

МЕЖДУНАРОДНА КОНФЕРЕНЦИЯ

ПРЕДСТОЯЩИ СОЦИАЛНИ, ПЪТНИ И ЖЕЛЕЗОПЪТНИ
ИНФРАСТРУКТУРНИ ПРОЕКТИ 2018 -2020 г.
РОЛЯТА НА КОНСУЛТАНТА ПРИ УПРАВЛЕНИЕ
НА ИНВЕСТИЦИОННИ ПРОЕКТИ

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София, хотел Хилтън



International Conference

"Upcoming, Social, Road and Rail Infrastructure Projects 2018-2020 and the role of the consultant in managing investment projects"

of the Bulgarian Association of Architects and Engineers - Consultants

was held on October 10 in the Hilton Hotel in Sofia,

and brought together over 80 consulting firms, investment companies, engineers, architects and lawyers to whom the lecturers presented upcoming projects in the field of social, road and railway infrastructure and the role of consultants in managing these projects.



Moderator of the conference was Eng. Dimitar Natchev, Chairman of the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria and Vice President of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE)



Deputy Minister Denitsa Nikolova noted the fact that the Bulgarian Association of Architects and Engineers - Consultants plays an important role in the control of the construction projects. "The society expects that we have to strengthen the quality control during construction according to the specified requirements" and added that the most important must be the quality of the investment process, the control and the acceptance of the construction works. "We need to be able to ensure the sustainability of the construction works, so we do not have to find out defects and shortcomings during the construction and to take corrective actions".

In her presentation, Deputy Minister Nikolova reminded that more than half a billion leva of European Union funds are being invested by the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works in the rehabilitation and construction of roads during the programming period until 2020. Projects funded under Operational Program "Regions in Growth" 2014-2020 - over BGN 380 million for updating and modernizing 26 road sections of the national road network. Projects funded under Cross-border Co-operation Programs - BGN 202 million for the construction and repair of connecting road infrastructure in the border regions.



Deputy Minister Valentin Yovev pointed out that amendments to the Spatial Planning Act were being prepared, which were requested and discussed with the participants in the construction and investment process. Because of the will all opinions and recommendations to be heard, as well as the expectations of all professional guilds to be met, there is a delay in adopting some of the regulations. He reminded that, in addition to the resolving the problems of the professional branch, the changes in the law should also lead to a reduction of the administrative burden for citizens and investors.



The moderator of the conference was Eng. Dimitar Nachev, Chairman of the Union of Civil Engineers in Bulgaria and Vice President of the European Council of Civil Engineers (ECCE), He set as a topic for discussion with the political leadership of the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works the attempts to a radical change of the mutual relations, obligations and responsibilities of the participants in the investment process, the willingness of all participants to change and the lack of a visible result.

In a "funny" way were presented the demands of the main participants in the investment process:

- Builders do not need designers and supervisors (unless they have their own)

- Designers need no supervision
- Supervisors need no designers

Questions on the technological link/connectivity between transport modes (Intermodal transport and transport hubs) were also discussed. Disturbing distribution between road and other modes of transport (rail and water). The link between transport connectivity and the growth of the regions. The topic of the technical staff and what is the way of the young person in the

profession (The presentation of Prof. Niitova from UACEG was very useful). Disqualification of the engineering community and the loss of market positions. What should be the construction supervision of infrastructure projects - construction supervision under the Law on Territory Planning, consulting engineer, project manager, supervisor. To regulate the payment parameters of construction supervision



Galina Vassileva, Director of the Coordination of Programs and Projects Directorate at the Ministry of Transport and the Connecting Europe Facility Most often the open procedure is applied to public procurement. The restricted procedure is very appropriate for choosing supervision and consulting services, but it is not preferred. The "lowest price" approach is not recommended for supervision contracts, because more weight should be assigned to the quality; and the PPA allows also assessment of the team, but contracting authorities do not apply it because the process becomes complicated. Often the contract with a project management consultant has an unfair distribution of risk, or there is an insignificant assignment of the consultant. Generally, the remuneration of consulting services is low and there is no balance. For example, the average rate of remuneration of the consultant related to the

construction value: NRIC – 3 %; RIA - 0.65 % / with further assigned works - up to 2 % / "Metropolitan" - 0.5 %.

Prof. Dr. Stoyan Bratoev, Executive Director of "Metropolitan" EAD - The lower rate of remuneration of the consultant vs the construction value is due to the participation with low tender prices. The Consultants mainly provide the staff remuneration and have a minimum profit. Seek for a balance between quality and budget creates problems.

Maria Chakarova, Director Strategic Development and Investment Projects in NR Railway Infrastructure - Our consultants are our trusted persons in the investment process and no decision is taken without their opinion Our consultants deal with the coordination and management of all contracts and processes by creating a management system for each individual project, so their remuneration must be high, she said, and noted that the neutral opinion "The Consultant has no objections" is not acceptable to the NRIC leadership.



Dr. Faruk Kaba, President of the Albanian Association of Consultant Engineers - For major projects in Albania, consulting services are provided by external companies that use local subcontractors. The reason for this is the high requirements that Albanian consultants can hardly fulfill.



Eng. Nicola Matic, Member of the Board of Directors of the European Federation of Consultant Associations (EFCA) and Deputy Chairman of the Serbian Association of Consultant Engineers. Apart from supervision, it is good to have another project management body. Assignment procedures must be completed before hand because otherwise there are a number of claims and appeals that delay the process, and the construction should only begin after well-done design work.



Prof. Andrey Lepavtsov, Member of the Management Board of the Macedonian Road Association - Bulgarian companies are active in Macedonia - both in design and supervision. This was confirmed by the moderator of the forum Eng. Dimitar Natchev, Vice President of the European Council of Construction Engineers (ECCE), who said that the experts from both sides maintain good relations and have an agreement for automatic recognition of legal capacity. However, it is necessary to synchronize the work on the planning and construction of the road and rail infrastructure projects between Macedonia and Bulgaria, noted Lepavtsov. Interesting presentations with "good practices" from Bulgarian consulting engineers were also presented - see the program and the presentations available for download.