



Republic of Serbia
Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning



Republic of Serbia

Action plan for strengthening the implementation of the Convention



Within the framework of the implementation phase of the **Assistance Programme** for EECCA and SEE countries the capacity-building activity with the aim to initiate a process to further strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks under the Convention in these countries, was organized from **5th to 7th December 2007 in Kyiv.**



Analysis of the legal and institutional frameworks to identify the gaps hampering implementation of the Convention

As a result and in follow-up to Kiev capacity-building activity, Serbia identified the shortcomings in the legal and institutional frameworks hampering the implementation of the Convention in six areas of work under the Convention and prepared the action plan for strengthening the implementation of the Convention.



Areas of work

- **Identification of hazardous activities**
- **Notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries**
- **Prevention**
- **Emergency preparedness**
- **Emergency response**
- **Public participation and information to the public**



Identification of hazardous activities

Identified gaps

- Deficient understanding how to apply the Convention's Annex I and guidelines on location criteria in identifying hazardous activities.
- Difficulties in analysis of data on hazardous activities, including assessment of possible risks.



- Law on Environmental Protection and Regulation of methodology of accident risk assessment are not completely harmonized with the SEVESO II Directive and the Convention.
- Criteria of the Annex I of the SEVESO II Directive and the Annex I to the Convention are partially transposed in the Regulation.
- Lack of resources and human capacities for identification of hazardous activities.



Way forward

- Proposal of the Law on amending and supplementing the Law on Environmental Protection is expected to be adopted in 2009.
- After adoption of this Law, new Regulation on the Content and Methodology of Major Accident Prevention Policy, Safety Report and Emergency Plan will be adopted in 2009 (the List of the quantities and categories of the hazardous substances and preparations for identification of hazardous activities in this Regulation will be harmonized with Annex I of the SEVESO II Directive and Annex I to the Convention).



- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) will organize national training sessions for inspectors involved in identification of hazardous activities.

These national training sessions will be organized based on good practice, know-how, etc. taken from the training session on identification of hazardous activities for representatives of EECCA and SEE countries, which was held from 21-22 October 2008 in Minsk, with the objective to pass over the acquired knowledge and good practice to other country's experts.

The first national training session is planned for April 2009.



- In scope of UNDP Project Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkans countries, Environmental Hot Spot Remediation Project, workshop for all responsible in identification of hazardous activities will be organized. This workshop will refer to modeling the consequences of major accidents.

Beginning of this project is expected to be in 2009.

- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning is planning to increase number of employers in period 2009-2012 in Department for Risk Management from 5 to 9 and in Department for Accidents (Environmental Inspection) from 11 to 16.



Needs for Assistance

- Further improving of administrative capacities with focus in applying the substance and quantity criteria contained in the guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities.
- Assistance of UNECE experts in organizing national training sessions for inspectors involved in identification of hazardous activities.
- Assistance in organizing joint workshops with neighbouring countries for inspectors involved in identification of hazardous activities. The aim of these joint workshops will be to enhance analysis of data and to identify hazardous activities which are located close to the borders or water paths and are capable of causing transboundary effects.



Notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries

Identified gaps

- There is no formal decision which authority will be responsible for notification of hazardous activities to neighbouring countries.



Way forward

- Law on Ratification of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents is in draft version and it is expected to be adopted in 2009.
- Law on amending and supplementing the Law on Environmental Protection defined that the MESP is the competent authority responsible for notifying neighbouring countries on hazardous activities.
- This Law defines procedure for notifying.



- Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Republic of Serbia and Ministry of Environmental and Sustainable Development, Republic Romania, had signed in May 2008 Memorandum of Understanding. Emphasis in this agreement is put, among other, on transboundary cooperation in prevention, monitoring and mitigating hazards from accidents with transboundary effects.

This agreement will support bilateral cooperation in the area of notification of hazardous activities.

- Such agreements are planned to be first elaborated and then signed with other neighbouring countries in the following period.



Needs for Assistance

- Assistance for strengthening cross-border cooperation is needed.
- This assistance shall be focused on exchange of information on hazardous activities at different levels and on supporting the bilateral/multilateral cooperation i.e. assistance in elaborating and applying the agreements with neighbouring countries.



Prevention

Identified gaps

- Regulation of Methodology of Accident Risk Assessment is not completely in accordance with the relevant requirements of the SEVESO II Directive and Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (content of Safety Report and Major Accident Prevention Policy).
- Lack of administrative capacities.
- Lack of well-trained staff on national, provincial and local level to work effectively, to draw up preventive measures and to implement and enforce them.



- Identified gap in the area of the prevention also on the side of the operators of hazardous activities, there is limited knowledge about accident risk assessment.
- In this area there are difficulties in the cooperation between authorities at all levels and operators of hazardous activities.



Way forward

- Regulation on the Content and Methodology of Major Accident Prevention Policy, Safety Report and Emergency Plan will be adopted in 2009. Content of these documents will be harmonized with the SEVESO II Directive and Convention.
- In order to strengthen administrative capacity there was organized ECENA Training on LCP and SEVESO II Directive and E-PRTR (March 2008, Bristol UK) for inspectors, to improve their knowledge and work - Serbia was one of the participants.



- MESP prepared an Instruction for administrative procedure related to accident risk assessment.
- In framework of Western Balkans, Environmental Hot Spot Remediation Project, training of environmental inspectors on implementation SEVESO II Directive is planned.
Beginning of this project is expected to be in 2009.



Needs for Assistance

- Assistance in the form of capacity-building activities on best practices and solutions in drawing up preventive measures for staff on national, provincial and local level. Activities should be focused on content and explanation of safety reports, risk assessment and on improving an integrated approach for major hazard prevention.
- Assistance for improving the dialog between authorities and operators of hazardous activities, through organizing workshops and meetings.



Emergency preparedness

Identified gaps

- National legislation for preparedness in case of industrial accidents has not completely transposed the SEVESO II Directive and provisions of the Convention that cover this item.
- There is the lack of administrative capacities for drawing up contingency plans in transboundary context with neighbouring countries, as well as deficient cross-border cooperation.
- Obstacles in the cooperation between authorities at local level and operators of hazardous installations are present.
- There is no integrated emergency management system.



Way forward

- Regulation on the Content and Methodology of Major Accident Prevention Policy, Safety Report and Emergency Plan will be harmonized with provisions of the Convention and SEVESO II Directive in part which regards to the contingency plans.
- After adoption of the Regulation the MESP, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Defence will organize trainings for operators of hazardous activities to assist them in drawing up on-site contingency plans.



- In framework on implementation of the Law on Defence, Guidance on the Preparation of Emergency Plans, is planned.
- Bylaw on Service of Observation and Notification will be done according to international exchange of information in emergency situations.

This bylaw is planned to be adopted in 2009.



- Two other ministries which are responsible for emergency preparedness and response (Ministry of Defence-Department for Emergencies and Ministry of Interior-Department for Protection and Rescue) are in the phase of preparation a revision of the Law on the Protection from Natural Disasters and Other Large-Scale Disasters. Approach of integrated emergency management system on national, regional and local level will be regulated by new law.
- MESP, together with two other responsible ministries will organize meetings and workshops between local authorities and industry to assist them in drawing up on-site and off-site contingency plans and to harmonize them.



Needs for Assistance

- Technical advice on drawing up off-site contingency plans.
- Assistance in organizing transboundary pilot projects to assist local authorities and industry on both sides of the border in establishing bilateral cooperation in emergency preparedness.
- Organizing joint exercises and meetings with neighbouring countries to show the compatibility of off-site contingency plans.



Emergency response

Identified gaps

- There is the lack of human and technical capacities, especially at local level in regard to emergency response.
- There is insufficient cross-border cooperation between local authorities and industry on both sides of the border.



Way forward

- In framework of Western Balkans, Environmental Hot Spot Remediation Project, making Guidelines for Accident Response is planned.
- In scope of National Investment Plan, Government of Republic of Serbia approved Project Establishment Accident Notification and Management System on territory of Republic of Serbia. This Project is proposed by MESP and Ministry of Defence-Department for Emergencies. It started with realization in 2008 and the end of the project is planned for IV quarter 2009. The Project aims to establish communication-information network for accident notification and management in Republic of Serbia (it will connect a centers from local to national level) and to access to international networks and systems for notification (IAN System).



Needs for Assistance

- Assistance in organizing joint exercise for accident response for hazardous facility located in the border area, with aspect of cross-border cooperation, including compatibility between off-site contingency plans in two countries.

During these activities the off-site contingency plans will be tested.

The Assistance Programme project for Bulgaria, Serbia and Romania under the lead of Italy will be implemented in 2009 - project on promoting the joint management of transboundary emergencies involving large spills of hazardous substances to the Danube River.



Public participation and information to the public

Identified gaps

- There is insufficient public participation in establishing and implementing preparedness and response measures.

Way forward

- Information to the public on emergencies, public participation in drawing up off-site contingency plans and testing them will be defined by new legislative on emergency management.



Thank you for your attention!

