

OUTLINE AND ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE JOINT EXPERT GROUP FOR THE METHODOLOGY FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS



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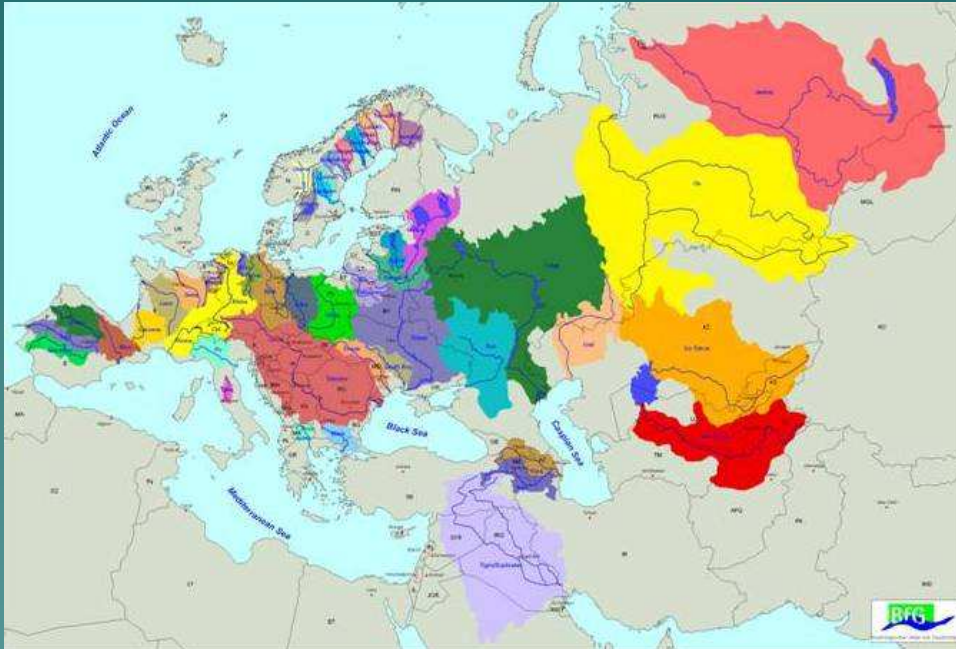


Consequences of accidents



Even a small amounts of hazardous substances released into water environment can cause huge environmental damages, as the impact is far-reaching and often transboundary...

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.

Co-Chairmanship:
"Water" Convention + "Industrial Accident" Convention

Current JEG core group participants

- ◆ Co-chairs: Hungary and Romania
- ◆ Experts: Czech Republic, Kazakhstan, Republic of Moldova, Sweden
- ◆ UNECE TEIA Secretariat, Water Convention Secretariat
- ◆ Project consultant

Basis for current JEG activities

◆ **Current Strategy** for the JEG

- prepared by the co-chairmen of the JEG in consultation with the Bureaux of the Water Convention and of the Industrial Accidents Convention in June 2009
- endorsed by the Meeting of the Parties to the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes in Geneva, 10-12 November 2009

◆ **Mission of JEG**

- assistance in organising exercises, workshops, seminars and conferences
- drawing up training materials
- drafting specific guidelines on good practices and recommendations

Basis for current JEG activities



German-Polish field exercise on the Odra River combined with the technical workshop on joint management of transboundary emergencies involving international water paths, Urad and Slubice 8 - 10 September 2009.

Recommendation:

A sound methodology for building an effective crisis management system focusing on transboundary emergencies with effects on watercourses should be developed!

Current task of JEG

- ◆ To draw up a checklist/methodology for contingency planning in transboundary context for application to transboundary waters
- ◆ Requested by the countries, based on a questionnaire, approved by both bureaus!

Current task of JEG

- ◆ The checklist/methodology will be based on existing methodologies for elaboration of contingency plans and on good practices available as well as address common challenges.
- ◆ A 7 steps plan was dawn up and put into practice in order to a better coordination and time fitted work.
- ◆ Now we are in step 4 – discussion on main issues of the checklist during the Sandoz seminar!

Draft outline of the new guideline!

1. Introduction
2. Principles for crisis management and contingency planning in the context of transboundary waters
3. Recommendations
 - 3.1. Recommendations to UNECE member countries
 - 3.2. Recommendations to competent authorities
 - 3.3. Recommendations to operators of hazardous activities
4. ANNEX

ANNEX

1. RISK/HAZARD MANAGEMENT

1.1. Legal and institutional aspects:

1.1.1. Legal basis (national and international) for ensuring adequate risk/hazard management in the context of transboundary waters

1.1.2. Institutional framework (for enforcing the legal basis)

1.1.3. Availability of inventories (hot spots, *protection, risk assessment methodologies*)

1.2. Cooperative and learning aspects

1.2.1. Training of authorities and enterprises staff (via guidelines) on risk/hazard and crisis management

1.2.2. Public Awareness on risk/hazard management

1.2.3. Exchange of good practice and lessons learned on risk/hazard/crisis management

1.2.4. Awareness raising of decision makers on risk/hazard management

ANNEX

2. CRISIS MANAGEMENT/MITIGATION

2.1. Legal and institutional aspects

2.1.1. Legal basis for adequate crisis management in transboundary context including mitigation measures

2.1.2. Institutional framework (for enforcing the legal basis)

2.1.3. Availability of:

- *Early warning and alarm systems*
- *Emergency plans (on-site and off site)*
- *Procedures for mitigation measures*
- *Adequate notification and crisis communication*
- *Procedures for after care management*

2.2. Cooperative and learning aspects:

2.2.1. Training of authorities and enterprises staff on crisis management, on mitigation measures

2.2.2. Public Awareness on crisis management

2.2.3. Exchange of information, joint exercises and joint training

2.2.4. Exchange of good practice and lessons learned from crisis situations

2.2.5. Awareness raising of decision makers on crisis management

Aspects regarding principles for contingency planning in transboundary context

- ◆ Adequate legal and institutional framework for whole disaster management cycle applicable in both cases in national and transboundary context is a basic requirement for all Parties to the “Industrial Accidents” and “Waters” Conventions
- ◆ The responsibilities for contingency planning should be spread between operators and competent authorities (on-site and off-site)
- ◆ The response action in case of an accident with impact on transboundary watercourses should take into consideration the gradual response on horizontal and vertical levels and the continuity of the action until the emergency stops.
- ◆ The unique command should be established for response in case of an industrial accidents with impact on transboundary watercourses.

Aspects regarding principles for contingency planning in transboundary context

- ◆ Protection of human life and rescue operation should have priority in contingency planning
- ◆ Information and data exchange should be ensured on the transboundary level.
- ◆ In case of an industrial accident with impact on transboundary watercourses the cooperation on each level (local, regional, national, transboundary and international) is essential for a timing and appropriate response and with minimal impact
- ◆ A transparent approach should be pursued towards public, stakeholders including neighbouring countries.

Obstacles in the work of the JEG

- ◆ The composition of the JEG is still unbalanced in the relation **Accident Convention vs. Water Convention**
- ◆ **More active participation is required** in present work and in the organization of the meetings.
- ◆ **Continuous and intense work** is expected from participants (preferably via e-mail correspondence, 1-2 meetings/year).
- ◆ There is a need for a **sound financial base** to support eligible countries.

Thank you for attention

