Fighting Accidental Pollution in the Danube River Basin

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Danube River Basin

Large variety of natural factors and socio-economic conditions

800,000 km²
2,900 km
6,500 m³/s
85 Mio PE
19 countries
Role of the ICPDR

ICPDR: platform for transboundary cooperation on water management

Significant knowledge gap on potential sources

Accidental pollution
Sad examples from the basin

**Baia Mare** gold mine (RO, 2000): cyanide spill polluting the Szamos and Tisza Rivers

**Ajka** alumina plant (HU, 2010): red mud spill reaching surrounding land, agglomerations and creek

Severe acute toxicity, 95% of living organism were killed, water supply problems, chronic toxicity via heavy metals

Acute harm via alkalinity (chemical burning), 10 victims, severe impacts on human health, livestock, soil, properties and infrastructure
Accident prevention & control

- **Mandate (DRPC):** minimise risk and consequences of accidental pollution events
- **Platform:** Accident Prevention and Control Expert Group (APC EG)

Accident prevention

Early warning
Features & activities

- Facilitate thematic discussions
- Organise trainings and implement projects
- Cooperation with other organisations

EXPERTISE & TOOLS

- Elaborate a catalogue of hazardous sites
- Prioritize industrial sectors
- Promote checklists and preventive measures
- Operate an accident emergency warning system
- Organise warning trainings and tests

PLATFORM FOR EXCHANGE

- Awareness raising to accidental pollution
- Provide reports, online maps for the public
- Give orientation for donors and stakeholders

TRANSPARENCY
Tools for water management

Accident Emergency Warning System

Accident Risk Sites & Contaminated Sites (next: tailings)
Conclusions

- **Platform** for cooperation on accidental pollution related issues
- **Tools** for risk mitigation and early warning
- **Awareness** raising and orientation

- **Countries** need to get active and take actions!
Thank you for your attention!

For more information please visit the ICPDR website:

http://www.icpdr.org