



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



**Ministry for the Environment
Land and Sea**

TEIA/Danube project/10

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 III – final workshop

Sofia, 17-18 November 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: (I) a technical workshop, (II) an in-field exercise and (III) a final workshop.

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

3. The technical workshop was hosted by Romania in Drobeta-Turnu Severin on 16-18 June 2009. The meeting led to the exchange of information on management procedures between the three project countries and to the elaboration of a scenario for the in-field exercise. The exercise took place on 24 September 2009 and was followed by a workshop devoted to a quick exercise evaluation held on 25 September in Negotin, Serbia. Following these events, the partner countries continued a detailed analysis of data obtained in the exercise, as well as started preparing blueprints for improved crisis management, based on lessons learnt from the exercise.

4. This note provides information on the theme, organization of work and logistics for the final workshop.

I. OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the final workshop are:

- (a) To discuss the detailed analysis carried out after the exercise,
- (b) To present draft blueprints for improving the crisis management based on lessons learnt and conclusions from the exercise, and
- (c) To share the results of the project with other countries, beneficiaries of the Convention's Assistance Programme.

II. DATES AND VENUE

6. The workshop will be held on 17-18 November in Sofia, respectively from 2:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the following address:

Park Hotel Vitosha
1, Rosario Str, Sofia, 1000

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

7. The workshop will consist of three main sessions:

Session I will be devoted to presentations by Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia and discussion on conclusions from detailed data analysis from the exercise;

Session II will include presentations and discussion on the draft blueprints under development of Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia aimed at improving crisis management;

Session III will focus on sharing and discussing the results and lessons learnt from the project with other countries beneficiaries of the Assistance Programme interested in improving their own crisis management.

8. A detailed programme for the workshop is attached.

IV. WORKING LANGUAGES

9. The workshop will be conducted in English and Russian.

V. PARTICIPATION

10. Each project partner country (Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia) should attend the workshop with project coordinators representing all institutions involved in the project. The maximum number of participants per country should not exceed 10 persons.

11. The workshop is also open to representatives of authorities responsible for crisis management on waters from other countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (EECCA) and South Eastern Europe (SEE), beneficiaries of the Convention's Assistance Programme, who can demonstrate through their countries' action plans current interests in improving the crisis management and would like to learn and discuss the Danube project results.

12. Financial support will be available for representatives from project partner countries, as well as from other EECCA and SEE countries.

VI. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

13. Each nominated participant should complete a registration form and return it to the Bulgarian organizers and the UNECE secretariat at the addresses indicated on the registration form as soon as possible, but **not later than 26 October 2009**.

14. Experts willing to receive financial support should also complete a financial support request form and return it to the secretariat together with the registration form. Experts from other EECCA and SEE countries should also attach a copy of the action plan demonstrating the current interest of their country in the subject of improving crisis management.

VII. ARRIVAL OF PARTICIPANTS, TRANSPORT AND HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

15. Participants should arrive, if possible, in the morning of 17 November to Sofia. Accommodation will be reserved for them at Park Hotel Vitosha by Bulgarian organizers on the basis of information provided in the registration form. The costs for the hotel are estimated at 60 Euro per room per night.

16. The Ministry of Environment and Water of Bulgaria can, at a request, arrange the transfer from the airport. Interested participants should contact the Ministry well in advance of the workshop by e-mail: nsavov@moew.government.bg

VIII. VISA

17. Participants requiring a Bulgarian entry visa should contact the nearest consular service of Bulgaria. Upon request, at e-mail nsavov@moew.government.bg, participants will receive a personal invitation letter to facilitate the process of obtaining visa.

IX. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

18. Additional information can be obtained from Mr. Nikolay Savov, e-mail: nsavov@moew.government.bg, tel. +359 294 060 19, mobile +359 888 570 473

Annex

Workshop – Tuesday 17 November

14:00-14:30	Opening
14:00-14:10	Welcoming statement by the representative of the host country
14:10-14:20	Welcoming statement by the chairperson of the Conference of the Parties
14:20-14:30	Welcoming statement by the representative of Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
14:30-17:30	SESSION I – Results of the detailed analysis of the exercise in the areas of notification, emergency management and modelling
14:30-15:00	Report from Bulgaria
15:00-15:30	Report from Romania
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00 -16:30	Report from Serbia
16:30-17:30	Questions and answers – moderator Mr. Bruno Frattini, ICARO
17:30	Closing of the first day
19:00	Dinner

Wednesday – 18 November

9:30	Opening of the second day
9:30-12:30	SESSION II – Draft blueprints for improving crisis management, way forward
9:30-10:00	Draft blueprint and way forward of Serbia
10:00-10:30	Draft blueprint and way forward of Romania

10:30-11:00	Draft blueprint and way forward of Bulgaria
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-12:30	Questions and answers – moderator Mr. Neil Manning, ICARO
12:30-14:00	Lunch
14:00-17:30	SESSION III – Lessons learnt from the project – sharing of experience
14:00-15:00	Danube project and its achievements – Mr. Neil Manning, ICARO
15:00-16:00	Questions and answers to the project by representatives of other EECCA and SEE countries – moderator Mr. Bruno Frattini, ICARO
16:00-16:30	Coffee break
16:30-17:00	Way forward for countries of EECCA and SEE to host similar projects – Mr. Lukasz Wyrowski, secretariat
17:00-17:30	Wrap-up and closing statements
17:30	Closing of the workshop
19:00	Dinner
