

The importance of cross-border cooperation in major accident prevention

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Content:

- Disasters in transboundary context
- Why cross-border cooperation?
- Human, technical, know-how and knowledge aspects of cooperation
- Examples of good practices
- Czech experience
- Conclusions



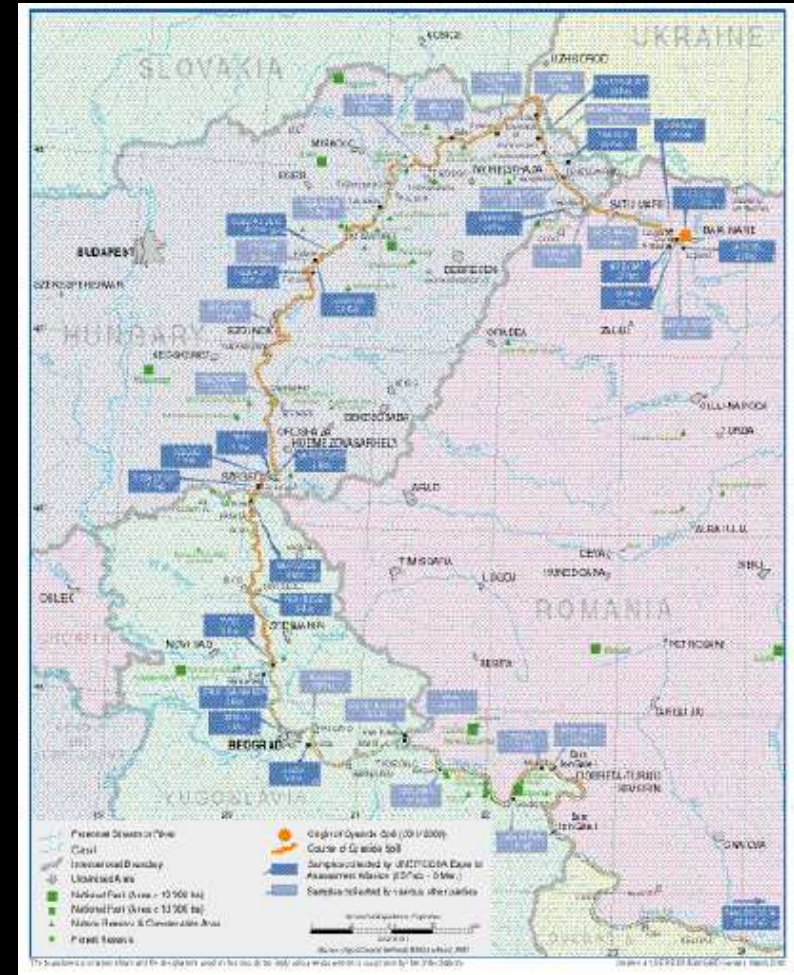
Disasters in transboundary context

- Large part of disasters impacts more countries because:
 - We share environment and disasters do not respect any borderline
 - Industrial installations with potential to cause major accidents are often close to watercourses or lakes or near to border
 - Disasters provokes social instability and conflicts across borders
 - Basic level of safety should be kept in all region

Some examples of accidents with cross-border effects

- Baia Mare 2001

- Cyanide release to water
- Impact to 6 countries
- International expertise
- Changing EU legislation



BAIA MARE TAILING DAM



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BAIA MARE CONSEQUENCES



Baia Mare, Romania - 2000

Some examples of accidents with cross-border effects – Sandoz Basel 1986



Fire in chemical factory, released fire waters , toxic, released to the river Rhine

Result: environment disaster, later start-up of river Rhine accident protection

Examples of accidents with cross-border effects – Seveso 1976

- Release of toxic polychlorinated dioxines and contamination of soil
- Serious neglectance in communication
- Even if localization in Italy only, consequences Europe-wide:
 - Dangerous wastes
 - Society reaction – Seveso Directive on the major accident prevention

Why cross-border cooperation?

- Early warning for neighbouring countries = better prevention and preparedness
- „On the spot“ intervention possible in all impacted area
- Better mobilisation of forces and techniques
- Better mutual understanding („we are involved“)

Human, technical, know-how and knowledge aspects of cooperation

Human aspects:

- The cooperation between institutions is realized by cooperation between human beings
- Linguistic, national and other barriers can be broken by direct relations only
- Higher involvement to help „comrades“



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Technical aspects of cooperation

- Better mobilization of resources
- Reaching compatibility of equipment
- Finding ways of communication – radiostations, other communication means, who will speak with who...
- Sharing of expensive and rare equipment and material (example – extinguishing foam, water canons, floating barriers...)



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Know-how and knowledge aspects

- Sharing experience and good practices



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Know-how and knowledge aspects

- Sharing and exchanging new techniques



Know-how and knowledge aspects

- Sharing and exchanging new ideas and research results



Examples of good practices:

- International training Eisenhüttenstadt 2005
- International training Kotki 2002
- UNECE activities
- Others – see following speakers

Eisenhüttenstadt



Eisenhüttenstadt



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Eisenhüttenstadt



Eisenhüttenstadt



Czech experience and practices – international exercise Ropa 2004

Simulation of crude oil pipeline accident at
border river Morava



exercise Ropa 2004



Place of accident (CZ)

exercise Ropa 2004



Czech experience and practices – international exercise Břeclav 2008

- Forest fire at the border CZ-SK-AT
- Three countries involved





TRINS – Transport information and accident system

- Today 28 regional centres sharing information and providing aid and support at national and international level (PL, DE, AT, SK, HU)
- Regular exercises
- Example of prevention: „phenothiazin network“ for acrylic acid
- Example of emergency response: Gyor (HU) 2002 accident with ethylene

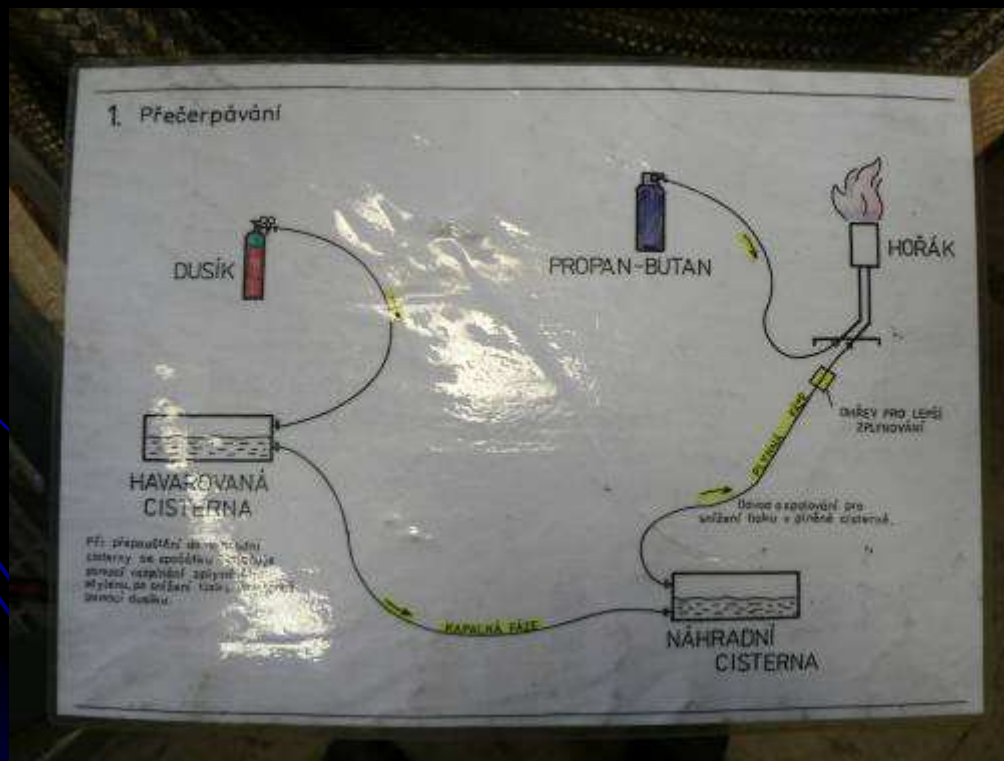
Ethylene accident Gyor, 29.1.2002

- On 29 January 2002 at 5pm, truck with 21 tons of ethylene had accident; danger of fire and explosion.



Czech team specialized on ethylene intervened

1) Emptying tank (18 tons pumped to other tank, 3 tons burned in field burner)



Using 2 cranes, tank was lifted



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Scientific and capacity-building cooperation examples

- UNECE Joint Expert Groups – examples:
 - Pipeline safety guidelines
 - Tailing dams safety guidelines
- Training programmes
- Exchanges and sharing of information (as TRINS)
- Common regionals projects (INTERREG programme etc.)

Scientific and capacity-building cooperation examples II

- Experts from other countries coming to help with accident mitigation/prevention
- Committees for the protection of river basins
- Direct common research (example: ecosystems study of Danube ecosystem close Gabčíkovo-Nagymaros)

Scientific and capacity-building cooperation examples III

- Research teams and universities cooperation (ex: project ARAMIS)
- Operators and response teams common capacity building (example: pipeline Kralupy – Ingolstadt exercises)



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Conclusions:

- Cross-border cooperation is an important part of emergency preparedness for major accidents
- Cross-border cooperation is typical win-win strategy
- Czech national experience support further development of transboundary cooperation

Thank you for the attention



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