



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents

Assistance
Programme



UNECE Convention on the Transboundary

Effects of Industrial Accidents

Project under the Assistance Programme

Project on hazard and crisis management

PROJECT ON HAZARD AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE DELTA

Fourth Meeting of the Project Management Group

18 June 2014

The Hague, Netherlands

Meeting Minutes

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands) who opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. He informed the Project Management Group that for the agenda items 3 and 4, project partners would dial in via teleconference.

The Group adopted the provisional agenda without changes.

2. Update on progress made with the project implementation to date

The secretariat provided an overview of the project structure and informed about implemented activities coordinated by the secretariat. The project coordinators reported on the progress achieved with hazard and crisis management at the national level resulting directly from the project. The Group took stock of the progress made to date and shared expectations for the finalization of the project.

Based on the discussion, the Group concluded that there is still a need to implement activities planned under the project, in particular to develop a joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta and to draft and sign joint agreements on hazard and crisis management, as there were currently neither a trilateral agreement between all countries in place, nor bilateral instruments between the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine or Romania and Ukraine.

The project countries reaffirmed their commitment to the project and agreed to implement the remaining activities until 31 November 2015. In order to secure political support for Ukraine's contribution to the continuation of the project and to further reaffirm the commitment of the country, Mr. Obodovskij and Mr. Kropotov suggested the organization of a high-level mission to Ukraine. They offered to check with their colleagues, the high-level management of their authority and other competent authorities, possible options for organizing such a mission and to communicate them to the secretariat, so as to allow the mission to be held as soon as feasible. They also committed to coordinate before the mission with all national institutions involved in the project to assure their participation in a joint meeting during the mission. The Group welcomed this proposal, emphasizing that the implementation of the project would continue even if the mission would not be held.

3. Way forward of the hazard management component

The Group discussed the progress made with on-going activities under the hazard management component of the project and agreed on the following:

(a) Safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals

The Group expressed its appreciation to the international expert group who elaborated the safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals. It welcomed the proposal to present the safety guidelines at the upcoming Conference of the Parties in December 2014.

(b) Hazard spots map

The secretariat informed the meeting that since the last meeting of the Group no update of the hazard spots map could have been done due to a lack of information provided by the project countries. The Group requested the secretariat to recirculate the national inventories with hazardous substances and the project countries agreed to provide their feedback by the end of July 2014. Thereafter, the secretariat should

finalize the hazard spots map which could be attached to the final project report and be made available on the UNECE homepage.

(c) Comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks of the countries, including draft agreements on hazard and crisis management

Ms. Popovici, the consultant engaged to prepare the above analysis, introduced via telephone conference the first draft of the comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks of the three project countries and informed the meeting that she would need feedback on certain issues from the project coordinators. The project coordinators, welcoming the first draft, asked Ms. Popovici to highlight the issues where feedback was needed and requested the secretariat to circulate that version. They agreed to provide their comments within two weeks upon circulation.

Ms. Popovici also informed the Group about the next steps for the preparation of the safety standards and the draft trilateral agreement which would be prepared upon finalization of the comparative analysis. Meeting participants agreed to provide comments on those drafts.

(d) Second workshop on hazard management

The secretariat presented conceptual ideas for the second workshop on hazard management and suggested that it could aim at the following: (i) Presentation of action plans / recommendations for improving hazard management (improvements to legislation, standards, etc.); and (ii) Setting the basis for the bi- or trilateral sectoral agreements on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta. The Group agreed with the concept for the workshop and suggested that a joint visit to the ports of Reni and Izmail be added.

In addition, the project coordinator from the Republic of Moldova offered to host the second workshop on hazard management, back-to-back with the planned table-top exercise in February 2015, and proposed that the joint visit to Ukraine could be organized as a day trip from the Republic of Moldova. The Group welcomed this proposal and requested the secretariat to develop a more elaborate concept, based on ideas that the Group members agreed to provide to the secretariat in the third quarter of 2014.

4. Way forward of the crisis management component

The secretariat introduced a concept note proposing a schedule for the implementation of the remaining activities under the crisis management component of the project. The Group agreed on a timeline for the finalization of the project (see item 7).

The secretariat further informed participants that Finland proposed to provide a financial contribution to the crisis management component of the project to address elements of complacency. The project countries welcomed this and agreed to support activities with in-kind contributions. In particular, Romania and the Republic of Moldova offered to lead and organize activities as set out below:

(a) Development of a joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta

Romania, the lead country for this activity, briefed the meeting on the progress made with the elaboration of the joint contingency plan which was limited to date, among others, due to language difficulties in the working group who is elaborating it and the lack of information provided from Ukraine.

The Ukrainian participants apologized for the non-provision of information and requested the recirculation of the list with information to be provided. The Group agreed that all countries would review the information previously provided and send it to Mr. Senzaconi who would prepare a first draft of the joint contingency plan by the end of September 2014. The draft should also be based on the results of the comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks and the checklist/methodology for harmonized contingency planning for accidents with potential impacts on transboundary waters that is currently being developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents to which Mr. Senzaconi is a co-Chair. The Group also agreed that the expert meetings, back-to-back with the table-top and field exercises, would be focussed on reviewing and improving the joint contingency plan as well as on addressing issues of complacency.

(b) Implementation of the table-top and field exercises

The Republic of Moldova, being the lead and host country for the table-top exercise, shared initial ideas for a scenario of the exercise and informed that it would be further elaborated towards the end of the year, using also the draft joint contingency plan, so as to test the procedures specified therein.

Regarding the field exercise, the Group brainstormed on ideas regarding the scenario and came to the conclusion that it would be best to simulate an oil spill from a terminal in the Republic of Moldova in order to ensure the involvement of all three countries in the exercise. Ms. Stirbu agreed to seek both confirmation for the hosting by the Republic of Moldova and possible co-financing of the field exercise or synergies with the PPRD East Programme. Ukraine and Romania offered to prepare, once the scenario was known, a list with in-kind resources which they could contribute to the organization of the field exercise, such as the financing of the travel of national experts.

In addition, the secretariat provided an overview about the project contributions and expenditures, including the planning for the crisis management component of the project.

5. Final project report

The meeting discussed the structure and input to be provided by the project countries for the final report. It was agreed that the secretariat would circulate the final project structure, including bullet points on the information to be provided, in early 2015 to the project countries which should send their input by the end of June 2015 for inclusion into the report.

6. Review of outstanding action items from the last PMG meeting

The meeting reviewed a table with action items from the last Group meeting and noticed that all action items had either been addressed before or during this meeting.

7. Time schedule for implementation of activities in 2014-15

The Group discussed that the project should be finalized by the end of 2015 and Germany agreed to extend the agreement on the hazard management component until 31 November 2015. To this end, the following time schedule for the implementation of the remaining project activities was agreed:

Activity	Proposed date	Lead Country
Hazard Management		
Finalization of the comparative analysis of the national legal frameworks, including the safety standards to be applied	End of September 2014	Secretariat, in cooperation with the consultant
Finalization of the hazards spots map	December 2014	Secretariat, based on input from the project countries
Finalization of the safety guidelines and good industry practices for oil terminals	December 2014	Germany, supported by the secretariat
Second workshop on hazard management	February 2015	Republic of Moldova
Crisis Management		
Drafting the joint contingency plan ¹	October 2014	Romania
Table-top exercise and evaluation workshop to review and improve the joint contingency plan and to address issues of complacency	February 2015	Republic of Moldova
Field exercise (including a preparatory meeting) and evaluation workshop	June 2015	Republic of Moldova
Finalisation of the joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta	June 2015	Romania
Hazard and Crisis Management		
Drafting of the trilateral agreement on hazard and crisis management	First quarter of 2015	Secretariat, in cooperation with the consultant
Final international project workshop to present the results and to sign the trilateral agreement on hazard and crisis management as well as the joint contingency plan for the Danube Delta	September 2015	Romania

The Group also decided that the final project workshop, to be held in September or October 2015, should serve the purpose to present all project outputs and to sign the trilateral agreement on hazard and crisis management.

8. Further remarks / feedback by project and donor countries

The meeting agreed that the project countries should make a joint presentation at the upcoming Conference of the Parties on the progress made with the project, results achieved and impact.

9. Closing of the meeting

The Chair thanked the secretariat and Group members for their active participation in the meeting before summarizing the decisions taken and closing the session. The Group members and the secretariat thanked the Chair for hosting the meeting.

¹ The Group agreed that an additional expert meeting to prepare the table-top exercise and to review the joint contingency plan could be organized in October or November 2014, should there be a need.