



Hazard and crisis management in the

Danube Delta



**Umwelt
Bundes
Amt**
Für Mensch und Umwelt

UNECE Convention on the
Transboundary Effects of
Industrial Accidents

**Assistance
Programme**

Background

After more than 2000 km, the Danube flows into the Black Sea where it forms one of the largest and most preserved river deltas in Europe. The area stretches over more than 600'000 ha and is famous for its unique ecosystems that host over 5,000 animal and plant species. Since 1991, the core of this nature reserve is a designated UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site.

While the entire Danube basin encompasses thirteen countries of Central and Eastern Europe, making it the most international river basin in the world, Romania, Ukraine and Moldova are the most relevant countries for the Danube Delta.

The outstanding environmental value and sensitivity of the region requires particular efforts for its protection. As industrial accidents can result in a catastrophic pollution of the Delta, riparian countries need to work closely together to be able to respond effectively in the event of accident.



Project information

The project aims at protecting the Danube Delta from the industrial accidents and to improve cooperation on industrial accidents between the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Romania in the region. It seeks to enhance and where possible harmonize the mechanisms and approaches for efficient and effective hazard and crisis management. As a result of the cooperation, a joint agreement between the three project countries should be established. Another goal is to improve the understanding between authorities and industrial operators and strengthen their cooperation.

In terms of hazard sources, the project will focus in especially on the oil terminals, which are located in the Republic of Moldova, Romania and Ukraine directly above the Delta: Giurgiulesti (Republic of Moldova), Galati (Romania) und Reni/Izmail (Ukraine). These terminals generate an increased hazard potential for the ecosystem and natural heritage of the Delta.

The project is lead by the UNECE Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents and implemented via its Assistance Programme. The programme supports countries in putting their national regulations on industrial safety into practice and to fully implement the Convention. The participating countries provide in-kind contributions, organizational support and ensure good cooperation as investment to the project.

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Cover (left) - Venise - Mer Noire
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← - Logistique du Danube SRL

Focus areas

Hazard management

Good understanding of existing hazards is an essential for accident prevention and effective emergency response measures. This comprises i.e. the identification of hazard sources, maintenance of databases, and regular exchange of hazard information between neighboring countries. Beyond that, partners can strongly benefit from experience sharing, exchange of new technologies and implementing joint projects. Joint improvement or harmonization of safety standards is another effective measure for decreasing risks for emergency situations (e.g. projects to elaborate joint guidelines).

Project goals for hazard management:

- to enhance and harmonize the legislative framework for hazard management
- to harmonize the safety standards at the major hazardous facilities located in the Danube Delta region, especially oil terminals;
- to enhance cooperation between competent authorities and operators of major industrial facilities;
- to draft safety guidelines for oil terminals;
- to train inspectors on enforcing safety;
- to draft action plans for improving hazard management;
- to help preparing for establishing bi- or trilateral sectoral agreements related to hazard and crisis management; and
- to create public awareness about the importance of hazard management through contact with media.

Crisis management

The main role of crisis management is to ensure fast and effective response in the case of industrial accidents. A key element for this is contingency planning. On-site contingency plans address a facility where an accident might happen. These plans are developed by industry and approved by authorities. Off-site plans cover wider areas with industrial facilities capable of causing transboundary effects. In this project countries are supposed to develop and harmonize off-site contingency plans that are compatible with the existing on-site plans. The harmonization should include an agreement on use of alert and warning systems, establishing sectors for response and procedures and schemes for providing each other with mutual assistance.

One important part of crisis management is a continuous joint training of the response forces to verify if the agreed procedures and systems are well-known and easily applicable for their personnel.

Project goals for crisis management:

- to identify areas for closer cooperation in working together in an event of emergency (i.e. warning, notification, response actions, modeling);
- to identify areas for coordinated action when requesting and receiving assistance, in particular in an event of major oil pollution in the Danube Delta;
- to review the compatibility of off-site emergency plans;
- to draft action plans for improving crisis management,
- to include the part on crisis management in bi- or trilateral sectoral agreements; and
- to create public awareness about the importance of hazard management through contact with media.

Project organization

The project is implemented through the work of National Groups with regard to the both hazard and crisis management. The National Groups cooperate with the industry and coordinate their work through Hazard Management and Crisis Management Groups. Each of these groups consists of 1-2 representatives of the project countries who take the positions of the leaders for the national work. The industry representatives and Project Management Group (PMG) support the work of the Hazard Management and Crisis Management Groups.

The Hazard Management and Crisis Management Groups are coordinated by the Project Management Group, which makes sure that the project objectives are followed and that appropriate support to the national work is provided. Findings and outputs by the groups are regularly reviewed during the project events.

Information on the project will be contained in the newsletters; press releases will be issued; media participation will be arranged.

Expected results

With reaching all the above objectives the project will lead to procedures for hazard and crisis notification within and/or among the project countries and a provide basis for joint response in case of crisis. Further, it will provide practical recommendations for national authorities to strengthen crisis and hazard management. Moldova, Romania and Ukraine will enhance and harmonize their hazard management as well as their safety standards at the major hazardous facilities located in the Danube Delta region. Similarly, they will harmonize their off-site contingency plans and establish a contingency plan for the Danube Delta. To support planning and prioritization, the project will also develop a hazard map for the Danube Delta region.

It is further important that the project advances cooperation between authorities and industry, and strengthens public awareness on hazard and crisis management.

Events and activities

Provisional dates

May 2011 →	Project kick-off meeting
June 2011 →	1st Technical workshop for Hazard Management Group
September 2011 →	1st Joint Visit to ports of Galati and Giurgulesti
February 2012 →	1st Technical workshop for Crisis Management Group
March 2012 →	2nd Joint Visit to ports of Izmail and Reni
June 2012 →	Top table exercise / serious gaming with results evaluation for Crisis Management Group
September 2012 →	2nd Technical workshop for Hazard Management Group
October 2012 →	Field exercise with results evaluation for the Crisis Management Group
March 2013 →	Training for inspectors
June 2013 →	Final workshop

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