



**UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE**



**Ministry for the Environment
Land and Sea**

TEIA/Danube project/7

ICARO

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

Project under the Assistance Programme

**Project for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia
on joint management of transboundary emergencies
from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River**

Phase II – in-field exercise and workshop

Negotin, 24-25 September 2009

INFORMATION NOTICE

Introduction

1. The pilot project on joint management of transboundary emergencies from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River was launched following the request for assistance expressed by three countries: Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia in improving their emergency preparedness and, through, it to strengthen the joint management of emergencies in a transboundary context.

2. The Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea of Italy, main donor for the project, organized together with the secretariat and Romania¹ the project's kick-off meeting in March 2009. At this meeting the three partner countries confirmed that they share the need for further strengthening and optimizing the emergency procedures especially in view of their cooperation in a transboundary context. They also confirmed the wish of discussing in details and comparing their crisis management procedures, holding a joint in-field exercise and drawing conclusion on the way forward in crisis management and possibly drawing some blueprints for up-to-date organization of emergency preparedness. In this context they decided on three project phases: (I) a technical workshop, (II) an in-field exercise and (III) a final workshop.

¹ Ministry of Environment and the General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations within the Ministry of Administration and Interior

3. The technical workshop was hosted by Romania in Drobeta-Turnu Severin on 16-18 June 2009. This meeting led to the exchange of information on management procedures between the three project countries and to the elaboration of a scenario for the in-field exercise. The preparations to the exercise were reviewed in the pre-meeting held in Negotin on 2 September 2009.

4. This note provides information on the theme, organization of work and logistics for the in-field exercise and the workshop devoted to the exercise evaluation.

I. OBJECTIVES

5. The objectives of the exercise are to test the emergency procedures for notification, emergency response and modelling in the three countries and to collect data for analysis.

6. The objectives of the workshop are to discuss the data collected, identify ineffective procedures and start preparing action plans/blueprints for further optimization of the crisis management.

II. DATES AND VENUE

7. The in-field exercise will start in the morning of 24 September, Thursday, in accordance with the scenario agreed by the three project countries and described in the report of the technical workshop (phase I). The exercise requires countries to take actions from capitals (for cross-border notification and emergency management through Ministerial Operative Centre) and locally along the spread pollution (for in-field response).

8. The in-field exercise will finish in the early afternoon hours to allow all participants to the workshop taking part in the exercise outside the Negotin region to arrive to Negotin on the same day.

9. The workshop will be held on 25 September in Negotin from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the following address:

Municipality of Negotin
Square Stevana Mokranjca,
19300 Negotin

III. ORGANIZATION OF WORK

10. The exercise will be conducted in accordance with the agreed scenario. It will take maximum 7 hours and will allow testing the procedures for notification, emergency response and use of modelling.

11. The workshop will consist of two main sessions:

Session I will be devoted to reporting on the actions taken during the exercise by:

- (a) Notification units;
- (b) Emergency management units (Ministerial Operative Centres and local response units);
- (c) Modeling units.

These reports should also contain an evaluation on cooperation with other actors both nationally and internationally.

The reports will be discussed at the workshop. This discussion will be facilitated by exercise evaluators and should lead to the identification of procedures, which turned to be ineffective during the exercise.

Session II will be devoted to the discussion on what needs to be changed or established in order to improve or further optimize the crisis management on waters. The basis for action plans/blueprints will be set.

- 12. A detailed programme for the workshop is attached.

IV. WORKING LANGUAGES

- 13. The workshop will be conducted in English.

V. PARTICIPATION

14. Each country should decide itself on the optimal number of personnel to be involved in the exercise. The number of participants nominated should allow participation to the exercise in accordance with the agreed scenario and testing of the relevant emergency response procedures.

15. From the personnel participating to the exercise each country should nominate up to 10 participants, including project coordinators, to attend the workshop.

16. Financial support will be available for partner countries, if requested, to cover the transportation expenses between capital cities and Negotin. Accommodation at Hotel DeLux, bb Gradiste, Str. Negotin, Hotel Tea, 13 Stanka Paunovića, Str. Negotin, or Hotel Kristina, bb Dositeja Novakovića, Str. Negotin and meals will be provided to nominated workshop participants.

VI. REGISTRATION OF PARTICIPANTS

17. Each nominated participant should complete a registration form and return it to the Serbian organizers and the UNECE secretariat at the addresses indicated on the registration form as soon as possible, **but not later than 1 September 2009.**

Annex

In-field exercise – Thursday 24 September, starting in morning hours

Workshop – Friday 25 September

9:30-10:00	Opening
9:30-9:40	Welcoming statement by the representative of the host country
9:40-9:50	Welcoming statement by the representative of UNECE
9:50-10:00	Welcoming statement by the representative of Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea
10:00-13:30	SESSION I – Reporting on the exercise
10:00-10:45	Report from Bulgaria (notification, emergency management, modelling)
10:45-11:30	Report from Romania (notification, emergency management, modelling)
11:30-12:00	Coffee break
12:00 -12:45	Report from Serbia (notification, emergency management, modelling)
12:45-13:30	Discussion
13:30 -15:00	Lunch
15:00-18:20	SESSION II – Further optimization of crisis management
	Work in groups to discuss optimizing of joint notification, management and modelling
15:00-16:00	Notification group
	Management group
	Modelling group

16:00-16:30	Presentation of group work in plenum
16:30-16:50	Coffee break
16:50-17:50	Work in national groups to set a basis for developing national action plans / blueprints
17:50-18:20	Presentations in plenum
18:20-18:30	Wrap-up and closing of the meeting
20:00	Dinner
