

WAYS TOWARDS ENHANCEMENT OF CHEMICALS AND WASTE MANAGEMENT IN UKRAINE

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Background

The legal basis governing the environmental policy and regulation in the field of chemical safety in Ukraine is founded in the following main laws: “On Environmental Protection” of 1991, “On Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals” (1995), “On Wastes” (1998) and “On Ecological Expertise” (1996). These main laws cover the basic principles of environmental protection, the rational use of natural resources as well as ecological safety and formed the foundation for further legislation and regulation. The current legislation in Ukraine is to govern the environmental impact assessment and approval of measures proposed for the management of chemicals. There exists a sufficiently clear hierarchic system of regulations developed in accordance with the force of the laws and divided into legislative and sub-legislative documents or into general and departmental ones. The central executive body responsible for regulation and management of chemicals in Ukraine is the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Besides, a number of important functional duties in this sphere are laid on the Ministry of Health.

At the same time, it is evident that the problem on chemicals and waste management relates industry, energy, transport, agriculture, other economic sectors and types of activity, and so, it can be solved only by mutual efforts of not only mentioned departments but other central executive bodies, as well as expert teams from the research sector and civil society. Analysis of “the state of the art” has showed that current legislation, as well as an overall system of chemicals management in Ukraine is to be updated according to the requirements of the related international conventions and initiatives, especially SAICM, which underlines the importance of developing an integrated and coordinated approach in this sphere. In this connection, it is strongly expected that Ukraine will participate in the corresponding UNITAR Programme to Support Development of Integrated National Programmes for Chemicals and Waste Management.

Overall Goal

The overall goal is to elaborate an Integrated National Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste (SMCW) with the assistance of international organizations so that Ukraine can ensure a proper system with the protection of human health and the environment from the potential hazards caused by chemicals or waste in order to achieve sustainable agricultural and industrial development.

Information Strategy

- Ensure effective information exchange and the widest involvement of existing and potential stakeholders to fulfillment of Ukraine’s obligations under the related international conventions.
- Achieve a high level of awareness of the SAICM provisions and benefits of an Integrated National Programme for (SMCW) among decision makers.
- Achieve a high level of public and stakeholder participation in the development of the NIP for the implementation of the Stockholm Convention in Ukraine, especially when identifying national priorities.
- Initiate and speed up the development of the National Chemicals Profile – it still does not exist in Ukraine.

Initial objectives

- Identify a high qualified initiative group to make the “kick-off” possible;
- Achieve the confirmation of a “political will”;
- Agree on responsibilities amongst government agencies, as well as amongst other key stakeholders – industry, academia, civil society, public interest (NGOs) and private sector;
- Establish a National Inter-Departmental Commission on Chemicals made up of major institutional stakeholders, including the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and representatives of the community, which will be responsible for ensuring broad commitment to implementation;
- Establish a Management Unit under the supervision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine with the involvement of the leading experts and specialists concerned;
- Analyse existing input and assess capacities and needs of the expert and task groups which will be involved.

Main Actors

Government:

- Development and approval of an overall national strategy;
- Responsibilities related to creation of the appropriate legislative and regulative frameworks:
 - ✓ Laws of Ukraine;
 - ✓ Decrees of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine which are obligatory for execution the same as the laws, however in them, as a rule, mechanisms of action of this or that Law are revealed where there are given in detail and are being regulated definite procedures and provisions;
 - ✓ Decrees of the Parliament of Ukraine which are also obligatory for execution and provide the mechanism of action of this or that Law;
 - ✓ Standards, norms and regulations which are obligatory for executive bodies, for organizations and institutions irrespective of the type of their property and department affiliation;
 - ✓ Instructions and regulations for departments which are obligatory only for organizations subordinated to a specific executive body.

Research Sector and Civil Society:

- Design and realization of a comprehensive information campaign aimed at decision-makers and potential stakeholders;
- R&D, methodological and organisational support and supervision of the National Programmes and Ukraine’s obligations in the framework of the international conventions and agreements related to chemicals and waste management;
- Activities in the development of a legislative-regulatory base and an information-inventory database for chemicals and waste management;
- Development of the methodology and establishing expert groups for carrying out activities requiring any kind of scientific expertise in the field of waste and chemicals management;
- Design of organisational, economical, technological and IT procedures for establishing national and international programmes/projects.

Business and Industry:

- Giving the data on chemicals being in production, use and trade;
- Identifying the needs to provide appropriate risk management measures;
- Involvement in a comprehensive information campaign aimed at decision-makers and other stakeholders.

Experience

Ukrainian scientists and experts are involved in many activities aimed at the development of a comprehensive national regulation in the field of chemical safety, as well as at the corresponding studies based on the available international experience. The leading specialists of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine are “the main force” in different international environmental projects and working groups as experts, consultants and coordinators. The following projects were carried out by our specialists, thereby confirmed their high professional experience in the field of solving the relevant problems in Ukraine:

- ✓ Coordination and management for the UNEP Chemicals Joint Project “Developing an Inventory of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) and the Review of Technical and Economic Requirements for Environmentally Sound Technologies of Treatment /Destruction of PCBs”;
- ✓ Direction of the Project Task Team within the GEF/UNEP Project “Enabling Activities Related to the Implementation of the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) in Ukraine”;
- ✓ Consultation and management for the DEPA-DANCEE Projects “Assistance to the Ukrainian Environmental Authorities Management contaminated sites” and “Elimination of Risks Related to Stockpiled Obsolete Pesticides in Ukraine”;
- ✓ Consultation for the World Bank Project “Ukraine: Integrated Pollution Prevention And Control (IPPC) Permitting”;
- ✓ Participation in the Aarhus Convention Technical and Working Groups of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe on the Pollutant Releases and Transfer Registers Protocol (PRTR);
- ✓ Participation in the UNITAR Thematic Workshops on Priority Topics of National Chemicals Management Capacity Building.