



CONVENTION ON THE TRANSBOUNDARY EFFECTS of INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Tbilisi, 5 November 2013





What is the convention?

Multilateral environmental agreement for promoting cooperation between UNECE members on ensuring safety at industrial hazardous facilities

- Instrument involving all Parties and through the parties all stakeholders
- Platform for supporting Parties to further enhance industrial safety
- Platform to exchange information, innovations, good practices on prevention, preparedness and response
- Framework to establish strategic partnerships





Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention

Parties to the Industrial Accidents Convention as of September 2013

Party	As of	Party	As of	Party	As of
Albania	5.1.1994	Greece	24.2.1998	Slovakia	9.9.2003
Armenia	21.2.1997	Hungary	2.6.1994	Slovenia	13.5.2002
Austria	4.8.1999	Italy	2.7.2002	Spain	16.5.1997
Azerbaijan	16.6.2004	Kazakhstan	11.1.2001	Sweden	22.9.1999
Belarus	25.6.2003	Latvia	29.6.2004	Switzerland	21.5.1999
Belgium	6.4.2006	Lithuania	2.11.2000	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	2.3.2010
Bosnia and Herzegovina	20.2.2013	Luxembourg	8.8.1994	United Kingdom of Great Britain	5.5.2002
Bulgaria	12.5.1995	Monaco	28.8.2001		
Croatia	20.1.2000	Montenegro	19.5.2009		
Cyprus	31.8.2005	Netherlands	6.11.2006		
Czech Republic	12.6.2000	Norway	1.4.1993		
Denmark	28.3.2001	Poland	8.9.2003		
Estonia	17.5.2000	Portugal	2.11.2006		
European Union	24.4.1998	Republic of Moldova	4.1.1994		
Finland	13.9.1999	Romania	22.5.2003		
France	03.10.2003	Russian Federation	1.2.1994		
Germany	9.9.1998	Serbia	31.7.2009		

Total Parties as of September 2013

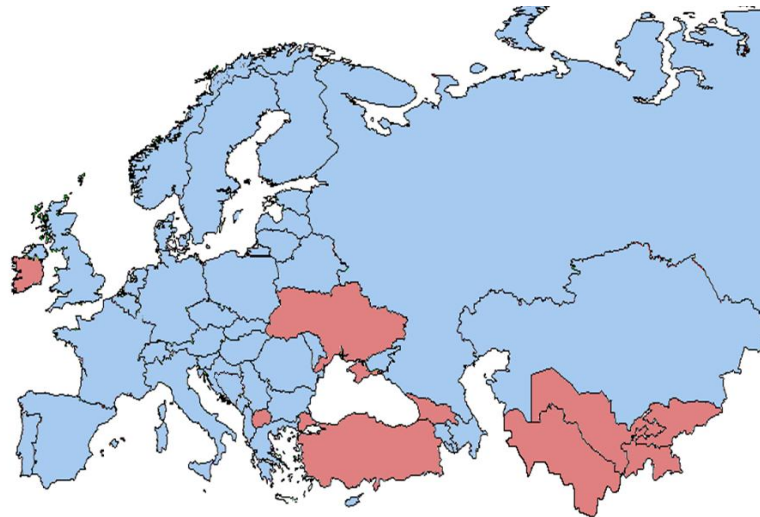
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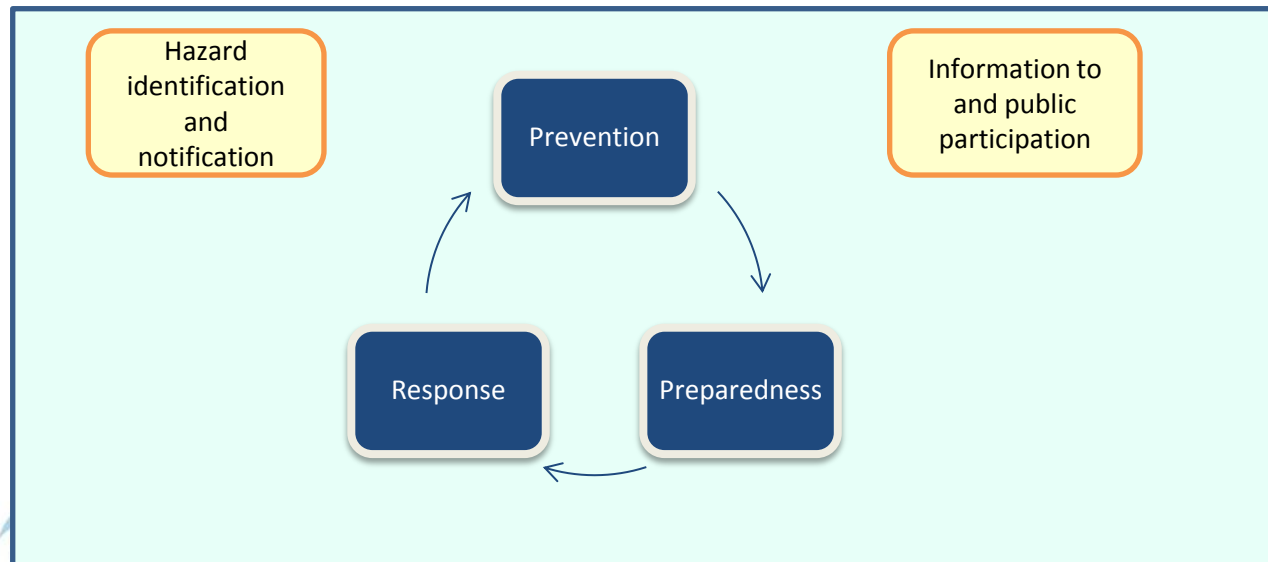
Convention and its focus

- Work with ECE Western countries on further developments in the main focus areas
- Support to ECE countries with economies in transition on further improvements in the main focus areas – through the Assistance Program and its Strategic Approach



Main areas of work

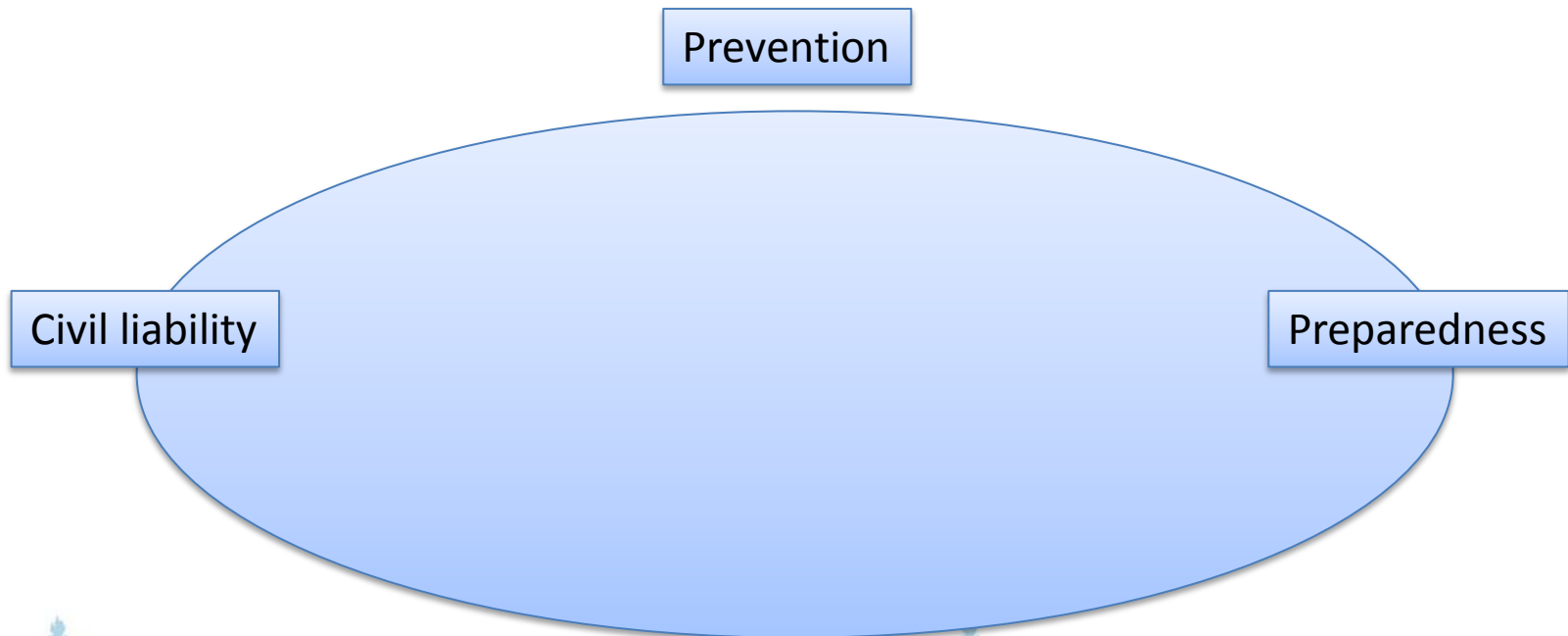
- Identification and notification of hazardous activities
- Prevention of industrial accidents
- Emergency preparedness
- Emergency response and industrial accidents notification
- Information to and participation of the public





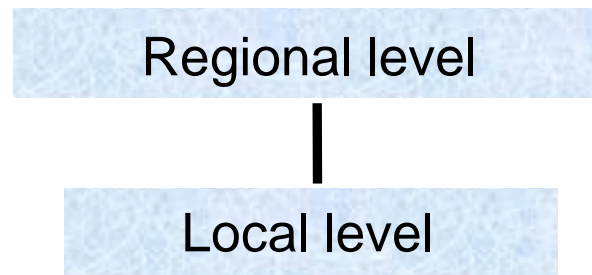
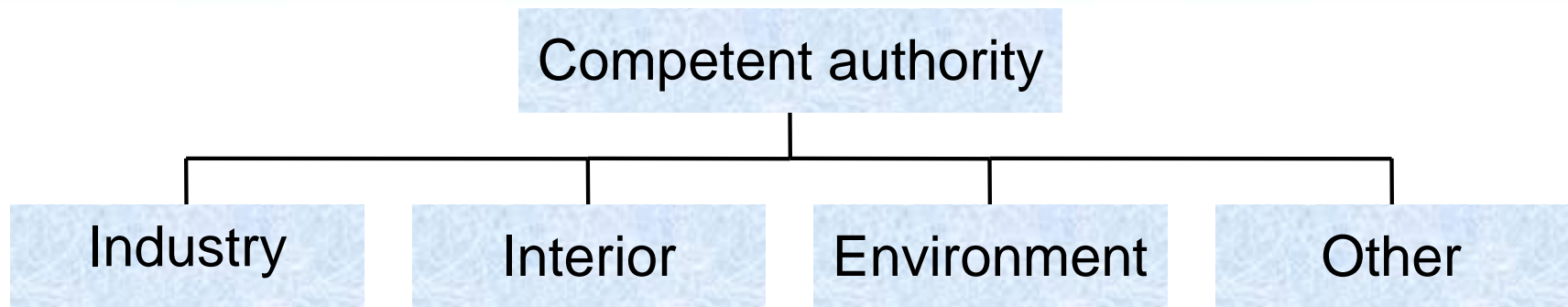
The Convention:

a framework to protect human life and the environment from the effects of industrial accidents



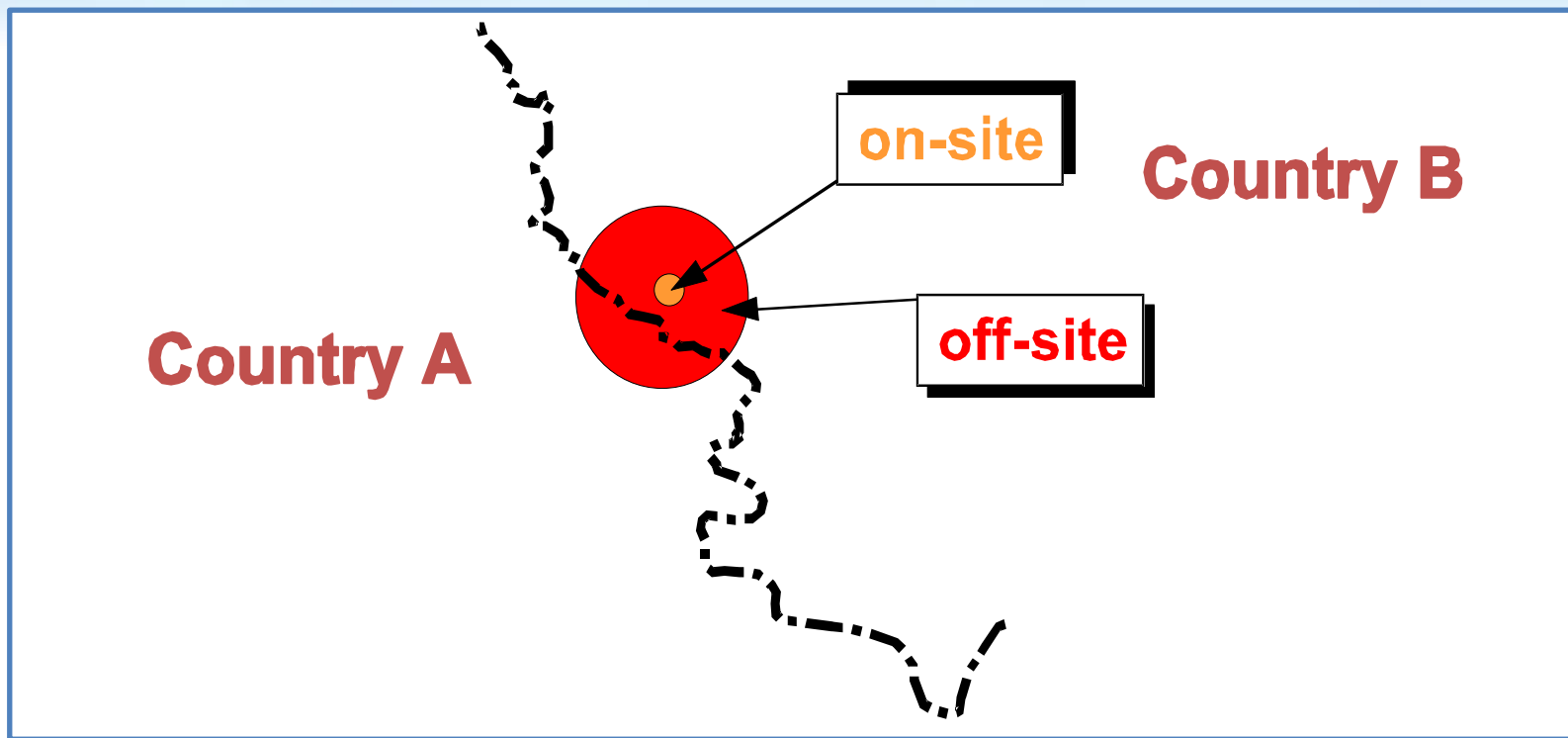


Cooperation and coordination between authorities within a country (horizontal + vertical)





Cooperation on all levels is essential





Industrial Accidents Convention and its spirit

IAC is the framework in the ECE region to assure industrial safety and to promote cooperation between countries in this area

IAC gives focus to ECE countries with economies in transition and support them to improve enforcement mechanisms in the area of:

- prevention
- preparedness
- and response to industrial accidents





Industrial Accidents Convention

Pro-action / prevention

Choosing the appropriate location: siting

The establishment of policies on the siting of hazardous activities considering:

- the results of risk analysis and evaluation, including the physical characteristics of the area
- an evaluation of the environmental risks

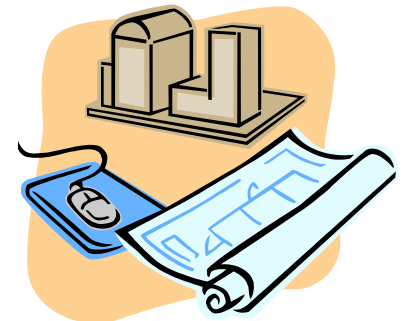




Industrial Accidents Convention

Prevention

- Choosing the appropriate technique of operation
- Adequate organizational measures to the hazard/risk
- Clear roles of competent authorities and operators
- Compliance monitoring by authorities





Industrial Accidents Convention

Preparedness

- Ensuring up-to-date and known emergency procedures including for emergencies caused by natural disasters
- Availability of on-site/off-site emergency plans
- Sharing of responsibilities between authorities and operators
- Readiness to provide assistance to neighboring countries etc.





Industrial Accidents Convention

Preparedness

- Providing and ensuring appropriate training and exercise for competent authorities and operators of hazardous facilities





Industrial Accidents Convention

Response

- Ensuring capability of providing effective response and mitigation measures
- Notification and mutual assistance
- Assessments of the impact on human health and the environment
- Coordination of the response measures



Improvement step by step

Cyclic / strategic Approach



Step 1 - understanding through relevant analysis if the necessary mechanisms are in place, identification of gaps – Support tool: Convention's 'Indicators and Criteria'

Step 2 – identification and implementation of concrete actions (with assistance if relevant) to eliminate gaps and improve mechanisms

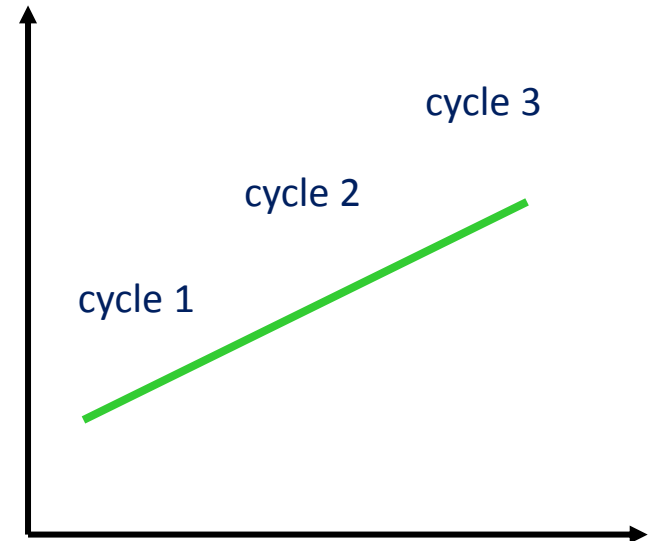
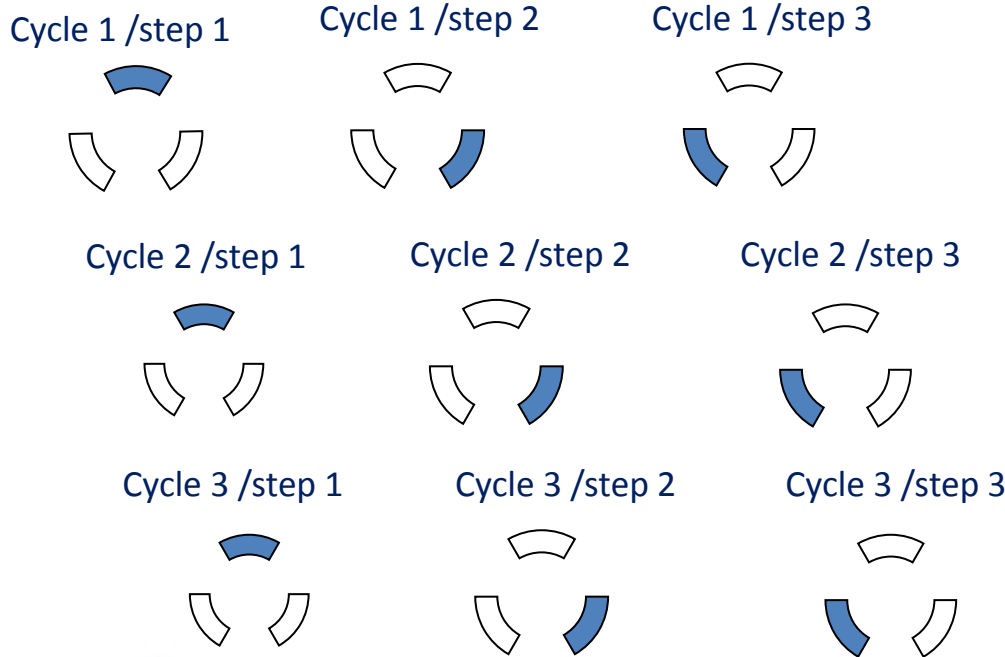
Step 3 – evaluation of results achieved through the undertaken actions





'Long-term' result

Assurance of progress in industrial safety





How can countries benefit from the implementation of the convention (1)?

- The ('spirit' of the) Convention' helps countries to develop and further enhance their national policy on industrial safety and cross-border cooperation
- Implementation does enhance the cooperation between authorities on a local, regional and national level
- It gives an impetus to start a dialogue with neighboring countries about industrial safety and cross-border cooperation
- It gives access to projects within the Assistance Program
- Implementation contributes to a 'safety culture'





How can countries benefit from the implementation of the convention (2)?

- Implementation of the provisions of the Convention contribute to a 'level playing field'
- A high value for investment:
 - access to a broad variety of international available expertise
 - access to international fora on industrial safety and related topics
 - to learn from international 'best practices'
 - opportunities for resources to execute need- and demand driven projects
- Approaches can be easily transferred into other area's of importance by copy/paste





How can countries benefit from the implementation of the convention (3)?

- Preventive measures are cost effective. The (financial) impact of an industrial accident is enormous and hardly to quantify
- Protection of human health and the environment
- It contributes to the profile of the government: ‘they care about our health and our environment’ – ownership!
- Implementation of the Convention is an important building block to enhance industrial safety jointly with the Seveso III Directive





Conclusion

The Convention:

- is a useful framework to improve and to ensure industrial safety
- covers the whole ECE region and is complementary to other regulations
- helps countries to identify and to assess aspects for taking preventive measures and to adjust preparedness and response actions
- is a good basis for cooperation within and between countries
- gives opportunities for a close cooperation with relevant organizations
- and its Assistance Programme are valuable instruments to support countries with ensuring the industrial safety

Pre-conditions:

- commitment at the political level for implementation
- commitment and expertise at the expert level to work with the Strategic Approach
- cooperation between experts representing the relevant public authorities
- maintenance





Thank you for your attention

<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/welcome.html>

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