



ROADMAP FOR AN ACTION

Priority Area 5 - To manage environmental risks

Action 6 - “To develop rapid response procedures and plans in case of industrial accidental river pollution”

Milestone n°1: AEWS system upgrade and refining

- *Work:* Rebuilding the AEWS system using then open-source software framework Drupal. Using open-source software will eliminate the risk of dependency from specific software companies and provide increased flexibility to adapt the system to future needs. Migrating new system to the new ICPDR virtual server to have a stable platform and minimize maintenance costs.
- *Output:* Danube AEWS based on an open-source software platform (2012);
- *Output:* Upgrade of AEWS design improving its applicability (2013).
→ *Responsible:* APC EG
→ *Deadline:* end 2013

Milestone n°2: Regular AEWS maintenance

- *Work:* The AEWS tests will be organized with a view of checking the performance of the Danube AEWS. The major attention will be given to checking the preparedness (response time) of the Communication Units of the national PIACs as the recent tests revealed weakness in this aspect. Two unannounced tests will be organized each year out of which one will be targeting 24/7 preparedness while the second test will be more technical, checking an overall management of an accident including assessment of the threshold levels and thus involving the Expert Units.
Every year during a meeting of the ICPDR AEWS experts a practical hands-on training on AEWS operation takes place, at which the Secretariat presents the AEWS system in detail, highlighting the frequently encountered problems and evaluating the performance of PIACs in the AEWS tests. The AEWS experts have then to disseminate the updated know-how on the system operation at the national level to the PIACs staff. To maintain high level of PIAC staff preparedness, organization of regular trainings on an annual basis will be continued.
- *Output:* Organization of regular performance tests of the Danube AEWS.
- *Output:* Regular training of AEWS Operators.
→ *Responsible:* APC EG
→ *Deadline:* end 2015

Milestone n°3: International standardization of AEWS

- *Work:* In the Danube River Basin there are numerous independent international activities addressing the emergency response (e.g., UN/ECE IAN, CECIS EC MIC, ICPDR AEWS, NATO Disaster Response, IAEA system for reporting on nuclear accidents in cooperation with EC IRIX - International Radiation Information Exchange and ECURIE - European Community Urgent Radiological Information Exchange). Running all these activities, in parallel, leads to overloading the staff at the national alarm centres (established usually under the Civil Protection / Ministry of Interior). To strengthen the operational cooperation between the emergency response authorities, the UNECE proposed to adopt common standards by all existing warning systems to ensure their full compatibility. It also should be made sure that there is only one point of contact in a given country. This approach would eliminate any potential confusion during an accident management and, at the later stage, it could avoid using of parallel overlapping systems by making them fully compatible & complementary so that triggering one system would be recognized by the others. The ICPDR has been invited by the UNECE to join this standardization process and mandated at its 8th StWG meeting the Secretariat to participate in the process of standardization in notification on chemical accidents upon request of UNECE with the view of maintaining the Danube AEWS as the key warning system in the DRB.
- *Output:* Danube AEWS based on an international Europe-wide standard.
 - *Responsible:* APC EG
 - *Deadline:* 2015 and beyond