### Zheleznitsa Tunnel

#### Relevance

**Sector**

Road tunnel along Struma motorway

**Procurement**

Road tunnel along Struma motorway

**Expected # of Beneficiaries**

12 Million People

**Key Stats**

Struma motorway: 150 km

Traffic in 2018:

- 4,204,122 passenger cars
- 69,522 buses
- 767,014 freight vehicles
- 10,465 motorcycles

Zheleznitsa tunnel: 2,000 m (the longest road tunnel in Bulgaria)

**Irregularities**

- One and the same company participated in three consortia “competing” among themselves.
- Politicians interfere in the procurement process and influence the decisions of the administration.
- No rules and criteria for the selection of external members of the evaluation committee.

**Main Recommendations**

- Addressing the Protection of Competition Authority about potential collusion between bidders. Not taken on board.
- Improvement of internal rules and practice for the prevention and detection of Conflict of Interest among staff of the contracting authority. Not yet taken on board.

**Costs**

- **Original Cost**
  - €127.8 million
  - €119.5 million (contractual cost)

  - EU funds (Cohesion Fund): €101.6 million
  - National budget: €17.9 million

**Monitoring Reports**

Download the periodic monitoring reports at: [https://integrity.transparency.bg/en/publications/](https://integrity.transparency.bg/en/publications/)

**What's Next?**

- Local communities outreach and engagement campaign
- Monitoring of the construction
- Publication of progress reports every six months

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### Project

**Location**

Bulgaria

Zheleznitsa

**Timeline**

- 01/01/2016: Start of IP project
- 04/04/2017: Cancellation of Tender 1
- 16/10/2017: Signature of IP by CA
- 29/09/2017: Cancellation of Tender 2
- 06/08/2018: Announcement of Tender 3
- 19/10/2017: Announcment of Tender 3
- 23/10/2019: Selection of contractors
- October 2019: Monitoring reports regarding Tender 3
- 23/04/2022: End of project
- 31/12/2021: End of monitoring

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