

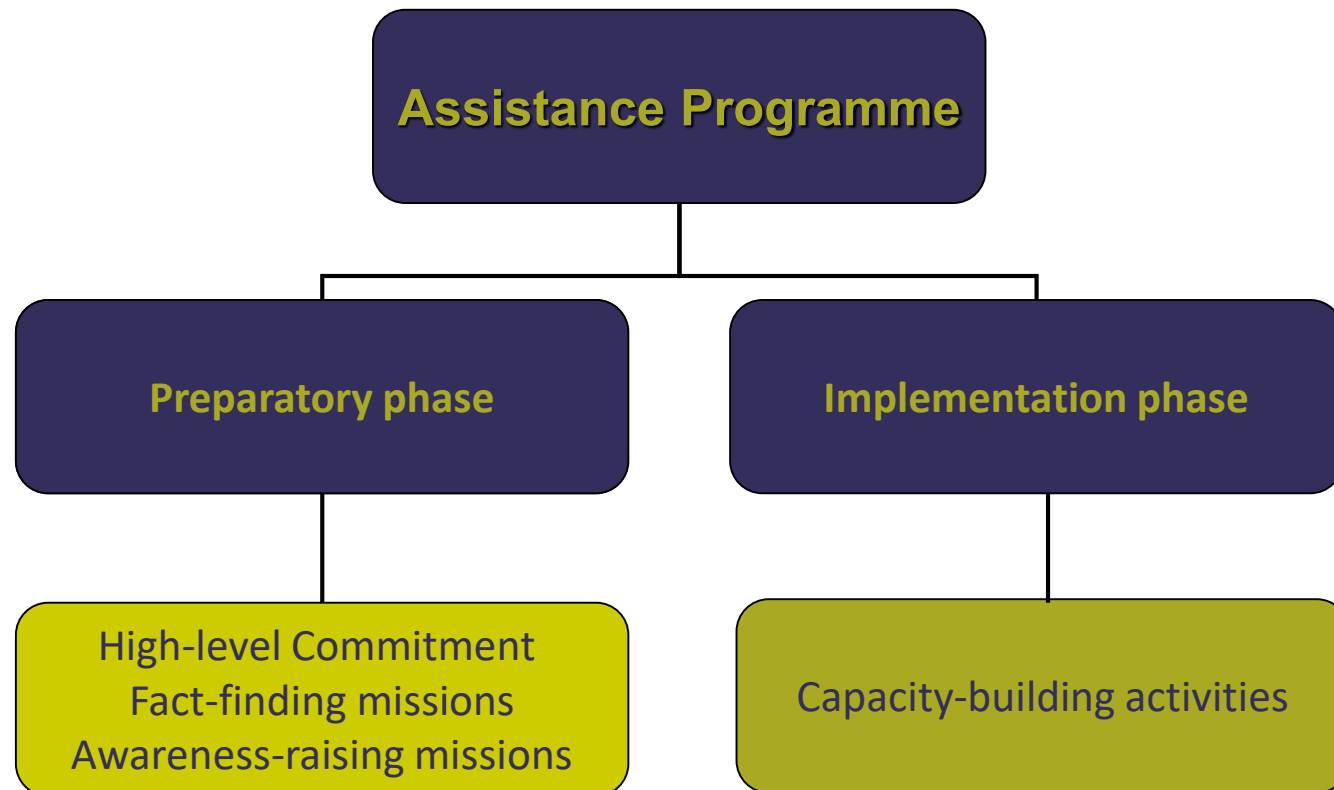
Item 11 (a) Progress report on activities under the Assistance Programme and other assistance activities carried out in 2017–2018

Yelyzaveta Rubach, UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention
secretariat

Geneva, 6 December 2018

The Assistance Programme

- Established in 2004
- **Aim:** To assist countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to address the challenges in implementing the Convention



**Key outcomes and achievements of the
activities carried out under the Assistance
Programme during the biennium
2017–2018**

2017 subregional workshops on industrial accident prevention: chemicals management, identification and notification of industrial hazardous activities



Zagreb, February 2017



Minsk, April 2017

Key conclusions from the two subregional workshops held in 2017

- Need to **benefit from experiences of other countries** and importance of **subregional workshops** as the opportunity to consult experts from other countries were highlighted
- Need to have **contingency plans for industrial accidents** in place and **increase collaboration with neighbouring countries and with industry** that has installations close to borders
- Countries should **benefit from the Convention's Assistance Programme** and **finalize their work on self-assessments and national action plans**
- Countries face a need to **improve coordination between various competent authorities at the national level**
- Countries do not have mechanisms for **consultation with neighbouring countries**
- Countries requested having a simple **guide, a template for and a training on the notification of hazardous activities**
- **Linkages between the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention and the Seveso III Directive** are important for countries wishing to integrate with the European Union
- **Participants emphasized a need to consult each other**, in particular when working on determining potential transboundary effects of hazardous activities, e.g. through an online platform
- Countries should **exchange information and share best practices** on potential transboundary effects arising from their hazardous activities

Project on Strengthening Industrial Safety in Central Asia



Project Objectives

To strengthen the implementation of and accession to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in Central Asia through, in particular:

- Increasing **understanding of the key requirements** of the Convention in the beneficiary countries
- **Enhancing capacities** of the beneficiary countries **for assessment of industrial safety** and **the development of national action plans** towards the implementation of and accession to the Convention

Project Beneficiaries:



Funded by the Russian Federation

Key Project Activities

DATE	ACTIVITY
November 2016	Launch of the Project at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in Ljubljana
May 2017	National Expert Group Meeting in Kyrgyzstan
June 2017	National Expert Group Meeting in Kazakhstan
January 2018	National Expert Group Meeting in Turkmenistan
February 2018	National Expert Group Meeting in Uzbekistan
March 2018	National Expert Group Meeting in Tajikistan
September 2017 – December 2018	Preparation of the Guide on the Key Requirements of the Convention for Central Asia
September 2018	Final subregional workshop at the Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction, Almaty, Kazakhstan
September 2018 – January 2019	Project Evaluation

Key Project Conclusions

National experts from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan **accomplished all activities** envisaged by the Project in each of their countries, notably:

- the holding of one **National Expert Group Meeting** in each of the five beneficiary countries
- the preparation and finalization of **self-assessments** in each of the five countries containing an analysis of the level of implementation of the Convention
- the preparation and finalization of **national action plans**, setting out actions for those working areas in which countries face challenges with clear identification of authorities responsible and timing foreseen for their implementation
- the participation in and contribution to the **subregional workshop** allowing for exchange of knowledge, experience and best practices in the area of industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response, the conduct of initial consultations and enhancing transboundary cooperation in Central Asia

Furthermore, in addition to the foreseen expected accomplishments, as a result of the Project implementation, **all Central Asian countries appointed:**

- one or several **competent authority or authorities** for the implementation of the Convention
- a national **focal point** under the Industrial Accidents Convention
- four out of five countries, notably Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan designated a **Point of Contact for the Industrial Accidents Notification System**

High-level mission to Ukraine, 18-19 April 2018



Main Findings and Outcomes:

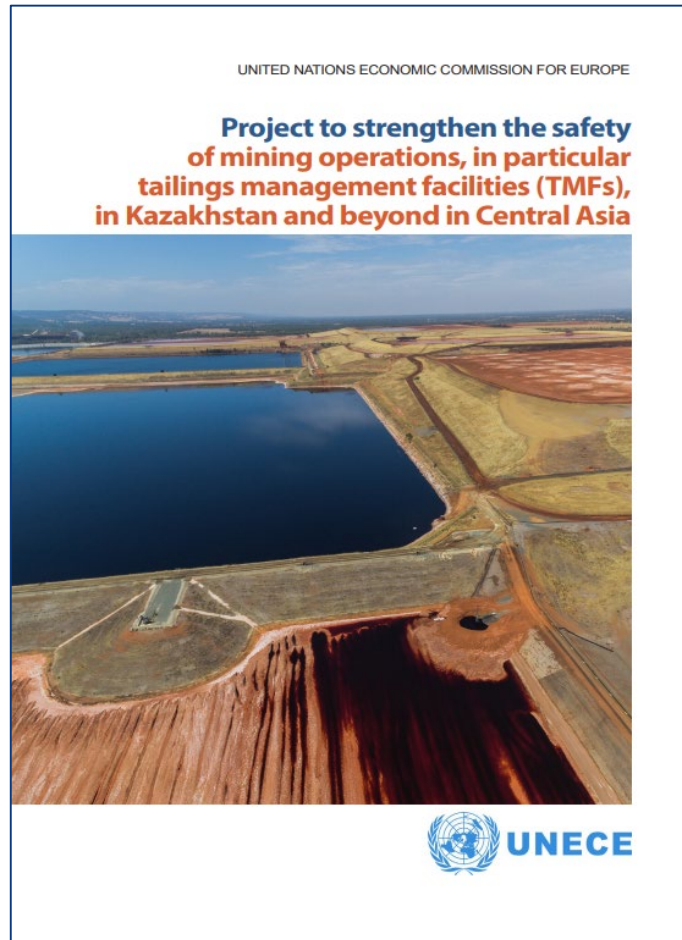
- **Ukraine is not yet a Party to the Convention.** At the same time it acceded to all other UNECE multilateral environmental agreements
- As a representative of the State Emergency Service concluded, “**Ukraine desperately needs to accede to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention**”
- **Ukraine** was host to a fact-finding mission within the Convention’s assistance programme in 2006 and since then **has benefited from over a dozen assistance activities**
- Ukraine needs to **designate competent authority(-ies)** under the Convention, **and focal point(s)**
- **Acceding to the Convention will help Ukraine to approximate to EU industrial safety and environmental protection standards**, in view of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement

Pilot project to strengthen the safety of mining operations, in particular tailings management facilities (TMFs), in Kazakhstan and beyond in Central Asia



UNECE pilot project on improving mining / tailings safety in Kazakhstan and beyond

Objective: Strengthen the management and safety of tailings facilities



Main project beneficiary is Kazakhstan and its competent authorities and operators.

Other Central Asian countries will also benefit by participating in specific activities, e.g. the subregional workshop.

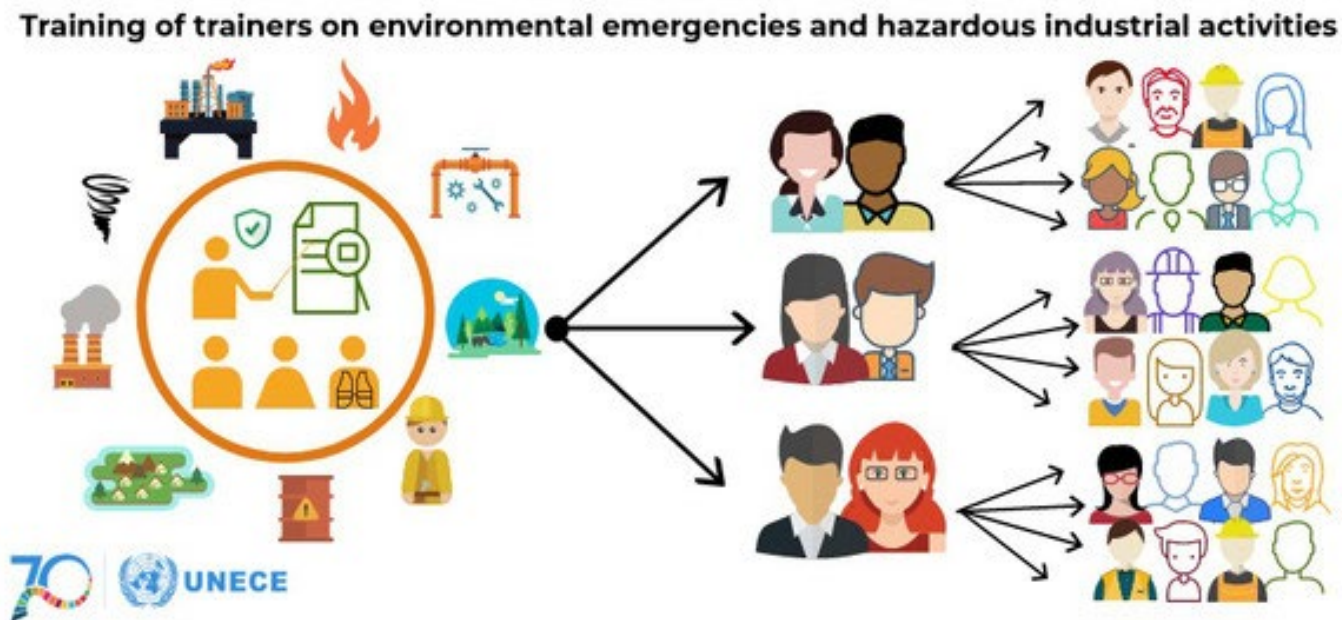
The project is being implemented with the generous support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (end-2017-end-2019).

Project timeline and activities

Dates	Activities
7-8 Nov 2018 (Astana)	Project inception workshop Establishment of inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and water management
Winter 2018	Preparation of a hazard rating list and map for TMFs in Kazakhstan, incl. those causing transb. water pollution Initiation of work of the inter-institutional working group on tailings safety and water management
Spring 2019 (venue tbd)	TMF site visit in Kazakhstan, combined with practical training session, resulting in the development of specific short-, medium- and long-term safety measures
Autumn 2019 (venue tbd)	Subregional workshop to present the project results, share lessons learned / experiences with Central Asian countries

Training of trainers in Central Asia on environmental emergencies and hazardous industrial activities, Almaty, 23-24 October 2017

- Representatives of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and of the Almaty Centre for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR) were trained on the preparedness and response to environmental emergencies, including [industrial/chemical accidents and the application of the Convention](#)
- The newly trained trainers consequently delivered a training applying the methodology and using the materials handed over to them
- More trainings expected in the countries and by the CESDRR



Awareness-raising workshop on the Convention for Kyrgyz-Uzbek delegation, 6 June 2018

Outcomes:

- Awareness on the Convention and its main requirements raised
- Benefits of accession to the Convention and existing opportunities under the Convention's Assistance Programme clarified
- Activities and projects in the Central Asian region presented
- Experiences and knowledge exchanged



From assistance to cooperation

CoP: mandate and decision

The Eighth Conference of the Parties:

- (a) Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme, and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (b) Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among Assistance Programme beneficiary countries;
- (c) Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the preparation of self-assessment and action plans and the submission of project proposals;

The Tenth Conference of the Parties:

- Decided to rename and rebrand the “Assistance Programme” into the “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” by adopting the revised Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030

Way forward – Assistance and Cooperation Programme



Re-branding to ensure that Assistance Programme remains an effective instrument for delivering assistance and increasing capacity at all levels

- **Beneficiaries** to cooperate increasingly and support each-other, taking full ownership for activities carried out
- Objectives:
 - Enhanced information sharing at and across the sub-regional level among beneficiaries
 - Improved transboundary cooperation, through sub-regional projects and activities
 - Leading to enhanced governance, through national policy dialogues on industrial safety, involving all relevant stakeholders
 - Addressing safety of “hot spots”
- Implementing **multi-year, multi-country projects**

Thank you for your attention!