

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROJECT FORM

Project title: Strengthening the Safe and Secure Management of Hazardous Substances to Prevent and Mitigate Industrial Accidents Worldwide

Expected timing/ duration: June 2024-June 2027

Objective and brief summary of the project:

The main objective of the project is to strengthen the safety and security of managing hazardous substances in and across countries and to prevent and mitigate industrial accidents worldwide. The project aims to strategically achieve this objective in three ways:

1. Promote and improve the knowledge to implement international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms that support countries in addressing the risks of hazardous substances and related accident prevention, preparedness and response: This will entail: conducting an analysis of relevant instruments, standards and mechanisms under the auspices of UNECE (Industrial Accidents Convention and others) and key partner organizations, including their strengths and gaps; and preparing a report to present the analytical findings and related policy recommendations, an online information repository to share summarized information of the instruments and highlight related national good practices and a video to raise awareness of risks and key safety measures from the instruments. UNECE, with the secretariat of the Industrial Accidents Convention as the lead and in cooperation with the secretariats of other international instruments, will cooperate with the International Labor Organization (ILO), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Environment Programme/UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNEP/OCHA) Joint Environment Unit, UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and possibly other partners on this activity. It will build on the conclusions of the UN/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion and a related survey, which UNECE led with these partners in 2021.
2. Strengthen capacity for environmental policy and governance for the management of hazardous substances at the national, regional, and international levels through multilateral activities: This will include the organization of a global seminar to present the above report, to elaborate on the gaps identified and the policy recommendations to address them and to exchange information and knowledge on related national good practices. The seminar, which will be also co-organized with the abovementioned partner organizations, will be scheduled alongside the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 2026 to ensure high-level participation and an exchange on environmental governance and policy development under the Industrial Accidents Convention.
3. Increase knowledge of authorities, operators and the public, including people of all genders and ages and persons with disabilities, on ways to enhance preparedness for and response to industrial accidents: This will consist of upgrading of the UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System and organizing a global seminar on early warning and industrial accident notification systems, environmental liability and pollution remediation, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the World Meteorological Organization. The IAN System will be presented alongside early warning and industrial accident notification systems from around the world to demonstrate the development and use of such systems to a wide audience, including in view of the Secretary-General's Early Warning for All Initiative..

The project will entail the following activities:

- Preparation of a report, online information repository and video on the risks of managing hazardous substances and industrial accidents, international instruments, standards and mechanisms to address those risks and related national good practices (2024-2025)
- Organization of a global seminar on strengthening the safe and secure management of hazardous substances for the prevention and mitigation of industrial accidents (2026)
- Update of the IAN System to ensure security and be more user-friendly (2024-2025)
- Organization of a global seminar on early warning and industrial accident notification systems, environmental liability and pollution remediation (2025)

Link to the SDG targets:

3.9, 3.d); 5.5; 6.3, 6.5; 9.4; 10.2; 11.5, 11.b; 12.4; 13.1; 16.7; 17

Expected results of the project:

- 1.1 Awareness raised of the risks in the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances and how environmental factors, such as climate change, natural disasters, public health emergencies and war, could trigger or aggravate them;
- 1.2 Knowledge and skills of authorities to use the respective international legal and policy instruments, standards and mechanisms to address these risks and mitigate industrial accidents within their countries increased;
- 2.1 Capacity, governance and legislative gaps in the safe and secure management of hazardous substances and the prevention of, preparedness for and response to related accidents identified;
- 2.2 Countries worldwide committed to enhancing environmental governance through information and knowledge exchanges;
- 3.1 Readiness of authorities and operators to use the IAN System through registered Points of Contact to mitigate the effects of industrial accidents should they occur increased, and UNECE Industrial Accident Notification (IAN) System enhanced into a more user-friendly and secure system; and

3.2 Awareness of early warning systems and industrial accident alert systems and how to use them improved.

Target group and beneficiaries of the project:

The target group is national and local authorities, international and regional organizations, operators of industrial facilities, civil society actors, academia and the public that could be affected by an industrial accident. This will include outreach, including by UNECE and the partner organizations, to different public sectors, such as chemicals, climate change, disaster risk reduction, environment, industrial safety, labour, transport and beyond. This will also include seeking the involvement of people of different genders, ages and persons with disabilities. The geographic scope of the project is global and seeks to benefit countries within and beyond the ECE region.

Justification of project and its relationship to the programme of work:

Workplan and resource requirements for the Industrial Accidents Convention for 2023–2024 (ECE/CP.TEIA/44/Add.1):

Page 15 – Table 1, Item 2.6: Risk management in relation to the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances, such as ammonium nitrate, and related accident prevention, preparedness and response:

“This activity builds on the outcomes of the UN/OECD seminar in follow-up to the 2020 Beirut port explosion (online, 14 December 2021) and its preceding survey. It entails preparation of an online web page/repository of information and good practice, which can be supplemented by promotional materials such as a video or an information brochure, to share information on: international legal and policy instruments for the storage, handling and transport of hazardous substances such as ammonium nitrate and related industrial accident prevention, preparedness and response; and existing guidance (including by industry), national experiences, lessons learned and good practices. It could also specifically build capacity on the above in one or several Parties or beneficiary countries, such as Ukraine, e.g., through a dedicated seminar/on-site training session. It spans most Convention work areas and thus contributes to all long-term strategy objectives, Sendai Framework priorities and relevant SDG targets

Expected deliverables: Web page/information repository on existing legal and policy instruments addressing the risks of ammonium nitrate storage, handling and transport, among other hazardous substances; lessons learned, experiences and good practices; promotional materials (video or brochure); seminar to build capacity in one or several countries.

Lead/supporting Parties/organizations: [to be determined], with financial support of EIB [and other donor(s) to be determined], in cooperation with ECE Sustainable Transport Division, ILO, IMO, OECD, UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit, UNDRR”

Page 16 – Table 1, Item 3: ECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System

“This area fosters preparedness for and response to industrial accidents through the IAN system. In the long-term strategy, a key objective is for countries to make use of established accident notification systems, including the IAN system, to notify each other of accidents, mitigate their consequences promptly, and request and render mutual assistance. This area thus contributes to long-term strategy objectives 1 (a), 2 (a)–(c) and 3 (a)–(b), Sendai Framework priorities 2 and 4 and SDG targets 3.9, 3.d, 11.5, 12.4 and 17.6

Expected deliverables: Online consultation with the Points of Contact; IAN connectivity test”

Page 24 – Table 3, Item 2: ECE Industrial Accidents Notification (IAN) System

“This activity includes upgrading the IAN system. The upgrade will ensure that the IAN System is in full compliance with the United Nations standards and cyber security requirements, fix existing glitches and develop new functions to modernize it. The upgrade will also improve IAN System functionality and user-friendliness and develop linkages to a mobile device. This activity contributes to long-term strategy objectives 1 (a), 2 (a) and (c) and 3 (a)–(b), Sendai Framework priorities 2 and 4 and SDG targets 3.9, 3.d, 11.5, 12.4 and 17.6

Expected deliverables: Upgraded IAN System; manual for upgraded system; meeting to present upgraded system

Lead/supporting countries/organizations: [to be determined], with financial support of [donor to be determined]”

Estimated UN regular budget resources (work months of RB staff/level of Staff):

- 1.5 months of P5 staff time; 2.25 months of P4 staff time; 1.5 months of G staff time

Estimated extra budgetary resources:

Please ensure that the below amount matches the total estimated costs in the annex

Donor	Amount (\$USD)
European Commission	540,300

Project Manager:

Joseph Orangias

Date: 23 April 2024

Section/Division:

**Transboundary Cooperation
Section/Environment Division**

Cleared by Programme Management Unit:

Date: 06.05.2024

Nicolas Dath-Baron, Chief, a.i.

Project not submitted to EXCOM, as part of the Programme of Work of the Industrial Accidents Convention

Annex
Results-based budget for the extrabudgetary project

Budget item	Cost (in EUR)
1. Human Resources	
1.2 Salary technical staff	187,147
1.3 Salary administrative staff	34,280
2. Service Contracts	
2.1 Consultants (inclusive of evaluation)	33,600
3. Travel	
3.1 Travel costs (including per diem and allowances)	98,960
4. Contractual services and other direct costs	113,303
5. Subtotal direct eligible costs of the Action	467,290
6. Indirect costs (7% - EU contribution)	32,710
7. Total eligible costs of the Action (EUR €)	500,000
Total eligible costs of the Action (USD)	540,300