

Case-study

Title of the project: **Improving National Legislation on the Sound Management of Chemicals in Ukraine: Strengthening Health Sector Involvement**

Goals and Objectives of the project:

The goal of the project was to assessment of the health sector capacities and development of proposals on the health sector involvement to ensure adequate contribution to implementation of the chemical safety legislation.

The objectives were to:

- To identify and ground the role of the health sector in the chemicals management;
- To prepare proposals on the health sector roles and responsibilities to ensure contribution to development and implementation of chemical legislation in Ukraine

Target audience: Government, industry, civil society organisations (CSOs).

Activities:

- Capacities and opportunities analysis to streamline chemicals management
- Nation-wide discussion of the health sector role in chemicals management
- Development of a Health sector roadmap towards sound chemicals management in Ukraine (Draft)

Short description:

Project overview

Context: In 2014, Ukraine signed the Association Agreement between Ukraine and the European Union, which includes the obligation to implement the European legislation. However, the main European regulations for chemicals management were not included in the Agreement. But, negotiations are underway with the EU to amend the agreement and the MoE proposed to consolidate these regulations in the amendments to the Agreement.

In Ukraine, implementation of chemicals management policy is carried out by several ministries including the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the Ministry of Health (MoH). Almost all legislative acts in this area were adopted back in the 90s of the last century; are outdated and not compliant with international requirements.

All interested authorities and stakeholders understanding that improvement of chemical legislation is needed for moving forward towards sound chemicals management. Thus, within the framework of the OSCE projects has been developed draft technical regulations related to chemicals management based on principles of the European regulations REACH and CLP.

The project focused on assessment of the health sector capacities and development of proposals on the health sector involvement to ensure adequate contribution to implementation of the chemical safety legislation.

Outcomes and outputs:

The project outcomes:

- Increased awareness of government agencies on chemicals management and its role in decreasing hazardous chemicals impacts for human health;
- Strengthening of the health sector in chemicals management;
- Increased cross-sectoral cooperation to ensure the sound management of chemicals and waste throughout their life cycle;
- Strengthening of capacity of the health sector in the implementation of functions in the regulation of chemicals

The project outputs:

- The Situational Analysis of Ukrainian Potential and Legislation in Chemicals Management Sector
- The report on identified the health sector role and potential contribution to chemicals management
- Health sector roadmap towards sound chemicals management in Ukraine (Draft)

Recommendations and further steps

All actions – starting from identification of gaps in current chemicals legislation and needs to acceptance of the road map to enhance health sector engagement/contribution to chemicals management – should be conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders, but with the health sector taking a leading role.

Lessons learned:

The process of improving national legislation on the sound chemicals management by central executive authorities should be preceded by an in-depth assessment of national infrastructure and capacities related to legal, institutional, administrative and technical aspects of chemicals management throughout their life cycle, analysis of existing opportunities, gaps and needs and proposals for further actions in the country.

The roadmap is prepared to establish the key role of the health sector in preparing changes to the national legislation on chemicals management. The implementation of the Roadmap will reduce the negative impact of hazardous chemicals on public health and the environment, will strengthen the coordination of all stakeholders, and create conditions for the development of a full-scale system of sound chemicals management in country.