



CURRENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION, SYNERGIES WITH EU POLICY GOALS AND PRIORITIES: *FOCUS ON ASSISTANCE*

Ms. Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE

Ms. Liza Rubach, Manager of the Assistance and Cooperation Programme, Industrial Accidents Convention, UNECE

**Awareness-raising meeting on the Industrial Accidents Convention
28 September 2022**

ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME

➤ **Beneficiary countries of Western Balkans, Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia**

➤ **Established in 2004** to assist countries improve industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response

➤ **High-level commitment declaration in 2005** to pursue implementation and foster progress towards accession

Improved transboundary cooperation, through sub-regional workshops and projects

Strengthened governance, e.g. through National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety (pilot: Serbia) and Inter-institutional Working Groups on Tailings Safety and Prevention of Accidental Water Pollution (Kazakhstan)

Policy review and alignment with the Convention's provisions

Fostering progress towards accession e.g. in countries of Western Balkans, Ukraine, incl. through high-level meetings & targeted assistance

Enhanced implementation of the Convention, through technical meetings in Eastern Neighbourhood, Western Balkans and Central Asia, supporting update of self-assessments and action plans

ADDRESSING COUNTRIES' NEEDS



Better inter-institutional coordination, coherent policymaking on industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response among competent authorities in cooperation with operators and concerned stakeholders



Identification of hazardous activities, including tailings management facilities (TMFs) and their potential transboundary effects



Improved **understanding of disaster risks, incl. climate-related risks**, causing possible Natech events



Development and harmonization of external emergency plans, incl. joint plans across countries and river basins



Stronger transboundary cooperation and information sharing on hazards and risks

SELECTED WORKPLAN ACTIVITIES UNDER ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME 2023-2024

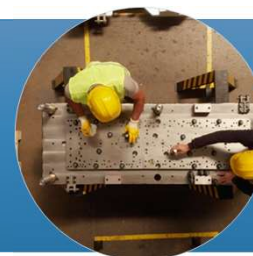
- National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Western Balkans, incl. in Serbia and European Neighbourhood
- Improving understanding and governance of technological risks in Western Balkans
- Strengthening industrial safety, disaster risk governance and management in Ukraine
- Strengthening hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta (Phase II)

Strengthening industrial safety in Western Balkans and Eastern Neighborhood



- NPDs for industrial safety in Central Asia
- Developing joint measures to prevent and respond to pollution in the Syr Darya River basin (Phase II)

Strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia



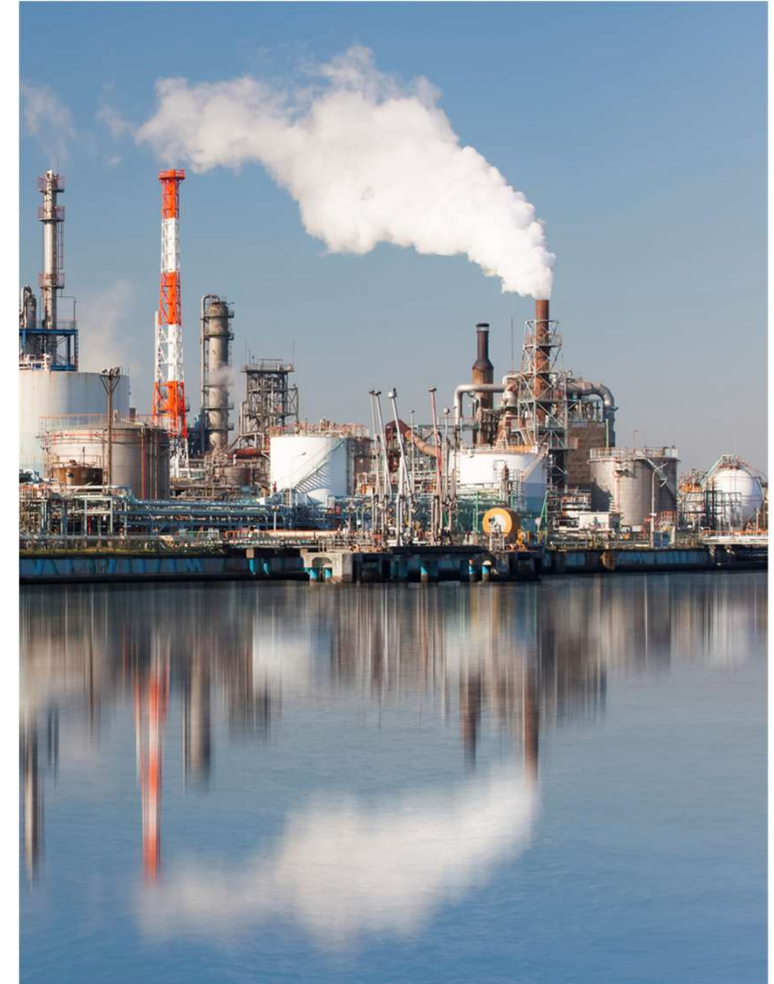
UNECE's activities draw on the **most pressing needs of countries**

communicated through:

- national implementation reports
- national self-assessment and action plans
- national and sub-regional workshops and seminars

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUES FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN WESTERN BALKANS, EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND CENTRAL ASIA

- **Strengthen governance:** Structured process of consultations on industrial safety, disaster risk reduction and related policy areas, involving all relevant institutions
- Structured engagement with operators, stakeholders incl. civil society
- Provide a platform for dialogue **to advance policy reforms**
- Aim to **improve national and transboundary coordination and policy-making**
- **Approach and actions tailored** to specific context and needs identified by beneficiary countries
- Replicates success of «**NPDs on integrated water resources management**» under EU Water Initiative, implemented by UNECE, in cooperation with partners
- **Objective of long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030**





**STRENGTHENING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND
GOVERNANCE IN WESTERN BALKANS**

NATIONAL POLICY DIALOGUE FOR INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN SERBIA

Progress

NPDs in Serbia, with seed funding from France, enabled to:

- **Facilitate policy advancement, through Development of the National Programme on Industrial Safety of Serbia** (ongoing), addressing – among others - needs highlighted in “National Disaster Risk Assessment”
- **Enhance cooperation between national authorities** and other stakeholders through Steering Committee meetings, addressing priority topics
- **Advance alignment with the EU legal and policy instruments** (Seveso-III Directive, UCPM, address gaps identified in 2021 Communication on EU enlargement, Green Agenda for Western Balkans) and **support Serbia’s accession to the EU**

Future needs

- **Development of the Action Plan** for the National Programme on Industrial Safety of Serbia
- **Continued dialogue** through NPD Steering Committee meetings and open stakeholder consultation, addressing priority topics
- **Further targeted support to Serbia based on the pipeline of projects arising from National Programme for Industrial Safety** (recommended by the EU delegation)

Launch of NPDs in the Western Balkans, European Neighborhood and Central Asia desired

IMPROVING UNDERSTANDING AND GOVERNANCE OF TECHNOLOGICAL RISKS IN WESTERN BALKANS



Stolice tailings dam collapse after heavy rain, Serbia, 2014

ACTIVITIES AIM TO:

- **Reinforce implementation of the Convention and EU strategies and legislation**, notably the EU Green Agenda for the Western Balkans, Western Balkan strategy, EU Economic and Investment Plan, Seveso-III Directive, UCPM
- **Improve knowledge and management of multi-hazards and risks**
- **Enhanced governance and policy making** among authorities with involvement of operations and stakeholders
- **Better prevention and mitigation of industrial accidents and transboundary water pollution**

NEEDS:

- **Development of comprehensive register and map of hazardous activities**, incl. mine tailings management facilities (TMFs)
- **Better understanding of multiple hazards and risks** posed by industrial facilities and climate-change related impacts
- **Improved coordination between neighboring and riparian countries**
- Need for **effective prevention and mitigation** of accidental water pollution from industrial hazardous activities

Activity 1: Improve understanding of industrial risks at the regional, national and river-basin levels

Activity 2: Enhance policies and governance to prevent accidental water and air pollution from industrial facilities, manage Natech risks and climate change related impacts

Activity 3: Improve contingency planning at the national and regional level

Activity 4: Improve transboundary cooperation



**DEVELOPING JOINT MEASURES TO PREVENT
AND RESPOND TO POLLUTION IN THE SYR
DARYA RIVER BASIN AND BEYOND IN
CENTRAL ASIA**

DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT MEASURES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO POLLUTION OF THE SYR DARYA RIVER IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS (PHASE I)

- Implemented by UNECE, with support from International Water Assessment Centre (IWAC), with funding from the EU (EU Water Initiative National Water Policy Dialogues (NPDs), in cooperation with WECOOP), and contributions from the Industrial Accidents Convention
- **Timeline: June 2021 - February 2022**

RESULTS

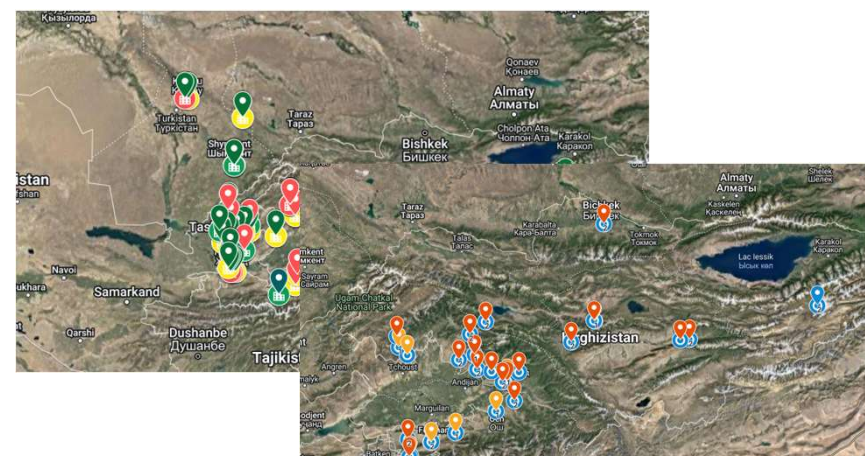
Improved understanding of hazards and disaster risks

Strengthened cooperation and dialogue between countries and national authorities

Recommendations to mitigate water pollution and identification of gaps in national policies and legislation



Beneficiaries: **Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan**



DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT MEASURES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO POLLUTION OF THE SYR DARYA RIVER IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS (PHASE II)

NEEDS:

- **Develop coordinated emergency notification and response measures and plans** to prevent and respond to emergency situations in Syr Darya River Basin
- **Mitigate technological and natural disaster risks – threat of transboundary industrial water pollution** (floods in Syr Darya are happening almost every year)
- **Strengthen national governance and policy**

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:



Strong links with the **Strategy «The EU and CA – Opportunities for a stronger partnership»**, as this project will:

- Propose concrete measures directed towards disaster risk reduction
- Strengthen resilience
- Pursue a regional approach and foster cooperation in the field environment, water and climate change

FIRST TRANSBOUNDARY JOINT CONTINGENCY PLAN IN CENTRAL ASIA WILL:

MITIGATE DISASTER RISKS for **THE ENVIRONMENT AND OVER 24 MILLION PEOPLE** living in the Basin

An aerial photograph of an industrial facility, likely a refinery or chemical plant. The image shows several large, cylindrical storage tanks of varying sizes, interconnected by a complex network of pipes and walkways. There are also several smaller buildings and structures, including a large white cylindrical tank on the right side. The facility is situated near a body of water, with a rocky shoreline visible in the bottom left corner. The overall scene is a detailed view of industrial infrastructure.

**STRENGTHENING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY,
DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE AND
MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE RIVER
BASIN AND IN UKRAINE**

STRENGTHENING HAZARD AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE DELTA

Danube Delta I Project (2010-2015, funded by Germany, Netherlands, Finland) resulted in:

- **Hazard map for the Danube Delta**
- **Recommendations for harmonizing procedures and drafting Joint Contingency Plan**
- **First ever trilateral table-top and field exercise, with evaluation report**
- **Trilateral Declaration of Intent**
“Towards Improved Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta”



Remaining needs by Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine to further strengthen hazards and crisis management:

- **Improve the capacity of civil protection and disaster management authorities at national, regional and local levels to prepare for and respond to industrial accidents, particularly with transboundary effects**
- **Finalize and adopt Joint Contingency Plan**
- **Prepare Trilateral Agreement**



Synergies with the EU Strategy for the Danube Region





STRENGTHENING INDUSTRIAL SAFETY, DISASTER RISK GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT IN UKRAINE TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS CONVENTION

- Even before the war there was considerable potential for industrial safety improvement in Ukraine → **the war greatly exacerbated existing needs and created new ones**
- The Convention can thus support Ukraine through **the following activities:**



PROPOSED ACTIVITIES:

- **National Policy Dialogues** on Industrial Safety, incl. legislation, policies review and recommendations on alignment
- **Capacity-building**, incl. for national authorities & operators
- **Table-top and field exercises and training workshops** in a transboundary context
- **On-site trainings**, e.g. on storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances
- Detailed **needs assessment**

EXPECTED RESULTS:

- Strengthened **governance, policy, legislation and operational capacity** to prevent and prepare for industrial accidents, **enhanced cooperation** among relevant authorities
- Enhanced **transboundary cooperation**
- Enhanced **safety of hazardous facilities** (incl. TMFs, such as in Kalush)
- Raised awareness of **preventing accidental water pollution**

Linkages with: EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, Ukraine's National Recovery Plan, Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment

NB: The Convention enters into force for Ukraine on 4 October 2022



Thank you for your attention!

For more information, please contact:

**Ms. Franziska Hirsch, Secretary to the Industrial Accidents Convention,
franziska.hirsch@un.org**

**Ms. Liza Rubach, Manager of Assistance and Cooperation Programme, Industrial
Accidents Convention, yelyzaveta.rubach@un.org**