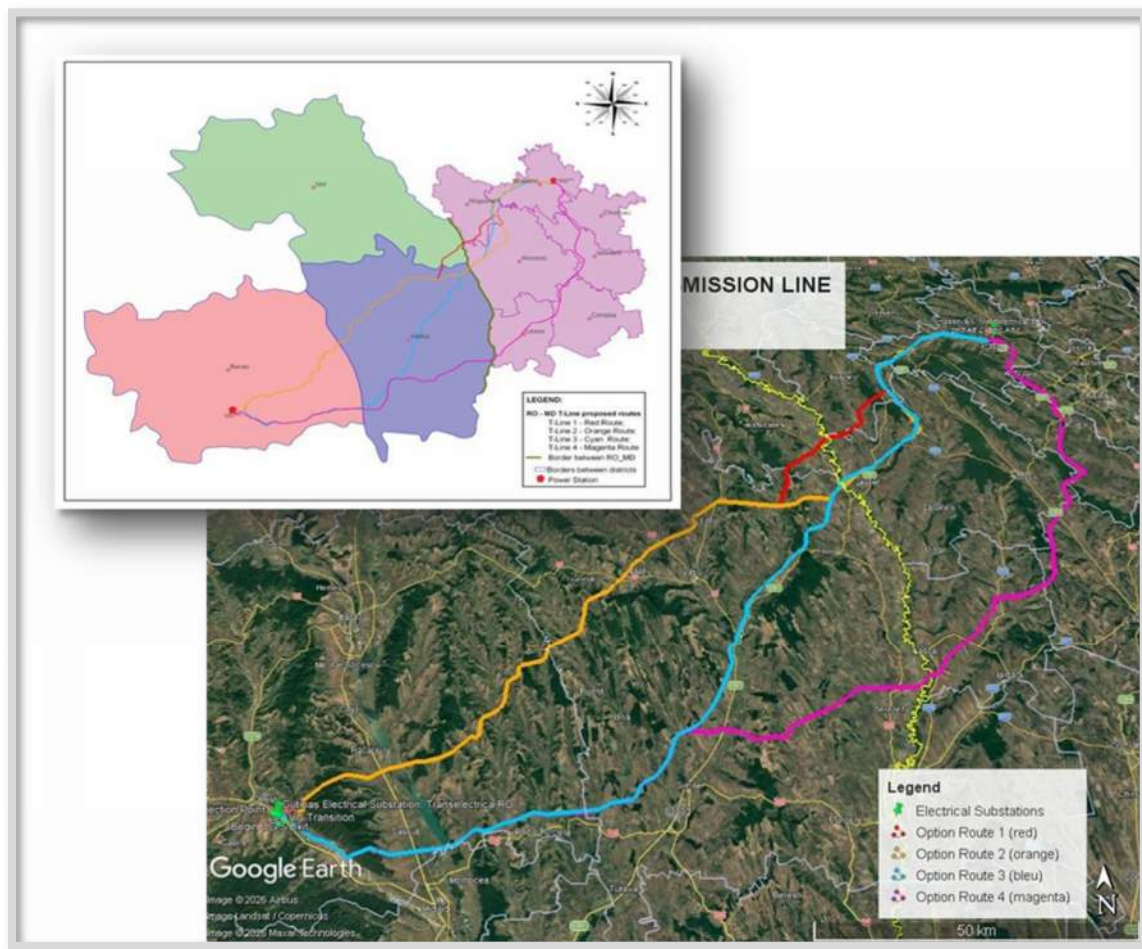


Figure 2-1 Proposed routes for 400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)”

Source: Consultant processed image based on satellite imagery (Google Earth, 2022)

The initial multi-criteria analysis (MCA), including over 45 comparative criteria, took into consideration technical, environmental, socio-economic and cultural aspects as follows:

- **Technical** (e.g., length; co-existence with other investment projects, such as roads, railways, other overhead power lines, telecommunication lines, various pipelines, etc.; accessibility of the route / levels of difficulty; investment costs, etc.);
- **Environment** (e.g., crossing protected forested areas, rivers, and lakes; impact of the electromagnetic field; impact on ecosystems, flora, and fauna; visual impact, etc.);
- **Socio-economic** (e.g., access to agricultural land; deforestation; type of land ownership when crossing local communities or in areas of productive agricultural land; relocation or compensation; temporary impact on air quality (dust and suspended particles), noise due to increased road traffic intensity and volume during site preparation and construction, etc.);

- **Cultural heritage** (e.g., impact on heritage buildings and monuments; crossing archaeological sites, etc.). The purpose of the multi-criteria analysis for selecting the optimal T-Line route option was to prevent/avoid/minimize the potential impact generated by the project.

Based on the research performed during the onsite scoping mission (23-27 September 2024) and, further on, in the second stage of the preliminary/scoping analysis, during the ESIA Scoping draft Report and reviewed in-depth MCA, the following preliminary solutions were proposed:

- Deepen the scoping analysis and the feasibility for Strășeni- Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line (**Figure 2-2**) for two redesigned alternative routes:
 - **Alternate Route 1** – the updated version of Option 3 (**blue**) route; estimated length 216 km (144/RO, 72/MD) and aprox. 697 towers structures;
 - **Alternate Route 2** – former Option 4 (**magenta**) route; estimated length 237 km (124/RO, 111/MD) and aprox. 888 towers structures.
- **New 400 kV Strășeni ES (MD)** – on a neighboring plot adjacent to the existing ES covering about 2.5-3.5 ha;
- **Expansion works for 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș ES (RO)** – in the existing ES premises.

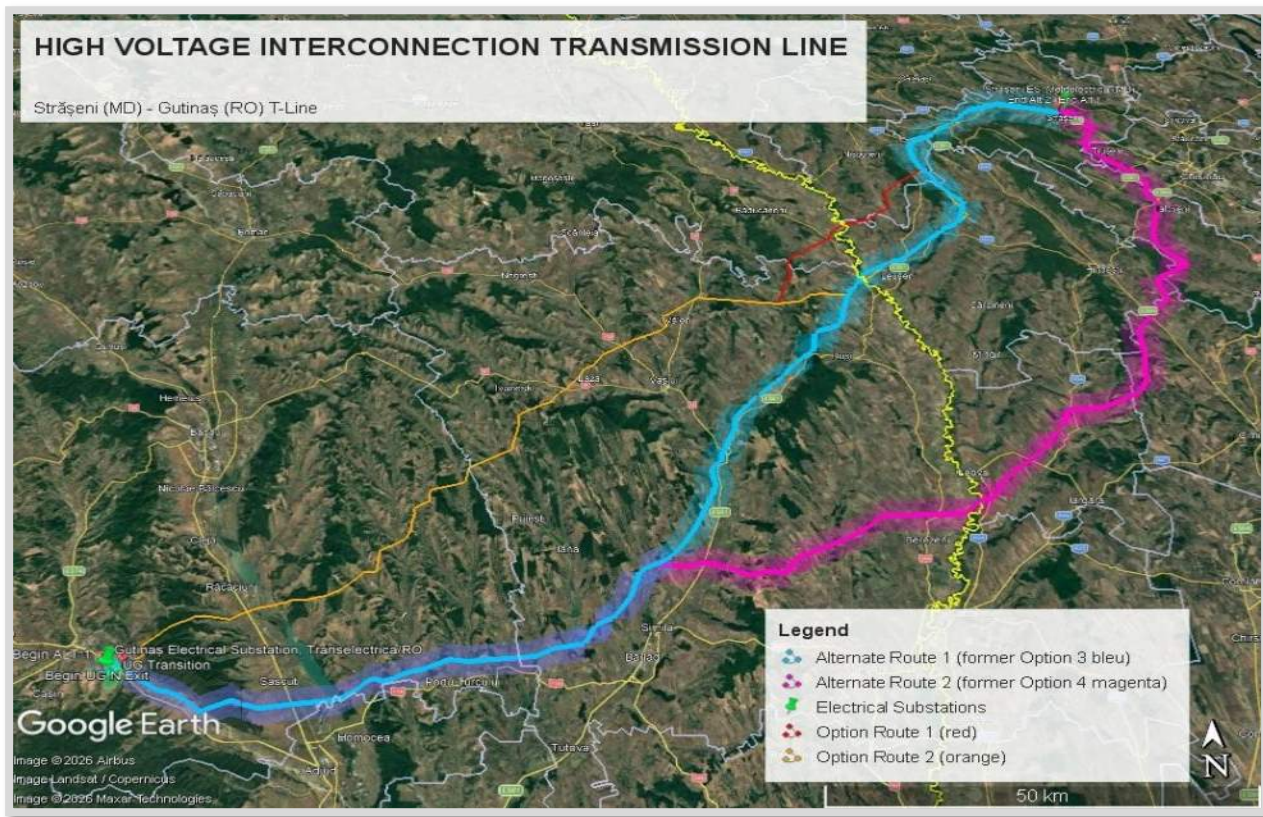


Figure 2-2 Final Alternative Routes for Gutinaș (RO) – Strășeni (MD) 400 kV T-Line Comparative Analysis

Source: Consultant processed image from onsite scoping mission (September 2024); satellite imagery (Google Earth, 2022)

Transelectrica (RO) and Moldelectrica (MD) will have to approve the optimum route considering this final comparative analysis between Alternate 1 (blue route) and Alternate 2 (magenta route) (**Figure 2-2**).

After this final comparative analysis, the rationale for choosing between Alternate 1 or Alternate 2 for the optimum route Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Interconnector will be: minimization of all potential impacts generated by the project (e.g. land clearance and deforestations; impacts on cultural heritage and monuments; resettlement and/or compensation; loss of assets and economic displacement).

2.2 Geographical Area Covered by the Project; Population Structure

Republic of Moldova (MD) and Romania are located in South-Eastern Europe, with the following border countries: Ukraine, Hungary, Serbia and Bulgaria. Both countries are part of the Black Sea basin group.

In both countries prevails a temperate continental climate with hot and sunny summers and cold winters, a bit milder in the South part.

The land surfaces and administrative structures are presented below.

Table 2-1 Land Surfaces and Administrative structures, MD and RO

	Republic of Moldova ⁵	Romania
Total Land Surface	33,843 km ²	238,397 km ²
Administrative Structure	Moldova is divided into 32 raions and two autonomous territorial units: Găgăuzia (A.T.U.G.) and administrative-territorial units from Transnistria (A.T.U.T.). Furthermore, within the larger administrative organizations, the Republic of Moldova has a total of 1,682 localities of which: - with their own mayor and local council - 66 towns and municipalities - 916 villages-residences - 700 localities in the frame of towns / municipalities and communes	Romania is divided in 41 counties (NUTS3 level) and Bucharest Municipality and according to the Nomenclature of territorial units for statistics⁶ there are also 8 Regional development regions (NUTS2 level) and 4 NUTS1. There is a total of 16,139 localities of which: - with their own mayor and local council - 319 towns and municipalities - 2862 communes - 12,958 villages, not large enough to have separate administration.

Source: RO and MD – National Statistical Institutes and Statistical Yearbooks

According to Figure 2-1 the 4 (four) different suggested routes of the 400 kV High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) Interconnector, are crossing both countries, Republic of Moldova (MD) and Romania (RO), passing through the following regions and counties/raions, as presented in table below.

⁵ <https://moldova.md/ro/content/geografie>

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/345175/17780010/2021-NUTS-3-map-RO.pdf/8f340e0e-0839-8b3f-9a96-29a2007bbc55?t=1698686468710>

Table 2-2 Strășeni (MD) - Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Proposed Routes – Crossing Countries, Regions and Counties/Raions

Republic of Moldova Development Region Centru	Romania Development Region (NUTS2): RO21 Nord-Est
Chișinău Municipality Leova Raion Hîncești Raion Nisporeni Raion Cimișlia Raion Ialoveni Raion Strășeni Raion	Bacău County (NUTS3/RO211) Iași County (NUTS3/RO213) Vaslui County (NUTS3/RO216)

Source: Consultant processed data from Google Earth, 2022

Population by gender and structured in urban/rural areas – data from the last official census (2024 / MD, 2021 / RO), shows similarities and disparities between Romania and Republic of Moldova (**Table 2-3**), in both countries the female population being the majority, with few exceptions; but the ratio between urban and rural environments is completely different at national level for RO 52% urban vs. 48% rural being urbanization oriented, with few specificities and for MD 46% urban vs. 54% rural – still remaining traditionally rural, excepting Chișinău Municipality (88% urban vs. 12% rural).

Table 2-3 Total Population Usually Resident by Area of Residence and Gender Ratio M/F

2024 census	Republic of Moldova	Chișinău Municipality	Cimișlia Raion	Hîncești Raion	Ialoveni Raion	Leova Raion	Nisporeni Raion	Stășeni Raion
Population usually resident (inh.)	2,409,207	720,128	30,986	69,462	74,458	28,835	36,413	61,362
urban (inh.)	1,118,967	636,750	7,918	11,391	14,665	8,892	9,140	14,722
rural (inh.)	1,290,240	83,378	23,068	58,071	59,793	19,943	27,273	46,640
Male vs. Female	0.89	0.86	0.96	0.94	0.95	0.98	0.95	0.94
2021 census	Romania	Bacău County			Vaslui County		Iași County	
Population usually resident (inh.)	19,053,815	601,387			374,700		760,774	
urban (inh.)	9,939,102	254,589			157,925		327,001	
rural (inh.)	9,114,713	349,542			219,431		428,396	
Male vs. Female	0.94	0.96			1.01		0.97	

Source: Last National Official Census RO and MD, <https://www.recensamantromania.ro/rezultate-rpl-2021/rezultate-definitive/> and https://statistica.gov.md/ro/statistic_indicator_details/60

In terms of ethnicity, in MD the Moldovans are the largest ethnic group with over 76.7% (MD, official census 2024), and in RO the Romanian with 78% (RO, official census 2021), with

percentages exceeding 80% in both countries inside raions and counties crossed by the proposed T-Line routes.

According to the National Statistical Yearbooks 2025, the employment rate was 42.7% in MD vs. 63.8% in RO (2024) and the structure of the employed population by economic activities is presented in the following figure.

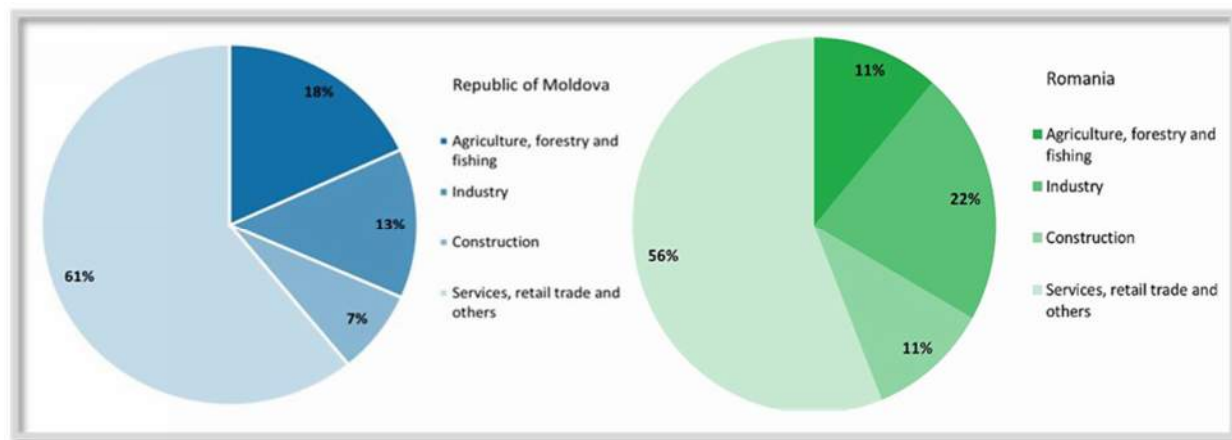


Figure 2-3 Employed population, by economic activities, MD and RO, 2024

Source: National Statistical Yearbooks, 2025

Considering the topographic maps on routes Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 analyzed routes for – Strășeni (MD) - Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Interconnector, including data on land ownership structure and land use destination in the surrounding areas (see **ESIA Scoping Report – Chapter 5.4 Land Use and Tenure**), it can be concluded that the population in the area of interest is predominantly rural, having as main economic activity – agriculture (e.g. crops, vineyards, etc.).

Additional information related to the local communities included in the T-Line targeted group and the existence or not of vulnerable groups or individuals is presented in **Chapter 5 - Program of stakeholders' consultation**.

2.3 Potential Social and Environmental Issues

Based on the ESIA Scoping Report and the onsite scoping mission, organized during 23-27 September 2024, the following sensitive aspects were identified along both analyzed T-Line routes Alternate 1 and Alternate 2 (**Figure 2-2**):

● Environment

National ecological networks: a sensitive area crossed by both T-Line routes Alt.1 and 2, is the ecological corridor of international importance Prut River - ROSCI 0213; other few sensitive areas near the analysed T-Line routes (Alt.1 and 2) as:

- In Romania: ROSPA 0063 – Water reservoirs/Lakes Buhuși - Bacău - Berești (Aria of special avifaunistic protection) and IBA, ROSPA 0162 - Mânjești (Aria of special avifaunistic protection) and ROSCI 0335 - Dobrina Huși Forest (Site of Communitary Importance), ROSPA 0119 - Horga-Zorleni (Aria of special avifaunistic protection),
- In Republic of Moldova: RP25, RP13 - Landscape Reservation and IBA, RNS 23 - Natural Forest Reservation, Dânceni and Ghidighici Lakes.

● Social and Economic Issues

The construction and operation of the OHL will affect people, settled in urban/rural areas located at a distance ≤ 50 m (left/right from the T-Line axis) along the routes Alternate 1 and Alternate 2, in different ways: ● difficult access, for determined periods of time, to agricultural land in this predominant rural structure of the raions/MD and counties/RO with small residential areas; ● minor local and temporary impact on air quality (dust and particulate matter), and noise due to increased intensity and volume of the traffic could be issues generated during site preparation and construction; ● magnetic field “corona” noise and ozone are generated from the operation of the T-Line, affecting the possibility to live close to the installations – in proximity to the safety and protection corridor (see **Table 4-3: Safety and protection areas for this type of projects**); ● livelihood potential impacts - landownership could be affected by possible expropriations with compensations and/or resettlement.

● Cultural Heritage

There are several cultural heritage and historical monuments in proximity to the proposed T-Line routes (Alt.1 and 2). Impacts on cultural buildings or areas as well as archaeological sites will be avoided, both during site preparation and construction phase.

For additional details please see **Chapter 5.2 Key issues raised during scoping stage**.

3.0 Legislative Framework and Requirements

3.1 Specific National Legislations in Republic of Moldova and Romania

Both Constitutions acknowledge that access to information is one of the fundamental human rights.

The legal framework in terms of consultation and information disclosure is mainly represented by the following national laws and documents (policies, guidelines, etc.):

Table 3-1 Legislative Framework (MD, RO) Regarding Public Consultations and Information Disclosure

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Republic of Moldova Constitution , 1994, with all subsequent amendments and completions	Romania Constitution , approved on December 8, 1991, by the National Referendum, amended and supplemented by Law no. 429/2003
Law no. 148/2023 on Access to Information of Public Interest , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 544/2011 on Free Access to Information of Public Interest , with subsequent amendments and completions
Law no. 86/2014 on Environmental Impact Assessment , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 292/2018 , transposing the provision of the Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (EIA Directive).
Order no. 150/2024 issued by the Ministry of Environment for the approval of the Guide regarding the execution of the procedures for the environmental impact assessment	Order no. 269/2020 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests for the approval of the General guide applicable to all stages of the EIA procedure, the Guide for EIA in a cross-border context and other specific guidelines for different fields and categories of projects
Law no. 488/1999 on Expropriation/dispossession for Strategic Projects of Public Utility , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 255/2010 regarding the Expropriation for reasons of public utility , necessary for the implementation of projects of national, county, and local interest with subsequent amendments and completions
Land Use Code no. 22/2024, with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 18/1991 on Land Use Fund , with subsequent amendments and completions
GD no. 1170/2016, for the approval of the Regulation related to land assignment, change of land use and land exchange , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 255/2010 regarding the Expropriation for reasons of public utility, necessary to achieve objectives of national, county, local interest, with subsequent amendments and completions
Law no. 64/2010 on Freedom of Expression , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 287/2009 on the Civil Code , with subsequent amendments and completions, granting the right to freedom of expression

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Law no. 239/2008 on Transparency in Decision Making , with subsequent amendments and completions	Law no. 86/2000 for the Ratification of the Convention on Access to Information, Public Engagement in Decision-Making, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention)
	Law no. 52/2003 on Decision-making transparency in public administration , with subsequent amendments and completions
GD no. 967/2016 on the Regulation on the public consultation procedure with the civil society in the decision-making process	Law no. 363/2018 on Individuals' Protection Regarding the Processing of Personal Data by Competent Authorities for the purpose of preventing, detecting, investigating, prosecuting, and combating crimes, or executing penalties, educational measures, and safety measures, as well as the Free Movement of Such Data , with subsequent amendments and completions
Law no. 133/2011 issued by the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the Protection of personal data , with subsequent amendments and completions	
GD no. 72/2000 on the Regulation on public engagement in the elaboration and adoption of environmental decisions	GD no. 878/2005 on the Access Right to Environmental Information , with subsequent amendments and completions

Law no. 148/2023 (MD) and Law no. 544/2011 (RO) provide that information of public interest should be made available free and compulsory to applicants. No authority for controlling this law enforcement, but there is the possibility to appeal to the Ombudsman.

Law no. 86/2014 (MD) and Law 292/2018 (RO), in accordance with the provisions of both Constitutions, together with other legislative acts in force regarding the public access right to environmental information, **establish the purposes, tasks, rules and principles of rolling out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).**

In terms of public consultation and information disclosure, the EIA procedure stipulates the exact rules and requirements to be observed.

Table 3-2 Public Consultation and Information Disclosure According to EIA Procedure (MD, RO)

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Law no. 86/2014 Annex 1, point 21 Construction of overhead electrical cables with a voltage of minimum 220 kV and a length of more than 15 km shall undergo the EIA procedure	Law no. 292/2018 (EIA Law) Annex 1, item 20 Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kV and at least 15 km long is mandatory subject to an EIA
Law no. 86/2014 (EIA Law) - Chapters IV, V and VI - the initiator will publish the information disclosure package in at least one national and local newspaper and will upload it on its website, together with feedback details (where, to whom to address complains/concerns and until when). All comments and complains are registered by the initiator, one copy being sent to the competent authority, here the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment; - the information disclosure package will be also uploaded on their websites by the competent authority - Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, the Ministry of Economy (authority in the field of interest) and first level - local public administration in the Project area of interest (cities/municipalities and villages/communes); additionally the local communities representatives will be able to consult the printed version of the documents in a public accessible area; - feedback from interested stakeholders are welcomed, in writing, for a period defined by the law (30 days or 60 days depending on the nature of the information disclosure package); - in parallel the initiator is obliged to consider public opinion through public consultations, events which will be organized in compliance with Art. 22 requirements; - after gathering all feedback both in writing and from public debates the initiator has to prepare a Report regarding the public involvement and submit it to the competent	Law no. 292/2018 (EIA Law) – Chapters II-V and VII - for an effective stakeholders’ participation in the decision-making process, the competent authorities for issuing development approval and those for environmental protection running the EIA procedure inform the public, from the beginning of the procedure and, at the latest, as soon as the information disclosure package is provided; - relevant information is publicly available online, on the own website of the competent authorities involved and on that of the project initiator. - interested stakeholders have the opportunity to early participate effectively in the EIA procedure, to document and submit proposals/recommendations to the competent public authorities, before a decision on development approval is made; feedback on the EIA report is welcomed in writing no later than 30 days from disclosure; - a public debate is organized by the project initiator, under the guidance of the competent authority for environmental protection, bearing its costs; participants are representatives of the competent authority for environmental protection and the competent authority for water management, and other stakeholders; feedback is analysed by the environmental protection competent authority requesting to the project initiator to update the information disclosure package; - stakeholders have 10 days for comments, after the initiator submits the completed/amended documents; - based on the final version of the information disclosure package developed by the project initiator, the competent authority for environmental protection publishes on the website

Republic of Moldova	Romania
authority within 50 days from the submission of the EIA documentation.	the approval or the rejection of the environmental permit; final stakeholders' comments being expected for another 10 days.
Public consultations process in a cross-border context Law no. 86/2014 - Chapters IV and V	Public consultations process in a cross-border context Law no. 292/2018 - Chapter II and Annex 5; Law no. 22/2001 for Espoo Convention ratification

3.2 European Directives

The European legislative background to be considered includes the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive 2011/92/EU on assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (**EIA Directive**) amended by Directive 2014/52/EC that strengthens the public access to information and transparency.

Thus, Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure that the relevant information is electronically accessible to the public, through at least a central portal or easily accessible points of access, at the appropriate administrative level. And also, the timeframes for consulting the public concerned on the environmental impact assessment report shall not be shorter than 30 days.

3.3 International Policies' Requirements, Standards and Guidelines

The funding for the 400 kV T-Line „Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO)” Project, was initially provided by USAID (2022-2024), through the program entitled “Investments in the Development of Energy Assets - IDEA” and transferred, in 2025, to the DOS Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of the Coordinator of US Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (EUR/ACE).

To this aim, DOS requires that projects they finance follow national standards, including environmental and social policies and guidelines adopted.

All IFIs (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), WB (World Bank), IFC (international Finance Corporation)) including the Code of U.S. Federal Regulation consider stakeholder engagement an on-going process, an integral step in ESIA preparation to be started at the earliest stage of the ESIA process and to be continued throughout the entire life cycle of the project.

It has also to be underlined that the U.S. DOS focus on aligning Moldova's infrastructure with ENTSO-E standards.

Briefly the international policies-requirements to be mentioned are:

Table 3-3 Relevant Policies and International Requirements on Stakeholders Engagement

International Financing Institutions	Policies, Standards, Guidelines
DOS	- Code of Federal Regulation, Part 216, Title 22 (22 CFR 216) – Reg. 216⁷ - Relevant for this project: - Sector Environmental Guideline for Construction⁸ (2017)
EBRD	- EBRD’s Environmental and Social Policy (April 2019) - ongoing review in 2024 - Performance Requirement 10 (PR10): Information Disclosure and Stakeholder Engagement; - Public Information Policy (May 2014).
EIB	- Environmental and Social Standards (February 2022) - Standard 2 – Stakeholder Engagement
WB	- Environmental and Social Framework (2017) - Environmental and Social Standard ESS 10. Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure
IFC	Stakeholder Engagement: A Good Practice Handbook (May 2007)

3.4 International Conventions, Principles

UNECE Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters – Aarhus Convention (Aarhus, Denmark, 1998); MD ratified the Convention by the Parliament Decree no. 346-XIV, 07 April 1999 and RO by the Law no. 86/2000.

The Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention) brings together all stakeholders to prevent environmental damage before it occurs. The Espoo Convention requires that Member States notify and consult each other on all projects that might have an adverse transboundary environmental impact; MD signed the accession in 04.01.1994, and RO ratified the Convention on 29.03.2001 through Law no. 22/2001.

⁷ U.S. Code of Federal Regulations - PART 216—ENVIRONMENTAL PROCEDURES, January 2026
<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-22/chapter-II/part-216>

⁸ Sector Environmental Guideline – Construction, USAID, 2017 <https://usaidgems.org/sectorGuidelines.htm>

Therefore, MD shall notify RO, as per the Espoo Convention Procedure, if trans-boundary impacts are expected from Project implementation or not.

The Equator Principles Financial Institutions believe that the financial sector has a critical role and responsibility in tackling the environmental and social challenges facing the world today. They've adopted the Equator Principles to have a positive impact on the projects they financially support. The Equator Principles are defined as a financial industry benchmark for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in projects. 10 Principles are defined of which: Principle 5 refers to Stakeholder involvement, and Principle 6 to Grievance mechanism.

4.0 Identification and Analysis of Project Stakeholders

The key steps in the engaging stakeholders' process include:

1. Identifying: listing all possible relevant groups, organizations, and people with considerations on how stakeholder information may be disaggregated for analysis purposes so that it has equal representation according to gender, age, sexual orientation, education, or roles in society and households, among others;
2. Analyzing: understanding stakeholder perspectives, values, biases, and relevance;
3. Mapping: visualizing relationships to objectives and other stakeholders;
4. Prioritizing: ranking stakeholder relevance and identifying issues.

4.1 Defining and Mapping Project Stakeholders

In each country, Republic of Moldova and Romania, stakeholders are defined as follows, according to the national legal framework:

Table 4-1 Project Stakeholders' Definition

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Stakeholders' definition according to Order no. 150/2024 issued by the Ministry of Environment for the approval of the Guide regarding the execution of the procedures regarding the environmental impact assessment	Stakeholders' definition according to Order no. 269/2020 issued by the Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests for the approval of the General guide applicable to all stages of the EIA procedure, the Guide for EIA in a cross-border context and other specific guidelines for different fields and categories of projects
The persons attending the public debate sessions, other than the representatives of the competent authority – the moderator of the meeting and / or the representatives of the project initiator and / or the holder of the EIA documentation, which expresses interest in the EIA documentation and the decisions taken based on it, in the environmental impact assessment procedure	The public affected or that could be affected by, or that has an interest in the procedure provided for in art. 4 of Law 292/2018 regarding the assessment of the impact of certain public and private projects on the environment; in the sense of this definition, non-governmental organizations that promote environmental protection and that meet the legal conditions are considered to have an interest

According to the WB – ESS10⁹ stakeholder refers to “individuals or groups who: (a) Are affected or likely to be affected by the project (project-affected parties); and (b) May have an interest in the project (other interested parties)”.

In general, stakeholders are divided into two main groups: internal and external public. For a comprehensive approach of external stakeholders’ categories structuring, the QHC¹⁰ (Quadruple Helix Collaboration) model has been analyzed and chosen, so the engagement process is implemented at the level of the four main categories: public entities, industry, research and academia, and civil society (**Figure 4-1**). Considering the objectives and the expected results of the project, this 4helix stakeholders’ structure will contribute to effectively implementing SEP.

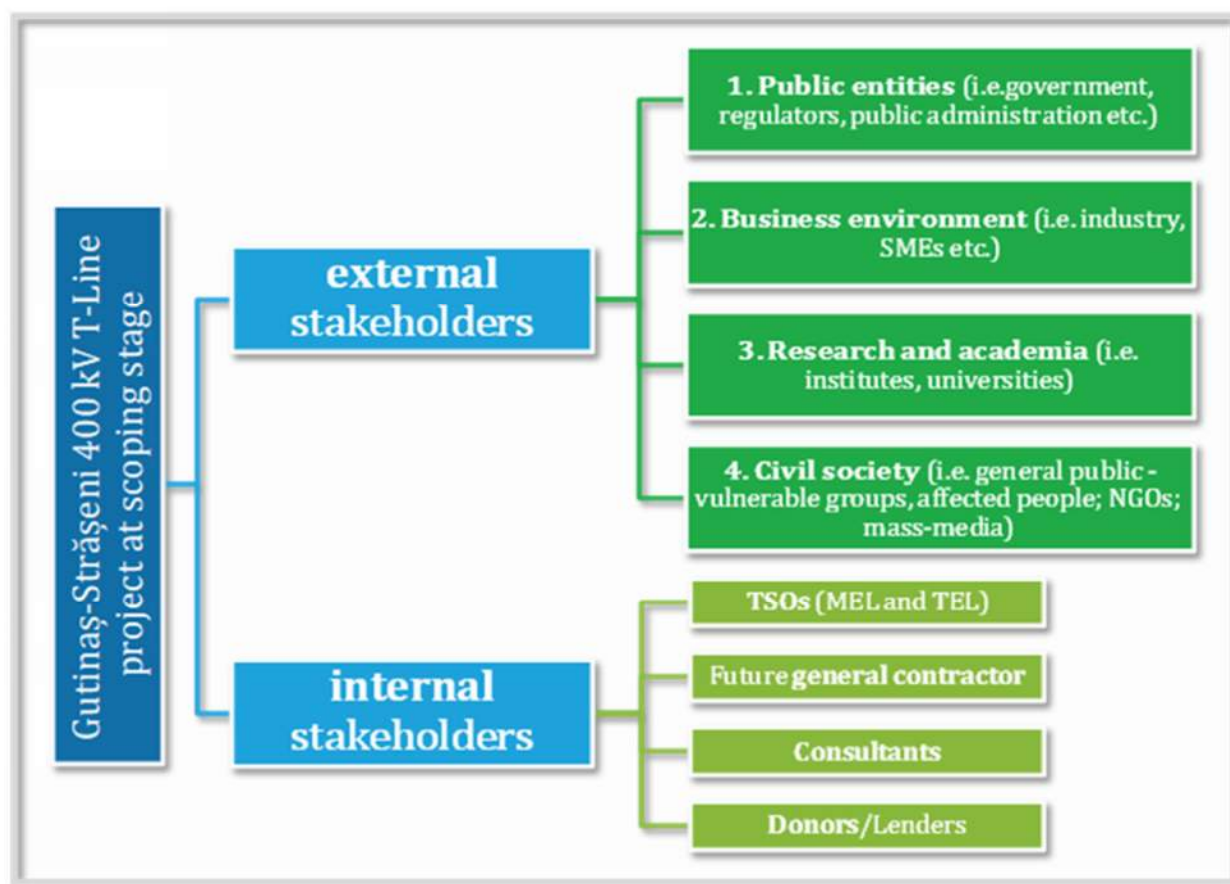


Figure 4-1 Targeted Stakeholders’ Categories

Source: Consultant analysis

⁹ ESS10 - Stakeholders Engagement and Information Disclosure

<https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/476161530217390609/ESF-Guidance-Note-10-Stakeholder-Engagement-and-Information-Disclosure-English.pdf>

¹⁰ Arnkil, R.; Järvensivu, A.; Koski, P.; and Piirainen, T. (2010). Exploring the Quadruple Helix Report of Quadruple Helix Research for the CLIQ Project, 28 June 2010, <https://trepo.tuni.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/65758/978-951-44-8209-0.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Internal Stakeholders

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Project promoters I.S. MOLDELECTRICA managing staff and its employees, with focus on RETI Centru Branch, Strășeni Electrical Substation and T-Line project team	Project promoters CNTEE TRANSELECTRICA SA management staff and employees, with focus on the Territorial Transmission Branch Bacău (TTB) and 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș Electrical Transformation Substation
- Future General Contractor – during the construction and commissioning stage of the project - Consultants – during the planning stage of the project - International Financing Institutions as donors (lenders) as DOS and USAID	

Recommendations were made for both TSOs (MOLDELECTRICA and TRANSELECTRICA) management, regarding the need to enhance their capacity structure, by creating a Unit for Community Relations that will manage stakeholder consultation, address grievances and implement, if necessary, community development programs to minimize any potential impacts identified in the full ESIA stage. This Unit must be involved in and participate in the public consultation and engagement processes.

External stakeholders

Republic of Moldova	Romania
Public Entities	
Public administration - Centru Development Region Agency - Sud Development Region Agency - Chișinău Municipality - Leova Raional Council - Hîncești Raional Council - Nisporeni Raional Council - Cimișlia Raional Council - Ialoveni Raional Council - Strășeni Raional Council together with mayoralities neighboring 400 kV T-Line routes – Alternates 1 and 2 within a corridor less than 50 m, each side from the central axis of the power transmission line (close vicinity) <i>Government officials and policy makers</i> - Ministry of Energy - Ministry of Environment - Ministry of Finance - Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development	Public administration - Development Region Nord-Est - ADR Nord-Est Development Region Agency (NUTS2/RO21) - Bacău County Council (NUTS3/RO211) - Vaslui County Council (NUTS3/RO216) together with mayoralities neighboring 400 kV T-Line routes – Alternates 1 and 2 within a corridor less than 50 m, each side from the central axis of the power transmission line (close vicinity) Government officials and policy makers - Ministry of Energy - Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests - Ministry of Economy, Entrepreneurship and Tourism - Ministry of Finance - Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development - Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration - Ministry of Culture <i>National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies / Administrations</i> - National Environmental Protection Agency, with counties branches in Bacău and Vaslui

– Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry – Ministry of Education and Research – Ministry of Culture – General Secretariat of the Government – MD Parliament "Permanent Committee on Environment and Regional Development" <i>National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies / Administrations</i> – Environmental Protection Agency – Moldova Waters Agency – Geodesy, Cartography and Cadastre Agency – Moldosilva Agency – Î.S. Roads State Administration – Agency for Technical Supervision – National Agency for Land Management and Cadastral Survey – National Archaeological Agency – National Regulatory Authority in Energy <i>Diplomatic missions</i> – US Embassy in MD	– Romanian Waters National Administration, with basins administrations Siret and Prut-Bârlad – National Regulatory Authority in the Mining, Petroleum and Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide (ANRMPSG) – CNAIR – National Road Infrastructure Administration – Cadastre and Real-Estate Advertising National Agency – ROMSILVA – National Forest Guard with Focșani and Suceava territorial branches – National Agency for Natural Protected Areas – National Labour Inspectorate with counties branches – Public Health Counties Directorates – Agriculture Counties Directorates <i>Diplomatic missions</i> – US Embassy in Romania
Business Environment	
– Î.S. Moldova Rail Way – MOLDOVATRANGAZ SRL – Professional organisations (i.e. Farmers associations) – DSO – Electricity Distribution Operators – Energy companies / producers – Sub-contractors (e.g. consulting & engineering services providers or installations/equipment suppliers) – Projects developers and investors	– CN CFR – Conpet – OMV Petrom – Romgaz – Transgaz – DSO – Electricity Distribution Operators – Energy companies / producers – Sub-contractors (e.g. consulting & engineering services providers or installations/equipment suppliers) – Projects developers and investors – AFR - Romanian Farmers Association – LAPAR - Agricultural Producers Ligue
Research and Academia	
– Î.S. Institute of Geodesy, Technical Surveys and Cadastre – INGEOCAD – National Institute for Ecology – Design Institute for Land Management – Science Academy of Moldova Republic	– Heritage National Institute – National Institute for Pedology, Agrochemistry and Environmental Protection – ICPA Bucharest – Iași University Center

Civil Society	
People affected directly by the construction and/or operation of the T-Line People and households affected directly during the construction and/or the operation of the T-Line, including impacts from: pylons and construction roads on farming land (resulting in compensation measures); noise generated mainly from construction Local community and vulnerable groups - Groups in the possibly affected communities, due to different aspects such as access to public land and access to roads or water; - Vulnerable groups (minority ethnic groups, religious groups, elderly, youth, unemployed etc), for which similar negative impact may occur, or job opportunities may appear. Labour Unions - SINDSILVA Forests Union Federation; "SINDENERGO" - Energy Industry Union; etc. Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) - Environmental groups - Conservations groups - Community interest groups / citizen groups Mass-media - Printed and on-line newspapers; - Printed and on-line specialized magazines.	People affected directly by the construction and/or operation of the T-Line People and households affected directly during the construction and/or the operation of the T-Line, including impacts from: pylons and construction roads on farming land (resulting in compensation measures); noise generated mainly from construction Local community and vulnerable groups - Groups in the possibly affected communities, due to different aspects such as access to public land and access to roads or water; - Vulnerable groups (minority ethnic groups, religious groups, elderly, youth, unemployed etc.), for which similar negative impact may occur, or job opportunities may appear. Labour Unions / Professional associations - CNSLR Frăția etc. NGOs - Environmental groups (ex. Terra Mileniul Trei) - Conservations groups - Community interest groups / citizen groups Mass-media - Printed and on-line newspapers; - Printed and on-line specialized magazines.

The categories and list of identified stakeholders will evolve together with Strășeni (MD) - Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Project.

Stakeholders' database (**Appendix A**) will have to be managed and periodically updated by the project promoters – Moldelectrica, MD and Transelectrica, RO.

Stakeholders that were not identified during this process should contact the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) from both TSOs/project promoters, MEL and TEL (**Chapter 8 - Contact Details for the Targeted Public**) or other members of the local authorities to request their addition to the list.

4.2 Analysis and Prioritization of Project Stakeholders

In the following table, considering stakeholders' mapping presented in the previous chapter, communication tools, tactics, barriers and expected results are summarized, such information justifying an early development of a well-managed communication and engagement campaign, which will help cope with potential upcoming issues.

Table 4-2 Main Stakeholders' Categories, Communication Tools, Expected Results and Barriers

Stakeholder Category	Interest	Communication tools	Expected Results	Barriers To Overcome
People affected directly by the construction and/or operation of the T-Line	- Impacts on their livelihood and possible compensation for experienced impacts - Land acquisition process and entitlements - Safety zones and restrictions Health and safety issues - Transparency improved	Periodic meetings at the City Hall / school / church	- Good relationship with the group - Reduce potential for conflict - Grievance process well managed	- Heterogenic group and difficult land ownership arrangement. - Possible reluctance to release and receive information about the Project - Expropriation for projects of Public Utility - Nuisance impacts (noise, dust, visual, etc.) during construction and operating phase - Environmental impact on cropland and vineyards - Low level of involvement
Government officials and policy makers	- Compliance with national laws and regulations, standards - Environmental governance	- Periodic updates via online communication channels - Reports issued as legally required	- Informed authorities - Reduced delays in the permitting process	Possible administrative issues creating delays

Stakeholder Category	Interest	Communication tools	Expected Results	Barriers To Overcome
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Government officials and policy makers	- Compliance with national laws and regulations, standards - Environmental governance	- Periodic updates via online communication channels - Reports issued as legally required	- Informed authorities - Reduced delays in the permitting process - Improved sustainability of project	Possible administrative issues creating delays
National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies	Compliance with national laws and regulations, standards	- Periodic updates via online communication channels - Reports issued as legally required	- Informed authorities - Reduced delays during the permitting process	Strong influence in permits issuing

Stakeholder Category	Interest	Communication tools	Expected Results	Barriers To Overcome
Local Public Administration – impacted communities	Sharing information related to the Project benefits vs. risks and impact on the local community	Periodic updates and City Hall meetings	- Better cooperation with the entire community - Reduced delays in the permitting process - Grievance process well managed	Compliance with all permits issuing requirements
Research and Academia	- Sharing information related to the Project benefits vs. risks and impact - New technologies used - Opportunities associated to the project	Knowledge sharing events	- A good partner in promoting the Project - Contribution to the decision-making process - Valuable input for the Reports	
NCO's	- Usually, proactive group who want to listen and to be heard - Build capacity - Protect rights	Updates and meetings on request	- Good relations with civil society - Grievance process well managed	- Resistance - Possible negative influence on the local neighboring community
Local community / indigenous people – Vulnerable Groups	- Risks and impact of the Project - Grievance procedure - Existing of additional support to allow them to participate in the engagement process	- Periodic meetings at the City Hall / school / church - Small focus groups to be handled carefully	- Good relations with the local community and vulnerable groups - Conflicts avoided - Grievance Process well managed	- Possible reluctance to release and receive information about the Project - Low level of involvement
Professional Organizations; Labour Unions	Sharing information related to the Project	Periodic online updates and meetings on request	- Better cooperation - Reduced delays - Conflicts Avoided	- Expropriation for projects of Public Utility - Environmental impact on cropland and vineyards - Labour conditions during the implementation stage

Stakeholder Category	Interest	Communication tools	Expected Results	Barriers To Overcome
Mass media	Sharing information related to Project benefits vs. risks	– Periodic Press releases – Quarterly press conferences, if needed	– Good relations with the local community and vulnerable groups – Grievance process well managed	– Resistance for covering good news – Unreasonably critical approach
Internal Stakeholders – Project Promoters	– Additional benefits – HR policy – Additional responsibilities – QEHS procedures – Risks assessment – Transparency	– Annual business plan – Monthly reports – Notification of events – Special analysis upon request – Periodic internal Project meetings	– Informed employees – Conflicts avoided – Contribution to the decision-making process – Valuable input for the Reports – Improved performance – Reduced costs and risks related to the Project – Reduced delays of the Project implementation schedule	– Transparency of the decision-making process – Enhancement of the communication process inside the company

Source: Consultant experts' assessment

During the scoping stage of the project, including the September onsite scoping mission held along the T-Line routes in both countries, stakeholders' analysis started by revealing the most directly affected public, whether from the use of land (expropriation) or the impacts on air, water and human health or even the socio-economic effects of job creation throughout the entire chain (planning, construction, commissioning, operation).

For a preliminary (scoping stage) stakeholders' analysis and prioritization, the Stakeholders

Power/Influence Matrix (**Figure 4-2**) was used, main categories being characterized in terms of:

- Potential impact of the project (directly affected, indirectly affected, and possibly affected);
- Interest for the project (low, medium and high interest) on a scale from 0 (zero) to 5 (five);

- Power to influence during the decision-making process (low, medium and high power) on a scale from 0 (zero) to 10 (ten).

For example, the contribution of a stakeholder with a strong influence on the decision-making process, but no interest in a T-Line interconnector between Romania and Republic of Moldova is likely to be weak or even negative, while someone with strong interests in such a project may become a stimulator for MD grid interconnection with the European energy market. A potential weakness of the Matrix application is that stakeholder profiles are initially based on the Consultant expert's assessment, but all information will be refined during the full ESIA stage of the project.

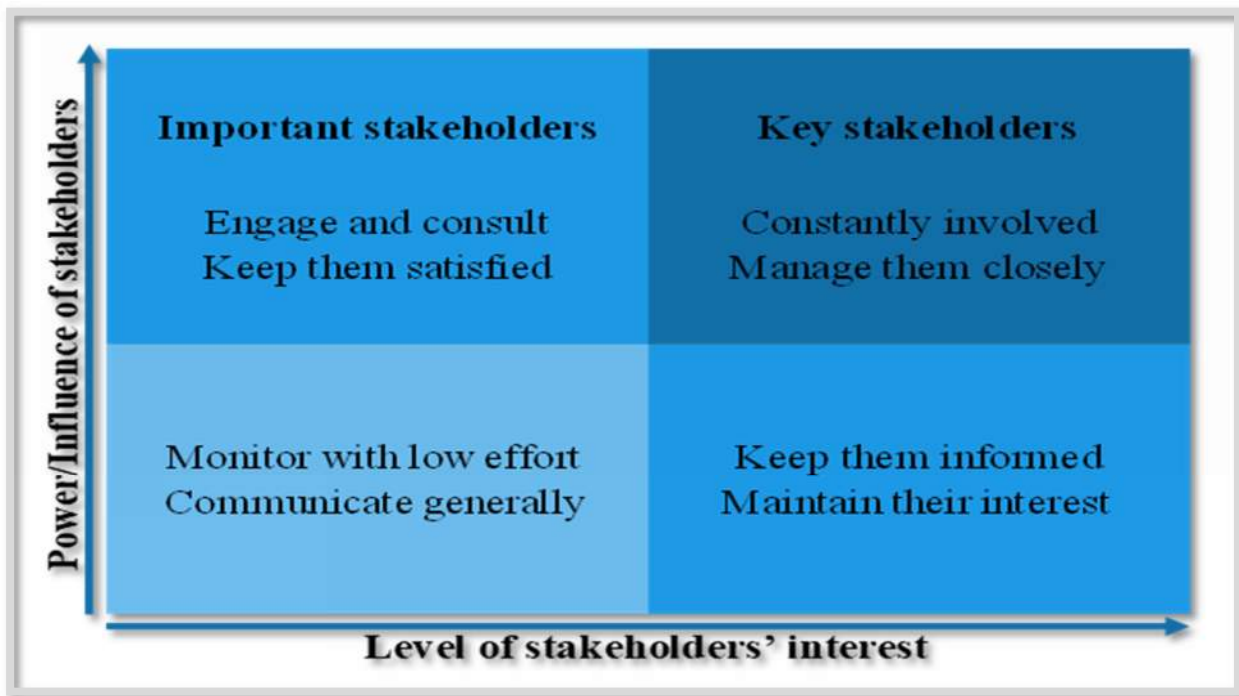


Figure 4-2 Stakeholders Power/Influence Matrix

Source: Literature review

The technical norms according to both countries' legal frameworks, related to the minimum width of the safety and protection corridor all along the T-Line route, with no occupied buildings in this corridor, and the minimum distance from the external electrical substations fence are presented in the following table.

Table 4-3 Safety and Protection Areas for This Type of Projects

	Republic of Moldova	Romania
Legal framework	Governmental Decision no. 514/2002 ¹¹ regarding the approval of the Regulation on the Protection of electrical networks	ANRE Order no. 106/2023 ¹² for the approval of the Technical Norm regarding the delimitation of protection and safety zones related to energy capacities
Safety and protection corridor related to 400 kV T-Line (width, m)	30 m + 30 m minimum distance, right and left from T-Line axis	the width of the protection and safety corridor is calculated depending on the T-Line voltage
Safety and protected area related to 220 kV – 400 kV electrical substations – minimum distance, from the station fence, on each side of it	N/A	25 – 35 m

Source: Consultant experts' assessment

The T-Line line will be a construction in the landscape that will result in livelihood impact (land being occupied for the pylons), visual impact, but also it can impose certain restriction in terms of possibility to perform certain activities, as well as possibility to use the land beneath or in the vicinity of the T-Line and pylons. However, according to both countries' national legislation there are no restrictions on undertaking normal agricultural activities below the high-voltage transmission lines. Further details related to the preliminary SIA (social impact assessment) are presented in the ESIA Scoping Report.

Table below presents the stakeholders' scoring related to the Stakeholders Power/Influence Matrix above, and both instruments helped generating the stakeholders' prioritizations diagram (**Figure 4-3**).

¹¹ GD no. 514/2002 regarding the approval of the Regulation on the protection of electrical networks https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=6186&lang=ro

¹² ANRE Internal Order nr. 106/2023 <https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/278006>

Table 4-4 Main Stakeholders' Categories – Scoring for the Power/Influence Matrix

	Stakeholder category	Impact	Interest score	Influence
	People affected directly by the construction and/or operation of the T-Line	direct	4	9
	Government officials and policy makers	indirect	5	8
	National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies	indirect	4	10
	Local Public Administration – impacted communities	indirect	5	10
	Research and academia	possibly	5	7
	NGO's	indirect	4	8
	Local community / indigenous people – vulnerable groups	indirect	4	5
	Professional organisations	possibly	4	7
	Labour Unions	possibly	4	8
	Mass media	possibly	2.5	6
	Internal stakeholders - project promoters	direct	5	8
	Internal stakeholders - project donors	indirect	4	10

Source: Consultant experts' assessment

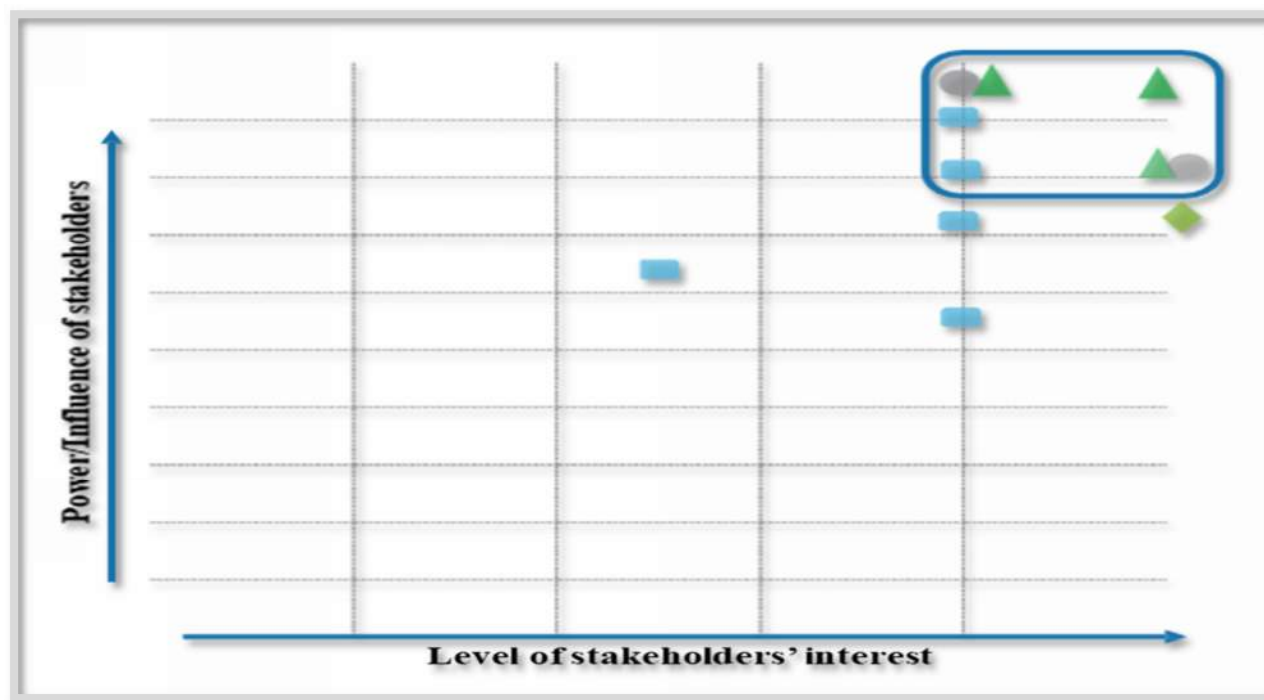


Figure 4-3 Stakeholders' Prioritization Diagram

Source: Consultant experts' assessment

According to the project stakeholders' prioritizations diagram (Figure 4-3) the most powerful and interested stakeholders are:

- Local Public Administration – impacted communities ▲
- People affected directly by the construction and/or operation of the T-Line ■
- Government officials and policy makers ▲ and National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies ▲
- Internal stakeholders - project promoters ●
- Internal stakeholders - project donors ●
- NGOs and Labour Unions ■

During the initial engagement stage with this key stakeholders' group, several communication activities took place as presented in **Chapter 5 – Project Stakeholders' Engagement Program**, future Face-to-Face interviews in local communities being scheduled to be performed after the ESIA Scoping Report will be delivered, ready to be disclosed.

5.0 Project Stakeholders' Engagement Program

Relevant information disclosed about Strășeni – Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line Interconnector will help both external stakeholders to better understand the risks, impacts and benefits of the project; thus, TSOs (MEL and TEL) being able to take actions to improve and mitigate project impacts during planning stage. A project factsheet has been prepared in that matter (**Appendix B**) prior to ESIA Scoping Report disclosure.

The ESIA Scoping Report - project information package which will be disclosed for stakeholders' consultations, will be subject to limitations regarding commercial and industrial confidentiality, including intellectual property and the protection of public interest, in accordance with the national EIA legislation of the two countries: for Moldova, Law no. 86/2014 on Environmental Impact Assessment, and for Romania, Law no. 292/2018, transposing the EIA Directive 2014/52/EC (former amended Directive 2011/92/EU).

SEP also includes a grievance procedure for interested public to receiving feedback from TSOs – MOLDELECTRICA (MD) and TRANSELECTRICA (RO) to their concerns/complains or comments related to the project.

The current version of the SEP and other public documents (ESIA Scoping Report, and Non-Technical Summary - NTS), as part of the initial information disclosure package, will be available and further updated, during the planning stage of Strășeni – Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line Interconnector, at the following links and postal addresses:

Table 5-1 Project Promoters and Donors/Lenders Where the Initial Information Package Will Be Disclosed

Republic of Moldova	Romania
• Î.S. MOLDELECTRICA headquarter and website: MD 2012, mun. Chișinău, str. V. Alecsandri, 78 anticamera@moldelectrica.md, (+373) 22 22-22-70 https://moldelectrica.md/ • Î.S. MOLDELECTRICA regional branch - RETI Centru: MD-2055, mun. Chișinău, or. Vatra, str. Luceafărul 13 anticamera@centru.moldelectrica.md, (+373) 22 30-93-59 • 330 kV Strășeni Electrical Substation: MD 3700, or. Strășeni, str. M. Costin nr. 14 • U.S. Embassy in Chișinău, Moldova headquarter and website: MD 2009, Republica Moldova, mun. Chișinău, str. Mateevici 103 ChișinăuACS@state.gov, (+373) 22-408-300 https://md.usembassy.gov/ • U.S. Department of State (DOS) - Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of the Coordinator of US Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (EUR/ACE). United States website https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/moldova/	• CNTEE TRANSELECTRICA SA headquarter and website: RO- 030786, mun. București, str. Olteni nr. 2-4, sector 3 office@transelectrica.ro (+40) 374 580 453 https://www.transelectrica.ro/ • CNTEE Transelectrica SA – Territorial Transmission Branch Bacău (TTB): RO-600266, Bacău County, str. Oituz nr. 41 secretariat.bacau@transelectrica.ro, (+40) 234-207-120 • 400/220/110 kV Gutinaș Electrical Transformation Substation: RO-607605, Ștefan Cel Mare commune, Gutinaș village, Bacău County • U.S. Embassy in Bucharest, Romania headquarter and website: RO 015118, Romania, București, str. Dr. Liviu Librescu nr. 4-6, district 1 (+40) 21 200-3300, https://ro.usembassy.gov/ • U.S. Department of State (DOS) - Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, Office of the Coordinator of US Assistance to Europe, Eurasia, and Central Asia (EUR/ACE). United States website https://www.state.gov/countries-areas/romania/

Further locations for displaying the ESIA Scoping information package can be agreed upon. These can include administrative buildings (mayoralties) and websites of the following public authorities:

Table 5-2 Public Authorities Where the Initial Information Package is Recommended to Be Disclosed

Republic of Moldova	Romania
• Ialoveni Local Council and Ialoveni Raion Council - MD 6801, Ialoveni Raion, Ialoveni city, str. Alexandru cel Bun 45; (+373) 268 22 484, primaria.ial@gmail.com, https://ialoveni.md/ - MD-6801, Ialoveni city, str. Alexandru cel Bun 33, (+373) 268 20007, ialoveniconsiliu@gmail.com, https://www.ialovenionline.md/ • Strășeni Local Council and Strășeni Raion Council - MD 3701, Strășeni Raion, Strășeni Mun., str. M. Eminescu 32; (+373) 237 22343, primaria.straseni11@gmail.com, https://www.straseni.md/ - MD 3701, Strășeni Mun., str. Mihai Eminescu 28; (+373) 237 23630, consiliulraional@crstraseni.md, https://crstraseni.md/ • Lozova Mayoralty • MD-3721, Strășeni Raion, Lozova v., Lozova c.; (+373) 237 47236, secretariatlozova@gmail.com • Cristești Mayoralty and Nisporeni Raion Council - MD-6424, Nisporeni Raion, Cristești v.; (+373) 264 52290, vdumaschi7@gmail.com - MD-6401, Nisporeni city, str. Ioan Vodă 2, (+373) 264 2-2650, cr.nisporeni@gmail.com, https://nisporeni.md/	• Onești Local Council and Bacău County Council - bd. OITUZ nr. 17, Onești Mun., Bacău County, RO 030786; (+40) 234 324.243, primarie@onesti.ro • Calea Mărășești nr. 2, Bacău Mun. RO 600017; (+40) 234 537.200, csjbacau@csjbacau.ro, https://www.csjbacau.ro/ • Ștefan cel Mare Local Council - Ștefan cel Mare Commune, Bacău County, RO 607605; (+40) 234 339.000, stefancelmare@bc.e-adm.ro, https://www.comunastefancelmare.ro/ • Sascut Local Council - Str. Principală, Sascut Commune, Bacău County, RO 607520; (+40) 234 280.639, primariasascut@yahoo.com, https://www.primaria-sascut.ro/ • Podu Turcului Local Council - Podu Turcului v., Bacău County, RO 607450; (+40) 234 289.226, primarie@poduturcului.ro, https://poduturcului.ro/ • Vetrișoia Local Council and Vaslui County Council - Vetrișoia v., Vaslui County, RO 737570; (+40) 235 432.003, primariavetrisoia@yahoo.com, https://primariavetrisoia.ro/ - str. Ștefan cel Mare 79, Vaslui Mun. RO 730168; (+40) 235-361.089, consiliu@cjvs.eu, https://cjvs.eu/

Responsibility for rolling-out the disclosure activities will be:

- During the Feasibility Study stage of the project - the consultant designated by the lenders/donors;
- During the other project stages (engineering & design; construction-commissioning; operation; decommissioning) – both TSOs (MOLDELECTRICA, MD and TRANSELECTRICA, RO).

Additional details related to Project information access and disclosure mechanism see in **Chapter 5.5 – Disclosure of information and Chapter 8 – Contact Details for the Targeted Public.**

5.1 Review of Stakeholder Engagement to Date

Up to date, face-to-face meetings with governmental officials, public entities and TSOs have been taking place during:

- **10-13 June 2024**, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova - Străşeni - Gutinaş 400 kV T-Line internal planning meeting and the official Project kick-off meeting (details below in **Chapter 5.1.1 PRE-ESIA scoping stage**);
- **23-27 September 2024**, Romania - Republic of Moldova - the scoping field mission (details below in **Chapter 5.1.2 ESIA scoping stage**), aiming to narrow the preliminary MCA from 4 T-Line routes options to only two alternatives 1 and 2;
- **13-14 November 2024**, Bucharest, Romania - internal progress review meeting and the official Project Introductory meeting with the Romanian authorities (details below in **Chapter 5.1.2 ESIA scoping stage**);
- **03 December 2025**, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova - internal meeting - progress review and financial support transfer from USAID to U.S. Department of State (details below in **Chapter 5.1.2 ESIA scoping stage**);
- **28 April 2026**, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova - internal meeting - progress review and draft Reports approval (FS, ESIA Scoping and SEP) - details below in **Chapter 5.1.2 ESIA scoping stage**.

5.1.1 Pre-ESIA Scoping Stage

The first stakeholders' information and engagement events, rolled out during 11-13 June in Republic of Moldova had the following schedule:

- 10 June 2024 - Internal Planning Meeting for the Străşeni - Gutinaş High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Interconnector project, related to the FS and the ESIA; the attendees (internal stakeholders' category) were representatives of the IDEA Project team, from USAID/Washington and USAID/Moldova - the donor, consultants coordinator Black & Veatch, USA and subcontractors CCEM, RO and SINERGETIKA Consulting, MD;
- 11-12 June 2024 - Official Introductory Meeting with Republic of Moldova authorities, related to the IDEA program and Străşeni - Gutinaş T-line Project (SF and ESIA approach); stakeholders attending the meeting were representatives from the Ministry of Energy and ANRE (Energy Regulatory Authority), MD, the Embassy of Romania and Embassy of the United States in the Republic of Moldova, Moldova Energy Projects Implementation Unit (MEPIU), Moldova Energy Security Activity (MESA), IDEA Project team (consultants coordinator Black & Veatch, USA and subcontractors CCEM, RO and SINERGETIKA Consulting, MD), beneficiaries - Transmission System Operators Transelectrica, RO and Moldelectrica, MD, and the donor - USAID/Washington and USAID/Moldova;

13 June 2024 (a.m.) - Official Introductory Meeting with the Ministry of Environment in Moldova, related to the permitting requirements for planning and developing IDEA Project - Strășeni - Gutinaș T-line; stakeholders attending the meeting were representatives from the Ministry of Environment, MD and IDEA Project team (donor, consultants' coordinator and subcontractors);

- 13 June 2024 (p.m.) - Site visit to the 330 kV Strășeni Electrical Substation organised by MEL and its regional branch - RETI Centru, where the participants were IDEA Project team (donor and consultants) and Transelectrica, RO.

The above events' objective was to coordinate efforts and determine the next steps necessary for the success of the Project. All the participants expressed their commitment to collaborate to achieve the set objectives and to ensure an effective construction of the overhead 400 kV electric transmission line between Strășeni, MD and Gutinaș, RO.

Discussion that took place were related to the line routes options, ESIA scoping, T-line and substation specifications, regulatory and permitting requirements, FS schedule, cost benefit analysis (CBA), and an action plan to speed up the construction and reduce the impact of the project on the environment and the social aspects.

51 participants attended, in total, the events (36 men and 15 women) covering both stakeholders' categories (internal and external).



Figure 5-1 Stakeholders' information and engagement event, 11-12 June 2024, Chișinău, MD

Source: IDEA Project team



Figure 5-2 Stakeholders' Information and Engagement Event, 13 June 2024, Chișinău, MD

Source: IDEA Project team



Figure 5-3 Stakeholders' Information and Engagement Event, 13 June 2024, Strășeni, MD
Source: IDEA Project team

5.1.2 ESIA Scoping Stage

Next steps performed during the scoping stage of the Project were:

FS and ESIA Scoping field mission, 23-27 September 2024, in both countries RO and MD

The Scoping Onsite Mission addressing the “Feasibility Study and ESIA Scoping phase for Strășeni/MD – Gutinaș/RO High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Interconnector” under IDEA regional program ‘Investments in the Development of Energy Assets’, was organized by the Project team BV and CCEM, together with both TSOs – MEL and TEL.

The selection of the stopping points along the OHL routes (**Figure 5-4**), as sites/communities/human settlements in which an in-depth assessment was performed was based on environmental and social potential impact to occur.

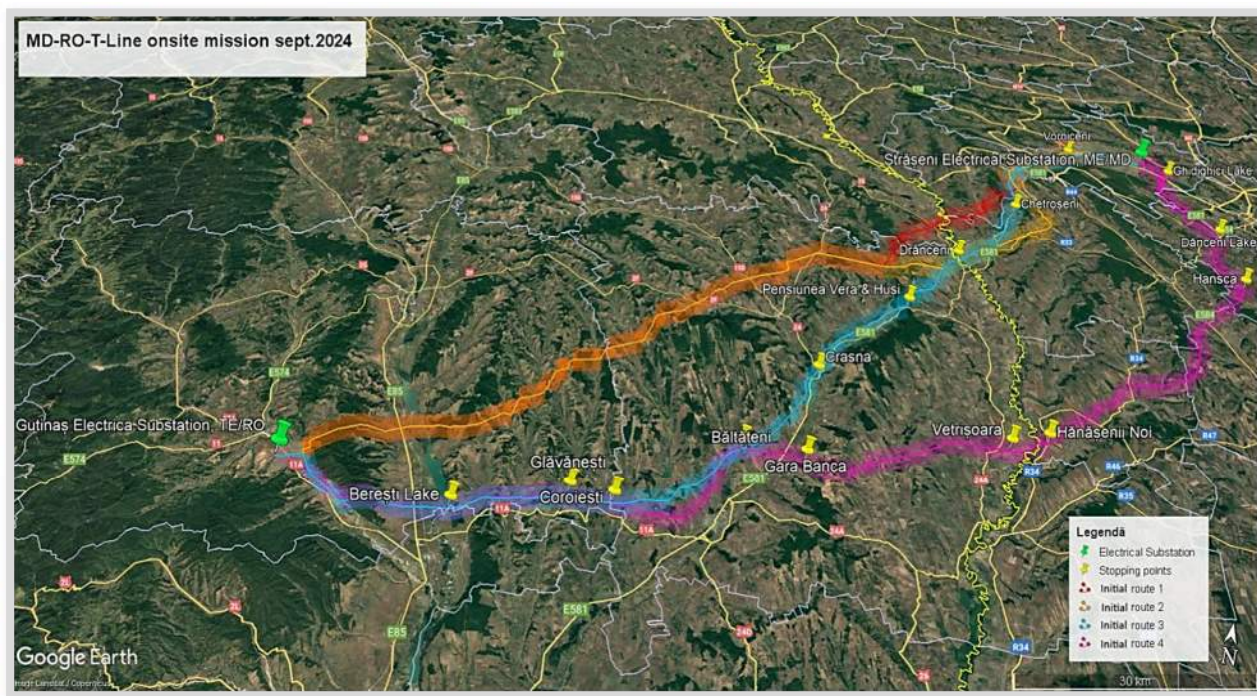


Figure 5-4 Initial 4 routes Options for Strășeni (MD) - Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line and Planned Scoping Onsite Mission Stopping Points

Source: Consultant processed image based on onsite scoping mission (September 2024) planning and satellite imagery (Google Earth, 2022)

The scope of work of this initial field screening consisted of identifying all key issues and concerns, by observing the environment and by consulting the potentially affected public (people living along the T-Line proposed routes, landowners), vulnerable groups and interested stakeholders on IDEA Project and taking their comments into account.

The onsite scoping mission gathered:

- 11 participants, representatives of Project team - BV and CCEM, together with both Moldovan and Romanian TSOs – MEL and TEL;
- 1,500 km, crossing two countries, three Romanian counties, and six Moldovan raions.

The goal of this initial field trip was to deepen the multicriteria analysis and identify the optimal route for the 400 kV Strășeni-Gutinaș Interconnection T-Line between Romania and Republic of Moldova.

Technical issues were tackled, land use characteristics assessed, and environmentally and socially sensitive areas were identified.

In **Appendix C** several pictures from the stopping points along the proposed T-Line routes are presented.

Internal Progress Review Meeting and the official Project Introductory Meeting with the Romanian authorities, 13-14 November 2024, Bucharest, RO

The November 2024 stakeholders' engagement events addressing the "Feasibility Study and ESIA Scoping phase for Strășeni/MD – Gutinaș/RO High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Interconnector" under IDEA regional program 'Investments in the Development of Energy Assets', were organized by a local subcontractor coordinated by the project donor – USAID Moldova, together with IDEA Project team.

The first day (13.11.24) was dedicated to reviewing the progress of the Project, with focus on the Romanian side (technical, environmental and social aspects; EU and national legislation and requirements), related to:

- the Feasibility Study technical findings and initial costs estimate;
- the ESIA Scoping preliminary inputs.

Concerning the communication activities aimed at informing and engaging external stakeholders, two items need to be highlighted:

- Transelectrica (TEL), RO did not agree with the consultant's recommendation to launch, during Q1.2025, an online survey/interview to consult on the current socio-economic situation and assess the level of knowledge and concerns related to the Project. This survey was intended to be addressed, in both countries RO - MD, to local authorities closest to the T-Line alternative routes 1 and 2, as well as to environmental NGOs and professional associations in agriculture;
- The follow-up tasks list included:
 - Project leaflet and grievance form to be uploaded on the websites of MEL/MD, TEL/RO and USAID;
 - A CLO to be appointed in MEL and TEL to handle public communication and grievances;
 - A decision to be taken by MEL and TEL on the timeline and method (online or in-person) for managing public consultations, once the ESIA scoping information package is disclosed.

37 attendants gathered from: project donor – USAID Moldova, IDEA Project team (Black & Veatch, USA and CCEM, RO), and project promoters TEL/RO, including Bacău Branch and MEL/MD.



Figure 5-5 Internal progress review meeting, 13 November 2024, Bucharest, RO
Source: USAID Moldova

The second day (14.11.24) was organized the First official introductory meeting with the key Romanian authorities, aiming to emphasize the importance of Strășeni/MD – Gutinaș/RO High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Interconnector project and seek their cooperation for timely approvals.

A brief project overview, including Feasibility Study findings and the ESIA Scoping preliminary inputs, was presented and informal discussions were generated related mainly to the legislative framework and permitting procedures. The importance of having the full ESIA as one common study for both countries was underlined, together with the Romanian government's commitment for the Project and the support of the permitting authorities all along the approval process.

This second day's meeting gathered 36 participants from both stakeholders' categories:

- Internal: project donor – USAID Moldova, IDEA Project team (Black & Veatch, USA and CCEM, RO), and project promoters TEL/RO, including Bacău Branch and MEL/MD;
- External: Ministry of Environment, National Environment Protection Agency and National Agency for Natural Protected Areas; Ministry of Energy; National Regulatory Authority for Energy; Ministry of Development, Public Works and Administration; and Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Figure 5-6 First official introductory meeting with the Romanian authorities, 14 November 2024, Bucharest, RO

Source: USAID Moldova

Project progress review and financial support transfer meeting, 3 December 2025, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

The purpose of the meeting – in person - between U.S. Department of State - DOS and Moldelectrica, MD (MEL) was to restart of the State Investments in Developing Energy Assets (IDEA) project and reconfirm the commitment of MEL.

This internal meeting – morning session, organized in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova gathered 9 participants from MEL, U.S. DOS and consultant teams – BV and CCEM.

Insights from this meeting - session were related to the next steps for the consultant team – updating the FS, ESIA Scoping and SEP for both countries Romania and Republic of Moldova (Q1.2026); proceed with next steps for full ESIA Report just for Republic of Moldova (Q2.2026-Q2.2027); border crossing point has been agreed by MEL; another in person – internal meeting was proposed for Q2.2026.

The afternoon session was a teleconference organized with Transelectrica, RO (TEL) gathering 14 representatives from both promoters – MEL and TEL, and the consultant teams – BV and CCEM.

Purpose of this afternoon telco was the reconfirmation of TEL commitment and status, timelines, and joint coordination of next steps with MEL.

Insights from this afternoon session were related to the next steps for the consultant team – updating the FS, ESIA Scoping and SEP for both countries Romania and Republic of Moldova (Q1.2026); proceed with next steps for full ESIA Report just for Republic of Moldova (Q2.2026-

Q2.2027); TEL bidding documentation for design of the optimum Romanian part of the T-Line Route, including the feasibility study, will be prepared in compliance with Romanian regulations and norms (Q2.2026- Q3.2027); border crossing point has been agreed also by TEL.



Figure 5-7 Project meeting with the Moldavian authorities, 3 December 2025, Chișinău, MD

Source: Ministry of Energy, Republic of Moldova

Due to the transition of the financial support of the project from USAID to DOS, a temporary pause in project-related communication and stakeholder engagement activities took place during 2025.

Therefore, in order to relaunch the stakeholder communication process and facilitate the dissemination of project information, as well as the engagement of communities located along the proposed T-Line route, it is recommended to send, in Q.2 2026, a reminder through electronic communication channels, accompanied by the project factsheet and a short survey/interview guide intended to collect relevant information ahead of the formal public consultation process, related to:

- The economic status of the raion/county: existing large industries; ongoing/upcoming public infrastructure projects; job opportunities; envisaged risks related to the future development of Strășeni/MD – Gutinaș/RO High Voltage Transmission Line (T-line) Interconnector project;
- The environment and cultural heritage: protected areas; sensitive areas (forests, lakes, wetlands, etc.); archaeological sites and historical monuments/buildings; envisaged risks related to the future development of the T-Line project;

- the social issues: existing vulnerable or marginalized groups, unemployment, land-use and tenure; envisaged risks related to the future development of the T-Line project (human health, expropriations, welfare, etc.);
- practical issues: locations and facilities (audio-video-ITC) for future public meetings, during the public consultation process to be rolled out in the full ESIA stage of the project.

Project progress review and draft Reports approval meeting, 28 April 2026, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova

This meeting was aiming to approve the draft reports for the FS, ESIA Scoping analysis and SEP, which were disseminated to be reviewed by the donor – DOS and both promoters MEL and TEL.

All 21 participants, including DOS – Moldova Mission, MEL, TEL, and IDEA Project team (Black & Veatch, USA; CCEM, RO and Sinergetika, MD), highlighted that the completion of the FS and ESIA scoping are a key milestone in moving the project forward.

After an overview of the FS, ESIA scoping and Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) for Gutinaş–Străşeni 400 kV T- line provided by IDEA Project team, discussions followed on key technical, environmental, permitting, and procurement aspects required to advance the project toward implementation.

The meeting concluded with agreement on the remaining actions required to finalize the FS report, continue ESIA implementation (Full ESIA package on MD side), and establish a joint Working Group to support communication and coordination among all involved parties.

The preliminary integrated project schedule presented during the meeting estimated completion of the environmental approval processes in accordance with national legislative requirements by autumn 2027, while the overall Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) phase and commissioning of the interconnection are currently projected for 2030–2031.



Figure 5-8 Project meeting for draft Reports (FS, ESIA Scoping, SEP) approval, 28 April 2026, Chișinău, MD

Source: IDEA Project team

5.2 Key Issues Raised During Scoping Stage

Main socio-economic concerns raised during consultant research activity, based on desk study & review of available baseline data from published sources performed in the areas of interest along the analyzed T-Line routes, are the following:

Table 5-3 ESIA Scoping Stage – Socio-Economic Baseline Findings Inside the Survey Corridor (500 m Width Left/Right the T-Line Axes)

Socio-Economic Data Analyzed	Republic of Moldova	Romania
Demographics Official census 2024/MD, 2021/RO	Demographic decline = Communities shrinking phenomenon females slightly dominant to men; rural vs. urban; ethnicity	
	↓ 44% (official census 2024 vs. 1989) 45% urban ↓ vs. 44% rural ↓, excepting Chișinău M.; Moldovan ≥ 76% (official census 2024 vs. 2014) 16% male ↓ vs. 12% female ↓	↓ 16% (official census 2021 vs. 1992) 52% urban - 48% rural, but T-Line routes counties are rural oriented; Romanian ≥ 78% 49% male vs. 51% female stable

Socio-Economic Data Analyzed	Republic of Moldova	Romania
Labour Force Statistical Year Books 2025	Employment rate 42.7% 61% services and others; 18% agriculture; 13% industry; 7% construction	Employment rate 63.8% 56% services and others; 22% industry; 11% agriculture; 11% construction
	Dependency ratio 26% ↑ in MD (2024 vs. 2014) and 16% ↑ in RO (2024 vs. 2011)	
	Registered unemployment rate 4.0% (15y.-24y. youth 5.1%)	Registered unemployment rate 5.4% (15y.-24y. youth 23.9%)
GDP Per Capita WB, 2024	18,615 (current international \$) ↑	49,076.5 (current international \$) ↑
Cultural Heritage	35 archaeological sites and tumuli	24 archaeological sites and tumuli
Land Use and Tenure	Population is predominantly rural; main economic activity - agriculture (e.g. crops, vineyards)	
	Predominantly agricultural land (74%) and forestry (14%) farmland ownership 70% private	Predominantly agricultural land (68%) and forestry (28%) farmland ownership 90% private
Public Infrastructure Crossed	T-lines 110 kV, 330 kV	T-lines 110 kV, 400 kV, 750 kV
	Roads: Strășeni 10; Nisporeni 4; Ialoveni 4; Cimișlia 1; Leova 2	roads: Bacău 19; Vaslui 33; Iași 4
	railways: 1	railways: 3
	2 connections to main natural gas pipelines (1. SP Hibești - SP Gura Galbenă - SP Cimișlia; 2. SP Ungheni - SP Nisporeni - SP Strășeni -SP Peresecina). <i>SP - delivery stations</i>	1 main natural gas pipeline (NT Onești - NT Munteni - NT Șendreni) and 2 connections (1. SRM Bacău; 2. NT Munteni - SRM Vaslui - NT Lețcani) <i>NT – technological node; SRM - Adjustment-measurement stations</i>
Neighboring Human Settlements - Most Problematic Passing-Overs and Very Close	12 locations	24 locations

Source: Consultant processed data from public sources (for additional details see ESIA Scoping Report)

The initial preliminary assessment made for all 4 T-Line routes options based on digital maps with satellite imagery and aerial photography, revealed the following, considering socio-economic baseline survey corridor of 500 m (each side from the central axis of the T-Line, along analysed routes):

- **Republic of Moldova:** in 12 locations were identified most problematic passing-overs and very close (≤ 50 m) neighboring human settlements/cultural heritage sites, with less highlighted routes: T-Line Option 3 (blue route), followed by T-Line Options 4 (magenta route), 2 (orange route) and 1 (red route);

- **Romania:** in 24 locations were identified most problematic passing-overs and very close (≤ 50 m) neighboring human settlements/agricultural farms/cultural heritage sites, with less highlighted routes: T-Line Option 4 (magenta route), followed by T-Line Options 3 (bleu route), 2 (orange route) and 1 (red route).

After performing the second in-depth MCA, based on digital maps, and the field scoping mission several sensitive areas in terms of potential social impacts have emerged (**Table 5-4**) along T-Line routes Alternates 1 and 2, related to:

- human settlements in proximity or inside the buffer zone (left-right from the central axis of the T-Line route) for the socio-economic risk analysis corridor of < 100 m;
- type of land crossed by each T-Line alternative routes and expropriation needs, as percentage of the total T-Line length.

Table 5-4 ESIA Scoping stage – Sensitive areas in terms of potential social impact along T-Line routes Alt. 1 and 2 (100 m width left/right the T-Line axes)

Countries	Distances To Human Settlements Near/Inside The Socio-Economic Risk Analysis Corridor (< 100 M)	Gross Estimates For Expropriation Needs*; Land Type
Republic of Moldova	– Cristești v., MD-Nisporeni r. 50-80 m (Alt. 1) – Ialoveni city, MD-Ialoveni r. ≤ 50 m (Alt. 2) – Chișinău Mun. at the boundary of a residential area, S-E of Dumbrava v. (Alt. 2) – Lozova v. and c., MD-Strășeni r. ≤ 60 m (Alt. 1) – N-E of Ghidighici Lake, MD-Strășeni cross-over (Alt.2) – near Strășeni ES ≤ 10 m (Alt. 1) and ≤ 30 m (Alt. 2)	78% - 85%; over 73% crop land Land plots crossed: Alt.1 (97% private, 3% public); Alt.2 (98% private, 2% public)
Romania	– Borzești neighbourhood, Onești city, RO-BC cross over (Alt. 1) – Valea Nacului v., Sascut c., RO-BC ≤ 20 m (Alt. 1) and ≤ 55 m (Alt. 2) – Sârbi v., Podu Turcului c., RO-BC ≤ 40 m (Alt. 1, 2) – Coroiști v. and c., RO-VS ≤ 50 m (Alt. 1, 2) – Vetrișoaia v. and c., RO-VS ≤ 70 m (Alt. 2)	95%; over 70% crop land The cadastral system is under digitalisation

*) % of the total T-Line length; Source: Consultant processed data (for additional details see ESIA Scoping Report)

In terms of T-Line routes - Alternate 1 and 2 - and their proximity to or crossing of local communities/human settlements, for both countries, Alternate 1 is recommended with the exception of the proximity to the human settlement/agricultural farm near ES Strășeni (south-west) – in Republic of Moldova, Strășeni Raion, and Borzești neighbourhood, Onești city cross-over near ES Gutinaș – in Romania, Bacău County.

5.3 Communication Tools and Timeframe

SEP approach must ensure that stakeholder's interests, concerns, and positions are fully considered. The responsibilities of both project promoters/beneficiaries (TEL and MEL) during the future stages of the T-Line project (basic and detail design, implementation – construction, commissioning and operation) will be to **INFORM, COMMUNICATE with, and ENGAGE** their key stakeholders, on a continuous basis:

- **INFORM** - describes stakeholders who seek information instead of a conversation;
- **COMMUNICATE** - describes stakeholders with a high willingness to engage or a high level of expertise, but who have not yet participated in dialogue; communicating more with these stakeholders will help them value engagement;
- **ENGAGE** - describes stakeholders with whom engagement is necessary.

In order to put in practice SEP program presented in **Figure 5-9**, for the planning (Feasibility Study, permits, etc.) and implementation (construction, commissioning, operation) stages of Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line project, a summary of the communication tools/tactics, information to be disclosed to each stakeholders' categories, including a timeframe proposal are presented in table below.

Table 5-5 Communication Tools and Timeframe

Stakeholder Category	Communication Tools	Information to be disclosed	Timeframe			
			Planning stage of the Project			Implementation Stage of the Project
			ESIA scoping process Q3-Q4, 2024 - Q1-Q2, 2026	Full ESIA preparation process Q3, 2026	Full ESIA consultation & disclosure process Q4, 2026 – Q4, 2027	Ongoing Consultation Process
People affected directly by the future construction and/or operation of the OHL	Meetings Information board at the City Hall	NTS, Full ESIA, ESMMP, SEP and Grievance Form		X	X	X
Government officials and policy makers		ESIA Scoping NTS, Full ESIA, ESMMP, SEP	X	X	X	X

Stakeholder Category	Communication Tools	Information to be disclosed	Timeframe			
			Planning stage of the Project			Implementation Stage of the Project
			ESIA scoping process Q3-Q4, 2024 - Q1-Q2, 2026	Full ESIA preparation process Q3, 2026	Full ESIA consultation & disclosure process Q4, 2026 – Q4, 2027	Ongoing Consultation Process
National Regulatory Authorities / Agencies	Formal emails / fax Reports issued as required Meetings	and compliance with national legislation and permits issuing requirements	X		X	X
Local Public Administration – impacted communities	Meetings Internet, Information board at the City Hall	ESIA Scoping NTS, Full ESIA, ESMMP and SEP, Grievance Form	X	X	X	X
Academic and RDI environment	Internet, Newspaper	NTS, other information on request			X	X
Civil society - NGO's	Internet, Telephone, Newspaper Presentations and meetings on request	Full ESIA, NTS, other detailed information on request	X	X	X	X
Local community – vulnerable individuals	Information board at the City Hall / school / church Small focus groups to be handled carefully Face-to face interviews	NTS, Grievance Form, and SEP			X	X
Mass-media	Periodic Press releases	NTS, other detailed information on request			X	X
Professional Organizations; Labour Unions	Periodic presentations and meetings	ESIA Scoping NTS, Full ESIA, SEP	X		X	X

Stakeholder Category	Communication Tools	Information to be disclosed	Timeframe			
			Planning stage of the Project			Implementation Stage of the Project
			ESIA scoping process Q3-Q4, 2024 - Q1-Q2, 2026	Full ESIA preparation process Q3, 2026	Full ESIA consultation & disclosure process Q4, 2026 – Q4, 2027	Ongoing Consultation Process
Internal stakeholders	Annual business plan Monthly reports Notification of events Special analysis upon request Periodic internal Project meetings	Detailed information on the Project, QEHS requirements, ESIA Scoping, NTS, vacancies, Grievance Form, Full ESIA, ESMMP, SEP	X	X	X	X

Source: Consultant experts' assessment

5.4 Planned and Future Stakeholders' Engagement Activities

The planned and future engagement activities are structured as detailed in **Figure 5-9**, and will be focused on the public consultation meetings to be enrolled during the full ESIA process including:

- Public consultation meetings, to be organized in person, in local communities (local citizens, NGOs, vulnerable groups, informal leaders);
- Virtual (online) individual consultations with professional organizations (i.e. farmers associations), public authorities depending on full ESIA Report findings and final Feasibility Study technical specifications;
- Press-releases to the printed and online media.

Public consultations may create actions and reactions among stakeholders, and this will be considered when preparing the proposed future SEP activities. For example, there could be stakeholders acting to optimize compensation linked to the construction and operation of the OHL.

Being rated as a category A project (EBRD risk rating) and listed in both countries EIA laws - Law no. 86/2014, MD (Annex 2) and Law no. 292/2018, RO (Annex 2), the Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Interconnector could potentially result in adverse environmental and/or social impacts, thus both project promoters, MEL and TEL having to engage affected stakeholders at every stage of the project (planning, Engineering – Procurement - Construction (EPC), operation) in order to consider their feedback in the relevant project documents. The ESIA Scoping and Full ESIA reports, together with other relevant project documents, will be publicly disclosed to all relevant stakeholders for comments, and regular updates will be provided.

Time		Activity	Report	Ongoing dialogue and face-to-face meetings
Planning stage of the project	ESIA scoping (Q3-Q4, 2024 – Q1-Q3, 2026)	Stakeholders’ identification & PRE-ESIA analysis		
		Introductory meetings to RO & MD permitting authorities Scoping onsite mission		
		First draft SEP and Scoping ESIA reports submitted for review by the project promoters/beneficiaries (TEL and MEL)		
		Upload online Project Factsheet; Grievance Form ESIA Scoping and SEP Reports	ESIA Scoping Report and SEP	
		Disclosure of ESIA Scoping and SEP reports		
		Preparing and unrolling Scoping meetings and online survey		
		Assess results		
		Identification of key issues – input to the reports		
		Preparing the draft Full ESIA Report	Submit the draft Full ESIA Report and updated SEP for TEL and MEL	
Disclosure of the Draft full ESIA, ESMMP, NTS and updated SEP				
Planning stage of the project	ESIA consultation and disclosure process (Q3-Q4, 2026 – Q3-Q4, 2027)	Preparing ESIA consultation process		
		Unrolling public consultations program		
		Assess results	Reviewing all documents	
		Disclosure of the reviewed versions of the full ESIA Report, ESMMP, NTS and SEP		
		Comments and suggestions for improvement		
		Final ESIA, ESMMP & SEP	Submit Final ESIA, ESMMP and SEP	
Implementation stage of the project	Ongoing Consultation Process	Working site preparation Construction Commissioning Operation	Updates of SEP along with project construction and operation, performed by TEL and MEL	

Figure 5-9 SEP Program

Source: Consultant expert judgement

Public consultation meetings are recommended to be organized in locations proposed in Table 5-2 for presenting and discussing the draft full ESIA documentation. The public consultation meeting will take place during the full ESIA public consultation period (Q3-Q4.2027) and will be organized following each country (RO and MD) national legislation regarding EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) of the projects.

The disclosure information package, including during the preliminary planning stage – the ESIA Scoping report and further on the full ESIA, ESMMP (Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan), ESAP (Environmental and Social Action Plan), SEP, and the Non-Technical Summary (NTS) reports will be prepared for public comments. Any presentation materials will need to be prepared both in local language and in English and, if needed, an enquiry form (**Public Grievance Form – Appendix D**) could be issued to encourage the public to present their views.

The planned future activities, related to the dissemination of the full ESIA disclosure package, will provide data recorded, such as:

- Type of information shared the dates, disclosure method and information distribution channels;
- Minutes of meetings, lists of participants and locations of any meetings organised with affected people, Individuals, groups, organisations and institutions that have been consulted;
- Key issues and concerns discussed and raised by affected people;
- Grievance response mechanism, monitoring and follow-up actions.

The information about stakeholder engagement activities will be updated on an on-going basis and all public consultation details related to the project will be included.

In the SEP document – Chapters 6, 7 and 8 further details on responsibilities and resources are defined. It is essential that responsibilities, linking to actions on input from the grievance mechanism for example, are well defined, understood and shared with both project promoters, MEL/MD and TEL/RO, the SEP becomes their responsibly.

The required public comment period will conform to national legislation and donors/lenders requirements and standards. It will be required a minimum comment period (30 days according to both RO and MD legislation) between the publication of the final ESIA and donors/lenders consideration for public projects (public utility).

Both project promoters (MEL and TEL) will need to make the ESIA (scoping and final-full stage) publicly available for comments, both online on their websites and at or near Strășeni (MD) – Gutinaș (RO) 400 kV T-Line Interconnector project site and is expected to keep ESIA package-related documentation in the public domain at least until the Project' completion.

Anyone can comment on the documentation enclosed in the disclosure information package, during the disclosure period. Comments can either be sent/mailed or by surface mail, with the recommendation to use the Grievance Form, to each project promoter MEL/MD and TEL/RO, considering the contact details provided in **Chapter 8**.

5.5 Disclosure of Information

The objective of the disclosure process is to solicit feedback from project potentially affected human settlements/households, vulnerable groups and interested stakeholders, propose mitigation actions and, where required, to make the necessary changes to the ESIA Scoping Report to reflect comments received.

During the ESIA process, a formal public consultation campaign will be conducted, in the first half of 2027, along the optimum chosen T-Line route, carried out by both TSOs – Transelectrica (RO) and Moldelectrica (MD) project teams working alongside the consultants' consortium, including information disclosure and stakeholders' information-sharing events.

The main steps of the disclosure process will be:

- preparation and distribution (printed and online) of preliminary disclosure materials (disclosure information package);
- announcements and engagement of the media (press release);
- disclosure physical and/or virtual meetings;
- collection and incorporation of comments and feedback.

The types of information disclosed and the specific methods of communication to be undertaken by the local authorities for Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line project are summarized in **Table 5-5**.

The objectives of external communications are to provide continuous engagement with affected people and other relevant stakeholders and to inform them about the activities, performance, planning, development and implementation of the project. The information to be disclosed publicly is governed by Republic of Moldova and Romania national legislations and donors/lenders requirements (see **Chapter 3 - Legislative Framework and Requirements**).

The SEP will be revised and updated on a regular basis, by each TSO – Moldelectrica (MD) and Transelectrica (RO), to reflect the changes in stakeholder engagement due to project developments and changes in the project stakeholder group. The information that is required to be disclosed may change if there are changes in – Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line project design, schedule or area of influence.

Printed and/or electronic copies of the draft-preliminary information disclosure package (NTS, ESIA Scoping and SEP), will be made available in Romanian and English languages prior to the disclosure period to the following targeted group (number of contacts is based on present draft stakeholder database):

- Officials from the governmental authorities and parliament – about 43 contacts;
- Representatives from the local and regional administration, including potentially affected human settlements/households – about 14 contacts;
- Academics and RDI – about 6 contacts;
- National and local NGOs, interest groups – about 7 contacts;
- National media – about 4 contacts;
- International financing bodies – about 4 contacts;
- Internal public of the Project – about 10 contacts.

Special attention will be given to people that live along the optimum chosen T-Line route (an analysis corridor of less than 50 m left/right the T-Line axis for the social impact assessment) and landowners directly affected by the potential future productive land expropriations. For this priority stakeholder group, the ESIA Scoping package must be provided to ensure that they are correctly and transparently informed on the construction and operation of the – Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line.

The approach will be developed in more detail during the next steps of the project – ESIA Full Report, and further on project implementation stage – construction, commissioning and operation.

The draft ESIA Scoping, SEP and NTS in Romanian and English will be posted on both TSOs websites: Moldelectrica (MD) www.moldelectrica.md and Transelectrica (RO) www.transelectrica.ro.

All disclosure documentation will be distributed, online and printed on paper, to the relevant stakeholders at least one week prior to the commencement of the official disclosure period, and at least two weeks prior to the disclosure meetings thus ensuring stakeholders enough time to review the documentation prior to the meetings. The required public comment period must conform to national legislation and donors/lenders requirements.

6.0 Grievance Mechanism

6.1 Objectives and Procedure

A grievance mechanism will be implemented to ensure that both TSOs – Moldelectrica (MD) and Transelectrica (RO) are responsive to any concerns and complaints particularly from affected stakeholders and communities.

Designated staff from both TSOs, if necessary, will be trained in the management of the grievance mechanism. This grievance mechanism covers both internal public (employees) and external public (i.e. affected people and other relevant stakeholders).

A schematic flow for the grievance mechanism is presented in figure below. Both verbal and written complaints are to be registered and documented.

Any comments or concerns can be brought to the attention of each TSO verbally (by phone) or in writing (by post or e-mail) or by filling in a grievance form (**Appendix D – Public grievance Form**).

The grievance form will be made available online and in printed form in the mayor's office, schools, community centers and other public places that are easily accessible for all relevant stakeholders, alongside a description of the grievance mechanism.

Grievance forms can then be submitted to the contact details provided in **Chapter 8 – Contact details for stakeholders**.

When receiving a complaint, it is recommended that all employees, from each TSO in MD and RO, refer the complainant to the CLO or the Department responsible for Health, Safety and Environment. Any member of this department receiving a complaint shall ensure that the Corrective Action Form is completed. The form shall then be forwarded to the CLO who will register it and will ensure that all actions are made to close out the complaint, according to the grievance procedure recommended and schematically presented in **Figure 6-1**.

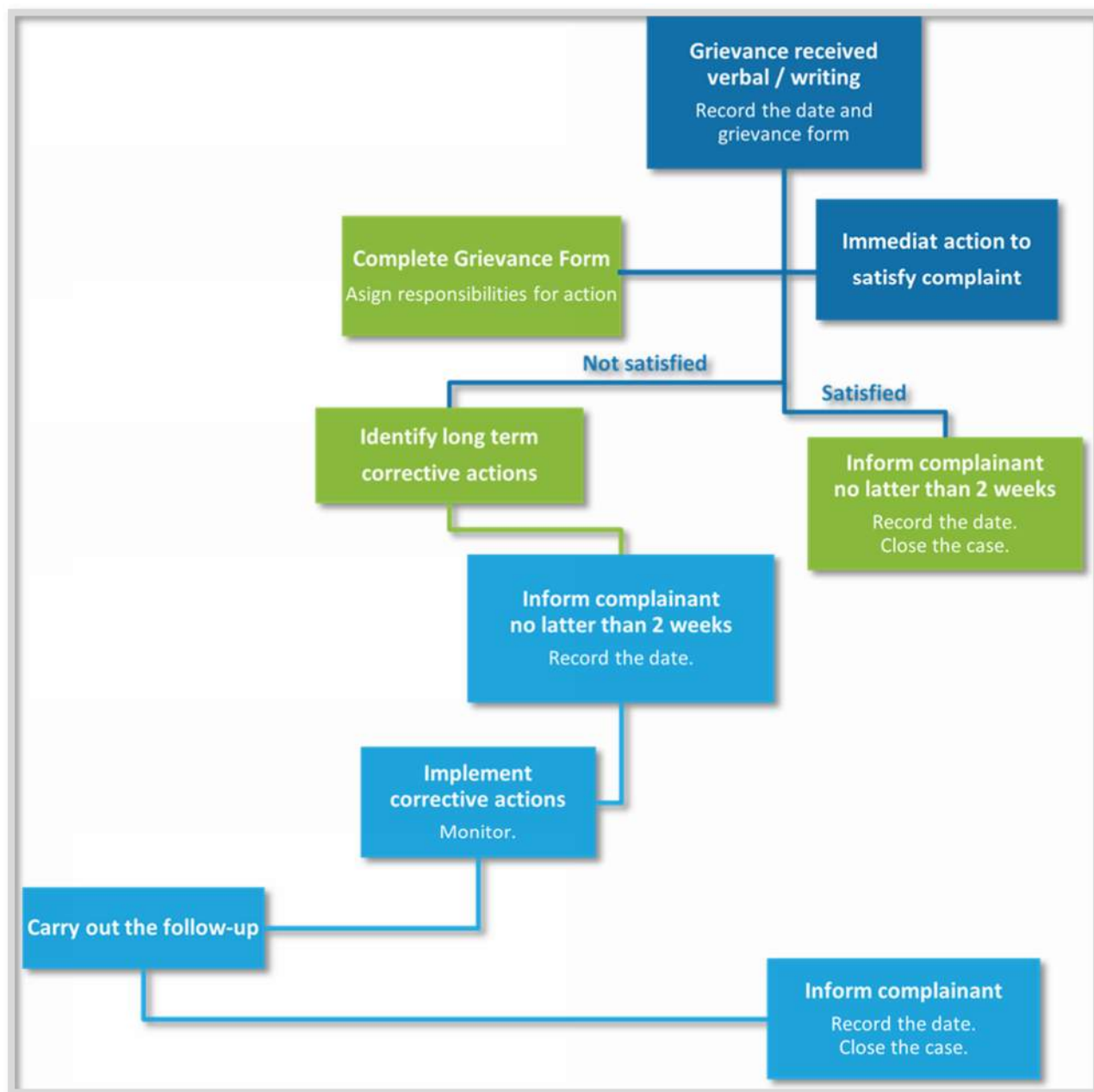


Figure 6-1 Grievance procedure

Source: Consultant experts' assessment based on literature review

7.0 Monitoring and reporting

ESIA monitoring group, in each country (MD and RO), is recommended to have a balanced and neutral (without favour) structure focussed on environmental and social potential future issues generated along to the project development stages (planning, implementing, construction, commissioning, and operation). Environmental protection experts (inspectors and regulators) will monitor and report, according to each national legal framework in force, all related impacts.

Consultation records, minutes of meetings and query forms of informal consultations (face-to-face interviews) will be maintained by both TSOs – Moldelectrica (MD) and Transelectrica (RO) recommended CLOs and consultants' consortium social impact responsible representative (see **Chapter 8 – Contact details for stakeholders**).

It is also recommended that periodic (4Q) Reports summarizing the activities and key emerging themes raised by affected groups will be performed. The Annual Report will be also prepared, by both TSOs (MEL/MD and TEL/RO) CLOs, summarizing SEP results, based on which updated information will be delivered back to key stakeholders' group, including also the project work progress during the development stages of Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line.

Each TSO (MEL/MD and TEL/RO) will act consequently – activate feedback loop and implement corrective measures, both in the environmental and social field.

Main issues to be monitored will include:

- Land use, resettlement, acquisition and compensation;
- Infrastructure and services to be developed horizontally in the future;
- Pollution prevention and risk assessment;
- Health and safety;
- Forests, prairie areas, river crossings;
- Archaeology, local heritage and culture;
- Future construction camps and community relations;
- Future employment and recruitment.

8.0 Contact Details for Stakeholders

All comments on the draft materials listed below are more than welcomed. Inform each TSO what you think through visiting the web sites at www.moldelectrica.md and www.transelectrica.ro.

The following documents will be developed as the ESIA progresses and will be made available to interested parties during the consultation process, in each country – Republic of Moldova and Romania:

Preliminary ESIA Scoping Stage of the Project	Full ESIA Stage of the Project
• Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line Project factsheet • ESIA Scoping Report • SEP – Stakeholders’ Engagement Plan (this document), outlining the approach for stakeholder consultation process	• Strășeni-Gutinaș 400 kV T-Line Project updated factsheet • Non-Technical Summary (NTS) • Full ESIA Report • ESMMP – Environmental and Social Management and Monitoring Plan • SEP – Stakeholders’ Engagement Plan • (updated document)

For further information, it is recommended that both beneficiaries nominate a responsible person as the CLO, who will be available to be contacted by complainants according to the data below:

ESIA and SEP Manager Community Liaison Officer (CLO)	
Republic of Moldova	Romania
First and Last Name: ... Phone: ... Email: ... Postal Address: Î.S. Moldelectrica, 78 V. Alecsandri str. Municipiul Chișinău, MD-2055	First and Last Name: ... Phone: ... Email: ... Postal Address: CNTEE Transelectrica SA, Bacău Territorial Transmission Branch, 41 Oituz str. Municipiul Bacău, RO-600266

9.0 References

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[https://www.moldelectrica.md/files/docs/TYNDP%202025-2034%20\(RO\).pdf](https://www.moldelectrica.md/files/docs/TYNDP%202025-2034%20(RO).pdf)
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- [10] GD no. 514/2002 regarding the approval of the Regulation on the protection of electrical networks https://www.legis.md/cautare/getResults?doc_id=6186&lang=ro
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<https://legislatie.just.ro/Public/DetaliiDocumentAfis/278006>

Appendix A. Stakeholder's Data Base

Romania

Company / Institution	Name First/Last	Position	Contact - Email	Contact - Phone
ADR Nord-Est	Vasile Asandei	Director General	adnordest@adnordest.ro	(+40) 233 218 071
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Agencia Națională pentru Aarii Protejate - ANANP	Vasile CARNARIU	Președinte	ananp@ananp.gov.ro	(+40) 21 305 8390
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ANAR - Administrația Națională Apele Române	Sorin Lucaci	Director General	sorin.lucaci@rowater.ro secretariat.general@rowater.ro	(+40) 213 101 131, 213 110 146
ANPM - National Environmental Protection Agency	Laurențiu-Alexandru Păștinariu	Președinte ANPM Cu Rang De Secretar De Stat	laurentiu.pastinaru@anpm.ro office@anpm.ro	(+40) 21 207 1101
ANRE – Autoritatea Națională de Reglementare în Domeniul Energiei	George Sergiu Niculescu	Președinte	anre@anre.ro	(+40) 21 327 8100
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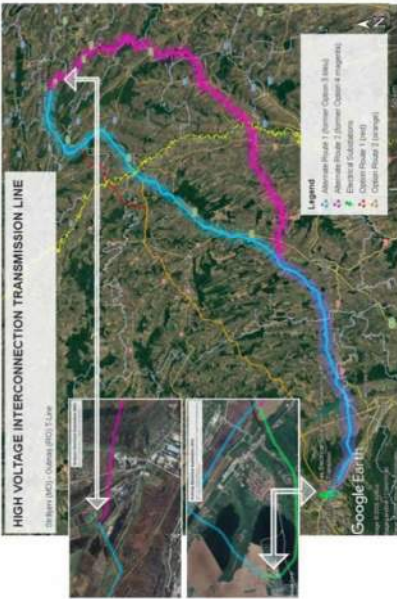
Republic of Moldova

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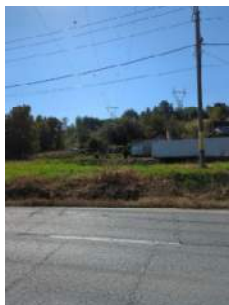
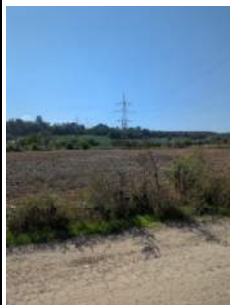
Consiliul Raional Hîncești	Anatolie Chetraru	Presedinte	consiliul@hincesti.md	(+373) 269 22058
Consiliul Raional Ialoveni	Natalia Eremia	Presedinte	ialoveniconsiliu@gmail.com eremianataliacri@gmail.com	(+373) 268 20007
Consiliul Raional Strășeni	Mariana Dîmcenco	Presedinte	consiliulraional@crStrășeni.md dimcencomariana09@gmail.com	(+373) 23723630, 23722058
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Federația Sindicatelor din Energetică și Industrie	Veaceslav Rufala	Președinte	use@ufmoldova.com	(+373) 22 43-16-64
Institutul Național de Ecologie	Dr. Petru Bunduc	Director	ieg@ieg.md, petru.bunduc@sti.usm.md	(+373) 22 28-14-73
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Ministry of Culture	Sergiu Prodan	Ministru	sergiu.prodan@mc.gov.md cancelaria@mc.gov.md	(+373) 22 823 801 / 801
Ministry of Energy	Victor Parlicov	Ministru	secretariat@energie.gov.md	
Ministry of Environment	Sergiu Lazarencu	Ministru	sergiu.lazarencu@mediu.gov.md cancelaria@mediu.gov.md	Anticamera Ministrului (+373) 22 204-561
Ministry of Environment - Direcția politici de prevenire a poluării	Maria Nagornii	Șef al direcției	maria.nagornii@mediu.gov.md	(+373) 22 204-572
Ministry of Infrastructure and Regional Development - Divisions Energy Policies; Transport Infrastructure; Urbanism, constructions and housing	Andrei Spînu	Ministru	andrei.spinu@midr.gov.md anticamera@midr.gov.md cristina.podlesnaia@midr.gov.md	(+373) 22 250 593 (+373) 22 250 593

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ONG – Centrul Regional de Mediu (REC) Moldova	Tudor Cozari	Președinte	info@rec.md	?
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Primăria Mirești (s. Chetroșeni)	Sinogaci Victor	Primar	sinogacivictor@mail.ru	(+373) 269 63236, 675 08951
Primăria Strășeni	Valentina Casian	Primar	primaria.Straseni11@gmail.com	(+373) 237 22343, 237 22291
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US Embassy in MD	Nina Maria Fite	Însărcinat cu afaceri ad-interim al SUA în MD	???	(+373 22) 408 300

Appendix B. Project Fact Sheet

 	This firm will be made available at the headquarters of the power transmission operators' branches, upon request: • CNTE TRANSELECTRICA SA - Bucharest, Terrestrial Transmission Branch (RO-600266, Bucharest, Romania, Tel: 00359 21 600266, Fax: 00359 21 600267, Email: info@cntr.ro) • IS MOLDELECTRICA - Central High Voltage Electricity Networks Branch (MD-2055, near Chişinău or Vama, nr. 00359 223 30 30 59) Project Managers: • Sergiu CARMANOR, Deputy General Director - Terrestrial Transmission Branch - Head of Network Operation Division, Moldova - Republic of Moldova (carmans@cntr.ro) • Roxana MOCITU, Manager of Project Investment Division, Transmission - Romania (roxi.mocitu@cntr.ro) • Dr. Gheorghe MANDRIUCU, Project Manager, EEA - Black and Veatch USA (gheorghe.mandriucu@bv.com) • Dr. Gheorghe TOMBESCU, Project Manager and Head of Private Development - Dy - CDEM - Romania (gheorghe.tombescu@cdem.ro) Beneficiaries: • Through the project current planning stage, participants in the project will be provided by the project team with the necessary information and data for the project, which, after being filled out, can be submitted to the general secretariat of the local city hall to which they belong. • Any comments or concerns can be communicated to the beneficiaries (TRANSELECTRICA, Romania or Moldoelectrica, Republic of Moldova) either verbally (by phone) or in writing (by mail or email) by completing the mentioned form. Stakeholders • Government and Policy Makers • Regulatory Authorities • Local and Regional Authorities • Projects Developers and Investors, Financing Bodies • R&D Institutes and the Academic Environment • NGOs • Local community, potentially affected public, neighboring settlements, vulnerable groups • Mass media For additional information: Throughout the project current planning stage, participants in the project will be provided by the project team with the necessary information and data for the project, which, after being filled out, can be submitted to the general secretariat of the local city hall to which they belong. Any comments or concerns can be communicated to the beneficiaries (TRANSELECTRICA, Romania or Moldoelectrica, Republic of Moldova) either verbally (by phone) or in writing (by mail or email) by completing the mentioned form.
 	Project Main Goals The proposed synchronous interconnection of Moldova and Romania electricity grids represents an important step forward towards greater regional integration of the European single electricity market. This process will allow participation of the Republic of Moldova in the European electricity market - through interconnection with the European grid (ENTSO-E). Main goals for this project current planning stage are: 1. developing the Feasibility Study covering the technical and economic analysis, including multi-criteria analysis, for the proposed 400kV transmission line between Străşeni, Moldova and Gutinaş, Romania; 2. preparing the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) scoping package, including the preliminary environmental and social impact assessment and Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP). Beneficiaries • CNTE TRANSELECTRICA SA - Bucharest, Terrestrial Transmission Branch - the TSO in Romania; • IS MOLDELECTRICA - High Voltage Electricity Networks Branch located in the Central part of the country - the TSO in Republic of Moldova. Consultants Consortium Project current planning stage: • Black & Veatch, USA • Energy and Environment Consulting Company (CEEA), RO Project duration • Feasibility, environmental and social impact assessment (subject of this letter) • Implementation stage: 3-5.4 years • 18-20 Months - Procurement, Basic Design Engineering, Permits, Land Acquisitions (expropriations) • 22-24 Months - Construction, including work site organization, tests and commissioning • O&M stage: 30-40 years; • Closure: 3-8 months Expected results during current planning stage • Feasibility Study
 	Figure 1: Proposed route for 400kV T-Line Design, Moldova - Gutinaş, Romania - highlighting alternate 1 (blue) and 2 (orange) for design preliminary ESIA and Feasibility analysis  Legend: • Alternate Route 1 (Power Option 3 route) • Alternate Route 2 (Power Option 4 route) • Border of Moldavia • Border of Romania • Other Route 1 (not) • Other Route 2 (not) Disclaimer: This publication was made possible through support provided by the U.S. Government, under the terms of Contract No. 7200AA22C00047. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Government.

Appendix C. Onsite Scoping Mission Stopping Points Visuals

ROMANIA			
ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION			
		ES Gutinaş	
T-Line route alternatives (from ES to the RO-MD border)			
 Crossing over Borzeşti neighbourhood, Oneşti city, Bacău County (Alt. 1)			 Nearby Căiuţi commune, Bacău County (Alt. 1 and 2)
	 Nearby Valea Nacului village, Sascut commune, Bacău County (Alt. 1 and 2)		 Bereşti Dam, Siret River, Bacău County (Alt. 1 and 2)
	 Nearby Băltăţeni village, Băcani commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 1 and 2)		 Nearby Rădeşti village, Costesti commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 1)

ROMANIA			
			
Nearby Crasna village, Albești commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 1)		Near to Vera Guest House, about 1 km from Huși city, Vaslui County (Alt. 1)	
			
Nearby Rânceni village, Berezeni commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 2)		Nearby Vetrișoia commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 2)	
			
Nearby Drânceni commune, Vaslui County (Alt. 1) at the border			
			
Prut River cross-border (Alt. 2)		(Alt. 2)	(Alt. 1)

REPUBLIC of MOLDOVA
ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION



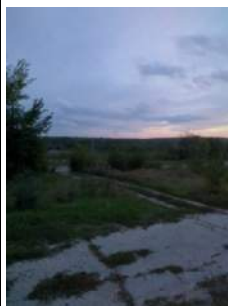
ES Strășeni

T-Line route alternatives (from ES to the RO-MD border)



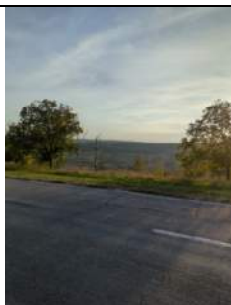
Strășeni city,

nearby Strășeni ES, Strășeni Raion (Alt. 2)



Near Ialoveni city, Ialoveni Raion

(Alt. 2)



Nearby Cristești village, Nisporeni Raion

(Alt. 1)



Nearby Cotul Morii commune,

Hâncești Raion (Alt. 1)

Appendix D. Public Grievance Form

		
Public grievance form		
<i>(this section to be completed by Transelectrica or Moldelectrica)</i>		
Reference No.: _____	Received by: _____ Date of initial response: _____ Solved by: _____	
<i>(next sections to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i>		
Name: _____ Note: you can remain anonymous if you prefer or request not to disclose your identity to the third parties without your consent	First name: _____ Last name: _____ Company / position in the company _____ ☐ I wish to raise my grievance anonymously ☐ I request not to disclose my identity without my consent ☐ By Post: Please provide mailing address: _____ _____ _____ ☐ By phone: _____ ☐ By e-mail: _____	
Contact: _____ Please mark how you wish to be contacted (mail, telephone, e-mail).	☐ Moldovan/Romanian ☐ Russian	
Description of Grievance: _____	What happened? Where and how did it happen? What are the results / consequence / impact of this issue? _____ _____ _____	
Date of Grievance: <i>(this section to be completed by the person lodging the complaint)</i>		
☐ One time incident/grievance (_____ DD.MM.YYYY) ☐ Happened more than once (how many times? _____) ☐ On-going (currently experiencing problem)		
What would you like to see happening in order to solve this issue? _____ _____		
Please return this form filled in to: MOLDELECTRICA cancelar@moldelectrica.md ; TRANSELECTRICA office@transelectrica.ro		