

# Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents

## Training Session on Safety Reports



### **Background**

Industrial safety is a priority for the Western Balkans countries, in particular Croatia, Serbia and FYR of Macedonia.

In order to protect people and the environment, the implementation of the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and compliance with the requirements of the EU Seveso II Directive, will enable them to introduce or strengthen the safety culture of their respective authorities.

Each country faces different challenges in improving their safety culture. By joining the Convention's Assistance Programme, they are building their national capacities to address those challenges.

During the Programme's implementation phase, the countries are analysing their implementation of the Convention, identifying deficiencies and making changes to ensure compliance with the Convention.

They are also requesting external assistance when necessary.

### **Project**

Croatia, Serbia and FYR of Macedonia recognised that the next step in strengthening the safety culture is to improve the quality and completeness of safety reports that are prepared by operators of major industrial facilities to indicate safety levels to the authorities.

The countries indicated that they have encountered problems in evaluating these reports due to their authority's experts having limited experience with the methodologies used in safety reports. In particular, the selection of the possible major accident scenarios and their probability and assessment of the extent and severity of the consequences (modelling of consequences) have caused concern.

The countries have therefore requested the organisation of a training session for the evaluation of safety reports where their authority's experts, supported by safety specialists, will work with case-studies to better understand safety reporting. The session will also help in finalising a checklist for the three countries' authorities, and other interested parties, to evaluate the safety reports.

A follow-up project will aim to use the checklist to create guidelines for operators of industrial facilities to ensure a consistent safety culture across both industry and government.

- Funding: Advisory Assistance Programme of the German Federal Environment Ministry
- Project identification: 380 01 220
- Region: Balkans (Croatia, Serbia, FYR of Macedonia)

- Duration: 11/2009 - 02/2010
- Project management: UNECE
- Project partners: Federal Agency for Environment, Ministries for Environment in project countries