

Development of a road map towards sound management of biocides in Georgia

Georgia

The Road Map has been developed within the framework of the project “Establishment of key elements of national systems for sound management of chemicals in selected countries of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia” (funded by the German Federal Environment Ministry’s Advisory Assistant Programme [AAP], in cooperation with the German Environment Agency).

Goals and Objectives

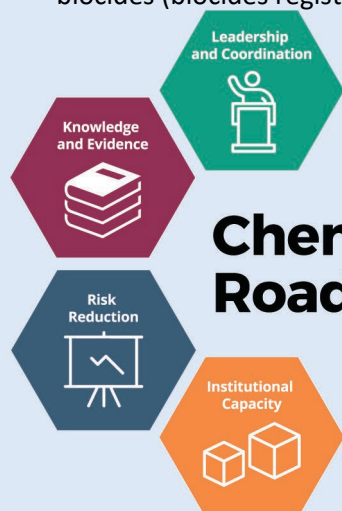
The goal of this project was to strengthen the sound management of biocides.

The objectives were to:

- raise awareness about the sound management of biocides;
- assess the current situation in regards to biocides management;
- develop a National Road Map for setting up a system for sound management of biocides; and
- strengthen national capacities of all stakeholders to ensure sustainable operability and functioning of national information systems for biocides.

Target audience: Governmental bodies, industry, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

Activities: Screening review of current situation; development of a road map towards sound management of biocides; creation of a national online system for collection of information on biocides (biocides register).



Chemicals Road Map

Project Overview

Context

The project focused on biocides management, which is under the mandate of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs in Georgia. Disinfectants and other biocidal products are widely used in the country – over 950 disinfectants are on the market in Georgia. In July 2013 the European Union and Georgia completed the negotiation of an Association Agreement and agreed on a number of measures necessary to be taken in the area of chemical safety, including legislation on biocides management.

The implementing organization, the National Center for Disease Control and Public Health, initiated the national activities related to biocides and has advanced experience in coordination of this area, including with the private sector. Development and implementation of sound biocides management requires strengthening capacities in all stakeholders, including governmental bodies (health, environment, customs, regional development, justice, etc.), industry and the public. Development of a road map on biocides management based on critical assessment of gaps and needs is needed to plan activities in this area taking both short- and long-term perspectives.

Approach

The Road Map consists of actions that need to be fulfilled to contribute to achieving the overarching objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM). It was developed in consonance with the WHO Chemicals Road Map and the corresponding Workbook.

The Road Map on biocides management considers key actions in four areas – risk reduction, knowledge and evidence, institutional capacity, and leadership and coordination – as defined in the WHO Road Map, which was approved at the Seventieth World Health Assembly, to enhance health sector engagement in the SAICM towards the 2020 goal and beyond.



Results

All activities in the project framework were coordinated by intersectoral and multi-stakeholder working groups, which served as a basis for further cooperation for sound management of biocides.

A screening analysis of the situation focused on biocides management has been prepared to identify gaps and needs for biocides management. Aspects analysed included the legislative framework, institutional infrastructure, information system, risk assessment, monitoring, control and health surveillance, risk reduction, risk communication, research and innovation, and participation in international agreements. The situational analysis can be found on the project website: <https://www.ncdc.ge>.

A road map towards sound management of biocides was developed and agreed upon in consultation with all stakeholders. The document is available at: <https://www.ncdc.ge/Files/roadmap1.pdf>.

A number of trainings to create initial capacities for management of biocides (registration, classification and labelling, health impact assessment) were organized at regional and national levels, including for industry experts.

A help desk was created in the leading institution to guide industry efforts towards sound management of biocides.

Lessons Learned

Ideally, the biocides road map should be incorporated into the road map to sound chemicals management; however, Georgia's experience demonstrates that road maps to sound management of priority chemical groups contribute significantly to management of chemicals in general.

The involvement of all stakeholders is critical to ensuring the success of the road map implementation.

Initial capacity-building is needed and should inform discussion of a road map, as justified by the experience in Georgia; this increases understanding of the planned actions and capacities required.

Recommendations

The WHO Chemicals Road Map and Workbook are recommended to be considered as a methodological support for national road maps development.

All actions – starting from identification of gaps and needs to acceptance of the Road Map on biocides management – should be conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders.

The case study was authored by National Center for Disease Control & Public Health of Georgia. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.



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This case study is one of a series of case studies coordinated by WHO to illustrate the implementation of the WHO Chemicals Road Map.

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