

18th meeting of the Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) under the Water Convention, 19-21 June 2023

12.c Partnerships

Outcomes of the recent activities and future plans for the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Mr. Peter KOVACS

Head of Department of River Basin Management and Water Protection, Hungary

1. Main achievements in this area of work

- Better access to knowledge, guidance and good industry practices on preventing accidental water pollution
- Improved cooperation with River Basin Commissions
- Increased capacity on the safety of tailings management facilities on the ground

In partnership with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents helps Parties to prevent industrial accidents



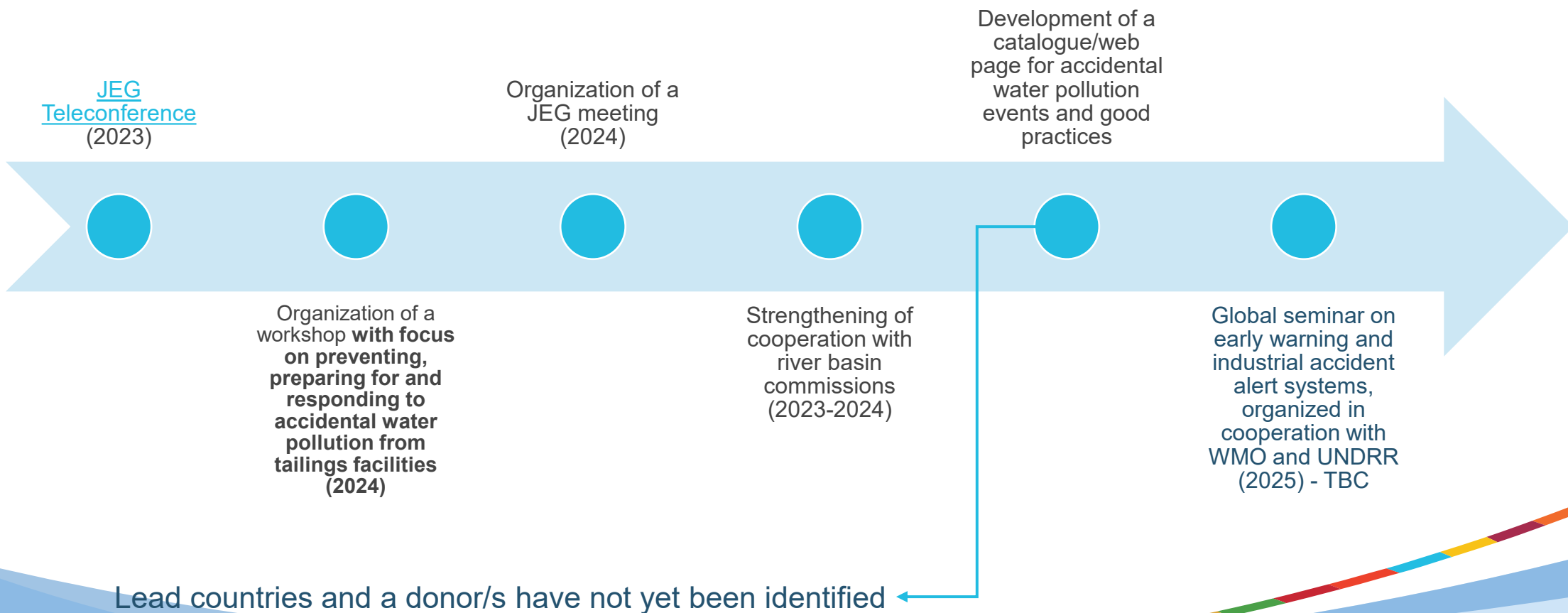
2. How was it achieved?

- Seminar on emerging risks in accidental water pollution: focus on natural hazard-triggered accidents (5 October 2022)
 - Understanding and preventing accidental water pollution as a result of natural hazards
 - Safe industrial installations in a changing climate
 - Innovative approaches to limit the consequences of accidental water pollution events
- JEG meeting (6 October 2022)
- Promotion and translation into national languages of the JEG developed guidance and good industry practices
- Project on improving the safety of tailings management facilities (TMFs) in Kyrgyzstan – training and legislative options

3. Selected conclusions based on the seminar in 2022

- Considering Natech with respect to accidental water pollution amplifies the need for riparian countries to act jointly on a transboundary level.
 - Tests with warning and alert systems, table-top and field exercises enhance transboundary cooperation.
- Regional and sectoral climate change adaptation frameworks play an important role in enhancing a country's capacity to prevent and mitigate Natech events and, consequently, accidental water pollution.
- Using Warning and Alert Systems is crucial to inform riparian countries, mitigate pollution, in case of industrial accidents and also if pollutions do not meet any standardized definition.

4. Planned future activities until MOP10



Thank you!



WEB

unece.org/env/water



EMAIL

hanna.plotnykova@un.org



RESOURCES

<https://unece.org/environment-policy/water/areas-work-convention/water-and-adaptation-climate-change>

