

Economic Commission for Europe
Convention on the Transboundary Effects
of Industrial Accidents

Capacity-building activity within the
Assistance Programme

Report of the National training on identification of hazardous
activities

I Introduction

1 The National training session on identification of hazardous activities was held in Chisinau on 9-10 March 2010. It was organized within the framework of the implementation phase of the Assistance Programme for the countries of Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia and South-Eastern Europe pursuant to a decision by the Conference of the Parties at its fifth meeting (Geneva, 25-27 November 2008; ECE/CP.TEIA/19, paras. 50 (c)(iii) and 78 (i)).

2 The Ministry of Environment of Moldova and its Hydrometeorological Service organized the training session.

II Objective

3 The objective of the National training session was to build up the knowledge of national experts and inspectors in the identification of hazardous activities and to promote the creation of a sustainable mechanism for the identification of hazardous activities.

4 The detailed objectives of the National training session provided the participants with the possibility to:

(a) Build up the knowledge base of national experts and inspectors in the identification of hazardous activities,

(b) Facilitate an exchange of good practices regarding the collection, processing and maintenance of information on hazardous activities;

(c) Improve the understanding on how to apply the Convention's annex I and the guidelines on location criteria in identification of hazardous activities; and

(d) Discuss other techniques for identification of hazardous activities like worst-case scenario analysis;

III Participation

5 The National training session was organized for experts from authorities in Moldova, which are responsible for industrial safety in the country. In particular representatives from the following authorities participated to the training session: the Monitoring Department on Environmental Quality of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources; the State Ecological Inspectorate of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, representatives of the

central and of the local level; the Ministry of Economy and Commerce; the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the Standardisation and Metrology Agency, the Technological and Chemical Inspectorate. Mr. Edgar Martin, General Director of the Giurgulesti oil terminal and Mr. Leonid Nicorici Director of the Lafarge Ciment Moldova also participated to the training session. The training session was supported by an expert hired by the secretariat.

IV Opening, welcome address

6 Mr. Gavril Gilca, Head of Monitoring Department on Environmental Quality of the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, welcomed the participants, especially those coming from outside Chisinau, and expressed its gratitude to the UNECE Convention and to the expert for organizing the National training session for the Republic of Moldova.

7 Ms. Virginia Fusé, UNECE secretariat also addressed the participants, expressing satisfaction that the training session could be organized, and wished all the participants a fruitful work for the following two days. She also invited the participants to actively participate to the training session.

V Programme

8 The programme of the training session consisted in four sessions:

9 Session I aimed at providing a general framework on the Convention and its implementation in Moldova. This session was particularly needed since the majority of participants was coming from regional and local authorities, not usually involved in the international work.

10 Session II focused on good practices for the identification of hazardous activities under the Convention. The participants could hear the experience from Bulgaria; they could assess the existing gaps in their country and start to assess which could be the way forward.

11 Session III focused on the tools provided by the Convention for the identification of hazardous activities. In particular, through case studies, participants could see how to apply the guidance of Annex I to the Convention and the location criteria.

12 Session IV aimed at transferring the knowledge of central authorities to local ones on the role of inspections in the identification of hazardous activities.

Findings of the training session

13 From the presentations of the experts from Moldova it was clear that the country had limited experience in the identification of hazardous activities, especially those following under the scope of the Convention. At the time of the meeting in the country there were no procedures for the identification of hazardous activities, nor a clear identification of the responsibility for this.

14 The participants also informed the facilitator and the secretariat that, at the time of the training session, there was a project of law for the identification of hazardous activities and there was the willingness for more cooperation between different authorities. Therefore more authorities would be represented in the working group that elaborates the actions to be taken under the Convention.

15 It was also highlighted that the technical inspectorate and the responsibility for inspections was under the Ministry of Economy. Concerning the legislation it was also said

that there was the need to develop secondary legislation, which would enable to implement the more general legislation already in place.

16 Safety reports are documents from where information on hazardous activities present in the country could be gathered. Although the country had laws on prevention, there was still not a law on safety reports, nor a clear identification of an authority, which should be responsible for it.

17 Additionally, in the country there was still lack of communication between the authorities in charge of activities falling under the Convention, The participants also expressed the interest in the organisation of an integrated system for major hazards prevention to be created in Moldova.

18 The participants highlighted that there should be an improved and enhanced bilateral cooperation with neighbouring countries, a better integration of environmental policies in the country and more guidance for the inspectors in the identification of hazardous activities; participants also added that there was no notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries.

19 The representatives of industrial installations present in the territory informed that they did have advanced preventive measures in the establishments and that they were keeping contacts with the relevant authorities.

20 The facilitator also showed the possibilities that Internet offers freely for the use of resources useful for the use of the Annex I and for the identification of hazardous activities in general.

21 In the questions and answers part, participants were interested in different details of the mode of implementation of the identification of hazardous activities in other countries. In particular they asked questions on the details of the legislation and on the share of responsibilities.

22 For instance the participants asked how detailed should be the legislation and the secondary legislation. In particular for the identification of hazardous activities and the application of the location criteria to assess whether an installation would fall under the Convention or not, a worst-case scenario should be developed. The question could be whether the scenario or main guidance on it should already be given by national legislation or not. In case there would be guidance from the national legislator, there would be fewer differences in the creation of scenarios from installation to installation in the same country.

23 They also asked how where indicated in the national legislation of other countries the responsibilities for the identification of hazardous activities. The facilitator explained the situation of Bulgaria, where in the legislation the tasks for the identification of hazardous activities are listed clearly and the responsibilities identified and allocated. It was also highlighted that the legislation puts clearly the responsibility for the identification of hazardous activities to the operator. The role of the inspectors was to verify the information from the operators and the operators needed to provide the most clear information.

Conclusions

24 The authorities would need to work more together in cooperation between the different authorities involved.

25 It would be useful to develop a legal framework towards an integrated approach, where responsibilities are highlighted towards an integrated approach.

26 It was good to welcome new authorities in the working group for the Convention. The national training session also allowed colleagues from different authorities to work in a closer way and to create a better environment for future cooperation.

27 It would be helpful if good practices from other countries could be presented on the implementation of the Convention; other countries – and not only those participating to the Assistance Programme - could benefit from it.

28 There is need for training and training the other colleagues for implementing what was discussed in the training session.

29 The first outcome of the national training session would be the preparation of national guidelines for the identification of hazardous activities under the Convention. The guidelines should be approved by the Bureau and should serve as a basis for creating a sustainable mechanism for the identification of hazardous activities in the country. The guidelines were to be submitted to the secretariat by 4 June 2010.

VI Closing of the training session

30 The representatives of the Republic of Moldova expressed their satisfaction for the national training session, which gave to the participants the possibility of getting more acquainted with the procedures for the identification of hazardous activities. In particular they appreciated the quality of material prepared by the training facilitator.

31 The participation to the training session also allowed representatives of different authorities at different level to get more familiar to the respective work.

32 The representative of the secretariat felicitated Mr. Gilca and his team for organising the national training session and welcomed the conclusions reached through the discussions. Ms. Fusé also expressed the appreciation of the secretariat for the availability of the country to prepare guidelines on the identification of hazardous activities and expressed her wish that, once ready, the guidelines would be used effectively to implement a sustainable mechanism for the identification of hazardous activities.

32 Mr. Gilca, on behalf of the authorities of the country, closed the national training session.
