

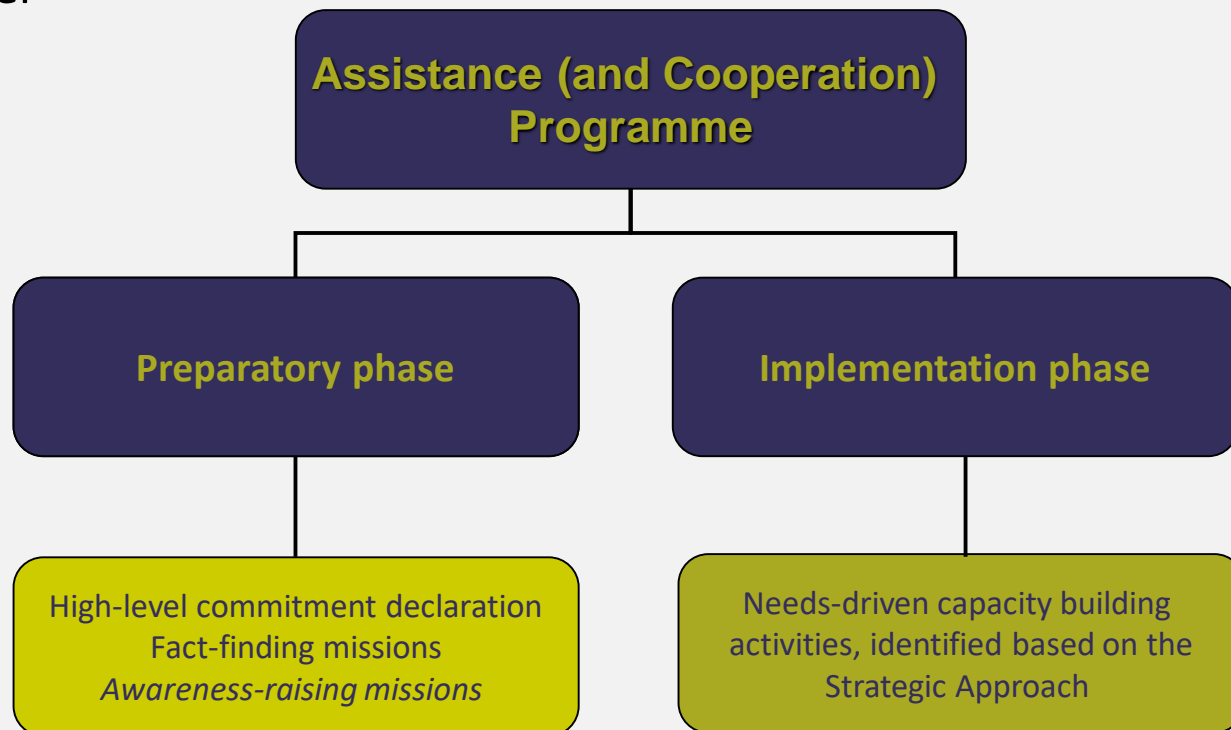


# Strategic Approach under the Assistance and Cooperation Programme

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# Assistance and Cooperation Programme

- Created in 2004
- Renamed and rebranded in 2018
- **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



# From assistance to cooperation

## **The Eighth Conference of the Parties:**

- (a) Recognized the progress achieved during the 10 years of the Assistance Programme, and the continuous need to provide further assistance to the countries in Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia;
- (b) Highlighted the need to enhance the exchange of experiences and good practices among Assistance Programme beneficiary countries;
- (c) Encouraged beneficiary countries to increase their ownership of the Programme, among others, through the preparation of self-assessment and action plans and the submission of project proposals;

## **The Tenth Conference of the Parties:**

- Decided to rename and rebrand the “Assistance Programme” into the “Assistance and Cooperation Programme” by adopting the revised Long-term strategy for the Convention until 2030

# Way forward – Assistance and Cooperation Programme

Re-branded to ensure that the Programme remains an effective instrument for delivering assistance and increasing capacity at all levels

- **Beneficiaries** cooperate increasingly and support each-other, taking full ownership for activities carried out
- Objectives:
  - Enhanced information sharing at and across the sub-regional level among beneficiaries
  - Improved transboundary cooperation, through sub-regional projects and activities
  - Leading to enhanced governance, through national policy dialogues on industrial safety, involving all relevant stakeholders
  - Addressing safety of “hot spots”
  - Working increasingly on the TMF safety, Natech risks etc.
- Implementing **multi-year, multi-country projects**

# Activities implemented under the Assistance Programme in which experts from Montenegro participated

- ✓ Implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents in Montenegro (Podgorica, 2014)
- ✓ Subregional workshop for South-Eastern Europe on industrial accidents prevention (Zagreb, 2017)
- ✓ Sub-Regional Workshop on land-use planning and industrial safety for South-Eastern Europe (Belgrade, 2021)
- ✓ Technical mission to support Montenegro in the implementation of the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (Podgorica, 2021)

# Objectives of the Strategic Approach

## The main goal:

To achieve continuous improvement and sustainability of the implementation of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents by the countries participating in the Assistance and Cooperation Programme

## Specific goals:

- Bring integrity to the implementation of the Convention
- A reliable and "long-term" approach that allows for flexible and targeted funding for the implementation of Assistance and Cooperation Program activities
- To achieve institutional sustainability and support for the countries of Eastern, South-Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia in the implementation of the Convention

# Why is Strategic Approach needed?

- It is a tool providing a robust basis for the comprehensive, carefully planned and coordinated implementation of the Convention
- Designed not to replace the plans already available or being developed, but to function as an umbrella for all the plans, integrating and linking them with each other
- Requires countries to analyse, monitor and evaluate the level of implementation in each priority working area and to identify shortcomings and challenges regarding implementation of the Convention
- Also requires that countries compare the situation before and after the measures taken and determine if further improvements are needed

# Assistance and Cooperation Programme

## Cyclic/ strategic approach



Main stages of the Convention implementation / indicators and criteria

**Step 1 – Self-assessment** of the national mechanisms, determination of existing gaps & challenges

**Step 2 – Action plan** to address existing challenges and improve existing mechanisms

→ Project proposals

**Step 3 – Evaluation** of results of the implemented actions



# Priority working areas

## Six working areas:

Working area 1. Identification of hazardous activities

Working area 2. Notification of hazardous activities

Working area 3. Prevention

Working area 4. Preparedness

Working area 5. Response and mutual assistance

Working area 6. Information to the public and public participation

## Two cross-cutting themes (when assessing all six working areas):

- Legislation (both primary and secondary)
- Institutional capacity (at the national and local levels)

## Additional working area:

- The siting of hazardous activities

# Monitoring of cycles of implementation using the Form

Steps of the cyclic mechanism	Use of the tables in the Form
<p style="text-align: center;">Step 1</p> <p>Analysis and examination of the level of implementation of the Convention Identification of shortcomings and challenges</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Table 1</p> <p>Collect data on the results of the self-assessment, with a detailed and precise explanation of the progress stage assigned to a specific indicator and of the identification of shortcomings and challenges. List priority actions to be undertaken</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Step 2</p> <p>Definition of steps to be undertaken and the timeframe to eliminate shortcomings. Elaboration of a national action plan and its implementation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Table 2</p> <p>List planned activities to be carried out (plan of activities). The plan needs to be based on the shortcomings or challenges identified and needs to be validated by the relevant authorities according to the rules and practices in each country</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Step 3</p> <p>Assessment of results achieved</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Table 3</p> <p>Record activities implemented within a cycle and the results achieved. Data should be collected for each activity undertaken at the national or international level, independently or with external assistance, regardless of a programme under which activities took place</p>

# Table 1 Results of the self-assessment, a detailed and precise explanation of the progress stage assigned to a specific indicator, identification of shortcomings and challenges, priority actions

Areas of working with indicators	Progress stage with explanation	Identification of shortcomings and challenges, priority actions
<b>Identification of hazardous activities</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for data collection</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for data analysis and validation</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for data review and revision</li> </ul>		
<b>Notification of hazardous activities</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for transboundary consultation on hazardous activities</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for notification of hazardous activities</li> </ul>		
<b>Prevention</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of HA operators</li> </ul>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mechanism for control regime of competent authorities</li> </ul>		

# Six working areas & indicators

## **Indicators of working area 1: identification of hazardous activities**

- I. Mechanism for data collection
- II. Mechanism for data analysis and validation
- III. Mechanism for data review and revision

## **Indicators of working area 2: notification of hazardous activities**

- I. Mechanism for transboundary consultation on hazardous activities
- II. Mechanism for notification of hazardous activities

## **Indicators of working area 3: prevention**

- I. Mechanism for responsibility for safe operation to HA operators
- II. Mechanism for control regime

## **Indicators of working area 4: preparedness**

- I. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of HA operators
- II. Mechanism for responsibility for emergency preparedness of competent authorities
- III. Mechanism for transboundary emergency plans

## **Indicators of working area 5: response and mutual assistance**

- I. Mechanism for prompt recognition of industrial accidents
- II. Mechanism for application of UNECE IAN system
- III. Mechanism for local notification systems
- IV. Mechanism for requesting/providing assistance for IA

## **Indicators of working area 6: information to the public and public participation**

- I. Mechanism for information to the public potentially affected by IA
- II. Mechanism for public participation

# Part 1 of the cyclical approach = self-assessment using indicators and criteria

Task: to provide criteria for self-assessment of progress achieved

The criteria are divided into 6 levels of progress:

Progress Stage	Criteria for self-assessment of progress
6	The indicator is fully operational and implemented by the competent authorities, the operators or both.
5	The indicator has been adopted and covers all the minimum elements, but is only partly operational in practice (due to lack of resources).
4	Intensive and detailed discussions take place among stakeholders on the content of legislation and specific procedures.
3	A decision has been taken at the level of policymakers to introduce or update the indicators. Relevant stakeholders are identified.
2	Initial discussions at the national level or among authorities, experts and operators are leading to the introduction of the indicators.
1	Little awareness among competent authorities of the need to introduce the indicator or of the requirements for setting it up.

Criteria for high levels of progress with detailed elements

# How to conduct the self-assessment?

Analyze each working area separately

Analyze each indicator separately

Get relevant information

Discuss the situation in the country

Document the reasons for each identified stage of progress

# Action plans

National action plans are developed to address the challenges faced by countries that were identified during self-assessment

Preparing the action plan entails the following steps:

1. Referring to the self-assessment table
2. Proposing the activities
3. Filling in the details

**Table 11.** Plan of activities to be undertaken with regard to the list of priority actions identified in self-assessment

Activities	Description of the activity with an indication of targeted result	Responsibility and stakeholders involved	Timing	External assistance needed? If yes, what kind?
1st activity				
2nd activity				
...				

## And finally... Project proposals

Based on national action plans, countries can develop activities aimed at developing and implementing measures to implement the Convention. If necessary, these activities can be carried out through [the Assistance Programme](#) (subject to the availability of funds and approval by the relevant bodies under the Convention)

In order to help countries to design solid project proposals, a template has been designed



# Implementation of the Strategic Approach by Montenegro

- Submitted its first self-assessment in July 2018 (incomplete)
- Submitted its revised self-assessment in July 2020
- WGI provided feedback in August-September 2020
- Submitted the second draft in December 2020
- WGI provided feedback in April 2021
- Revised self-assessment submitted in May 2021

Final self-assessment and national action plan expected as an outcome of the technical mission on 30 November – 1 December 2021

**Thank you for your attention**

**For more information please visit:**

**[www.unece.org/env/teia](http://www.unece.org/env/teia)**