

Presented by:


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Setting the scene: the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the European Union policy goals and legislation

EU Members of the Convention's Bureau
and the European Commission

Awareness-raising meeting on the Industrial Accidents
Convention and linkages with EU policy and legislation,
28 September 2022



Overview and key messages

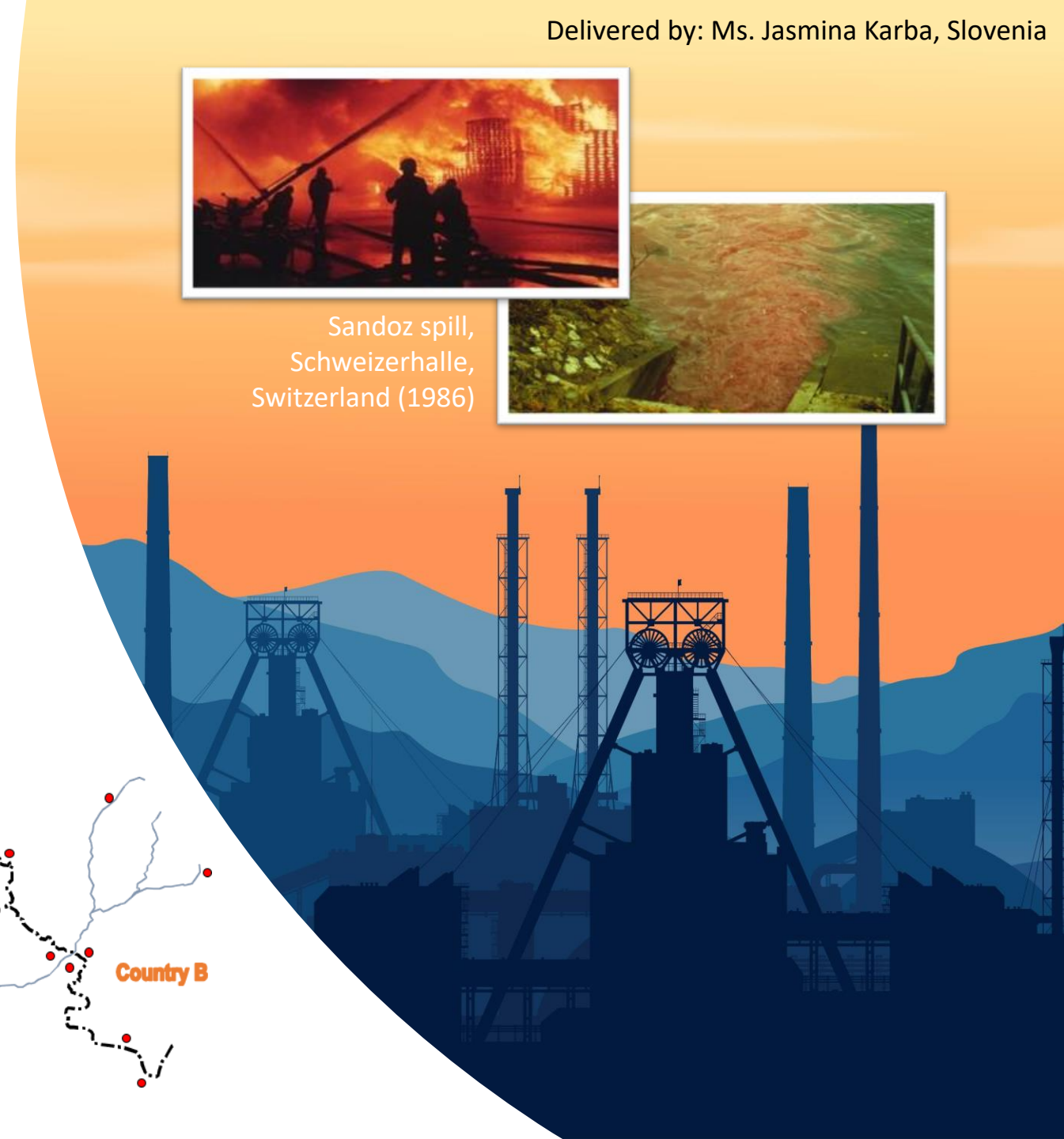
- Industrial Accidents Convention: approaches, tools and vision
- Strong alignment with EU policy and legislation
- Convention addresses issues of interest for the EU and its MS:
 - Land-use planning
 - Follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion
 - Natech (natural-hazard triggered technological events)
- Opportunities for enhancing cooperation between EU and UNECE

UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention

- Negotiated following the Sandoz chemical accident at Schweizerhalle in 1986
- Adopted in 1992, in force since 2000
- 42 Parties (on 4 October 2022) in the UNECE region, incl. EU and 25 of its MS
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing, preparing for and responding to accidents
- Covers Natech (natural-hazard triggered technological events)
- Focus on transboundary cooperation



Sandoz spill,
Schweizerhalle,
Switzerland (1986)





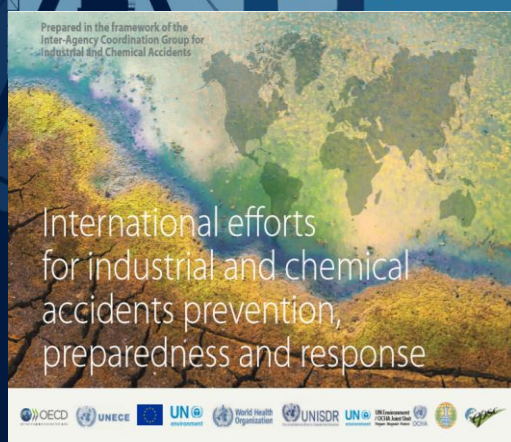
Risk assessment seminar at CoP-10 in Geneva, 2018



Subregional workshop on industrial safety for Central Asia, Almaty, 2018



Seminar on land-use planning in Mechelen, 2018

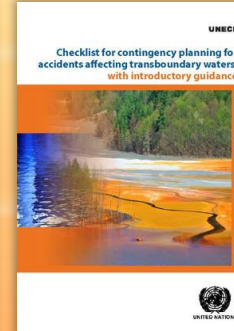
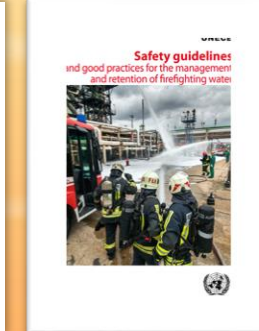
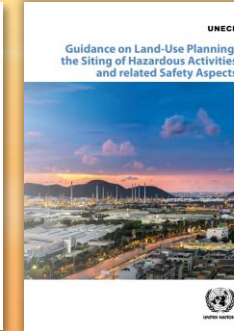
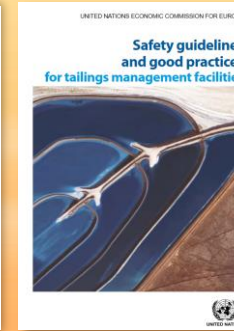
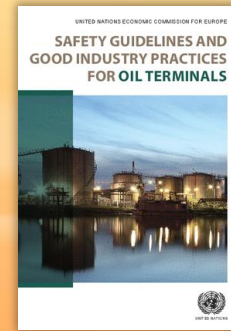


Approaches

- **Inclusive policy forum**
- **Intergovernmental approach** (Conference of the Parties, Working Group on Implementation → implementation reporting)
- **Expert networks**, e.g. Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents
- **Exchange of information among all Parties**
 - Land-use planning and industrial safety
 - Risk assessment
 - Natech, climate-change impacts
- **Capacity development**
 - Sub-regional projects and workshops
 - National capacity-development to strengthen governance, e.g. National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety
- **Strategic partnerships**

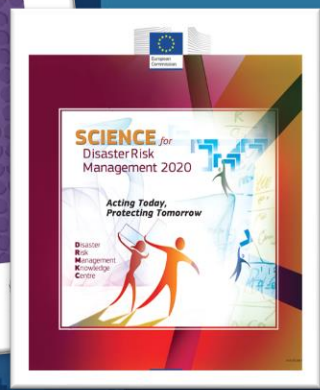
Tools

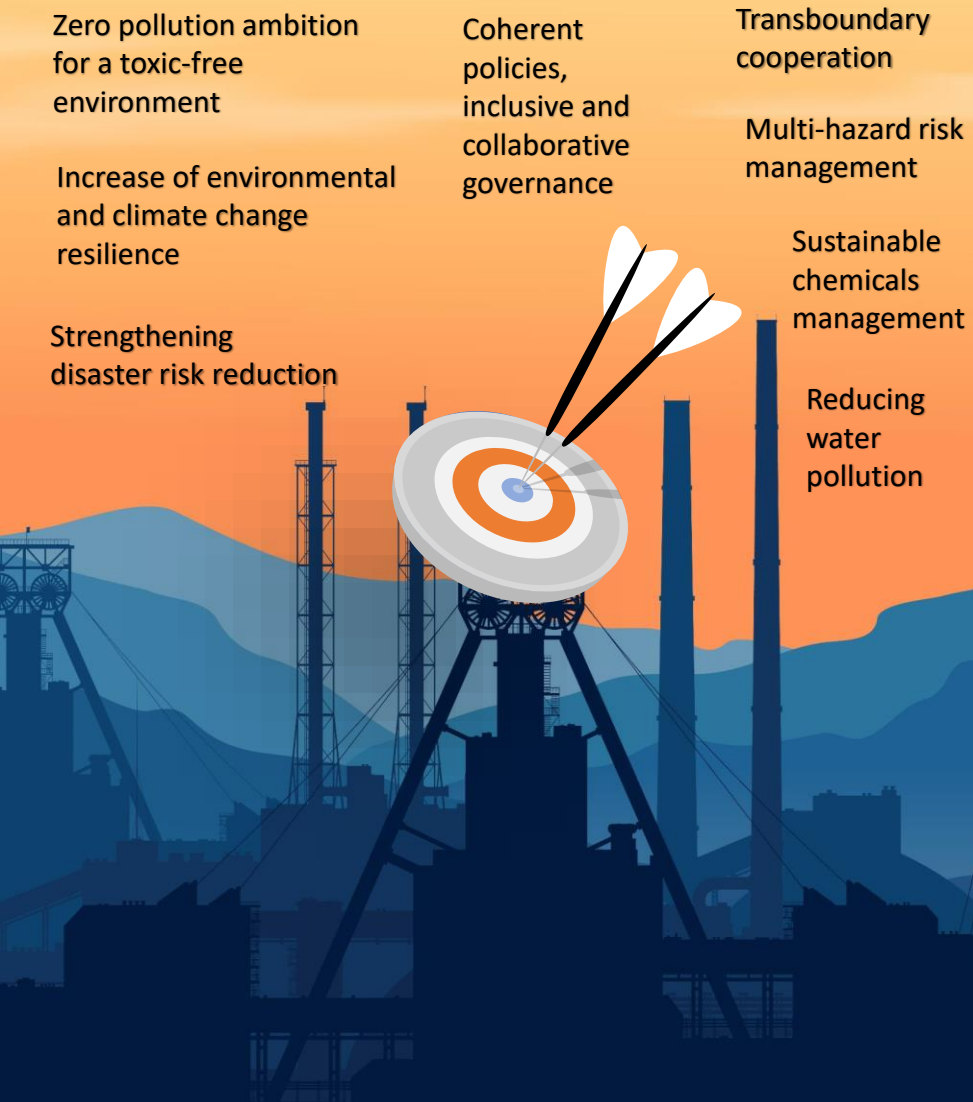
- **Safety Guidelines, good industry practices and checklists**
- **Policy documents**, e.g. “Road map for action to strengthen mine tailings safety in the UNECE region and beyond” in response to EU’s request to prepare an orientation paper at CoP-11
- **Assistance and Cooperation Programme:**
 - **The Strategic Approach:** helps countries to identify priority needs and steps to enhance their industrial safety
 - **National self-assessments**
 - **National action plans**



Vision until 2030

- Legal instrument for risk reduction under the Sendai Framework
- Support SDG implementation
- Increase industrial safety and reduce the risk of technological disasters by ensuring the Convention's full implementation
- Example for prevention of and preparedness for industrial accidents through transboundary cooperation, including beyond the UNECE region





Close linkages between Convention's work and EU strategies and policies

European Green Deal

EU Strategy and Green Agenda for the Western Balkans

European Neighbourhood Policy

EU Strategy on Central Asia

EU - Ukraine Association Agreement

EU Strategy for the Danube Region



Linkages with Seveso III Directive

- **Strong coherence between Convention and Seveso III-Directive**
- **Seveso covers establishments** with lower and **upper-tier** dangerous substances (annex I of Seveso)
→ upper-tier = **hazardous activities** (annex I of the Convention): both annexes aligned
- **Major accident prevention:** policies and measures by competent authorities and operators, incl. risk analyses, **safety reports**, **inspections**
- **Internal (on-site) and external (off-site) emergency plans**
Convention: information-sharing, harmonized or joint off-site plans
- **Land-use planning/siting**
Convention: considers transboundary effects
- **Public information and participation**, incl. transboundary effects
Convention: covers public in the area capable of being affected

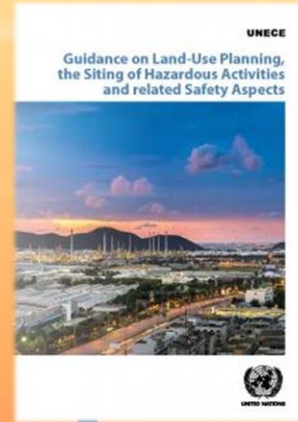


Linkages with UCPM

- Further to 25 EU MS (apart from Ireland and Malta), **Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway and Serbia** are **UCPM PS and Parties** to the Convention
- Even closer linkages, since UCPM addresses cross-border issues increasingly since 2019 and 2021 amendments
- **Risk assessments and management:**
 - **UCPM: RA incl. of key risks having cross-border impacts, and overview of risk management capabilities incl. of disasters with transboundary impacts**
 - Convention: exchange of information on methods used to predict risks, incl. for monitoring and assessment of transboundary effects.
 - Overview of risk assessment methodologies to be presented to CoP-12
 - Information on RA in national implementation reports - can be used for preparation of national RA under UCPM
- **Accident notification systems** (EU's **CECIS/ERCC**, Convention's Industrial Accident Notification System IAN)
- **Mutual assistance:**
 - Among Convention's Parties
 - **UCPM support through ERCC, European Civil Protection Pool, RescEU**

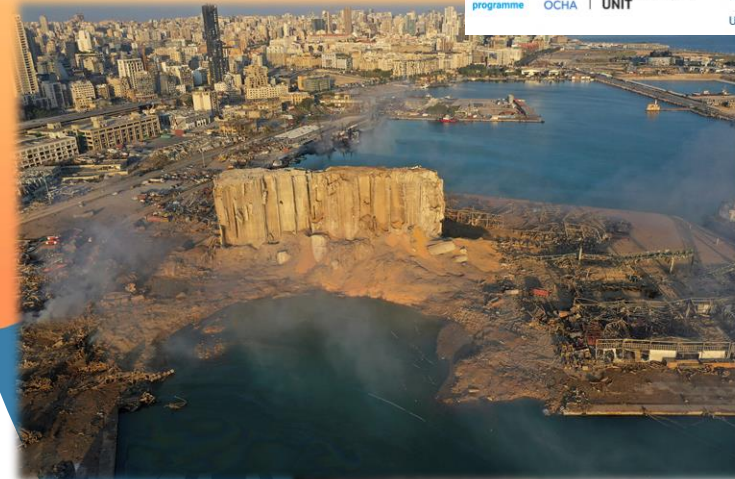
Land-use planning

- **UNECE Guidance on Land-Use Planning, the Siting of Hazardous Activities and related Safety Aspects**, developed in cooperation with UNECE Espoo Convention/Protocol on SEA, Aarhus Convention and Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management
- **UNECE/EIB Information repository on land-use planning and safety**, including good practices and lessons learned, addressing also EIA/SEA, DRR, Natech, public information/participation
- **UNECE Seminar on land-use planning and industry safety** in Mechelen (Belgium, May 2018)
- **UNECE subregional workshops** in South-Eastern Europe (2021), Eastern Europe and the Caucasus (2019) and Central Asia (envisaged in 2023-2024 workplan, subject to funding availability)



UN/OECD Seminar in follow-up to the Beirut port explosion

- Organized following a **proposal by EU** at CoP-11
- Advisory Group comprised, among others, of **experts from EU: Austria (Chair), France, Germany, Latvia, Netherlands, Sweden; EU JRC**
- **Over 500 participants** – national/local policy/decision makers, industry representatives, operators, int. organizations, civil society, academia
- **Shared lessons learned and experience** from Beirut explosion and other accidents involving AN; reviewed **available legal / policy instruments, exchanged good practices** on risk management and accident prevention, preparedness and response
- **Conclusions summarizing existing deficiencies** in transportation, storage and handling of hazardous substances such as AN and AN-based fertilizers **and proposing actions** to remediate them; Hazard potential of AN and AN-based fertilizers still underestimated → requires testing and labelling, training, general awareness-raising and respective tools such as risk assessment and land-use planning
- **Follow-up envisaged in 2023-24:** online webpage page/information repository, information brochure, video (subject to funding availability)



Summary and conclusions of the UN/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion:
Lessons learned, challenges and ways forward

Knut Aasberg
Directorate for Civil Protection (Norway),
Chair of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention's Bureau,
Member of the OECD Working Party on Chemical Accidents

Natural hazard-triggered technological accidents (Natech)

- **Raising policy awareness of Natech** and supports developing guidance in cooperation with OECD
 - **UNECE/OECD Seminar** on effective management of technological risks of accidents triggered by natural hazards at CoP-12 (Geneva and online, 29 November 2022)
 - **Mainstreaming Natech** through dedicated assistance activities and projects, building capacity in the Western Balkans, Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia
 - Continuation of activities in next workplan period 2023-24
- As climate-related natural hazards are increasing in frequency and intensity, **managing Natech risks through prevention, preparedness and emergency response is one of the priorities of the Convention**

Baia Mare, Romania, 2000



Stolice dam, Serbia, 2014



Neratovice, Czechia, 2002

Milford Haven, UK, 1994

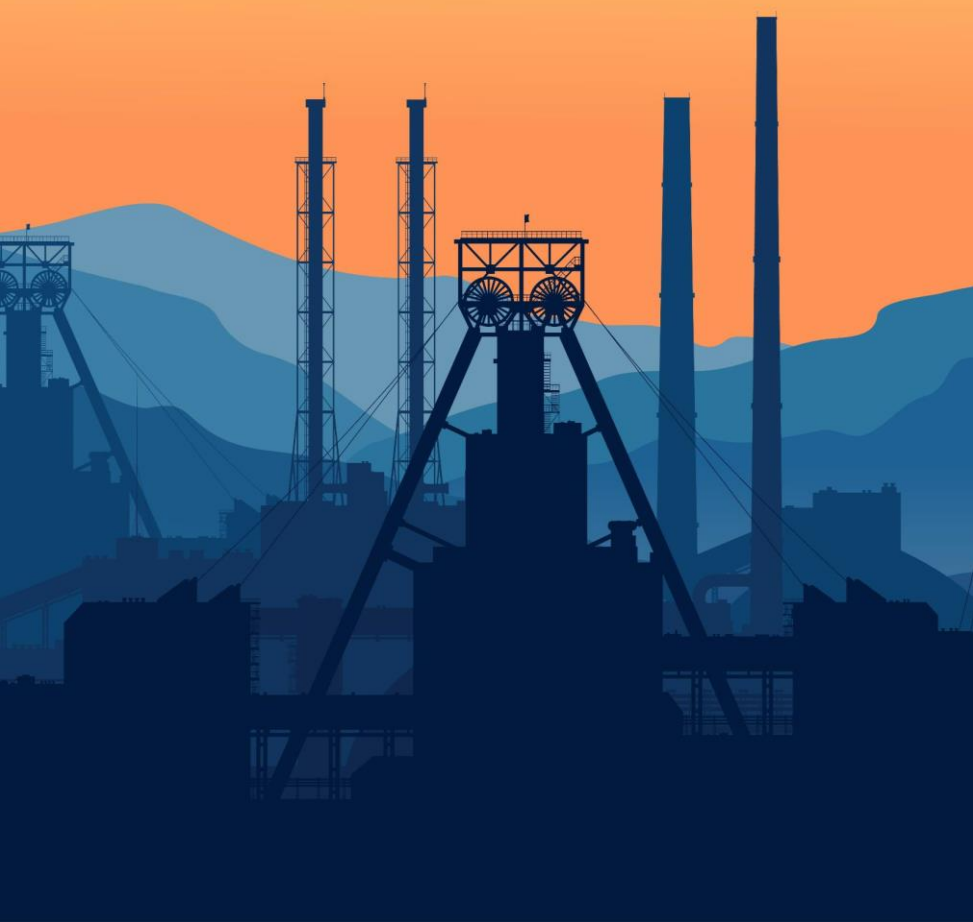


Krasnoyarsk dam, Russia, 2019

Opportunities for enhanced cooperation

- **Capitalizing on linkages to foster realization of common policy objectives and improved implementation** of EU legislation and the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention
- **Support to capacity development** in Western Balkans, Eastern Neighbourhood, and Central Asia
- **Exchange information, good practices and lessons learned within EU MS and beyond:** making use of Convention's seminars/workshops, guidelines/good practices, reports, resources, tools





Thank you for your attention!

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- **UNECE website:** <http://www.unece.org/env/teia.html>