



**Republic of Serbia**  
**Ministry of Environmental Protection**

**Experience in the Practical  
Implementation of the Industrial  
Accidents Convention**

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# Background



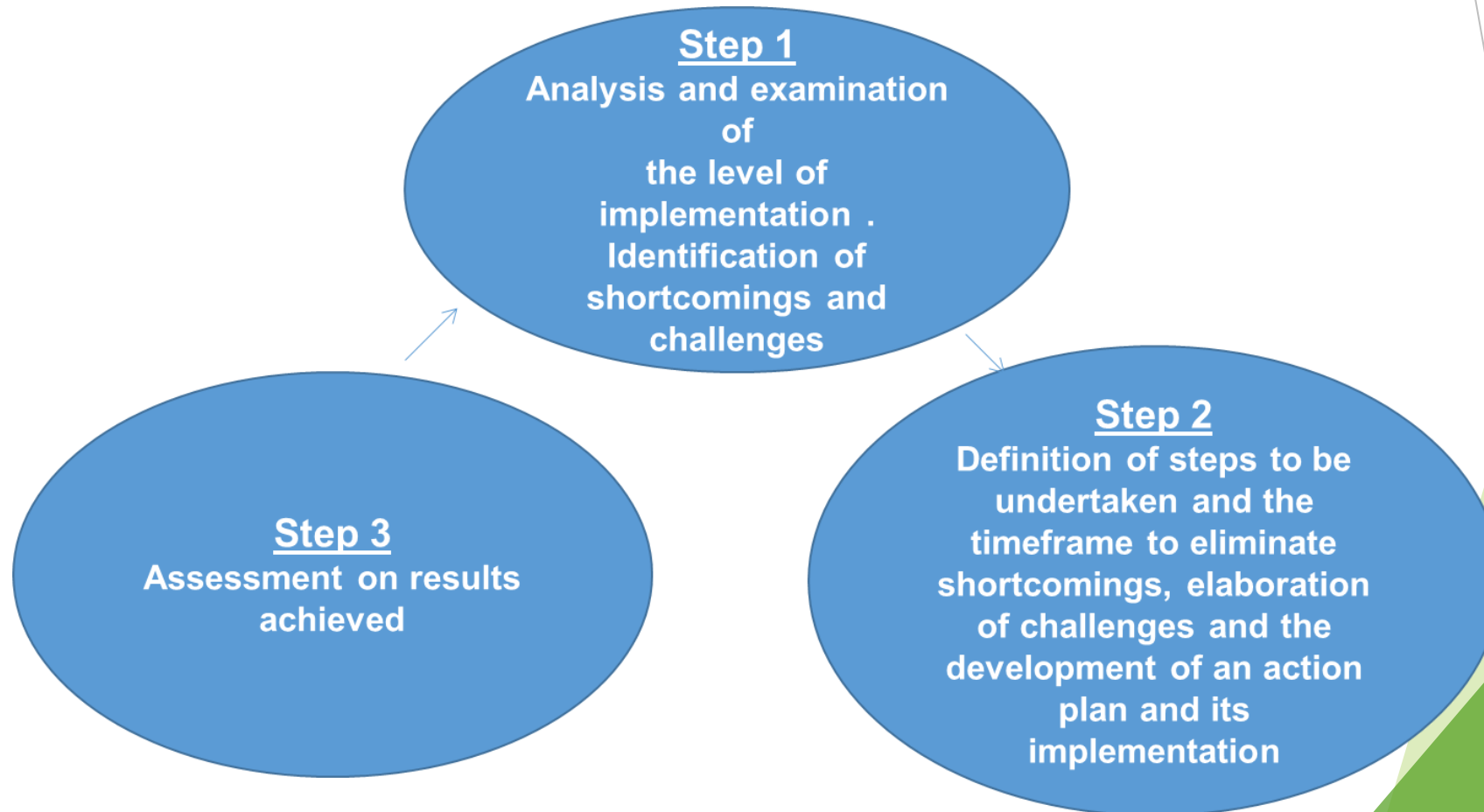
- **Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents** aims at protecting human beings and the environment against industrial accidents by preventing such accidents as far as possible, by reducing their frequency and severity and by mitigating their effects. It promotes active international cooperation between the contracting Parties, before, during and after an industrial accident.
- **In 2009 Serbia acceded to the UNECE Industrial Accidents Convention** and is a beneficiary of its Assistance and Cooperation Programme.
- Republic of Serbia currently is a member of the Bureau of the Convention, is co-chairing the JEG, is a member of WGI and has two representatives in Small Group on Mine Tailing Safety.

# Background

- ▶ Implementation of the Convention requires the coordinated participation of numerous competent authorities at the national level, their vertical coordination with regional and local authorities, industry and the public, as well as bilateral cross-border cooperation with neighboring countries
- ▶ The Republic of Serbia committed to improve industrial safety and work towards the implementation of the Convention, however, due to insufficient coordination among and between national and local authorities and industry operators, has not yet been able to overcome some of the existing shortcomings and challenges.

# Use of Conventions Strategic Approach

- ▶ CoP adopted Strategic Approach in 2008

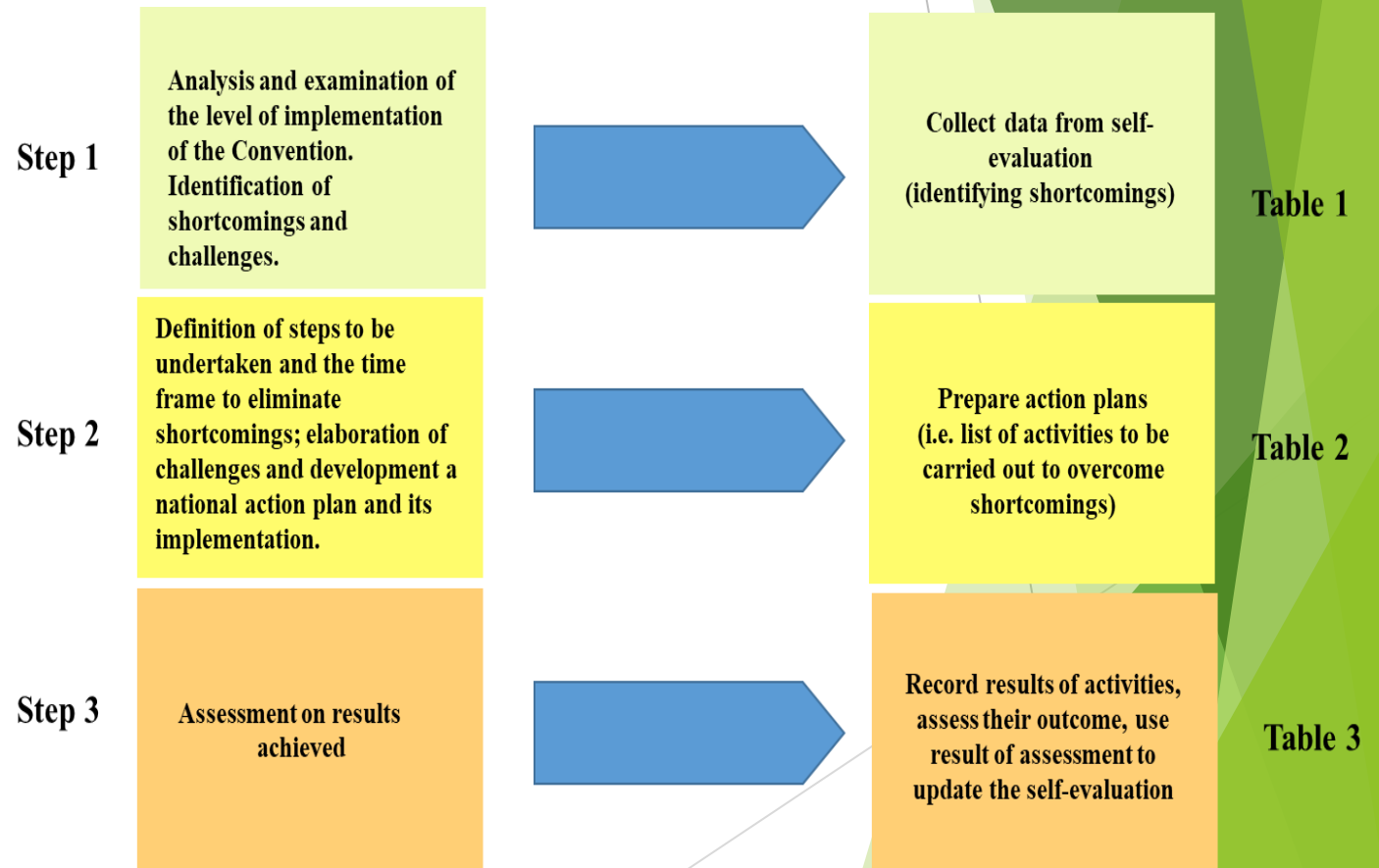
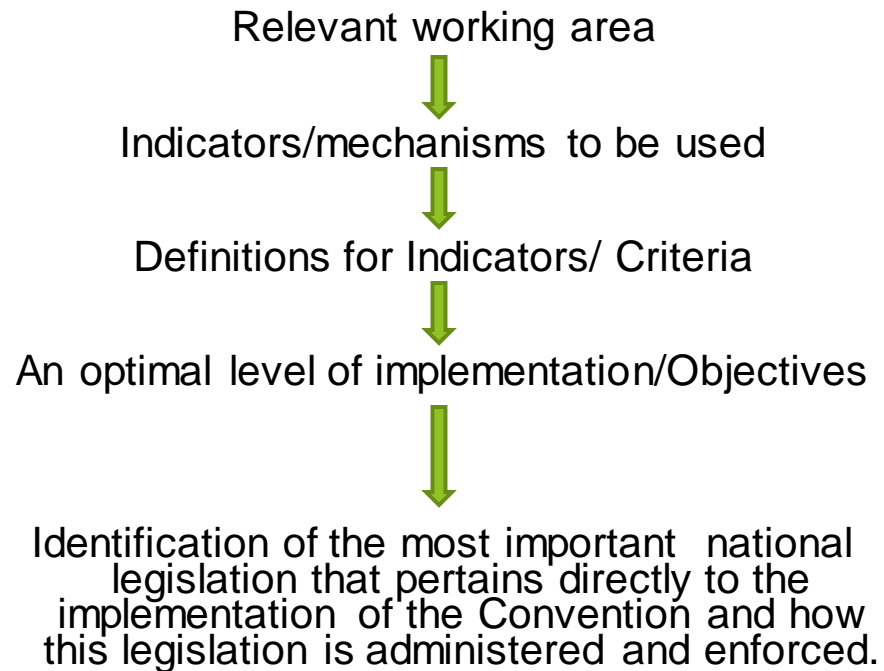


# Use of Conventions Strategic Approach

- ▶ Six priority working areas:
  - (a) Identification of hazardous activities;
  - (b) Notification of hazardous activities;
  - (c) Prevention;
  - (d) Preparedness;
  - (e) Response and mutual assistance;
  - (f) Information to and public participation

# Use of Conventions Strategic Approach

## Study of indicators and criteria



# Use of Conventions Strategic Approach

- ▶ 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 and
  - Further support to fully comply with the requirements of the Convention and thus improve industrial safety is needed.

# Overcoming challenges and shortcomings

- ▶ 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:
  - 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, and
  - 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.



# From challenges to Goals

## CHALLENGES

- Improving the cooperation of competent authorities
- Joint action of competent authorities towards the economy and citizens
- Establishing mechanisms for adequate information exchange
- Improvement of legislation

## NEEDS

- ▶ Involvement of all levels of authorities
- ▶ Clarification of obligations of business entities
- ▶ Information available to investors and citizens

## GOALS

- ▶ Improving industrial safety
- ▶ Protection of human health
- ▶ Environmental Protection

# National Policy Dialogue 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 prepared a project concept which proposes establishing of National Policy Dialogue for Industrial Safety in Serbia.
- **UNECE**, in cooperation with **OECD**, support Serbia in establishing and maintaining effective coordination between various competent authorities, as well as their coordination with industry, civil society and universities, where relevant.

# National Policy Dialogue on Industrial Safety in Serbia

- ▶ **National Policy Dialogue on Industrial Safety in Serbia** is a platform to advance policy reforms and enhance environmental governance, disaster resilience and industrial safety.
- ▶ NPD is a tool to identify and fill gaps in the existing legislation, as well as a basis for reaching an agreement on the implementation of measures to solve the identified problems, ensuring the coordinated involvement of all competent authorities.

# National Policy Dialogue on Industrial Safety in Serbia

- ▶ This process would ensure synergy with other multilateral international agreements in the field of the environment, as well as with EU regulations, especially the Seveso III directive.
- ▶ NPD will also contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Sendai Framework  
for Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 - 2030

# National Programme for Industrial Safety

- ▶ One of the NPD goals is to develop a National Program for Industrial Safety through a process of consultations with relevant institutions and stakeholders.
- ▶ National Program for Industrial Safety has been drafted in 2023 and it is planned to be aligned with national Law on Planning System during following period.

**The general objective** of the National Program for Industrial Safety is to promote implementation of policy and legislation and governance in order to improve industrial safety, strengthen disaster resilience and industrial accident risk management and contribute to sustainable development.

Output of National Program for Industrial Safety will be Action Plan, with detailed activities, responsibilities and planned budget for those activities.



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**Thank you for your attention!**