

Conclusions of the Danube Delta Project

Final workshop of the Project
on improving hazard and crisis management in
the Danube Delta
Bucharest, 20–21 October 2015

Results of the project

In the area of both hazard and crisis management:

- ▶ Enhanced cooperation on hazard and crisis management between competent authorities and operators of major industrial facilities in the Danube Delta.
- ▶ Improved understanding of the existing legal and regulatory framework for hazard and crisis management.
- ▶ Identification of areas for improvement and priority actions through a comparative analysis of regulatory frameworks, providing the basis for enhancing and harmonizing those frameworks.
- ▶ Preparation of a draft trilateral agreement on cooperation related to industrial pollution crisis and hazard management in the Danube Delta region.

Results of the project

In the area of both hazard and crisis management:

- ▶ Negotiation of a Declaration of Intention “Towards Improved Hazard and Crisis Management in the Danube Delta”, to be signed by the Ministers of Environment of the Republic of Moldova and Romania and the State Secretary of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Romania during the final workshop of the UNECE Danube Delta project*.
- ▶ Increased public awareness about the importance of hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta through contacts with the media and the publishing of relevant information through the United Nations news channels.

* It is expected that Ukraine will sign the declaration at a later date in 2015. The Declaration will enter into force upon signature of the Minister of Ecology and Natural Resources of Ukraine.

Results of the project

In the area of hazard management:

- ▶ Improved awareness of national approaches and international good practices in hazard management, acquired during the technical workshop on hazard management (Chisinau, 12–13 July 2011) and the hazard management segment of the hazard and crisis management week (Chisinau, 23–26 March 2015), which provide the basis for the development of action plans for improving hazard management.
- ▶ Training of inspectors in enforcing safety, through joint visits that took place in Galati, Romania and Giurgiulesti, Republic of Moldova (27–29 September 2011) and in Odessa, Ukraine (24 September 2013).

Results of the project

In the area of hazard management:

- ▶ Establishment of a harmonized hazard spots map of the Danube Delta region.
- ▶ Efforts to harmonize the safety standards at the major hazardous facilities located in the Danube Delta, notably oil terminals, through a workshop on safety guidelines (September 2013) and the development of *Safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals* by an international expert group, in cooperation with local operators and competent authorities.

Results of the project

In the area of crisis management:

- ▶ Enhanced knowledge and information exchange on national procedures for contingency planning and response to industrial accidents with transboundary effects during a technical workshop on crisis management (Chisinau, 13–14 December 2011) and the crisis management segment of the hazard and crisis management week (Chisinau, 23–26 March 2015).
- ▶ Identification of areas for closer cooperation in case of an emergency (i.e., warning, notification and response actions) and for coordinated action when requesting and receiving assistance, in particular in the event of a major oil spill in the Danube Delta.

Results of the project

In the area of crisis management:

- ▶ Review of the compatibility of off-site emergency plans and development of the first draft trilateral joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta, tested and subsequently improved during table-top and field exercises in March and September 2015, between the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.
- ▶ Improved response capacities through the conduct of the first ever trilateral field exercise in the Danube Delta (Giurgiulesti, 1-3 September 2015) and subsequent preparation of an evaluation report with findings and recommendations for improvements, serving as a basis for the drafting of action plans for the improvement of crisis management.

International commitments

The project supported the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in implementing existing international commitments and making progress towards future ones, notably by:

- ▶ Strengthening the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes, to which the three countries are Parties, notably with regard to the prevention of accidents and contingency planning.
- ▶ Strengthening the implementation of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Use of the River Danube with regard to regional cooperation on transboundary water management, including the handling of substances hazardous to water.

International commitments

- ▶ Supporting the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents with regard to joint contingency planning, preparedness, response and mutual assistance, and the commitments set out in the High-level commitment declaration on the Convention's Assistance Programme adopted by the three countries in 2005.
- ▶ Supporting the implementation of other relevant instruments, including those of the European Union
- ▶ Facilitating progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

The way forward

- ▶ Maintain political momentum towards the signing of the high-level Declaration of Intent “Towards Strengthening Hazard and Crisis Management” by Ukraine in 2015 .
- ▶ Finalize the draft Joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta by the end of 2016.
- ▶ Negotiate the update by the end of 2017 the Agreement on cooperation in the Danube Delta and the Lower River Prut nature protected areas between the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania, signed in June 2000, in order to include provisions specifically aimed at the prevention of, preparedness for and response to industrial accidents capable of causing transboundary effects.