



Cooperation with neighbouring countries in South-Eastern Europe and beyond

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Assistance and Cooperation Programme

- **2004 CoP adopts Assistance Programme**
- **Serbia participates actively from 2007**
- **Renamed and rebranded in 2018 -**
beneficiary countries increasingly cooperate and support each other and take full ownership of activities.
- **Aim** - to support countries of South-Eastern and Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the implementation of the Convention. The Programme's beneficiary countries increasingly provide assistance to each other.

UNECE

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

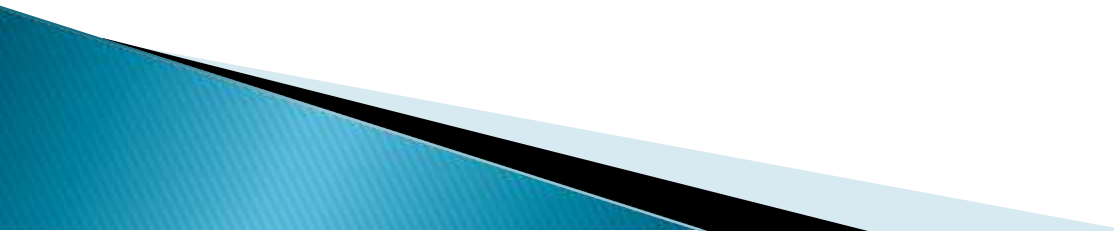


ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION PROGRAMME

2010 CoP adopted Indicators and criteria for self-evaluation and the Form

- ▶ Countries participating in the Assistance and Cooperation Programme:
 - to self-evaluate the progress achieved and
 - to draft a National Action Plan

Workshop on the use of indicators and criteria for the implementation of the Strategic Approach (Bratislava, Slovakia, 2011)

- ▶ The indicators and criteria were elaborated together with a Form for monitoring, analyzing, planning and evaluating the participation of countries in the Assistance Programme.**
 - ▶ Countries participating in the Assistance Programme were requested to self-evaluate the progress achieved in the implementation of the Convention and draft a Plan of action.**
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➤ Recommendations

Preconditions for the use of the indicators and criteria are:

- ✓ **a good knowledge of the Convention;**
- ✓ **a good knowledge of the situation in the country; and**
- ✓ **involvement of all relevant stakeholders in the country.**

➤ In the Republic of Serbia

- ✓ **Indicators and criteria facilitate the process of identifying gaps in the implementation of the Convention and to plan concrete actions to overcome them.**
- ✓ **Used as an instrument for filling in the Report on implementation of the Convention.**

- ▶ **User-friendly version of the Benchmarks for the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents – published 2014**



Workshop on capacity-building with the aim to initiate a process to further strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks under the Convention in the EECCA and SEE countries (Kyiv, Ukraine 2007)

- ▶ **Workshop was the first activity of the Assistance Programme's implementation phase.**
- ▶ **Important starting point to identify responsible authorities and to improve cooperation.**
- ▶ **Analysis of the legal framework.**
- ▶ **Identifying gaps or shortcomings and ways forward.**

PLAN OF ACTION DEVELOPED



Hands - on training session on identification of hazardous activities (Minsk, Belarus, 2008)

- ✓ **Improved process of identification of hazardous activities.**
- ✓ **Improved understanding of how to apply the Convention's Annex I and the guidelines on location criteria in identifying hazardous activities.**
- ✓ **National training session on identification of hazardous activities was held.**

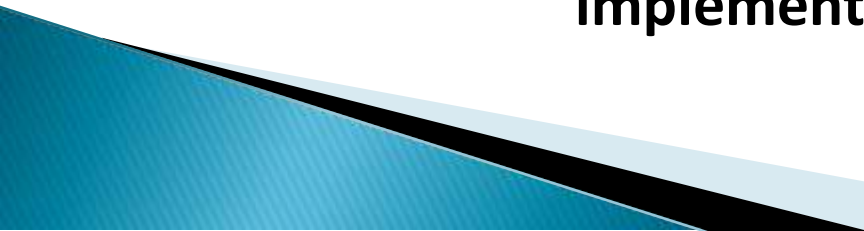
LIST OF HAZARDOUS ACTIVITIES REVISED



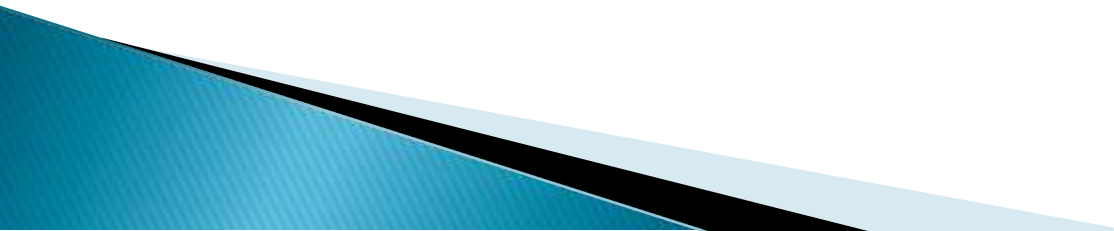
Training session on integrated approaches to major hazard prevention (Prague, Czech Republic, 2009)

- ▶ **Effective cooperation and coordination between relevant authorities in major hazard prevention and crisis management;**
- ▶ **Strengthening safety culture;**
- ▶ **Cooperation with neighbouring countries with a view to improving the joint management of transboundary emergencies.**

JOINT GROUP ESTABLISHED
composed of the different authorities involved in
implementing the Convention




Project for Bulgaria, Romania and Serbia on joint management of transboundary emergencies from spills of hazardous substance into the Danube River (Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, 2009)

- ▶ The field exercise had been initiated at Prahovo, Serbia and performed along the Danube River until Vidin, Bulgaria.**
 - ▶ Emergency procedures were tested for notification, emergency response and modelling, also in respect to cross-border cooperation.**
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Border between three countries



Training session on evaluation of safety reports (Belgrade, Serbia, 2010)

- ▶ Approaches (including the roles of authorities) for the evaluation of safety reports.**
 - ▶ Content and methodologies used in safety reports.**
 - ▶ Develop a checklist on safety reports - basis for providing guidance on preparation of safety reports.**
 - ▶ Follow-up to the project focused on using a checklist methodology during the on-site inspection.**
 - ▶ The next steps - providing training for operators on the development of safety reports and of internal emergency plans.**
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Follow-up to the training session on evaluation of safety reports and joint inspection (Zagreb, Croatia, 2011)

- Strengthen the knowledge of the authorities in conducting inspections at hazardous activities based on the conclusions of the safety report evaluation.
- Benefits of an integrated approach for inspections.
- Serbia concluded that it would work to further align the checklist system with the requirements set by its national legislation.



Training session on the evaluation of safety reports – on-site inspection, third phase (Split, Croatia, 2012)

- ▶ **Improvement the knowledge of the inspectors about inspections of hazardous industrial sites, in cooperation with other authorities.**
- ▶ **Learning good practices on the organization of integrated inspections used for industrial sites falling under the Convention and under the Seveso Directive.**



Training session on the evaluation of safety reports – on-site inspection, third phase (Split, Croatia, 2012)

Conclusions:

- ✓ **The use of the checklist could be a useful tool to design inspections, especially thematic inspections;**
- ✓ **It is important to cooperate with other authorities before inspections, but also afterwards (preparing a joint report);**
- ✓ **Unstructured cooperation between competent authorities led to difficulties in scheduling integrated inspections.**




Sectoral checklist and Guidelines




<http://www.unece.org/env/teia.html>

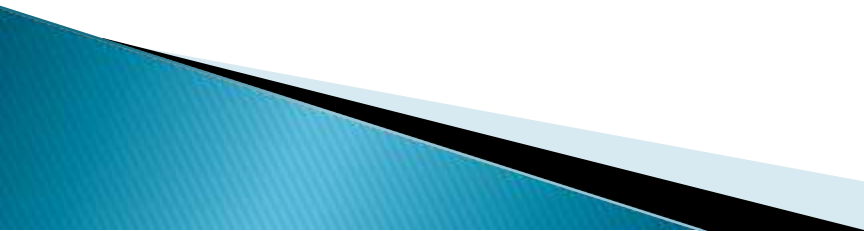
National training session on safety management system as a part of safety report (Belgrade, Serbia, 2013)

- ▶ Assistance in the process of implementation of the environmental legislation on Seveso II Directive and further development a national system for the prevention of major industrial accidents, through improving the quality of safety reports, respectively its part on safety management system.**
 - ▶ Defining and implementing of Safety Management System was the biggest gap in general obligations of operators, which led to poor quality of Safety Reports.**
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National training session on safety management system as a part of safety report (Belgrade, Serbia, 2013)

- ▶ Operators awareness about the importance of adequate Safety Management System improved;**
 - ▶ Improved knowledge of the operators on the issues that shall be adressed by the SMS;**
 - ▶ Operators informed on the possibility on integration of SMS with the existing management systems;**
 - ▶ Knowledge gained on this training was helpful to CA and inspection, indicating the most important issues in Safety Management System that must be covered during evaluation of Safety Reports and regular on-site inspections.**
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Other activities

- ▶ **Project Capacity building to enhance development and evaluation of the safety reports WORKSHOP ON SAFETY REPORT DEVELOPMENT February 2014, Skopje, Macedonia**
 - ▶ **Training session on the use of Indicators and Criteria under the Industrial Accidents Convention October 2014, Baku, Azerbaijan**
 - ▶ **Training session on the use of Indicators and Criteria under the Industrial Accidents Convention October 2014, Tirana, Albania**
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Capacity-building activities on land-use planning and industrial safety under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme

Conclusions of the Seminar on Land-Use Planning and Industrial Safety held in Mechelen, Belgium (16-17 May 2018) include the need for:

The organization of sub-regional workshops or seminars by UNECE with the support of lead Parties/organizations, in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia, focusing on exchanging good practices and lessons learned within and across that sub-region, and including practical sessions with a role play. These seminars would support the implementation of the UNECE Guidance on land-use planning, the siting of hazardous activities and related safety aspects in these sub-regions.


The subregional workshops have been organized as follows:

- ❖ For Eastern Europe and Caucasus, May 2019, the Republic of Moldova
- ❖ For South-Eastern Europe, October 2021, Serbia (& online teaser event in October 2020)

It is also planned to organize:

- ❖ For Central Asia – tbc based on available funding



- **Applying the indicators and criteria allowed us to identify challenges and shortcomings we face in the implementation of the Convention.**
 - **Insufficient coordination among and between national and local authorities.**
 - **Insufficient cooperation and exchange of information between these authorities, the industry and the public.**
 - **Further support to fully comply with the requirements of the Convention and thus improve industrial safety is needed.**
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National Policy Dialogues on Industrial Safety in Serbia (NPD)

- In order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of cooperation, and to establish sustainable coordination mechanisms among government authorities and between the public authorities and industry,
- In order to identify and address gaps in existing legislation, and to agree on measures to address them providing for coordinated involvement of all competent authorities,
- The Ministry of Environmental Protection in cooperation with UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention secretariat had prepared a project concept which proposes establishing of National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia.
- Launch meeting held in Belgrade, 26 October 2021
- An example of good practice for other countries, which face similar challenges regarding the environmental management and industrial safety.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

