



Starting of NATECHS research in Slovak Republic

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Slovak Republic is an industrialized country with complex environment, changing from high mountains area to flat country with big rivers. Such complex environment brings also the complexity of various environmental risks (floods, landslides, storms, avalanches, wildfires etc.) which can be combined with technologies including infrastructure. In the history, several examples of the combination of natural disasters can be found, for example repetitive release of fly ash with high arsenic content which caused water and soil pollution during river floods in the Handlova power plant, heavy impact of wind fallen trees after storm in November 2004 on infrastructure of Tatry region and consecutive fire (August 2005) with endangered petrol station or damages of pipelines with gas and oil releases caused by landslides.

Despite the existing risk of NATECH type accidents, actual emergency planning and preparedness do not take this fact into account and there are oriented mainly to the single, non-combined risks. Nevertheless, the research of the problem of combined natural and technological disasters started with the support of Slovak government and the research project VEGA 1/3330/06 “Combined Natural and Technological Risks” has been launched this year with the objectives to make a systematic study of this phenomenon and to develop tools for understanding, prevention and mitigation of NATECHs.