



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR
EUROPE**



**Ministry for the Environment
Land and Sea**

TEIA/Danube project/3
ICARO

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

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**

Phase I – technical workshop

Drobeta Turnu Severin, 16-18 June 2009

INFORMATION NOTICE

Introduction

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 Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, main donor for the project, organized together with the secretariat and Romania¹ the project's kick-off meeting in March 2009. At this meeting the three partner countries confirmed that they share the need for further strengthening and optimizing the emergency procedures especially in view of their cooperation in a transboundary context. They also confirmed the wish of discussing in details and comparing their crisis management procedures, holding a joint in field exercise and drawing conclusion on the way forward in crisis management and possibly drawing some blueprints for up-to-date organization of emergency preparedness. In this context they decided on three project phases: (a) a technical workshop, (b) an in-field exercise and (c) a final workshop.
3. This note provides information on the theme, organization of work and logistics for the phase one of the project – the technical workshop. It will be held under the auspices of the

¹ Ministry of Environment and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations within the Ministry of Administration and Interior

UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents within the framework of the Assistance Programme and according to the mandate pursuant to a decision made by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Geneva, 25–26 November 2008; ECE/CP.TEIA/19, paras. 50 (c)(iii) and 78 (i)).

I. OBJECTIVES

4. The objectives of the technical workshop are:

(a) To discuss the similarities and differences in crisis management procedures between the partner countries, and

(b) To develop a general scenario to be used in the in-field exercise.

II. DATES AND VENUE

5. The technical workshop will take place from 16 to 18 June 2009 in Drobeta Turnu Severin, at the following address:

Hotel Flora
Calea Timisoarei Nr: 179
Drobeta Turnu Severin
Judetul Mehedinti

6. The workshop will start at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 16 June. Participants are therefore recommended to arrive the evening before. The workshop will be concluded at 2 p.m. on Thursday, 18 June to allow afternoon departure from Drobeta Turnu Severin.

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The workshop will consist of two main sessions:

Session I will focus on procedures for managing emergencies having effects on the Danube River. The experts from partner countries will be invited to present national procedures in place for:

(a) Notification of emergencies;

(b) Management of emergencies in particular: measures for containment and mitigation, prevention of downstream water intakes, measures for restoration and clean-up; and

(c) Modeling of consequences.

The specific information that should be included in the presentations was listed in the background document for the preparation of the technical workshop. The presentations will be followed by the discussion aimed at working-out an understating between experts on the differences and similarities in the procedures.

Session II will be devoted to the elaboration of the general scenario for the in-field exercise organized in the second phase of the project. The session will start with a presentation of a draft scenario, and continue with work in groups to elaborate and agree on specific scenario's modules (notification, management, modeling). The involvement of each partner countries response forces in the exercise and the relevant preparations to be conducted by each side prior to the exercise will be also discussed.

8. The workshop will be concluded with a presentation on the elaborated and agreed scenario for the in-field exercise and a summary on the differences in procedures for emergencies management.
9. A detailed programme will be disseminated to participants at a later date, well before the workshop.

IV. WORKING LANGUAGES

10. The workshop will be conducted in English with interpretation into Bulgarian, Romanian and Serbian languages.

V. PARTICIPATION

11. The workshop should be attended by experts representing all authorities at national level from each of the partner countries involved into emergencies affecting water, and representatives of local level authorities from the border region in which the exercise is to be performed. The total number of representatives from each country should preferably not exceed 10.
12. Financial support will be available for partner countries, if requested, to cover the transportation expenses. Accommodation and meals will be provided to registered participants free of charge during the workshop.

VI. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

13. Each nominated participant should complete a registration form and return it to the Romanian organizers and the UNECE secretariat at the addresses indicated on the registration form as soon as possible, **but not later than 29 May 2009**.

VII. HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

14. Accommodation will be provided to registered participants at the Hotel Flora on the basis of the information contained in the registration form. A registration desk at the meeting venue will be open to assist participants on Tuesday, 16 June from 8.30 a.m.

VIII. VISAS

15. Participants requiring an entry visa should contact the nearest diplomatic representation of Romania.

16. To facilitate the process of obtaining visa, the Romanian organizers will provide, upon request, a personal invitation letter to participants requiring visas.
