International workshop and site visit on Increasing capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to accidental water pollution from tailings facilities Bratislava, 23-24 April 2024

–hosted by Slovakia and organized by UNECE, in cooperation with the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)–

Preliminary workshop agenda (23 April 2024) – as of 19 March 2024

09:00 – 09:30	**Registration of participants**	
09:30 – 09:45	**Opening by high level representatives of:** 1. Ministry of Environment of Slovakia 2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia 3. UNECE 4. JEG Co-Chairs	
09:45 – 11:00	**Session 1: International and national regulatory frameworks on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution and their practical application** *The session will cover international and national legal and policy frameworks and how they address TMF hazards/risks and Natech risks. It will showcase the experience of countries from different regions in this respect and elaborate on multi-level cooperation between all stakeholders (national and local authorities, operators, and the public) and national and local actions. The session will focus on the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions, serviced by UNECE, their various tools and guidance materials.* *Chaired by **Bojan Srdić,** Co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, Senior Advisor, Ministry of Environmental Protection, Serbia*	
	UNECE legal instruments, tools, and guidelines to prevent accidental water pollution from mine tailings	Claudia Kamke, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents Hanna Plotnykova, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by UNECE
	Development of the regulatory framework on tailings safety and the prevention of accidental water pollution in Romania: Lessons learned, and progress made	Zoltán Török, Assoc. Associate Professor, PhD, Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania (online)
	Practical implementation of the UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for tailings management facilities and a related Checklist Methodology in Tajikistan	Firdavs Sharipov, Head of the State Inspectorate for Geological Supervision of the State Supervision of Safe Work in Industry and Mining Supervision Service under the

		Government of the Republic of Tajikistan
	Implementation of and cooperation among Member States and other stakeholders under the EU's Extractive Waste Directive	Pauline-Alexa Wolters, Policy Officer DG ENV B3, European Commission (online)
	Q&As for the session	
	Discussion on limitations or gaps of existing regulatory and policy frameworks	Chair of the Session
11:00 – 11:30	**Coffee break**	
11:30 – 12:30	**Session 2: Role of transboundary basin organizations in the prevention and mitigation of accidental water pollution** *Transboundary basin organizations are important players in building cooperation between riparian countries and improving governance of multi-sector and multi-hazard risks. Hence, the session will be dedicated to presenting information on how transboundary water bodies address challenges related to mining and accidental water pollution. Regular update of a basin-wide catalogue of hazardous industrial, abandoned and mining sites is an essential task to be accomplished for better preparedness, prevention, and response to associated risks. In identifying the high-risk potential accident hot spots, the transboundary basin organizations are a proper platform for data sharing, exchange of experience, know-how transfer as well as joint and/or coordinated monitoring, planning, and implementing measures by the riparian countries.* *Chaired by **Peter Kovács**, Co-chair of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary*	
	Tailings Management Facilities in the Danube River Basin: ICPDR Recommendations for Sustainable Pollution Prevention	Adam Kovacs, Technical Expert for Pollution Control, ICPDR
	National Implementation Plan (2021) for the two Global Water Conventions, including UNECE Water Convention, and addressing of the challenges from illegal mining pollution occurrences in transboundary waters	Mawuli Lumor, Water Resources Commission, Chief Basin Officer, Ghana
	Platform for data sharing, exchange of experience, know-how transfer as well as joint and/or coordinated monitoring, planning, and implementing measures by the riparian countries	Dinara Ziganshina, PhD, Director, Scientific Information Center of Interstate Commission for Water Coordination in Central Asia, Uzbekistan (online)
	Q&As for the session	
12:30 – 14:00	**Lunch**	
14:00 – 15:00	**Session 3: Life cycle, monitoring and controls of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs), including early warning systems** *The session will cover issues of aging of TMF constructions and instrumentation. It will discuss approaches for monitoring TMFs, including through space-born technology and early warning systems, and present how to integrate the risk management processes into the company's management, its strategy and planning and reporting processes. As such, this part of the workshop will lay the foundations for another workshop planned for 2025, which will be specifically focused on early warning systems.*	

	*Chaired by **Peter Panenka**, Dam Expert, Slovak water management construction company (Vodohospodárska výstavba, š.p.), Division of Technical-Safety Supervision, Dam Safety Department*	
	Slovakia's experience in the use of early warning systems for tailings management facilities	Martin Bakes, Water management construction company, Slovakia
	Early Warning System: A risk management tool – but when to be activated?"	Annika Bjelkevik, Tailings Consultants Scandinavia AB, Sweden COLD, Chair of ICOLD - Committee L Tailings Dams and Waste Lagoons Sweden) (online)
	Experience of monitoring and early warning systems for TMFs	Frédéric Moinet, CEO of Geolinks, France
	The use and benefits of InSAR technology for stability/risk assessments for TMFs	Reijo Pold, Founder of Value.Space, Estonia (online)
	Q&A for the session	
15:00 – 16:00	**Interactive session 4: Discussion on financing of Tailings Management Facilities (TMFs) after closure?** *During this session the participants will be asked to reply to a number of questions using their PC or mobile phone via online application sli.do. Questions will stimulate the discussion on financing of TMFs after closure. The responses to the questions will be shown live and will be complemented by the panelists.* *Chaired by **Danka Thalmeinerova,** Strategic water planning officer, Ministry of Environment, Slovakia*	
16:00 – 16:30	**Coffee break**	
16:30 – 17:20	**Session 5: Tailings and water pollution risks, including tools to mitigate them.** *Among others, technological or natural hazards could lead to large scale accidents and water pollution within and beyond country borders. Adapting to climate change and managing the risks of natural and technological hazards in transboundary basins has become critical, as the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events are on the rise in the wake of the changing climate. This session will discuss Natech and other risks, and approaches and methods used to decrease such risks, including risk assessment or modelling of industrial water pollution impact, or decontamination measures.* *Chaired by **Hanna Plotnykova**, Environmental Affairs Officer, Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes (Water Convention), serviced by UNECE*	
	Lesson learned from the 2011 red mud spill in Hungary for the future management of TMFs	Péter Kovács, Head of River Basin Management and Water Protection Department, Ministry of Interior, Hungary
	Military activities as a risk factor for major accidents at TMFs	Iryna Nikolayeva, Environmental Consultant (PAX), Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine (OSCE) (online)
	Managing NaTech Hazards Risks for tailings management facilities in Armenia	Armine Hayrapetyan, Acting Rector of the Crisis Management State Academy, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Armenia

	Q&A for the session
17:20 – 17:30	**Closing remarks by JEG co-Chairs and Secretariat**
18:30	**Informal reception hosted by the Slovak water management construction company (Vodohospodárska výstavba, š.p.) and the Ministry of Environment of Slovakia**

Onsite visit (24 April 2024)

7:30 – 13:00 **Onsite visit to a tailings management facility in Žiar nad Hronom**
(for all in-persons participants based upon the registration).
A refreshment package will be provided for participants.

14:00 – 19:00 **Meeting of the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)**
(for JEG experts only)