

## Criteria for the good practices and lessons learned

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### TOPICS

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The case studies of good practices and/or lessons learned that will be selected for inclusion in the *Information Repository of Good Practices and Lessons Learned in Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety* must relate to one or more of the following three topics:

1. Policies, legislation, plans, programmes, measures or projects<sup>1</sup> that address:
  - **Industrial safety**, such as accident prevention, preparedness and response measures, risk assessment, industrial/chemical facility development projects, modifications to the industrial facility and/or its operational activities, etc., **and**
  - **Land-use planning and siting decisions**, such as decision-making on the siting or significant modification of chemical/industrial facilities, including those with potential transboundary effects.<sup>2</sup>

The case study may relate to the preparatory process/development covering aspects such as:

- The application of **environmental impact assessment (EIA)** and/or **strategic environmental assessment (SEA)**,
- **Public participation and provision of information to the public**, and/or
- Consideration of **Disaster Risk Reduction** (preventing new disaster risk, reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk related to technological/industrial hazards or natural hazards which could trigger technological accidents (also known as 'NaTech' events), functioning of multi-hazard early warning systems, and/or building back better).

The case studies should preferably have links to the relevant UNECE instruments/conventions, frameworks and tools<sup>3</sup>.

2. Case study examples of **legislative, policy or organizational/structural changes, or other measures taken** to reduce exposure and vulnerability to disaster risks and to enhance industrial safety through respective land-use planning and siting decisions or practices, for example addressing:

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<sup>1</sup> Projects that relate to development proposals (or modifications to developments) on a specific site, e.g. decisions on whether or not to authorize the development of a hazardous industrial/chemical facility in a certain location.

<sup>2</sup> The Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents defines a "hazardous activity" as "any activity in which one or more hazardous substances are present or may be present in quantities at or in excess of the threshold quantities listed in Annex I hereto, and which is capable of causing transboundary effects." The industrial/chemical facilities included in this repository can correspond to these hazardous activities, while they can also address other chemical/industrial facilities.

<sup>3</sup> i.e. the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Industrial Accidents Convention), the instruments adopted by the Committee on Urban Development, Housing and Land Management (such as the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing and the Geneva Ministerial Declaration on Sustainable Housing and Urban Development), the Convention on Environmental Assessment in a Transboundary Context (Espoo Convention), the Protocol on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Protocol on SEA), and the Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) and its Protocol on Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers (Protocol on PRTRs).

- Public access to information and participation in decision-making on land-use planning/siting/industrial safety, including of vulnerable persons or groups,
  - Consistent and effective use of SEA (for land-use plans and programmes) and/or EIA (for planned siting or modification of hazardous activities),
  - Use of web applications, digital technologies and other tools for communicating the risks between planners, safety experts, other experts, and the public (for example, hazard/risk identification tools, pollutant release and transfer registers, data crowdsourcing, or online education and training tools),
  - Cooperation between experts in industrial safety, land-use planning, environmental assessment, public participation and/or information management and communication (e.g. through the establishment of working groups, the establishment of boards for competent authorities, or the merging of departments, or dedicated trainings/capacity building activities),
  - Policy integration among respective disciplines (e.g. disaster risk reduction, industrial safety, SEA/EIA, public access to information and participation in decision-making).
3. **Transboundary cooperation** between UNECE countries on policies, legislation, measures, plans/programmes or projects involving industrial safety and land-use planning, which may also involve environmental assessment (EIA or SEA) and/or public participation and access to information.

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## CRITERIA

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When selecting case studies to be presented in the Information Repository, the EIB and UNECE will consider the following criteria. The case studies should:

- Relate to one or more of the topics/points outlined above,
- Have occurred within the last 10 years (2010 – 2020)
- Where relevant, highlight the implementation of the relevant UNECE instruments/conventions, frameworks or tools, and
- Demonstrate positive outcomes for sustainable development and disaster risk reduction, in line with Agenda 2030 and its:
  - Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and/or
  - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

Please refer to the example below for guidance.

## Example of a Good Practice/ Lessons learned

Below is an example of how the case studies are expected to be presented in the Information Repository. Please note that the category and an image will be selected by the EIB and UNECE based on the information your country/organization provides in the completed Questionnaire.

### Land-Use Planning Around an Existing Hazardous Facility, Sarpsborg



**Sub-title:** Communicating the risks to the public, and coordination between the local planner, the national authority and the operator

**Country:** Norway

**Date:** 2016

**Category:** Plans, Policies, Measures

**Tags:** Land-Use Planning, Industrial Safety, Public Participation, Public Access to Information

**Organization(s) involved:** Borregaard and Norwegian Directorate for Civil Protection

#### Summary:

In 2016, the local government proposed a revision of the land use plan for the city of Sarpsborg in Norway. The revision included proposals for new urban development and densification of existing residential areas (from low-rise housing to apartment blocks) to accommodate a growth in population of the city by 40 % over the next decade. A major challenge that they faced related to an existing hazardous facility located within the city – the Borregaard cellulose factory that utilizes large amounts of sulphur dioxide. If an accident were to occur, the toxic gas could have significant health impacts on the surrounding urban areas. Therefore, it was decided to introduce new consideration zones in existing residential areas, and to involve the public in the process. Norway has a number of regulations to ensure that the safety of the public is considered around hazardous industrial facilities, including the Planning and Building Act and the Fire and Explosion Prevention Act. The two acts are the legal framework for the national policy on siting of major hazard installations, created in line with article 7 of the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention on decision-making on siting. The city of Sarpsborg sought to strengthen their planning procedures by actively engaging the public and other stakeholders in the process, by providing clear information in a timely manner, and by listening and responding to the public's views.

**Key lessons learned:** In this case, it was acknowledged that a lengthy and transparent planning and public participation process led to positive outcomes between members of the public, stakeholders, industrial operators, developers and the government. Through the planning process, the members of the public of the city of Sarpsborg were actively engaged in identifying the advantages and disadvantages of the draft land use plan and the proposed urban developments, and they played an active role in securing a safer environment in the vicinity of the hazardous industrial facility. This process and the public's input were crucial in order to achieve sustainable land use management in the long term, in line with SDGs 3, 11 and 16, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the relevant UNECE instruments.

**Weblink:** [Presentation by DSB](#) of Norway at the UNECE [Seminar on land-use planning and industrial safety](#), Mechelen, Belgium, 2018