



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SPATIAL PLANNING

# Preventing another Sandoz, Baia Mare or Beirut accident: Perspectives on risk management in the context of the Sendai Framework

Focused thematic discussion on chemical and industrial accidents in the framework of the UNDRR European Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR)  
24 November 2021, 10.00 – 12.00 CET, Matosinhos, Portugal and online

## Background note

The present note describes the background and objectives of a focused thematic discussion on prevention and management of chemical and industrial risks in the context of the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). The parties involved in organizing the event are:

- the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention Bureau's small group on Natech and DRR, consisting of Norway, Belarus, Finland, the Russian Federation, Slovenia and the secretariat to the Convention;
- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD);
- The European Investment Bank (EIB).

UNECE, OECD, EIB, Norway and Slovenia are co-organizing partners.<sup>1</sup> The event will also include contributions by partners beyond the organizing partners, including those represented in the small group.

## Background to the focused thematic discussion

The European Forum for Disaster Risk Reduction (EFDRR) takes place once every two to three years, serving as an open forum for stakeholders in Europe and Central Asian countries, including also Eastern and South-Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.<sup>2</sup> It is a platform for exchange of experiences on successful practices and innovative approaches to prevent, reduce and manage disaster risk, and make actionable commitments to this effect. Its programme takes into account the outcomes of the 2018 EFDRR held in Rome, Italy and the 2019 Global Platform for DRR held in Geneva, Switzerland, while it will also integrate challenges concerning the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, EFDRR 2021 will present the EFDRR 2021 – 2030 Roadmap for adoption. The Roadmap aims to support the Sendai Framework's coordinated implementation for disaster risk reduction and related Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account priorities for action, existing and emerging risks, for increased action and investment.

More information on the thematic focus, expected outcomes and more particularly the EFDRR 2021 - 2030 Roadmap can be found on the event's [web page](#).

---

<sup>1</sup> UNECE and OECD co-organized a *seminar on fostering implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 for industrial accidents prevention, preparedness and response* in the framework of the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention in Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2016, the conclusions of which can be found in the annex of the following document:

[https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/TEIA/COP/E\\_ECE.CP.TEIA.32.pdf](https://unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/documents/2016/TEIA/COP/E_ECE.CP.TEIA.32.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See an overview of countries and their focal points [here](#)

EFDRR features three plenary sessions, six working sessions and a number (to be determined) of side events. The focused thematic discussion on chemical and industrial accidents will take place within the framework of the EFDRR, as part of the preparatory events before the formal opening of EFDRR 2021, feeding into its programme and contributing to the outcomes of EFDRR. It is an opportunity for all organizing and contributing partners to feed into the discussion of the EFDRR Roadmap and accelerated implementation of the Sendai Framework, the working session on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, and other sessions such as the working session on Disaster Risk Governance and Target E of the Sendai Framework. The focused thematic discussion will further be an opportunity to influence the agenda setting of the Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction (planned for 2022) and the EFDRR 2021 – 2030 Roadmap.

### Key objectives of the focused thematic discussion

The opportunities for global agenda setting and shaping the EFDRR 2021 – 2030 Roadmap are particularly of interest to the chemical and industrial risk management decision-makers, experts and stakeholders. The focused thematic discussion can place chemical and industrial risk management in the spotlight among risk management policies in the implementation of the Sendai Framework.<sup>3</sup> It is important for the Sendai community to further integrate risk policies, governance and good practice in industrial/chemical risk management. As such, countries in the Europe & Asia region and beyond can strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction, in the fields of chemical and industrial risks and in general.

The objectives of the focused thematic discussion are therefore to:

- (i) Inform the Sendai community on **specifics of chemical/industrial risk**, including how risks can be managed, the particular characteristics of accident prevention in the context of industrial and chemical processes, substances and life cycles.
  - a. Showing existing governance frameworks and their relevance for the Sendai community (national and international - UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention, OECD Guiding Principles on chemical accident prevention, preparedness and response).
  - b. Showcasing prevention: Case studies of (transboundary) disasters that could have been prevented, and good practice on prevention of industrial accidents.
- (ii) Present **good examples on accident prevention** and mitigation to learn from and to enrich with experiences.
  - a. Building on policies and good practice in land-use planning and siting of hazardous activities.<sup>4</sup>
  - b. Introducing links and synergies in risk assessment for natural and man-made disasters, including Natech (Natural hazards triggering technological accidents).

---

<sup>3</sup> GAR 2019 introduces chemical/industrial risks as a hazard type 'never covered before'. See: <https://gar.undrr.org/chapters/chapter-3-risk#3.1>

<sup>4</sup> See for an overview <https://unece.org/information-repository-good-practices-and-lessons-learned-land-use-planning-and-industrial-safety-0>



- (iii) Support and call for increased **policy coherence** between implementation of the Sendai Framework and adaptation to climate change, integrating man-made disaster risk management.
- a. Showcasing good practice (prevention, preparedness and response) of national and regional (transboundary) DRR strategies and national adaptation plans that integrate technological risk management, natural disaster risk management (such as flood risk management), national adaptation plans and platforms addressing elements of natural and man-made DRR, including chemical/industrial, and Natech risks.
- (iv) Place chemical/industrial risk in a **broader context**
- a. Addressing current challenges related to COVID 19
  - b. Increasing understanding of how the energy transition may affect chemical and industrial risks, covering also actions in the EU Green Deal
  - c. Integrating/mainstreaming DRR into relevant policies<sup>5</sup> – including in finance and funding. This could include exploring options for access to finance, using available funding for adaptation to climate change and environmental sustainability to the benefit of disaster risk management.

---

<sup>5</sup> For example, taking stock of the extent to which DRR has been integrated in the six environmental objectives of the EU Taxonomy regulation, or into policies of International Financial Institutions.