# COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES: CZECH EXPERIENCE

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# IMPORTANCE OF TRANSBOUNDARY ACCIDENTS

- Influencing large number of people and important environment
- Causing political and social disturbance
- Sensible topic demanding high level communication and coordination

- ONE FROM TYPICAL PROPERTIES:

  **Combination of local and central aspects**

# LOCAL ASPECTS

- Hazardous facility location
- Origin (triggering) of accident
- Prevention
- Early warning
- Emergency response (first responders)

# CENTRAL ASPECTS

- Policy, strategy, general approach
- Legislative framework
- Methodologies, methods
- Risk mapping and prioritization
- Information sharing, communication
- International (and inter-regional) coordination

# COMMON ASPECTS

- Resources allocation
- Cooperation
- Consequences mitigation
- Recovery

- MANY ASPECTS OVERLAP OR ARE MUTUALLY INTERLINKED BETWEEN CENTRE AND REGION/COMMUNITY

# Czech Republic Situation

# Industrial conditions

- Highly industrialized coutry (industry chemical, petrochemical, metallurgy, mining, pharmaceutical…)
- Long tradition of industry and safety
- Industry located at many places across the country
- High population density

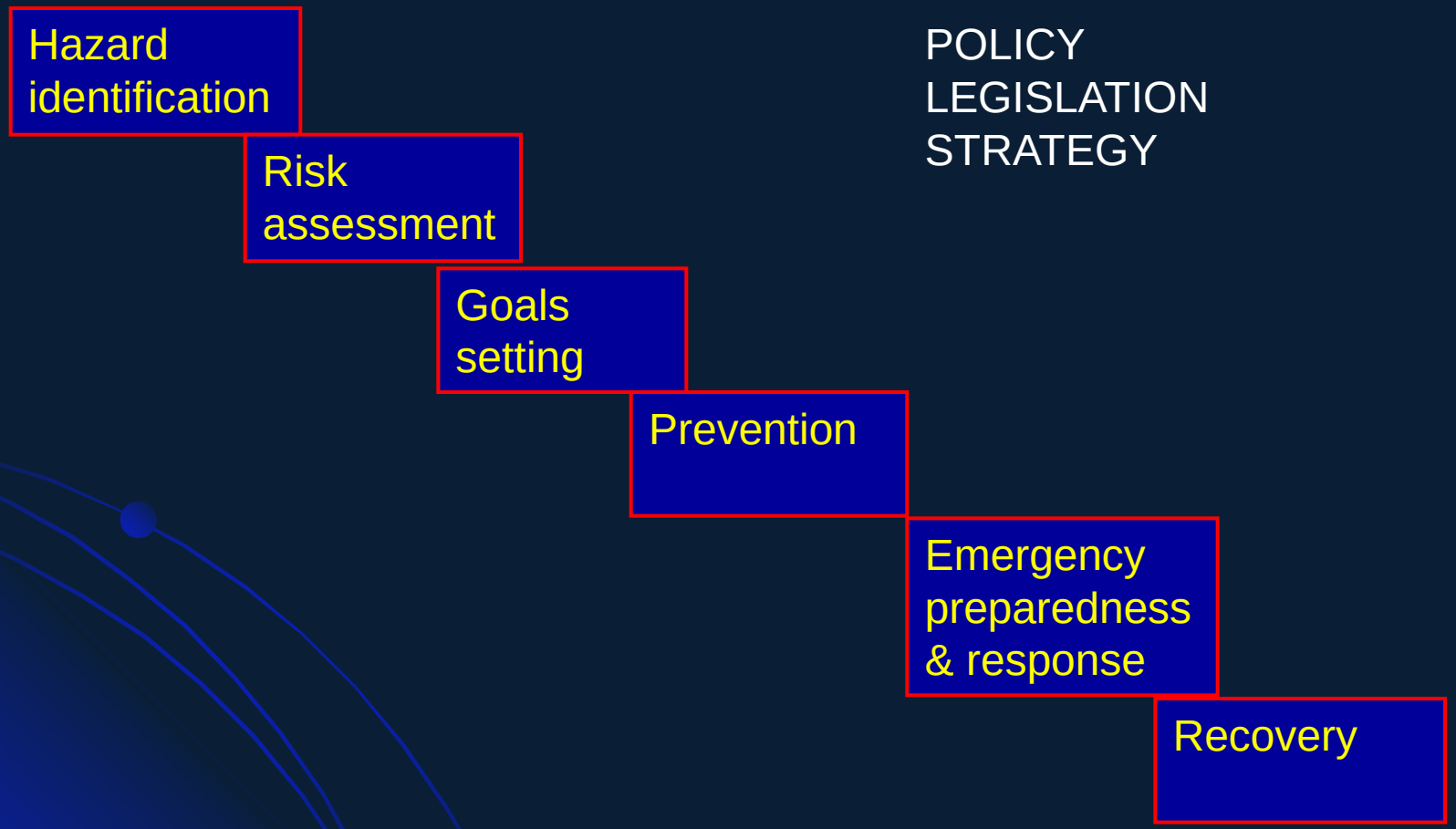
# Environmental conditions I

- Czech is „the roof of Central Europe”, catchment of three seas (Black sea, Baltic sea, Nord Sea)
- No important river enters Czech but waters from country flow to  Elbe, Oder and Donau
- Water is the principle vector of possible transboundary accidents

# Environmental conditions II

- Except of Silesia region, northen Bohemia chemistry and Fosfa enterprise, most of industry is located further far enough from borderline
- No important source of risk is in neigbouring countries close to borderline
- The importance of atmosphere as a vector of transboundary accidents is limited to few regions

# Risk management steps



# Policy and strategy

- Defined at central level by strategical documents
  - Conception of home security
  - Environment protection strategy
  - Sustainability conception
  - Environment security conception
- Implemented at local level
- Support of research and development by central government, application often local

Approach: Think globally, act locally

# Cooperation between central and local authorities

- Legislative framework:
  - Conventions – trans-boundary accidents and protection of international waters
  - Seveso II Directive in force since 1999
  - Water directive
  - IPPC

In some cases, these acts are not harmonized – need of cooperation

# Cooperation between central and local authorities

- INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION
  - UNECE conventions
    - Activity in JEG
    - Regular bilateral meetings with German partners, always at local premises
  - UNEP APELL training
  - OECD working group on industrial accidents
  - Help with bilateral “local” agreements

# Hazards identification

- Till recently, the “SEVESO-like” approach was used,
- Due to the research organized by MoE, new methodologies for hazard identification (for watercourses) have been developped and published, including wastes and NATECH events
- Information on hayard/risk from local authorities concentrates in central databases and special maps in GIS are created (Crisis plans of MoE);
- These maps are actualized yearly and distributed back to local authorities

# Risk Assessment

- Again, two kind of support is provided:
  - Development, providing information and in some cases training of methods of risk assessment for local authorities
  - Risk mapping at central level

SOME LASTING TASKS:

- Accident caused by “non-classified” materials – pH change, high BOD, salinity, dispersed mud…
- Environment damage quantification

# Accident prevention

- The main framework of accident prevention is in SEVESO II Directive
- Integrated control for Seveso instalations
  - Nowadays runs the central project on optimization of integrated control
- Policy: PPP, assurance demand…

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE - ROLE OF CENTRAL AUTHORITIES

- International information sharing
- Implementing of transboundary accidents to crisis planning at local/regional level
- Strategy of emergency preparedness – Integrated rescue system
- Support of trainings
- Communication training

# Recovery

Creation of reserve (financial, technical…) for the case of accident for better recovery

Central aid in the case of disaster

# CONCLUSIONS

- Transboundary accidents demand the cooperation between central and local authorities in several points
  - Policy and strategy
  - Methodology / methods development
  - Information sharing, databases, maps
  - Creation of reserves
- Czech experience: Active approach of central authorities leads to good cooperation and effective emergency

# Thank you for the attention