

# Joint Ad Hoc Expert Group (JEG)

Checklist for contingency planning for accidents  
affecting transboundary waters

Workplan & Future Activities

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(JEG – CoChair Water Convention)

7th session of the Water Convention Meeting of the Parties  
Budapest, 17-19 November 2015



- ▶ Established in 1998 under the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions to work on issues related to the prevention of accidental water pollution
- ▶ 2 Co-Chairs from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions

1. Mr. Peter Kovacs (HU), co-Chair
  2. Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (DE) co-Chair (former co-chair: Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (RO))
  3. Mr. Pavel Dobeš (CZ)
  4. Mr. Pavel Danhielka (CZ)
  5. Mr. Serik Akhmetov (Kazakhstan)
  6. Ms. Natalia Racovet (MD)
  7. Mr. Claes-Hakan Carlsson (SE)
  8. Ms. Helena Nasslander (SE)
  9. Ádám Kovács (ICPDR PS)
- ⇒ Supported by a consultant (Mr. Sándor Kisgyörgy, HU)

New members:

Ms. Lubov Hertman (Belarus)

Mr. Medetbek Omurbekov (Kyrgyzstan)



# JEG activities in the past

- Supporting the Working Group on **Civil Liability** in drafting the Civil Liability Protocol
- Review of the **location criterion related to water path** in the Guidelines
- Promote international **response exercises**
- Development of safety guidelines and good practices for **pipelines**, for **TMFs**
- Elaboration of a **checklist** for contingency planning for transboundary waters



# Progress and achievements

- ▶ 2010 – mandate was given to JEG to draft the checklist/ methodology
- ▶ 2010– 12 – several meeting were held to draft the checklist but that it could not be finalized for Cop-7 in Nov 2012.
- ▶ 2013 – Industrial Accident Convention’s Bureau meeting – Recommendations to JEG
- ▶ 2014 – Conventions’ Bureaux decide to support JEG’s work through hiring a consultant to finalize the draft checklist/ methodology
- ▶ Water Convention provided financial support (from Germany) for this
- ▶ Sept – Consultant prepared draft checklist/methodology
- ▶ 6–7 Oct – JEG Meeting in Budapest – draft was discussed and revised after the meeting => checklist
- ▶ 29 Oct – Consolidated draft checklist was circulated by e-mail to focal points of the 2 Conventions for comments
- ▶ 17 Nov – Finalization of the checklist and posting on the homepage
- ▶ 3–5 Dec – The Conference of the Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention at its eighth meeting (Geneva,) took note of the checklist
- ▶ the CoP-8 requested the secretariat to publish the checklist, following the testing of its application in the Danube Delta Project and the review by the Water MOP in Nov 2015



# Main results and lessons learned

- ▶ Checklist is practically finalised
- ▶ COP-8 took note of the checklist and recommend its application as a tool for harmonized contingency planning between neighbouring states
- ▶ Checklist will be applied/tested in the Danube Delta Project in 2015 and published thereafter
- ▶ Working Group on Integrated Water Resources Management is invited to review the checklist and entrust the secretariat to edit and submit it for adoption by the Meeting of the Parties at its seventh session (Budapest, 17-19 November 2015).



# Content of the Checklist

## Introduction

- ▶ Need for harmonization of contingency plans, scope of the document and definitions

## Transboundary contingency planning

- ▶ 3 aspects: Emergency Preparedness, Response Planning and Mutual Assistance

## Guiding principles for countries to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters

- ▶ Provisions from both Conventions regarding identification, prevention, exchange of information, monitoring, early warning, response, mutual assistance and enforcement

## Checklist for competent authorities to allow for effective contingency planning for transboundary waters

- ▶ Competent authorities provided with the necessary information to apply and assess the results of the checklist in practice

## References

## Annex (with checklist)



# Sample (from the checklist)

NO	GUIDING PRINCIPLES	POINTS TO BE CHECKED	YES	PARTLY	NO
1.	Countries should ensure that the definitions in the legislation are in line with those from the Water and Industrial Accidents Conventions.	Are the definitions in accordance with the definitions of the Industrial Accidents and Water Conventions (see chapter 1.4)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Description of the watershed</b>					
Competent Authorities should check whether the following issues are included and described in the Contingency Plan (CP):					
2.	Geographic location	Is there a map about the area potentially affected by accidental pollution?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Is there an agreement about what the base of the delineation of the affected area is?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Main characteristic of the watershed	Is there a reference on its availability?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	Topography	Is there a description about topography (relief, flora, hydrography, urban areas, <u>transportation</u> )?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	Geology and soil structure	Is there a description about geology and soil structure (geology, soil structure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	Meteorology and precipitation	Is there a description about meteorology and precipitation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	Groundwater and aquifers	Is there a description on groundwater status and aquifers on the affected area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	Surface waters	Is there a description about surface water (rivers, drainage system, abandoned river beds, oxbows, lakes, reservoirs)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Natural protected values and areas	Is there a description about Natural protected values and areas on the affected area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



# 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 IA Conventions provide a legal framework for addressing the risk of transboundary water pollution





## ▶ **Mission/Workplan of JEG**

- ▶ **Assistance** to countries in transition with pilot projects, performing exercises, workshops, and conferences
- ▶ drafting specific **Safety Guidelines** on good practices
- ▶ drawing up **Training** materials (Checklists)



# Sources of Risk

On the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the “Sandoz”-Accident (2011) the JEG took stock of the still existing deficiencies in accidental water protection.

Most Important:

## Tailing Management Facilities



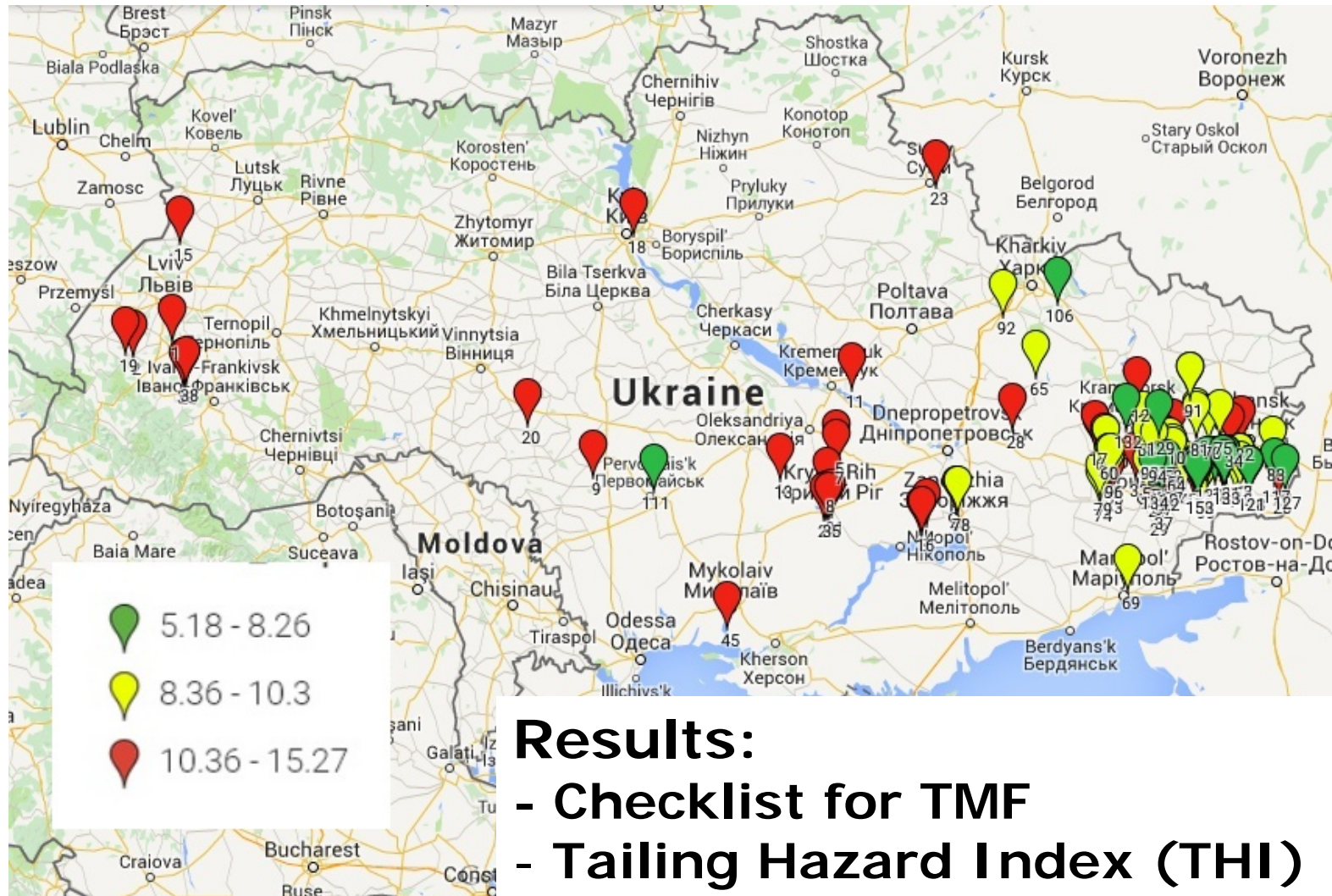
Red Sludge Spill,  
2010



Baia Mare, 2000



# Pilot Project: TMF in Ukraine



## Results:

- Checklist for TMF
- Tailing Hazard Index (THI)



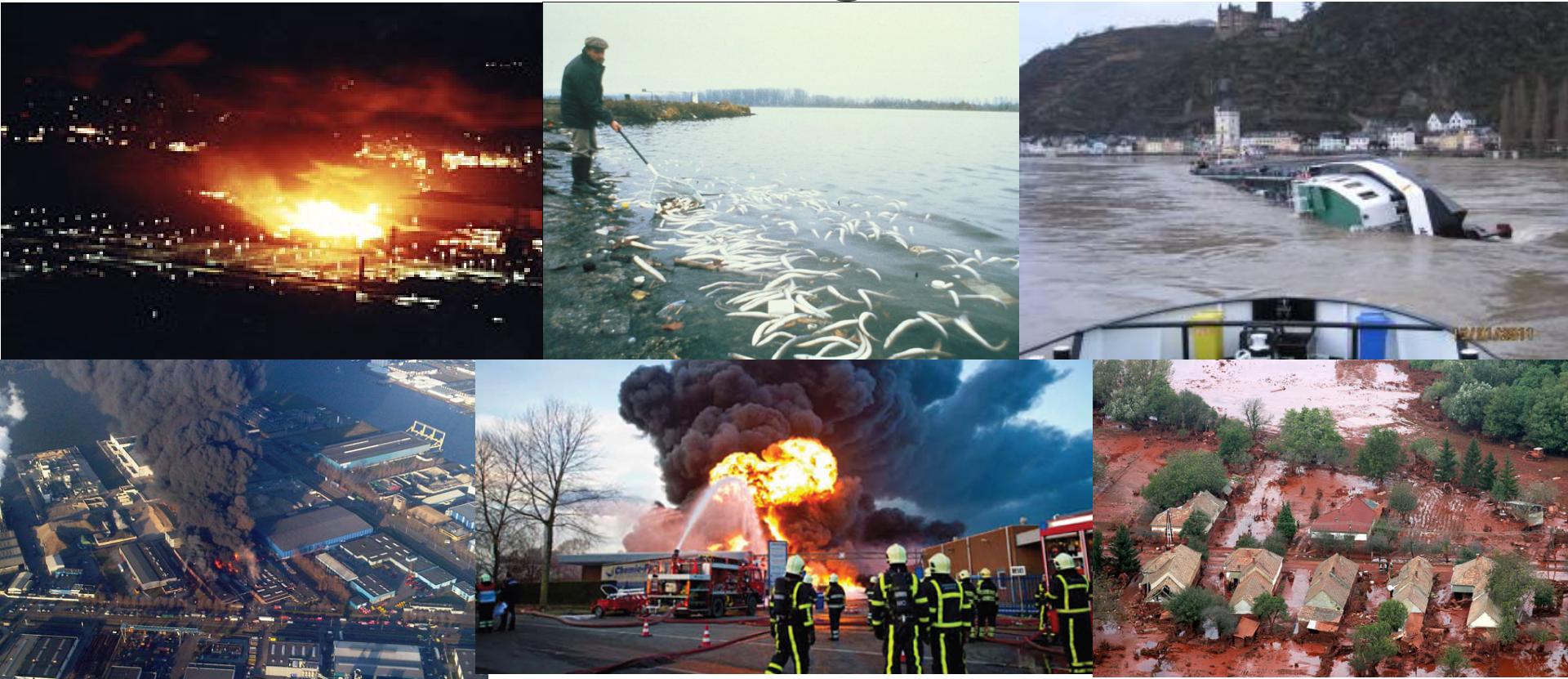
# Future Activities

(already planned)

- **Response Exercises**
  - Danube, Hungary (2016)
  - Oder, Germany/Poland (May, 2017),  
with special attention to tools for  
fighting Oil-contamination
  
- **Improving Education at Universities** (Mining University in Dnepropetrovsk – Training with CL for TMF and Seminar)
  
- **On-site Trainings (TMF) and Analysis of Legal Deficiencies**  
((Caucasus Region (authorities and operators)))



# Never again!



# Thank you for Listening!

