

Press Release

For Immediate Release

08/02/2021

KYIV, UKRAINE – The industrial and environmental risks in eastern Ukraine constitute a threat to human security and are impediments to successful reintegration. On February 16-18 2021, the Embassies of France and Sweden, together with ACTED will host a conference to raise awareness of these risks. The conference is organized by the 3P Consortium, an EU-funded group of international and national NGOs, who have worked on a 22-month project, reaching 171,292 individuals, to prevent, prepare and protect civilian populations and critical service systems against the risks of natural, ecological and industrial disasters in eastern Ukraine.

Eight years of fighting in eastern Ukraine has not only made the civilian population vulnerable to conflict-related risks, such as shelling or prolonged utility cuts, but also increased the risks posed by industrial and environmental hazards present in this heavily industrialized area.

France has been politically committed to the resolution of the conflict since 2014 and the creation of the Normandy Format. As co-host of the conference, Ambassador of France to Ukraine Etienne de Poncins recalls that:

“Beyond very specific subjects, environmental issues are a blind spot in the current negotiation formats for the settlement of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. However, not addressing them could have dramatic and long-term consequences for the local populations, already badly affected by years of war.”

Sweden has longstanding support to Ukraine in the environmental field, and currently chairs the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). As co-hosts of the conference, Sweden aims to bring attention to the challenges that Ukraine’s conflict-affected population face. Ambassador of Sweden to Ukraine, Tobias Thyberg underlines that:

“The Swedish chair of the OSCE will continue OSCE’s active role in preventing and countering environmental security challenges. The OSCE comprehensive concept of security recognizes that environmental security is one of the prerequisites for secure and resilient societies.”

The conference will cover the following priorities for the disaster risk management system in Ukraine:

- **Environmental Monitoring as the basis for a national risk-oriented approach:** The lack of a unified system for monitoring emergency risks in Ukraine negatively affects the process of forming a risk management system and the possibility of applying risk-oriented approaches in public administration. Therefore, it is necessary to create a monitoring system and, as a result, create a basis for applying a risk-based approach.
- **The mine situation: from ecological constraint to ecological asset:** Economic insolvency and military damage lead to mines being abandoned and flooded, posing one of the most urgent environmental hazards. Solutions to address the regular flooding of mines can prevent ecological disaster in eastern Ukraine.
- **Evidence-based decision making for disaster risk management:** Evidence-based risk profile development is essential for better risk understanding and preparedness to respond effectively to hazards at the regional level.
- **Decentralization – Settlement/Hromada level preparedness and response capacity:** A full understanding of hazards, vulnerabilities and resources present at each level - family, community, hromada, raion - is necessary to ensure safety during emergency situations.

The conference will bring together experts, local, regional and national government officials, civil society including the humanitarian and development community, as well as the private sector to discuss priorities to reduce risks and increase local response capacities. The conference will lay out key recommendations to Ukrainian authorities and international partners on how best to implement disaster risk reduction in Donbas, based on the **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**.

End

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Note to Editors

Hosts: France and Sweden

France

Within the Normandy format, France, together with Germany, supports since 2014 the negotiations between Ukraine and Russia for the resolution of the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Despite an improved security situation, France remains very concerned about the fate of the civilian population on the ground who continue to suffer the consequences of the war.

Sweden

Sweden has longstanding support to Ukraine in the environmental field, working with UNDP, EBRD, NEFCO and civil society to enhance resilience towards environmental impact and climate change. The Swedish Contingency Agency is actively supporting Ukraine and has recently initiated a project focusing on prevention, preparedness and response to natural and man-made disaster in Ukraine. As Chair of the OSCE Sweden will continue to focus on environmental challenges, working closely with the OSCE Project Co-Ordinator.

Organizers: The 3P Consortium

The 3P Consortium, formed in 2019, comprises a group of international and national NGOs engaged in Ukraine – ACTED, IMPACT Initiatives, Right to Protection, the Danish Red Cross, the Austrian Red Cross, and the Ukrainian Red Cross Society. Under the leadership of ACTED, the 3P Consortium works to support the reduction of disaster risk vulnerability in eastern Ukraine.

3P partners are united by their desire to prevent, prepare and protect – the ‘3P’ – civilian populations and critical service systems against the risks of **natural, ecological and industrial disasters** in eastern Ukraine.

The 3P Consortium has been implementing a 22-month long project, targeting **15,150 direct individuals and 45 organizations** through the realization of **three objectives**:

- Advocate for **legislative gaps and investment priorities** and enhance **coordination** amongst key stakeholders at a national level;
- Improve **understanding of risks** and strengthen **risk management capacity** at district and regional levels;
- Enhance **community awareness, preparedness and response** at local level.

The project is funded by the EU and has led to an **improved understanding of preparedness** to industrial and ecological risks – including those exacerbated by the conflict. It is paramount to **prevent** a large-scale disaster through support for improved planning and sector reform, **prepare** first responders and communities to respond to conflict and industrial risks, and **protect** civilian populations by advocating for investments before, during and after disasters.

Multimedia

- [3P Consortium newsletters](#)
- [1st testimony video](#)
- [2nd testimony video](#)
- [3rd testimony video](#)
- [3P Consortium pictures](#)

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