UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

Project on National Policy Dialogues for Industrial Safety in Central Asia (Phase I: Launch)
The project aims to strengthen industrial safety in Central Asia, with a particular focus on enhancing inter-institutional coordination through establishing the National Policy Dialogues (NPDs) for Industrial Safety.

The project builds on the successes and aims to respond to countries' needs revealed in implementation of the project on “Strengthening industrial safety in Central Asia through the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents”.

The objective of NDPs is to effectively assist beneficiary countries by providing a platform for dialogue in view of advancing policy reforms and enhancing their environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety.

The main impact of the launch of the NPDs and their implementation will be improved national, regional and trans-boundary coordination, governance arrangements and management of industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response in all Central Asian countries.

Project beneficiaries are all five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

While at the moment of the project’s start (August 2020) Kazakhstan is the only Party to the Convention in Central Asia, all five countries actively benefit from activities implemented under the Convention's flagship Assistance and Cooperation Programme.

The main target audience are government officials from national competent and other relevant state authorities. Representatives of local authorities, NGOs, academia and civil society might be invited to contribute to certain activities.

Finally, local communities and populations will benefit from the project as a result of increased industrial safety, information sharing and better industrial accident prevention and preparedness.
The project is planned to be implemented from August 2020 - December 2021.

Key project activities include:

- Outreach missions and consultations with governments of beneficiary countries with subsequent signature of agreement on the establishment of NPDs;
- Advisory services on reviewing national policies and legislation, in view of alignment with the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and national legal requirements, and other related policy areas (including disaster risk reduction) in all beneficiary countries.

Expected outcomes of the project are:

- Strengthened expert and administrative capacities of all five Central Asian countries in industrial safety;
- NPDs launched, involving state authorities responsible for industrial safety, environment, internal affairs, civil defense, emergency situations and others, as well as local authorities, industries and other stakeholders;
- Harmonized understanding of technological disaster risk and enhanced industrial safety in the beneficiary countries as a result of provided advisory services;
- Beneficial conditions for human health and the environment for local communities and populations of the beneficiary countries in view of the increased levels of industrial safety, information sharing and improved disaster risk reduction, industrial accident prevention and preparedness.

The project seeks to support beneficiary countries in achieving relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Notably, it will assist the countries in achieving relevant targets under SDGs 3, 6, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 16.

Furthermore, the Project will contribute to achieving the objectives and four priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, notably:

1. Understanding disaster risk
2. Strengthening disaster risk governance to manage disaster risk
3. Investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience
4. Enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response.