

PROJECT INFORMATION

Capacity development to improve safety conditions of tailings management facilities in the Danube River Basin



Tailings management facilities
near Baia Mare, Romania
Source: ICPDR

Background

The surface water bodies of the Danube River Basin (DRB) were severely damaged by several major accident events in the last two decades. These disasters dramatically demonstrated how catastrophic consequences the inappropriate operation of tailings management facilities (TMF) might have on the aquatic environment, population and socio-economic goods. There is a substantial number of TMF in the basin where adequate safety conditions should be ensured. The Danube countries, under the umbrella of the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River, jointly implemented this project to address these challenges.

Project details

The idea and strategy of this project, as proposed by the UBA, were based on experiences from previous pilot projects. It aimed at strengthening the safety of TMFs by practical tools for both authority inspection and self-assessment of facility operators. A previously developed checklist methodology was updated and enhanced in order to evaluate TMF safety conditions and to recommend measures for their improvement. An important outcome of the project is the developed Tailings Risk Index methodology. It combines hazard and risk factors and considers the exposure of the population and the environment to TMF accidents. Competent authorities, TMF operators, concerned stakeholders and the public in DRB and beyond are encouraged to apply the developed tools. The results of the project will serve to prepare a position paper for DRB, which will provide recommendations for the Danube countries on how to improve the safety conditions of TMFs located in the region. This will ensure that in medium term a common set of minimum standards and safety requirements are respected in the DRB.

Updated: October 2020

Target countries: Czech Republic, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, Hungary

Duration: 03/2019 – 10/2020

Beneficiaries: Facility operators, authority inspectors, environmental experts, environmental & water authorities, agencies and universities

Implementing organisation: International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR)

Project number: 118221

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