Preventing Industrial Accidents

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Industrial Accidents Convention

- Negotiated after the 1986 Sandoz accident
- Adopted in 1992, entered into force in 2000
- 41 Parties
- Designed to protect people and the environment against industrial accidents (with transboundary effects)
- Applies also to accidents caused by natural disasters (NATECH)
- Tailing Management Facilities (TMFs) containing mining waste with hazardous substances covered (Annex I)

⇒ Convention is a legal instrument for improving industrial safety and technological DRR – within & across borders
Romania: Baia Mare, followed by Baia Borsa (2000)

• “The second Chernobyl” – Tailings Dam break

• 100,000 m$^3$ of cyanide contaminated water released into the Someş River → Death of fish and wildlife, >100 people hospitalized

• Affected countries: Romania, Hungary, Serbia, Bulgaria → Transboundary water pollution

• Caused by heavy rain falls → NATECH accident

• Development of UNECE Safety Guidelines and Good Practices for Tailings Management Facilities (TMF) by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents

• Development of related methodology to support countries in the practical application of the guidelines, covering all TMFs, incl. uranium
Practical application of TMFs methodology in Ukraine

The map of 344 TMFs, ranked by $THI_{\text{Basic}}$ (accounting for volumes of tailing materials and their toxicity) developed in the framework of German UBA project - Raising Knowledge of Students and Lecturers on TMFs Safety and its Legislative Survey in Ukraine (2016-2017)

[Map of TMFs in Ukraine]

https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?amp%3Busp=sharing&mid=1RFomCn9uKponcHnFrK3XG997AEU&ll=48.74991354911%2C30.694941406249995&z=6
UNECE projects on mining/tailings safety

**In Central Asia:** Implemented with the support of the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment (2018-2020)

- **Objective:** Strengthen the safety of TMFs in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan
- **Beneficiaries:** Kazakhstan and Tajikistan and competent authorities and operators; other countries in Central Asia

**In the Caucasus and Danube regions:**
Implemented with the support of the German Environmental Agency (UBA)

- **Supported by the Joint Expert Group on Water and Industrial Accidents**
Guidance materials for technological DRR

- Safety Guidelines and Good Practices (tailings management facilities, oil terminals, pipelines, land-use planning, fire-water management and retention)
- Checklists (transboundary contingency planning, tailings safety/management)
- Online training and videos

Available at: http://www.unece.org/enviro/policy/conventions/industrial-accidents/publications.html
Thank you for your attention!

For more information please visit:
www.unece.org/env/teia

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