

**UNECE Convention on the Transboundary  
Effects of Industrial Accidents**

**Project under the Assistance Programme**

**Project on hazard and crisis management**

UNECE Convention on the  
Transboundary Effects of  
Industrial Accidents

**Assistance  
Programme**



## **PROJECT ON HAZARD AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE DANUBE DELTA**

### **Fifth Meeting of the Project Management Group**

27 March 2015

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova

#### **Meeting Minutes**



UNECE 2015

## **1. Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands) who opened the meeting and welcomed the participants (see annex II). The Group adopted the provisional agenda without changes (see annex I).

## **2. Evaluation and discussion on the Hazard and Crisis Management Week**

The Chair invited participants to provide feedback on the implementation of the Hazard and Crisis Management Week (Chisinau, 23–26 March 2015), including on the table-top exercise held on 24 March 2015. The national project coordinators, the secretariat, representatives from donor countries and Ms. Mihaela Popovici, consultant to support the crisis management part of the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta, expressed their satisfaction with the discussions and outcome of the event thanks to its effective preparation and the excellent cooperation between the three countries. Participants welcomed particularly the leadership of Mr. Yuri Nabyvanets, recently appointed project coordinator from Ukraine, and the commitment of the Ukrainian delegation to the project. The hosting of the event by the Republic of Moldova as well as the support provided by the secretariat and Ms. Mihaela Popovici were highlighted and highly appreciated.

## **3. Planning for upcoming project activities in 2015**

### **a. Financing**

The secretariat provided an updated overview of the contributions and expenditures for the project, highlighting recent developments since the fourth meeting of the Group. The secretariat pointed out that there was currently no further funding available for the crisis management part of the project, in particular the implementation of the field exercise. Only limited funds were available for the final project workshop, thanks to the German support to the hazard management part of the project. The secretariat stressed the need for further financial contributions by donor countries and for significant in-kind contributions by the project countries in order to implement the remaining activities.

Mr. Dijkens mentioned that he was currently looking into additional funds from the Netherlands to support the crisis management part of the project, however, that he could not confirm the availability of funds at the moment. Mr. Winkelmann-Oei informed participants that Germany would only support the hazard management activities which had almost come to an end. He mentioned that on top of the already agreed German support to the final project workshop additional support could possibly be made available to support the participation of international experts in the workshop.

The project coordinators from the Republic of Moldova and Romania informed the Group that they could make in-kind contributions to the implementation of the field exercise, such as through providing the transportation from Chisinau to Giurgiulesti (Republic of Moldova) and financing the travel of participants (Romania). Ukraine

expressed doubts about the possibility to provide in-kind the travel of Ukrainian participants, due to internal regulations.

With regard to the above, the Group agreed that the project coordinators would inquire nationally which in-kind support they could provide and inform the secretariat accordingly by 15 April 2015. The Group also agreed that the secretariat and the project donor countries should organize a teleconference at the end of April 2015 to discuss, based on the information on in-kind and financial support that could be provided by the project and donor countries, the organization of the remaining project activities, namely the field exercise and final workshop.

**b. Dates and planning for the field exercise and final project workshop**

The Group discussed provisional dates for the implementation of the remaining project activities. It was envisaged that the field exercise would be held in the week of 22 June 2015 in the Danube Delta, hosted by the Republic of Moldova as the lead country for the field exercise. The project coordinators from the Republic of Moldova informed participants that they had consulted those dates with the operator in Giurgiulesti and the Civil Protection and Emergency Situation Service, however, that they had not yet received feedback but that they would inform the secretariat immediately upon receipt of the confirmation of the dates.

The Group also discussed the planning for the development of a possible scenario for the field exercise. The Republic of Moldova offered to prepare a draft scenario and to send it by 15 April 2015 to the Group for comments. The scenario would be finalized thereafter with the support of Ms. Popovici, consultant to support the crisis management activities under the project.

Regarding the dates for the final workshop, the Group agreed that the workshop be held in mid-October 2015, depending on the availability of the Ministers from the three countries who would sign the trilateral agreement in the framework of the workshop. Mr. Senzaconi had mentioned before the meeting that Romania could possibly host the final workshop and asked the secretariat to send an official letter to the Ministry of Interior and Administrative Reform and the Ministry of Environment, Water, and Forests of Romania.

**c. Next steps towards the finalization of the Joint Contingency Plan for the Danube Delta and signing the Trilateral Agreement on Hazard and Crisis Management**

The project coordinators repeated their commitment to collect the feedback from their national delegations on both the draft Joint Contingency Plan for the Danube Delta and the draft Trilateral Agreement on Hazard and Crisis Management and to send it by 15 April 2015 to the secretariat, as expressed during the Hazard and Crisis Management Week. The secretariat would then compile and, if needed, translate the comments on the Joint Contingency Plan and send the English version to Mr. Senzaconi for his update by

30 April 2015. The secretariat would also compile and, if needed, translate the comments on the Trilateral Agreement and send them to Ms. Popovici for her update by 30 April 2015. The Group further agreed that the updated Joint Contingency Plan and Trilateral Agreement would be attached to an official letter to be sent to the relevant Ministers in the three countries through the secretariat by 15 May 2015. The project coordinators committed to identify the relevant Ministers and to provide the secretariat with their contact details accordingly by 15 April 2015. The Ukrainian project coordinator asked to have the letter and documents circulated in Russian.

The project coordinators acknowledged that the time schedule for finalizing the Joint Contingency Plan and mobilizing ministerial support for signing the Trilateral Agreement was ambitious and that it required careful monitoring to allow the adoption of the Joint Contingency Plan and the signing of the Trilateral Agreement at the final project workshop in October 2015. The Group thus agreed to hold a teleconference at the end of June or early July 2015 to discuss the progress made and to agree on possible further steps to take.

The Group also discussed the support of the project by Ms. Popovici who expressed concerns with regard to the limited funds made available to finance her involvement. The secretariat confirmed that funding had been made available by Finland to provide support for Ms. Popovici and explained that the agreed support could also be advanced if additional resources would be available. The Group reiterated its appreciation for the support provided by Ms. Popovici.

#### **4. Final project reporting**

The secretariat presented a draft outline for the final project report, including an annex with information to be provided by the project countries on the progress made since the beginning of the project, for discussion by the Project Management Group. The Group welcomed the proposal made and requested the secretariat to circulate the outline, including bullet points specifying the information to be provided by the project countries, by 15 April 2015.

The Group also discussed the time schedule for preparing the final project report. It was agreed that the project countries would send their input for the report by mid-June 2015 to the secretariat which would circulate a draft report for review by the project countries in early July 2015. The agreed English version of the draft project report would then be shared with Germany in August 2015 and be finalized in due course for its presentation at the final project workshop in October 2015.

## **5. Any other business**

The meeting discussed also the following additional issues:

### **a. Checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters, developed by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**

The Group discussed how to organize the process of collecting feedback on the checklist for contingency planning for accidents affecting transboundary waters whose application was tested during the Hazard and Crisis Management Week, as requested by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents at its eighth meeting (Geneva, 3–5 December 2014). The Group agreed that the national project coordinators collect the feedback from their delegations after the workshop and send it to the secretariat by 15 April 2015. The secretariat would compile the information and send them to the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents (JEG) for its further action.

### **b. Hazard Spots Map for the Danube Delta**

The secretariat recalled that it had circulated earlier this year the updated hazard spots map for the Danube Delta for review by the Project Management Group, however, that it had unfortunately not received feedback. It invited participants to provide possible comments on the map now, so that the hazard spots map could be finalized in due course for the final project workshop.

Participants welcomed the new design of the hazard spots map and provided several comments, requesting the secretariat to explore the possibility to prepare an interactive map, to clarify property rights for the countries' future use/updates and to adjust the visual presentation of the hazardous activities in a way that those facilities with the same Water Risk Index had the same colour. The secretariat thanked participants for their feedback and agreed to discuss with Zoi the implementation of these updates and, thereafter, to share the final version of the map with them.

## **6. Closing of the meeting**

The Chair thanked participants for their contributions during the meeting and summarized the decisions taken before closing the meeting.

## **Annex I: Provisional agenda**

### **PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH MEETING OF**

#### **The Project Management Group**

#### **Within the project on hazard and crisis management in the Danube Delta**

To be held on 27 March 2014 from 9.00 a.m. to 13.00 p.m.

Chisinau, Moldova

#### **1. Opening of the meeting**

- Chair to welcome participants and open the meeting

#### **2. Evaluation and discussion on the Hazard and crisis management week**

- The PMG members are invited to discuss and evaluate the outcomes of the Hazard and crisis management week

#### **3. Planning for upcoming project activities in 2015**

- Secretariat to provide an overview of contributions and expenditures
- The PMG to agree on provisional dates for the Field exercise and the Final workshop
- National coordinators to outline next steps towards the finalization of the draft Agreement on hazard and crisis management and the Joint contingency plan and their subsequent signing

#### **4. Final project reporting**

#### **5. Any other business**

- Participants will be invited to raise additional issues, if any

#### **6. Closing of the meeting**

- Chair to summarize the decisions taken and close the meeting

## **Annex II: List of participants**

The following persons participated in the meeting:

### Project coordinators

1. Mr. Gavril Gilca (Republic of Moldova);
2. Ms. Svetlana Stirbu (Republic of Moldova);
3. Ms. Marilena Ghiu (Romania);
4. Mr. Yurii Nabyvanets (Ukraine);

### Project donors

5. Mr. Chris Dijkens (Netherlands, Chair);
6. Mr. Gerhard Winkelmann-Oei (Germany);

### Secretariat

7. Mr. Nikolay Savov, Assistance Programme manager, UNECE secretariat;
8. Ms. Claudia Kamke, Associate Environmental Affairs Officer, UNECE secretariat;
9. Ms Mihaela Popovici, consultant of the Convention's secretariat.

The following persons could not participate in the meeting:

1. Mr. Francisc Senzaconi (project coordinator, Romania);
2. Mr. Jorma Rytönen (donor representative, Finland);
3. Mr. Eero Kytömaa (donor representative, Finland).