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EMERSYS

Toward an integrated, joint cross-border
detection system and harmonized rapid
responses procedures to chemical, biological,
radiological and nuclear emergencies

MIS-ETC Code: 774

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Common borders. Common solutions.

About EMERSYS

Implementation of an adequate, well-structured system that provides reliable detection and real-time notification is of outmost significance for an effective and timely response in emergencies resulting from industrial accidents, and is a pre-requisite to further implementation of a realistic civil protection policy.

A Decision Support Tool having access to, and using in an integrated manner, data from the entire cross-border area (regardless of physical country border) serves as a powerful tool to responsible authorities to implement countermeasures within a time compatible with that needed to protect the population. Also offers better coherence and transparency in the decision processes on local and border-crossing interventions as one input to improving public understanding and acceptance of off-site measures.

The RO-BG cross-border area concentrates the two countries' energy production capabilities based on nuclear technology (Cernavoda and Kozloduy NPPs), as well as important activities and industrial facilities having a high potential of risk due to routine handling of dangerous substances.

The recent process of technological risk identification at the border between Romania and Bulgaria (required by the SEVESO II, Directive 96/82/EC) shows that the main hazards in the cross-border area, comes from fertilizer industry, chemical industry, transport of dangerous substances, storing of petrochemicals, power supply and water treatment.

The necessity of implementation of core infrastructure for TIC detection in the cross-border area, resides in the requirements of fulfilling the obligation imposed by the 96/82/EC Directive (SEVESO II) and by the UNECE Convention on trans boundary effects of industrial accidents (signed by both Romania and Bulgaria).

General objective

Provide authorities from the entire Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border area with means for the coordinated implementation of European Community strategies and legislation, as well as of bilateral conventions, regarding emergency preparedness, planning and intervention in case of chemical, biological and radiological/nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

The EMERSYS project is dedicated to streamline coordination between emergency authorities from the RO-BG cross-border area in practical implementation of legal and political undertakings (SEVESO II, ECU-RIE, UNECE Convention on trans boundary effects of industrial accidents), by providing effective means for a more harmonized emergency management on the local and regional (NUTII) levels, based on a common approach, from a European perspective.

The project focuses on creation of a unitary emergency infrastructure for early detection and intervention related to chemical and nuclear facilities, as well as biological and radiological situations of major risk from the Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border area. In the event of an emergency with off-site affects, this will enable for the rapid detection and notification of releases, the monitoring of the progression of an accident from the moment of detection, to forecasting and estimating the ongoing and the potential releases, as a function of time.

The EMERSYS project will put in place a systems that joins forces, shares resources and eliminates duplication of national efforts related to CBRN events, providing thus for an economically efficient and sustainable, rapid cross-border response force, capable to react as a single unit, for the mutual benefit of the population from the Romanian-Bulgarian border area.

Specific objectives

1. Enhance the technical capability for detection and notification of CBRN events with potential trans boundary effect and implementation of a joint decision support tool (DST) at the level of all Emergency Inspectorates/Civil Protection Directorates from the entire Romanian-Bulgarian cross-border area.
2. Integrate the newly created infrastructure and the existing national early-warning system and interconnect the Emergency Inspectorates/Directorates Civil Protection from the cross-border area by setting-up a platform for bilateral and on-line exchange of information related to hazardous and radioactive substances.
3. Harmonize local plans and procedures for off-site intervention in case of major chemical accidents, biological and radiological/nuclear emergencies and development of collaboration plans and protocols.
4. Enhance the emergency expertise from the cross-border area by training the operational staff.
5. Raise public awareness in the cross-border area related to technological risk.