

4 Know-how transfer with a view to implementing international experience, directives and laws

Industrial safety measures at installations are a condition for the effective prevention of major accidents. Ways and means of taking appropriate steps to meet this end were presented at seminars conducted in conjunction with the project. Experts from Germany, Austria, Armenia, Ukraine and the countries concerned exchanged experience which they had acquired in the course of their work in European River Commissions of the Elbe, Rhine and Danube and in parallel and related projects (EASE Project on the Elbe, accident prevention in the Kura basin (Caucasus), River Neman project along the lines of the Water Framework Directive and studies of enterprises in the Dnieper basin).

In a related fact-finding trip made to Germany, representatives of the countries concerned acquainted themselves with the tasks and work of the secretariats of IKSE and IKSR, with corporate safety measures, results of the EASE Project, mode of operation of automatic control points in Bunthaus near Hamburg and Worms and with the practical work of the executive authorities in states of the FRG.

The International Warning and Alarm Plan also helps promote mutual trust among the three countries concerned and supports the ongoing efforts to conclude a trilateral agreement for the protection of the Neman/Nemunas and to set up an International Commission for the Protection of the Neman/Nemunas. It was proposed to establish a permanent working group for accident prevention and a warning and alarm system for water contamination resulting from industrial accidents in the Neman/Nemunas catchment area with a view to putting the results achieved by the project on a permanent basis and to continuing the development of the International Warning and Alarm Plan for the Neman catchment area. The permanent working group is to accompany the development of the IWAN and can form the centre of crystallisation for the future International Commission for the Protection of the Neman. A group of experts will be constituted from among the members of the project steering group, which will carry out the tasks of the permanent working group until the trilateral agreement for the protection of the Neman/Nemunas is concluded.