

Hazard and Crisis Management Week (Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 23–26 March 2015)

The Project Management Group decided to combine several planned project activities (second technical workshop on hazard management, training for inspectors and table-top exercise with results evaluation) in a Hazard and Crisis Management week, organized in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 23 to 26 March 2015. The event combined a workshop on hazard management, a table-top exercise and evaluation workshop addressing complacency in emergency planning and response. The event would incorporate all components of the safety chain concept, covered by the Danube Delta project (hazard and crisis management) and their respective subcategories (for hazard management – proaction and prevention, for crisis management - preparedness and response). This would allow clarifying the intrinsic linkages between hazard and crisis management aspects of the safety chain and the necessity of applying a holistic approach to industrial safety involving dangerous substances.

Hazard management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management Week

The hazard management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management Week was financially supported by Germany. The Republic of Moldova as the host of this activity provided valuable in-kind contributions.

Within the hazard management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week, representatives from the national competent and enforcement authorities, civil protection services and industry representatives from Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova participated in the event. The Hazard and Crisis Management week was facilitated by a team of international experts from Germany, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden, as well as the ECE secretariat.

During the first session of the hazard management segment, participants discussed aspects of the safety management and safety culture and complacency issues in industrial accidents prevention, including prevention of industrial accidents as required by the Industrial Accidents Convention and requirements for safety management and safety culture as addressed in the Safety Guidelines and Good Industry Practices for Oil Terminals. Representatives of the project countries presented the national legal framework for hazard management in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine and referred to the comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks for hazard management, prepared by an international consultant, in order to highlight existing shortcomings and gaps as well as discussing possible approaches for improving hazard management on national and international level, including enhancing the transboundary cooperation of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine.

During the second session of the hazard management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week, the participants discussed issues related to proaction and prevention of industrial accidents, such as the identification and mapping of hazardous activities, improved dangerous substances inventory, a hazard spots inventory and map for the Danube Delta Region), cooperation capabilities for preventive measures (i.e. joint inspections) and risk management by applying checklists. The participants also discussed the possible further use of the hazard spots map for the Danube Delta Region, including for exchange of information on hazardous activities in transboundary context, identification of prevention measures for the hazardous activities and for hazard communication to the general public.

The third session of the hazard management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week was dedicated to the enforcement of hazard management requirements. The participants were given presentations on rating and prioritizing hazardous industrial activities and the IMPEL network approach towards Seveso Directive inspections in the EU. Representatives of the project countries presented the national legal framework for prioritizing and inspecting hazardous industrial activities in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine and discussed how enforcement of the legal requirements could be further improved, including through transboundary cooperation of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine in the area of enforcement (e.g. planning and performing joint inspections, exchanging information on compliance, etc.).

The workshop participants also reviewed and discussed the draft trilateral agreement on hazard and crisis management and the next steps towards its finalization and approval at national and trilateral levels. Some technical inadequacies were identified and discussed with the consultant and details about the additional information needed to finalize the agreement with deadlines for its submission were agreed.

Table-top exercise and an evaluation workshop addressing complacency (crisis management)

Within the crisis management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week, rep-resentatives from the national competent and enforcement authorities, civil protection services and industry representatives from Romania, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova discussed aspects of industrial accident preparedness and response, facilitated by a team of international experts from Germany, Netherlands, Romania and Sweden, as well as the ECE secretariat. A table-top exercise and evaluation workshop addressing complacency in emergency planning and response were also implemented as foreseen by the implementation plan of the Danube Delta project. The crisis management activities of the Hazard and Crisis Management week were financially supported by Finland. The Republic of Moldova provided valuable in-kind contributions.

During the first session of the crisis management segment, representatives of the project countries presented and discussed the national legal framework for crisis management in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine. The discussion was based on the comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks for hazard management, prepared by an international consultant for the EU Water Framework Directive and identified existing shortcomings and gaps, highlighting the way forward for improving emergency preparedness and response, in particular on international level, including enhancing the transboundary cooperation of the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine and effective use of existing systems for emergency notification and response.

During the second session of the crisis management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week, the participants received extensive information about existing guiding principles and tools for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring states for accidents affecting transboundary waters and the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters, developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents. Another topic of discussion was the draft Joint Contingency Plan for the Danube Delta Region and its linkages with the River Basin Management Plan for the Danube Delta Region.

The participants prepared for the table-top exercise on the basis of a presentation on the Giurgiulesti oil terminal and possible emergencies that could occur. The international consultant presented the objectives and the scenario for the table-top exercise and distributed the pre-prepared templates for the participants. The participants also received additional information about the testing the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters during the table-top exercise. During the preparations for the table-top exercise, the UNECE secretariat assigned the roles and responsibilities of the participants and explained the setting-up of the various work groups for the exercise. The secretariat also distributed the worksheets for the discussions and introduced the facilitators of the table-top exercise. During an informal meeting between the facilitators and the groups, the national participants discussed the assignment of roles, the chosen method of work for the table-top exercise, possible questions and the expected outcomes.

During the table-top exercise, facilitated by the international experts and the UNECE secretariat, the participants received further instructions regarding the organization of the exercise, the agreed scenario and the expected outcome. The participants were divided in three break-out working groups, which were assigned tasks with regard to the leading components of the table-top exercise – notification of emergency situations, emergency management and response and monitoring and assessment, based on the dangerous substances alert threshold ICPDR-AEWS methodology.

During the three break-out sessions of the table-top exercise, the participants concentrated on the validation of key provisions of the draft Joint Contingency Plan and the assessment of the checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters. Participants also identified

shortcomings/areas for improvement in an event of emergency (i.e. emergency warning and alert, response actions, monitoring, notification, flow of information, modelling, remediation) and when requesting, receiving or providing mutual assistance during an industrial accident at Oil terminals in the Danube Delta. The participants also used the table-top exercise as a testing platform for the further refinement of the scenario for the field exercise, planned within the framework of the project. During the table-top exercise, representatives of the national Points of Contact for the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification IAN System and ICPDR-AEWS warning and alert system tested the connectivity of the systems and its capabilities regarding early warning and mutual assistance request and provision.

After the finalization of the table-top exercise, all three working groups discussed with the facilitators their findings and conclusions and prepared presentation for the subsequent plenary discussion. The participants provided general feedback to the table-top exercise and its results.

The third session of the crisis management segment of the Hazard and Crisis Management week was dedicated to the evaluation of the table-top exercise and collection of feedback to improve the draft Joint Contingency Plan for the Danube Delta Region. Representatives of the project countries presented the results as perceived by the national experts, participating in the three working groups on notification of emergency situations, emergency management and response and monitoring and assessment. The presentation also included suggestions for steps to be taken to overcome the identified shortcomings at national level, recommendations for improving the draft Joint Contingency Plan and feedback on the checklist for contingency planning for transboundary waters. During a plenary discussion, the participants summarised the conclusion and recommendations, dedicated to the table-top exercise.

An evaluation workshop addressing complacency was the final session of the crisis management segment. International experts presented case studies of past industrial accidents and lessons learnt regarding complacency in emergency planning and response as part of the safety chain cycle. Case studies on the Buncefield accident in the United Kingdom in 2005 (the largest ever accident involving a refinery, with the smoke cloud having been visible from the satellite) and the Enschede accident in the Netherlands (fireworks factory explosion) were presented and discussed. The second session of the workshop dealt with addressing complacency in emergency planning and response. Representatives of the project countries shared their experience on the role of the management and the importance of training, drills and table-top and field exercises in addressing complacency. The participants from the project countries and JEG experts also discussed how to avoid complacency at the oil terminals/ports within the Danube Delta.

The workshop participants also reviewed and discussed the next steps with regard to the preparation of a Trilateral agreement on hazard and crisis management and the Joint Contingency plan for the Danube Delta Region, on the basis of a draft prepared under the project.