



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

Progress achieved in the last 20 years

Péter Kovács

Ministry of Interior of Hungary/Co-chair of the JEG

Industrial Accidents and water



8th Session of the
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UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

- Adopted in 17 March 1992 (Helsinki, Finland)
- Entered into force in 19 April 2000
- Now has 41 Parties, including EU, Russia, Caucasus and Central Asia



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
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The Joint Expert Group (JEG)



JEG was established under the “Water”- and the “Industrial Accidents”- Conventions to work on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution which is of interest to both Conventions in 1998.

Co-Chairmanship

“Water”Convention + ”Industrial Accident“ Convention



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
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The Joint Expert Group (JEG)

- Cooperation between the Water and IA Conventions on issues related to accidental water pollution
- 7-9 May 1998 – Workshop on the prevention of IA and limitation of their impact on transboundary waters
- 13-15 May 1998 – 7th Meeting of the Signatories to the Industrial Accidents Convention; proposal to establish a **joint ad hoc expert group on water and industrial accidents** under both Conventions
- Sep 1998 – Endorsement of the proposal by the 1st Meeting of the Water Convention's Working Group on Water Management



8th Session of the
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Why JEG is important ?

→ Lessons learnt

- Toxic Emissions over the **Air-Path** can have dramatic consequences for Man and Environment, however the effects are mainly on a **local or regional scale**
 - Even small amounts of dangerous substances released into **waters**, can cause huge environmental damages, as the impact is **far-reaching and often transboundary**
- Water and IAs Conventions provide a legal framework for addressing the risk of transboundary water pollution



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
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Participating countries in JEG

Co-chairs:

Hungary-Switzerland,
Hungary-Germany,
Hungary-Romania,
Hungary-Germany

Experts:

Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Croatia
Czech Republic
Denmark
Finland
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan

Macedonia
Republic of Moldova
The Netherlands
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Serbia
Slovakia
Sweden
Ukraine

Secretariat's
ICPDR,



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
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JEG meetings

2001. Berlin	2011. Geneva
2002. Budapest	2011. Geneva
2003. Geneva	2014. Budapest
2003. Kaliningrad	2015. Kiev
2004. Budapest	2016. Stockholm
2005. Geneva	2016. Dnipro
2006. Geneva	2017. Dnipro
2007. Yerevan	2017. Slubice
2008. Geneva	2018. Tsaghkadzor



8th Session of the

**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**

10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

JEG meetings



10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

Basis for JEG activities

- **Mission of JEG**

- assistance in organising exercises, workshops, seminars and conferences
- drawing up training materials
- drafting specific guidelines on good practices and recommendations
eg. the implementation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Hamburg, Sandosz seminar, pipeline safety, tailing management facilities (TMFs), checklist methodology, trainings, joint excercises

- **Strategy for the JEG**

- prepared by the co-chairs of the JEG in consultation with the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Industrial Accidents Convention
- endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties in 2009



8th Session of the
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TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

JEG activities in the past (1/3)

- support to the Working Group on Civil Liability in its drafting of the [Protocol on Civil Liability](#)
- reviewing the location criterion related to the water path contained in the [guidelines to facilitate the identification of hazardous activities](#) for the purposes of the Industrial Accidents Convention
- developing an inventory of existing safety guidelines and good practices for the prevention of accidental transboundary water pollution



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN



JEG activities in the past (2/3)

- promoting international response exercises, including an international seminar on cooperation to prevent and respond to transboundary effects of industrial accidents
- developing safety guidelines for (off-site) pipelines -- which resulted in adopted [guidelines](#) and included a [workshop on the prevention of water pollution due to pipeline accidents](#) (Berlin, 2005) and a [workshop on the prevention of accidents of gas transmission pipelines](#) (The Hague, Netherlands, 2006)



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN



JEG activities in the past (2/3)

- drawing up guidelines and good practices for tailing dams -- which resulted in adopted [guidelines](#) and included a [workshop on the safety of tailing management facilities](#) (Yerevan, 2007)
- facilitating the exchange of information on the functioning of alarm and notification systems
- developing safety guidelines and good practices for crisis management on transboundary waters
- drafting guidelines for establishing model cross-border [contingency plans](#)



8th Session of the
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Timeline of the main guidances



8th Session of the
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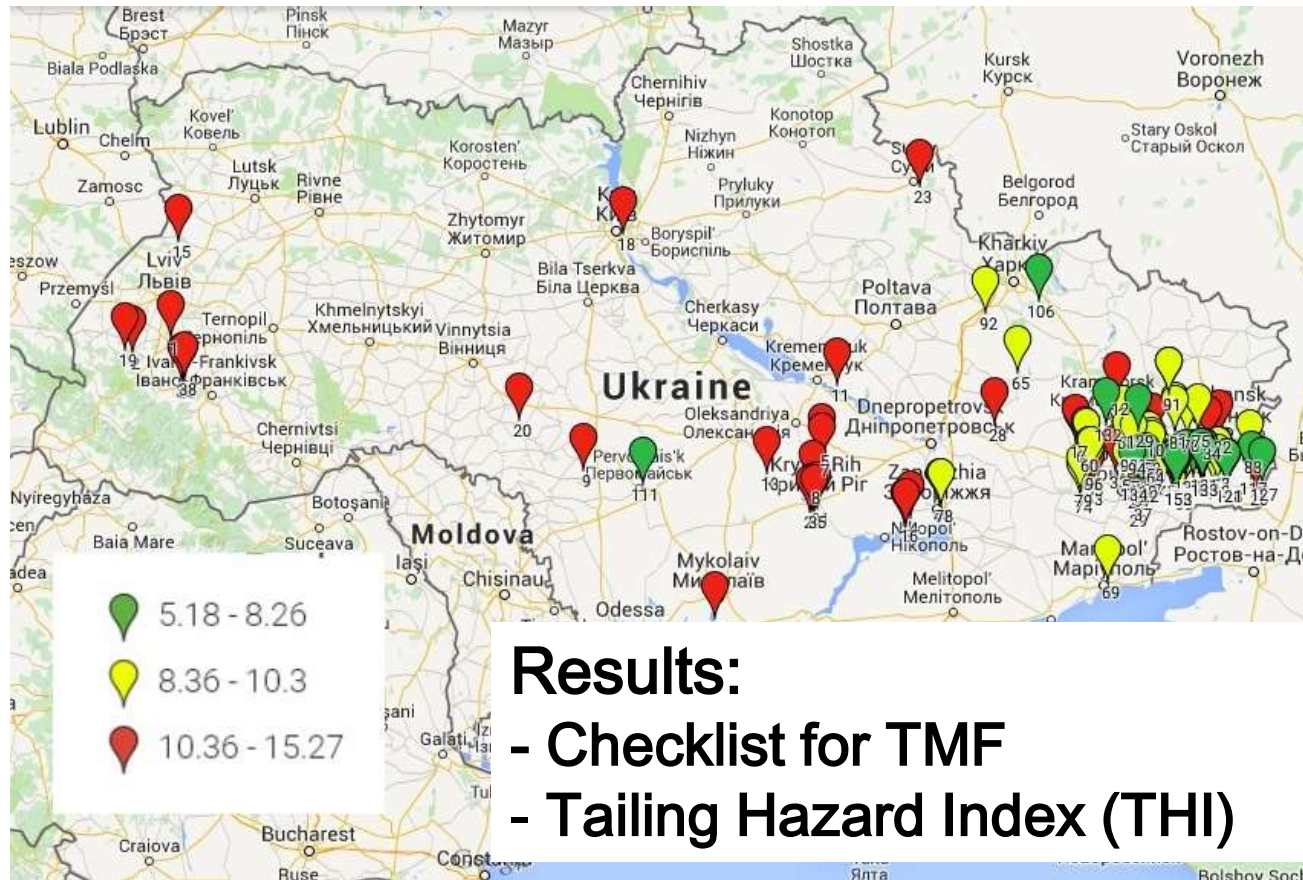
Other activities with JEG participation

- Cooperation with Universities „Raising the knowledge to the Safety of TMF“ (2017)
 - Safety of TMF in the Caucasian Region. On-site Trainings (TMF) and Analysis of Legal Deficiencies (Caucasus Region (authorities and operators)) ongoing
 - JEG Cooperation with the International Commissions for the Protection of the Odra and Danube River
 - Crisis management part of the Danube Delta Project (RO, MD, UA)
 - Table Top and Response Exercise in the Danube Delta (2015)
 - Training Programme for Inspectors (UA 2008)
- Safety Of Tailing Management Facilities (2007)
- Transboundary Risk Management at the Dniester River Basin (2006-09)
 - Transboundary Cooperation for Hazard Prevention at the Kura – River Catchment
- JEG Cooperation with UNECE – WG Monitoring and Assessment
 - UNECE-Seminar (2006)



8th Session of the
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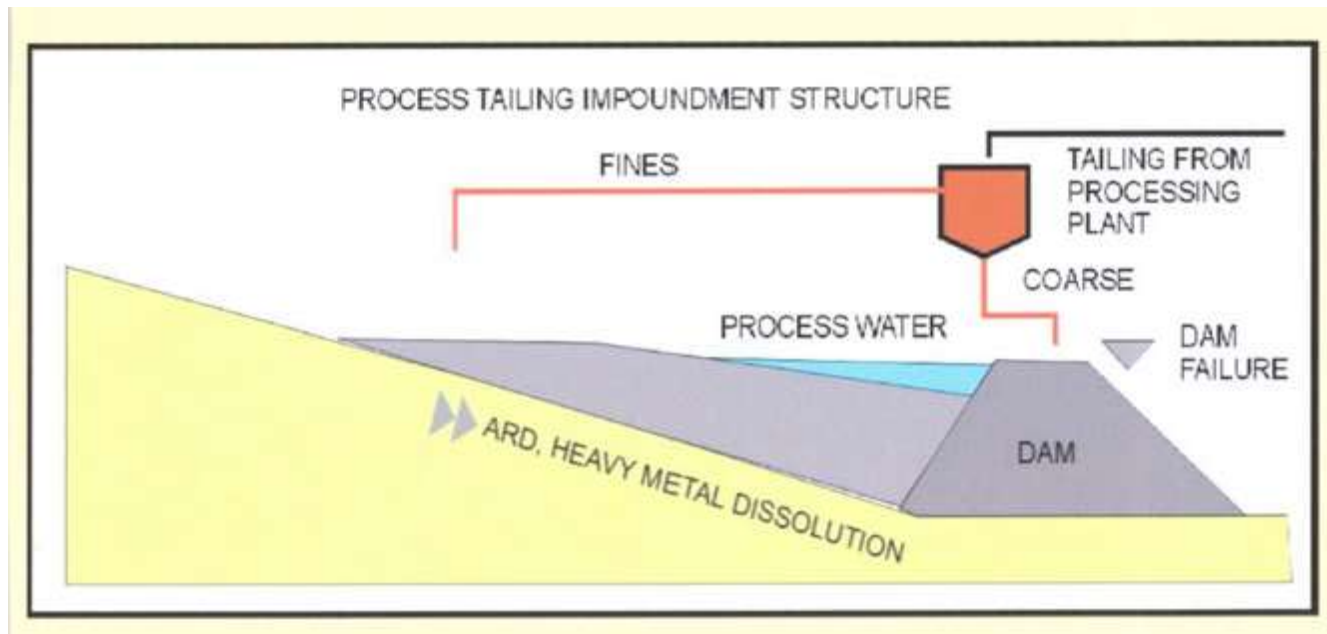
Pilot Project: TMF in Ukraine



8th Session of the
**MEETING OF THE PARTIES
TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

Tailings Management Facilities - TMF

Tailings (the waste resulting from the ore processing) usually discharged into an artificial pond (tailing pond). It is a common method for managing and disposing of this type of waste.



8th Session of the
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Tailing Management Facilities

HISTORICAL ACCIDENTS

(<http://www.tailings.info/knowledge/accidents.htm>)



CAUSES OF ACCIDENTS

- Inadequate management
- Lack of control of hydrological system
- Errors in site selection and investigation
- Unsatisfactory foundation, lack of stability of downstream slope
- Seepage
- Overtopping
- Earthquakes and landslides

**MAIN ROOT CAUSE:
RISK ANALYSIS AND RISK
MANAGEMENT NEGLECTED**



8th Session of the
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8th Session of the
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TO THE WATER CONVENTION**
10-12 OCTOBER 2018 | ASTANA | KAZAKHSTAN

International response/mitigation exercises



8th Session of the
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Suggested future work in this area

Based on the biannual work plans of the JEG

**The composition of the Joint Expert Group is unbalanced.
We need more input from the Water Convention.**

**More active participation is required in the
implementation of the future work and in hosting of the
meetings.**

Continuous and active work is expected from participants

**There is a need for a sound financial base to support
eligible countries.**



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Thank you for kind attention!



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