

Present situation and conclusion

Significant harm can be caused to humans, as well as to the environment by accidents in industrial plants, where hazardous substances are handled. In particular such incidents could lead to environmental damage not only on a national scale, but also over several countries due to the rapid dispersion of contaminants in a large river catchment areas (e.g. Theiß and Danube).

Bearing in mind the cross-border responsibility in the face of such industrial accidents an international co-operation of the countries concerned is required.

This purpose is supported by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) and financed by a consultancy assistance program for middle and east European-countries.

As a result of the Caucasian initiative taken by the German Federal Government, the catchment area of the Kura river becomes the central point of interest in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. In particular the Kura river is very important for the water supply for these countries.

In order to continue and save this function the development of a transboundary cooperation should be financed with regard to prevent industrial accidents in the Kura river basin.

Description of the initiated project

Main objective of this project is to ensure a complete cross-border management of these accidents. The following activities have been identified:

- Preparation of an international warning and alarm system for the river catchment area of Kura,
- Implementation of international central warning centres for transboundary communication,
- Registration of all activities relevant for industrial activities in the Kura river basin and
- Investigations of concrete enterprises hazardous to waters and the consequent recommendations to improve the safety of installations.

Therefor expert knowledge of international commissions for the protection of Rhine, Elbe and Danube (ICPR, ICPE resp. ICPD) will be required, which have already formulated recommendations of measures to identify technical and organisational standards for the safety of installations hazardous to waters.

This practical experience is an excellent knowledge base, as well as starting point to develop international co-ordinated measures for the protection for the Kura river basin.

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Development of the transboundary cooperation for hazard prevention in the Kura- river basin



on behalf of

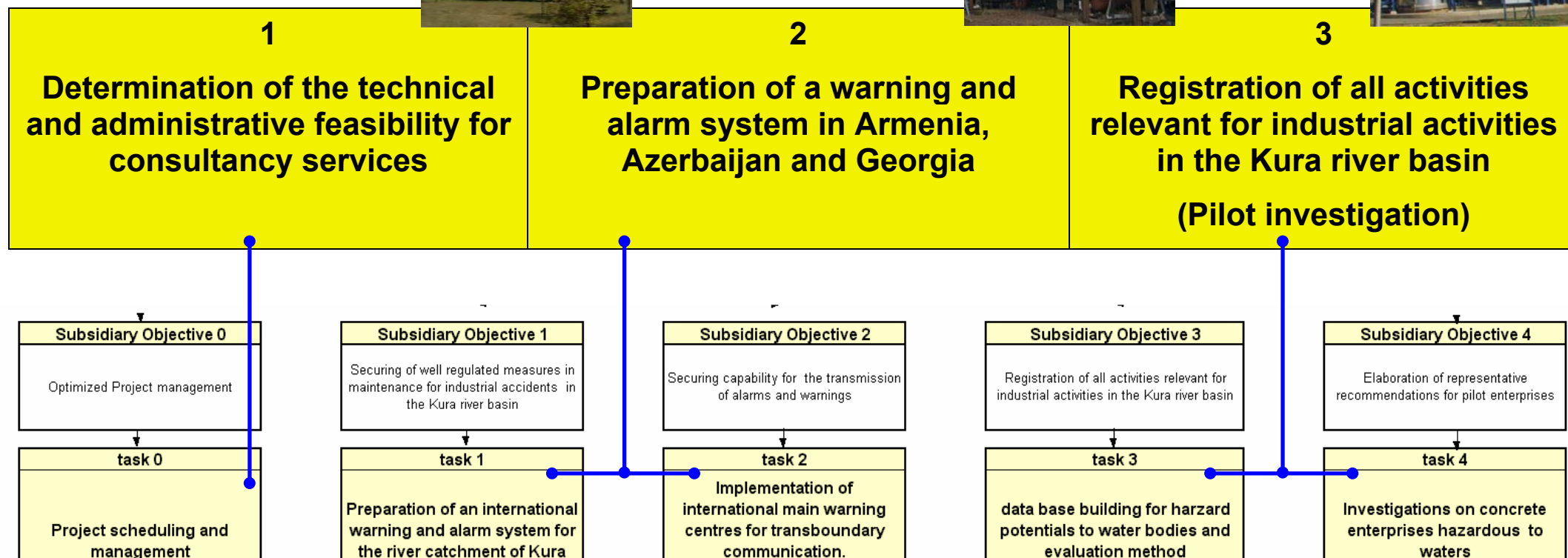


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Project Objectives:



Expected results for the countries investigated:

- Definite reduction of water pollution in the Kura river basin caused by industrial accidents
- Development of a system for successive implementation of European standards concerning requirements for safety of industrial plants hazardous to water with the aim of a continual improvement to water protection.
- Technology and information transfer in the field of systems and safety engineering and hazard management
- Improvement of cooperation through the realization of a joint international warning and alarm system for the Kura river basin