



**UNITED NATIONS  
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



**Ministry for the Environment  
Land and Sea**

TEIA/Danube project/1

ICARO

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy**

**Project under the Assistance Programme**

**Project for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia  
on joint management of transboundary emergencies  
from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River**

**Kick-off meeting for the project**

**Bucharest, 17-18 March 2009**

**Information notice and provisional agenda**

**I. Background information**

1. The pilot project on joint management of transboundary emergencies from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River was launched following the request for assistance expressed by three countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia in improving their emergency preparedness and through it to strengthen the joint management of emergencies in a transboundary context.
2. The lead in the project was taken by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea that pledged experts and financial support towards its implementation. The Bureau of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention approved the project under the Assistance Programme and requested Italy and the secretariat to implement it.
3. This note provides brief information on the project's theme, its objective and phases as well as the organization of work for the kick-off meeting.

## **II. Objectives of the project**

4. The objective of the project is to assist the authorities responsible for crisis management in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia in taking steps aimed at further strengthening their effectiveness in organizing emergency preparedness through further optimizing the emergency procedures especially in view of the cooperation in a transboundary context.
5. The project may lead to drawing-up blueprints by each of the participating countries for an up-to-date organization of emergency preparedness at local, regional and national levels with implication on the transboundary cooperation and to be the basis for optimizing the present organization.

## **III. Phases of the project**

6. The projects foresees the following phases:
  - (a) kick-off meeting to initiate the project and agree on countries involvement;
  - (b) technical workshop to discuss current organization of crisis management in the project countries, analyze the experience and good practice from other countries and to prepare for an in-field exercise by agreeing on general scenario for it;
  - (c) in-field exercise to test the current crisis management procedures and through it collect data for analysis;
  - (d) workshop to discuss the results of the project, and in particular the analysis of data collected during the exercise.

## **IV. Kick off meeting, its objectives, date and venue**

7. The kick-off meeting is organized to initiate the project and in particular:
  - (a) To discuss project implementation, including each country involvement in organization of the project phases,
  - (b) To define interim steps aimed at each country preparations for the project phases including preparations of technical documents, etc;
  - (c) To discuss approaches to modeling consequences of spills into rivers and experience in managing real emergencies when hazardous substance affected international waters;
8. The kick-off meeting will be held on 17-18 March 2009 in Bucharest Romania. The meeting will be hosted by both the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of Romania.

9. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. at the following address:

B-dul Libertatii nr. 12, Sector 5  
Bucharest, Romania

**V. Participation and working language**

10. The kick-off meeting is organized for nominated experts in each of the participating countries to lead and coordinate the implementation of the project.

11. The kick-off meeting will be conducted in English. Participants are therefore expected to have a good command of this language.

**VI. Organization of work**

12. The kick-off meeting will be conducted based on the agenda as contained in annex I.

13. Representatives of each of the participating countries are expected to prepare for the discussion at the kick-off meeting. A list with issues and tables for consideration that experts will find relevant for their preparation are contained in annex II.

## ANNEX I

### *Kick off meeting - DAY 1*

<b>9:30 – 10:00</b>	<b>Opening</b>
9:30-9:40	<b>Welcoming statement</b> by the representative of the host country
9:40-9:50	<b>Welcoming statement</b> by the representative of UNECE
9:50-10:00	<b>Welcoming statement</b> by the representative of Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
<b>10:00-13:00</b>	<b>SESSION I – Project description and discussion</b>
10:00-11:00	<b>Description of project phases</b> – Technical expert
11:00-11:20	Coffee break
11:20 -12:00	<b>General approach in chemical risk management in river basins</b> – Technical expert
12:00-13:00	<b>Hazardous sites with potential to endanger the Danube basin in Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia</b> – Representatives of three countries
13:00 -14:30	Lunch
<b>14:30-18:00</b>	<b>SESSION II – Project development</b>
14:30-15:15	<b>Discussion on reference scenarios for the project</b> (spill of hazardous substance into the Danube river) – Plenary discussion moderated by technical expert
15:15-16:00	<b>Possible approaches in modelling the consequences of spills into rivers</b> – Technical expert
16:00-16:20	Coffee break
16:20-17:20	<b>Experience in managing emergencies when hazardous substances affect waters</b> – Technical experts
17:20-18:00	<b>Experience in managing emergencies when hazardous substances affect waters</b> – Representatives of three countries
18:00	<b>Closing of the first day</b>
20:00	Dinner

ANNEX I

***Kick off meeting - DAY 2***

**9:30 – 13:00**

**Session III - Technical and organizational aspects**

9:30-10:15

**Preparations for the technical workshop** – Plenary discussion moderated by technical expert

10:15-11:00

**Discussion on interim steps and tasks to be undertaken by three countries prior to the technical workshop** – Plenary discussion moderated by technical expert

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

11:30-12:40

**Discussion on interim steps and tasks to be undertaken by three countries prior to the technical workshop** – continuation of the plenary discussion

12:40-13:00

**Wrap-up and closing of the meeting**

13:00 -14:30

Lunch

## ANNEX II

### List with issues for consideration when preparing for the kick-off meeting

1. Hazardous activities located in the vicinity of the Danube basin with the potential of affecting the river in case of accident (spill of hazardous substance)
2. Type/kind and quantities of hazardous substances handled, stored or produced at those hazardous activities
3. Measured (if existing) average and seasonal flow rate and speed at Danube river
4. National/regional/local authorities involved in emergencies management at the Danube river
5. Equipment available for addressing emergency situations in case of a spill of hazardous substance into the Danube river
6. Notification/communication systems in use during the emergency management

### Tables on project phases

<b>TECHNICAL WORKSHOP</b>	
Provisional date	e.g. week 26: 22-26 June 2009
Host country	one of the project countries: Bulgaria, Romania or Serbia
Duration	2-3 days
Detailed objectives	For discussion [current procedures for emergency preparedness, analysis of approaches to crisis management, preparation for in-field exercise] .....
Participants	For discussion [Representatives of all authorities responsible for emergency management at a river basin should be involved] .....

<b>IN-FIELD EXERCISE</b>	
Provisional date	e.g. week 39: 21-25 September 2009
Host country	Initiation of the exercise in the transboundary area by one to the project countries: Bulgaria, Romania or Serbia
Duration	1 day exercise, 1 day feedback on the exercise, identification of data for analysis
Detailed objectives	For discussion [conduct of an in-field exercise according to the agreed scenario, experts feedback on the exercise] .....
Participants	For discussion [Representatives of all authorities responsible for emergency management at river basin should be involved] .....

ANNEX II

<b>WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE RESULT OF THE PROJECT</b>	
Provisional date	e.g. week 44 – 26-30 October 2009
Host country	one to the project countries: Bulgaria, Romania or Serbia
Duration	2-3 days
Detailed objectives	For discussion [discuss the analysed data, sharing of experience with other Assistance Programme countries, definition of the way forward, drawing up of the blueprints] .....
Participants	For discussion [Representatives of all authorities responsible for emergency management at river basin should be involved, observer countries] .....