

Major accidents in industrial installations, where hazardous substances are handled may cause serious hazard to humans, as well as to the environment. In particular major accidents could lead to environmental damage not only on a national scale, but also over several countries due to the rapid dispersion of contaminants in large river catchment areas (e.g. Baja Mare/Danube). Such serious hazards caused by major accidents requires cross-border responsibility and international co-operation of the countries concerned.

A suitable example for cross border river catchment area in the Baltic region could be the Neman/ Nemunas river, which is springing in Belarus and is meeting in the Baltic Sea after flowing through Lithuania and the Kalinigrad region of Russia. The river is very important for the water supply for the riparian countries. In order to continue and save this function the development should be supported the German government the transboundary cooperation concerning major accident prevention.

The purposed project is financed by a consultancy assistance program for the Middle and East European Countries of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU).

Main objective of this project is to ensure a transboundary major accident prevention in the Neman/ Nemunas river basin focussed on (industrial) installation related water protection and a cross-border hazard management. The concrete tasks for this river basin comprise:

- Preparation of an international warning and alarm system,
- Implementation of international warning centres for transboundary communication,
- Registration of all industrial activities (establishments/ contaminated sites) including a potential of major accident
- Recommendations for the implementation of international experience, directives and regulations (SEVESO II, UNECE, Helcom, EU-Directives).

Therefore expert knowledge of international commissions for the protection of Rhine, Elbe and Danube (ICPR, ICPE, ICPD) will be required. The river- commissions already formulated recommendations of measures to identify technical and organisational standards for the safety of installations hazardous to water. This practical experience may be an excellent knowledge base, as well as starting point to develop international co-ordinated measures for the protection of the Neman/ Nemunas river basin.

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Development of the transboundary warn and alarm system for the river catchment area of Neman/ Nemunas



on behalf of

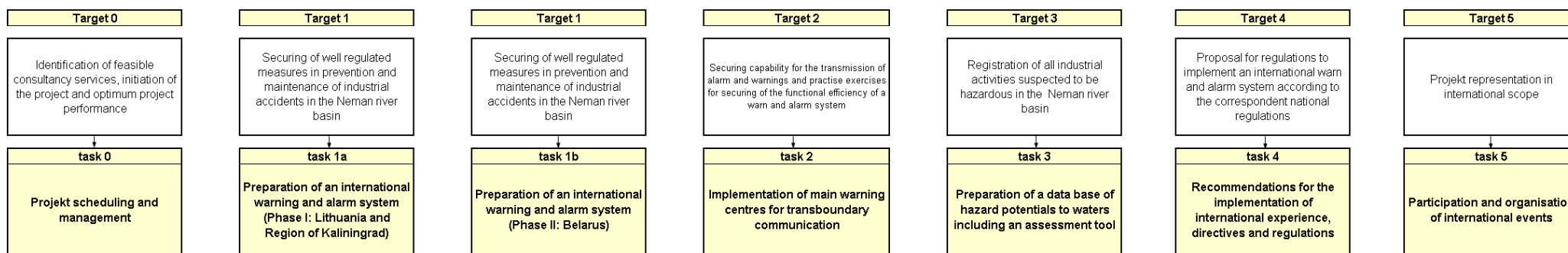
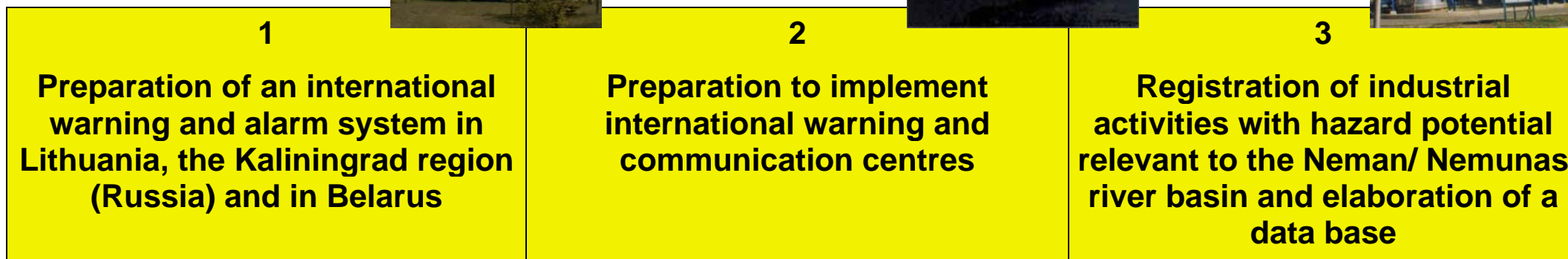


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Project Objectives:



Expected results for the countries investigated:

- Definite reduction of water pollution in the Neman/ Nemunas river basin caused by industrial accidents
- Improvement of cooperation through the realization of a joint international warning and alarm system for the Neman/ Nemunas river basin
- Registration and assessment of the hazard potential in the Neman/ Nemunas river basin in form of a data base.
- Development of a system for stepwise implementation of European standards concerning requirements for safety of industrial plants hazardous to water aimed at continuous improvement to water protection.
- Technology and information transfer in the field of systems and safety engineering and hazard management