



BELÜGYMINISZTERIUM

**Outcome of the seminar on contingency planning,
early warning and mitigation
(Budapest, 4 and 5 Nov 2019)**

Kovács Péter

Vízgyűjtő-gazdálkodási és Vízügyi Főosztály



Main objectives

- **Exchange experiences and challenges** in (national and transboundary) contingency planning, accidental transboundary water pollution prevention, and early warning systems
- **Share good practices and challenges in the application of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) [Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters](#)**
- **Promote good practices, tools and lessons learned from international river basin commissions** in preventing transboundary water pollution
- **Strengthen participation of UNECE countries in the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG)**, and enhance cooperation with the international river basin commissions



Organisation, participants

The seminar was co-organized by Hungary and UNECE within the framework of the Industrial Accidents Convention and the Water Convention, and with the support of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR) and the JEG. It was hosted by the Hungarian Ministry of Interior and supported financially by Germany.

The seminar brought together 31 experts in contingency planning and early warning from across the UNECE region, including representatives of international river commissions, national governments, private sector, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). (International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River; International Commission for the Protection of the Odra River; International Sava River Basin Commission; International Scheldt Commission; and the Dniester Commission Belarus, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Latvia, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Sweden, and the Republic of North Macedonia)

The seminar was comprised of three sessions, each followed by a wrap-up by the Co-Chairs.



Main conclusions

- The **UNECE Checklist** for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters **provides a systematic approach** to assess the risks of transboundary pollution and helps to ensure effective and efficient contingency planning, including in a transboundary context.
- In **using the Checklist** (e.g. by integrating it into national legislation or using it for training and educational purposes), **countries can work towards fulfilling their obligations under the UNECE Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions**, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, notably Sustainable Development Goal 6 on ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.
- The national approaches to **contingency planning**, early warning, alarm, alert, thresholds and notification systems, organizational/governance structures and the financial mechanisms for managing and responding to accidental water pollution **differ from country to country**.
- **River basin commissions provide important platforms for exchange**, tools, expertise, and for fostering bi- and multi-lateral agreements on accidental pollution prevention and transboundary contingency planning management.
- The **perception of upstream and downstream countries is different** regarding accidental water pollution. Joint strategies and standards are therefore necessary for transboundary warning and alert systems.



Thank you for your kind attention!