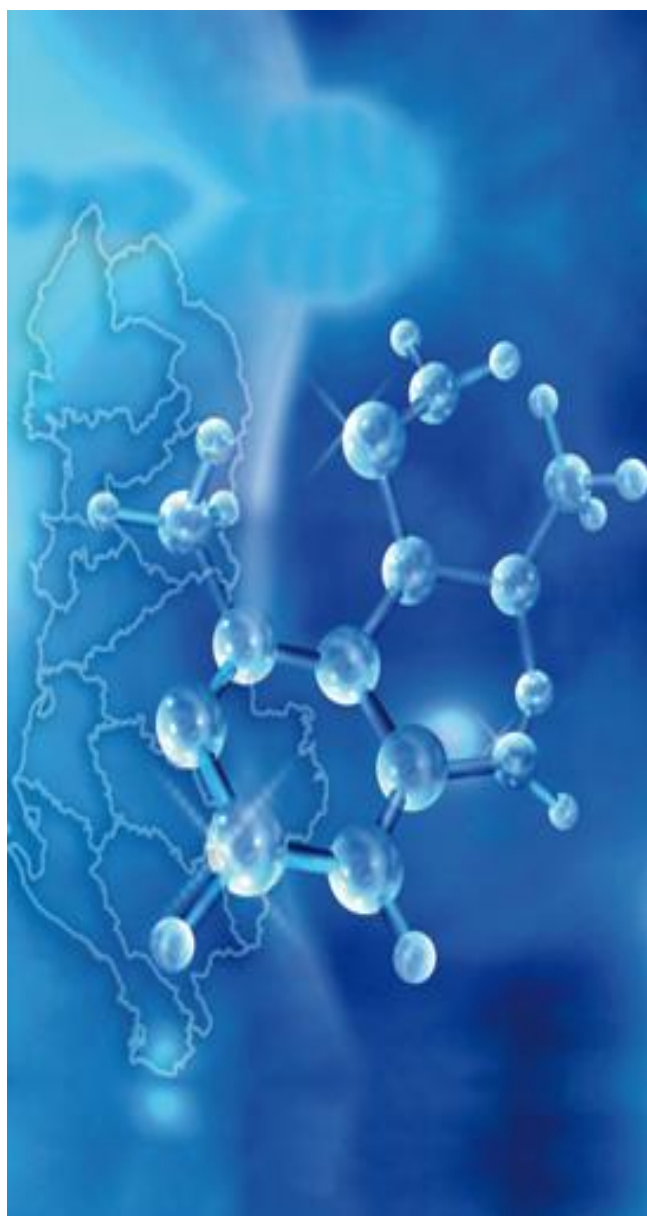




unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research



NATIONAL PROFILE OF CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIA

UPDATE

2012



100 Vjet Pavarësi

SPECIAL DEDICATION:

This edition is prepared on the eve of the 100th Anniversary of Independence of Albania.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

This update of the National Profile of Chemicals Management in Albania was prepared in the framework of the project, “Strengthening Capacities for SAICM (Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management) Implementation in Albania”, implemented by the Institute of Public Health of Albania, with the technical assistance of United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the financial support of the SAICM- Quick Start Programme Trust Fund.

The updating of the National Profile was realized with the active contribution of stakeholders from Ministries, other public institutions and organizations, universities, non-governmental organisations and industry, with the assistance of Prof. Dr. Herman de Kruijf and Ms. Yuri Saito, UNITAR.

PROJECT COORDINATOR:

Dr. Lindita Tafaj (Hajri)

ltafaj@chemicals.al, linda_tafaj@yahoo.com

Tel. +35542363066

Address: Institute of Public Health, Rr.Aleksandër Moisiu, Nr. 80, Tirana, Albania

www.chemicals.al



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

NATIONAL PROFILE OF CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT IN ALBANIA

UPDATE

2012

TIRANA
November 2012

Contents

INTRODUCTION	8
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	10
CHAPTER 1: NATIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION	26
1.1 Geographic and natural characteristics	26
1.2 Demography	28
1.3 Political structure.....	30
1.4 Development sectors	33
1.5 Discharges from main economy sectors.....	41
1.6 Assessment	44
CHAPTER 2 : CHEMICAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT, EXPORT, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, USE AND DISPOSAL	45
2.1 Background	45
2.2 Production, import and export of chemicals	46
2.2.1 Industrial chemicals	46
2.1.2 Chemicals for agriculture.....	48
2.1.3 Biocides for use in public health.....	49
2.2 Chemicals use by categories	51
2.2.1 Industrial chemicals	51
2.2.2 Chemicals for Agriculture.....	51
2.2.3 Biocides for use in public health.....	53
2.3 Storage of chemicals	54
2.3.1 Industrial chemicals	54
2.3.2 Chemicals for agriculture.....	54
2.3.3 Biocides for use in public health.....	55
2.4 Chemicals transport.....	55
2.5 Management of chemical waste	56
2.6 Unintentionally produced chemicals	62
2.7 Assessment	62
CHAPTER 3: LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND NON-REGULATORY MECHANISMS FOR LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS	65
3.1 Overview of legal instruments which address the management of chemicals	65
3.2 Additional details on key legal instruments related to chemicals.	82

3.3	Existing legislation by use category, addressing various stages of chemicals from production/import through disposal.....	87
3.4	Summary of the main administrative procedures for the control of chemicals	87
3.4.1	Pesticides.....	87
3.4.2	Fertilizers	89
3.4.3	Chemical substances & mixtures regulated by REACH and CLP	89
3.4.4	Cosmetic products.....	92
3.4.5	Detergents	92
3.4.6	Pharmaceutical products	92
3.4.7	Oil Products	93
3.5	Non-regulatory mechanisms for managing chemicals	93
3.6	Legal instruments for related activities which impact on chemicals management	95
3.7	Assessment and comments.....	99
CHAPTER 4: MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS MANAGING CHEMICALS		101
4.1.	Responsibilities of different government ministries, agencies and other institutions	101
4.2	Description of ministerial authorities and mandates	101
4.3	Comments and recommendations	109
CHAPTER 5: RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRY, PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND THE RESEARCH SECTOR		111
5.1	Description of nongovernmental organizations/ programmes	111
5.1.1	Description of the industry organizations and activities.....	111
5.1.2.	Non-Profit Organisation (NPOs) in Albania.....	112
5.1.3	The sector of scientific research	115
5.2	Summary of expertise available outside of government	119
5.3.	Assessment	126
CHAPTER 6: INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS.....		128
6.1	Overview of inter-ministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms	128
6.2	Description of interministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms.....	131
6.2.1	State Commission for Registration of Plant Protection Products (PPPs).....	131
6.2.2.	Interministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies	131
6.2.3	Technical Advisory Commission on Civil Emergencies.....	132
6.2.4	Inter-ministerial Committee of Waste Management.....	132
6.2.5	Commission of Protection from Radiations.....	133
6.2.6	The Competent Authority of COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) .	133
6.2.7	Governmental Commission for Water Related Issues with Neighbouring Countries.....	134
6.2.8	Committee for the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005)	134
6.3	Description of the mechanisms for obtaining input from NGOs	134

6.4	Assessment	135
CHAPTER 7: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND USE		137
7.1	Overall availability of data for national chemicals management	137
7.2	Sources of national data, their access and format	137
7.3.	Procedures for collecting and disseminating national or local data	140
7.4	Availability of international literature and databases.....	142
7.5	National systems for data exchange and the capacities of the information technology (IT)	144
7.6	Assessment	147
CHAPTER 8: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE		149
8.1	Overview of the laboratory capacity	149
8.2.	Other relevant areas of technical infrastructure	149
8.2.1	Laboratories depending from ministries	156
8.2.2	Research-scientific laboratories of the universities (public and non-public).....	158
8.3	Assessment of infrastructure management.....	160
8.3.1.	Quality management	160
8.3.2	Technical management	161
CHAPTER 9: PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES.....		163
9.1	Chemical emergency planning	163
9.2	Response to chemical incidents.....	173
9.3	Chemical incident follow-up and evaluation	174
9.4	Comments/Analysis	175
CHAPTER 10: AWARENESS/ UNDERSTANDING OF WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC' TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF TARGET GROUPS AND PROFESSIONALS		178
10.1	Awareness and understanding of chemical safety issues	179
10.2	Education and training on sound management of chemicals and waste.....	183
10.3	Assessment	184
CHAPTER 11: CO-OPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BODIES AND AGREEMENTS.....		187
11.1	Cooperation and involvement with international organizations, bodies and agreements	187
11.2	Participation in relevant technical assistance projects.....	192
11.3	Assessment	197
CHAPTER 12: EXISTING RESOURCES AND NEEDS FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT.....		199

12.1	Resources available in ministries/institutions for chemicals management	199
12.2	Sources needed from governmental institutions to fulfil responsibilities related to chemicals management	206
12.3	Existing resources on chemicals management in non-governmental organizations	210
12.4	Resources from activities of development assistance.....	211
12.5	Assessment	216
CHAPTER 13: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS		219
Annex 1: Available national reports and papers addressing various aspects of chemicals management		224
Annex 2: Inter-sectorial SAICM working group		225
Annex 3: National key actors for the work areas listed in Table A of the SAICM Global Plan of Action		229
Annex 4: Abbreviations		232

INTRODUCTION

International policy framework for the sound management of chemicals

Chemicals have made a major change in quality of life through their use in industry, agriculture, communication, etc. Recognizing the big role of chemicals in improving the quality of life, it is also very well known that every chemical can have adverse effects depending on its properties and on the exposure. That is why international and national efforts are directed to control chemicals related risks through sound management of chemicals throughout their lifecycle: finding less hazardous alternatives, reducing the exposure, managing their trade, improving hazard communication, etc.

The main goal of sound management of chemicals is the reduction of adverse effects of chemicals to human and environmental health. The achievement of the Johannesburg goal that by 2020 chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse health effects on human health and the environment needs intense involvement of all the stakeholders that are involved in different ways in the chain of chemicals management.

Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was mandated by UNEP and was urged by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002 as well as the World Summit in New York, in September 2005. It started as an initiative of a preparatory multi-parties committee regrouped by the UNEP, IFC and IOMC. The term “Strategic Approach to Chemicals Management” (SAICM) appeared and was used in the International Conference of Chemicals Management in Dubai, 2006. SAICM is comprehensive, all-inclusive strategy of chemicals management issues on global level.

This edition is the first update of the National Profile of Chemicals Management (2006, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration); it is prepared in the frame of the SAICM-Quick Start Programme project “Strengthening capacities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) in Albania”, 2011-2013, with Executing Agency United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and implemented by Institute of Public Health, (IPH), Tirana.

National objectives and anticipated benefits of preparing the national profile

Being a living document, the National Profile of Chemicals Management is expected to present the current situation of chemicals management in the country. From 1996 when the first Profile was prepared, several things had changed on chemicals management: new legislation was prepared and approved, some institutions had changed their dependency, other institutions were established; all these changes needed to be reflected. The objectives and expected benefits when starting the work for the update of the Profile were:

- To provide information on all the aspects of chemicals management in the country, assisting professionals and other interested parties with comprehensive information on national chemicals management;
- To facilitate the exchange of information between interested parties;
- To understand and identify priority needs for SAICM implementation;
- To catalyze and increase the collaboration between the stakeholders;
- To provide a basis for improved worker, public and environmental protection;

- To provide a basis for improved awareness on chemicals risks among workers, “in risk” population groups and general public;
- To provide a basis for identifying needs and priorities for technical and financial assistance;
- To prepare the background for a SAICM Implementation Plan;
- To facilitate communication among countries on relevant issues.

The process of update of the National Profile of Chemicals Management in Albania

Guiding principles taken into account during the process of the update of the National Profile are precautionary approach and participatory approach, according to which all the parties involved in chemicals management in the country had the opportunity to contribute and had their voice heard by participating in the process of updating the profile.

The process of preparation of the update of National Profile was coordinated by the SAICM Project implementation team, in close cooperation with local experts and UNITAR. With the start of the project on 15.March 2012 all the known institutions and stakeholders interested in chemicals management were formally asked to nominate representatives for the implementation of the project.

The structure, methodology, process and participation for the preparation of the Profile were discussed in the Project Inception Meeting, held on 24-25 March 2011 in Tirana with the participation of UNITAR, and in an interim meeting held on 28. April 2011. Based on discussions regarding the methodology to be used, sources of information and ways to collect needed data, it was decided that the Profile updating would be based on the Guidance Document “Preparing a National Profile to Assess Infrastructure and Capacity Needs for Chemicals Management”, 2nd edition, draft 31.3.2011, of UNITAR and IOMC (Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals).

Based on the structure of profile suggested in the UNITAR/IOMC methodology, working groups were established considering the field of expertise and knowledge of the experts and other participants. In order to foster and to evaluate the progress made in preparation of the first draft of the Profile, an interim meeting was held on 9.June 2011. The first draft of the Profile was discussed in details in another interim meeting, held on 23. September 2011; in this meeting and even before it, every participant had access to the draft of the profile and lot of contributions for the profile arrived after this meeting. The final formal review of the National Profile was made during the Project Mid-term Review Meeting, held on 9-10.February 2012. In this meeting, further information and opinions were collected from the participants and one deadline was set for further comments or input, after which the Profile would be considered as approved by the institutions present in the meeting and those informed. The process of National Profile update was itself a very good experience of exchange and succesful cooperation between stekeholders.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This updated National Profile of Chemicals Management constitutes an important document for the Albanian Government, as it gives an assessment of the legal, institutional, infrastructural, technical aspects of chemicals management in Albania. It was prepared based on the participatory approach, according to which all the parties involved in chemicals management in the country have had the opportunity to contribute and have their voice heard by participating in the process of updating the profile.

NATIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION

The Republic of Albania is located in South-East Europe, in the west of Balkan Peninsula, with coastline on Adriatic Sea and on Ionian Sea. The surface of Albania is 28'748 km², of which 27'398 km² land and 1'350 km² water. In the north-west Albania is bordered by Montenegro, in north-east by Kosovo, in east by FYR of Macedonia, in south by Greece. Generally the climatic elements differ significantly between different areas of the country, particularly the temperatures and precipitations. Albania is distinguished for the high quantity of precipitations, concentrated mainly in the north, west and southwest region, with an annual average value 1'430 mm. Because of the rugged terrain, the rivers are fast flowing, with a high erosion power.

According to the Census made in 2011, the population of Albania is about 2.8 million inhabitants. After the '90s Albania faced a migration of population abroad and inland; the free uncontrolled inland population movement influenced the change of urban to rural population ratio.

According to INSTAT data, for the period 2006-2009 'Tumours' and 'External injury and poisoning' were respectively the second and third identified cause of deaths in Albania after circulatory system diseases with respectively about 85 and 30 deaths/100'000 inhabitants/year.

Albania is administratively divided into 12 regions, 36 districts, 374 communes/ municipalities.

According to INSTAT data for 2008, the industry has contributed to the Gross Domestic Product with 9.8 %, the agricultural and fishing sector with 18.5%, and services sector, including trade, hotels, transport and communication and other services with 50.7%.

The Albanian *economy* is based on free initiative; about 80% of the domestic production comes from the private sector. The industry sector has contributed steadily with about 11% of GDP. The permanent dependence of Albania on minerals extraction is due to the existence of many deposits that can be used for commercial purposes. Deposits of chromium, copper and nickel have been opened long ago, but the mining equipment and the methods are already outdated and many works have been abandoned; nevertheless Albania has an important position in Europe for chromium extraction.

Other industrial activities operating in Albania are the oil and gas extraction industry, processing industry, light industry, food and beverage industry, cement production and metallurgy.

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors of the economy. Its contribution has decreased over the years. Families living in rural areas continue to have great impact in the

economy of the country; 46.5 % of the population resides in rural areas, where agriculture is the main activity for generating income.

Albania is rich in various **energy** sources, oil and gas, coal and other fossil fuels, as well as hydro power, forests natural biomass and other renewable energy sources. Hydro-power comprises over 97% of the produced electric energy. Currently there are used only 30% of water resources. The energy sector contributes with about 10% of GDP.

The transition period in Albania during the '90s led to the closure of many industrial and mineral enterprises. The waste and chemicals generated during the activity times had been disposed in dumps or storage places during time, creating highly polluted areas with a negative impact on the environment. Many families migrating from one place to another have been accommodated to buildings next to or inside polluted areas, constituting problems for the health of people and for the activities of chemicals management in these areas.

Development in industry and mineral sector in some regions of the country has influenced the generation of waste, sterile and chemicals, which are put into places which do not fulfil the environmental criteria.

CHEMICAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT, EXPORT, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, USE AND DISPOSAL

As a result of the policy of the former communist regime to cover all country needs with internal production, the production of pesticides, fertilizers, sodium hydroxide, sulphuric acid, glicerine, etc. was before the '90s high priority for Albania. The period after '90s, was characterized by the abandonment and destruction of several chemical plants, which were transformed to polluted sites of high concern and with high risk for human health and environment. Due to many national and international efforts, a big part of these sites are already rehabilitated, but still continuous the identification and the action in other less problematic areas. After this period a part of industry started to reactivate through privatization of the objects of light industry, wood industry, chemical industry, mechanical industry and some sectors of mining (quarries), as well as through the concessions of chromium, copper and coal, some plants of steel production, ferro-chromium, etc. In Albania is developed the cement industry, partly the metallurgy, the industry of consumer products. Pesticides, fertilizers, different chemicals for detergents, lubricating oils, chemicals for dry-cleaning, building, etc. are imported.

After the '90s there have been no PPPs production in Albania. The PPPs import has increased significantly during the last years. Only registered plant protection products can be imported and put into market. The relevant legislation is based on the European one.

The use of plant protection products is moderated; after a decrease of the PPPs use in the period 2005-2009 with an average use of about 250 tons/year, the trend seems to be an increase of the use of PPPs in recent years. The use of chemical fertilizers has been almost at the same levels for the period 1998-2009, with small differences in their structure.

The budget for biocides use for pest control in public health is generally insufficient; treatment devices, protective clothes, etc. are needed. The storage conditions of biocide products in the Directorates of Public Health in the districts in some cases are not adequate. a joint project of MoH, IPH and municipalities for introduction and fostering of **integrated pest control** in public health.

There are about 12'000 energy transformers of all capacities in the country; oil is generally not tested for PCB content in order to prevent cross-contamination.

There is no safe system in Albania for the management of **hazardous waste** generated from industry or household. Hazardous waste generated from industry sector as well as from municipal waste are disposed of together with urban waste in certain landfills, posing high risks to the environment and human health. In frame of fulfilling the objectives for a better waste management, MoEFWA has prepared the National Plan of Waste Management 2010 – 2025, in cooperation with the project “Implementation of National Plan for Approximation of Environmental Legislation”. The main generators of industrial waste are chemical, metalurgical, mineral, oil, light, food industry, chemicals used as fertilizers, etc. During the period 2008-2009 about 27’780 tons of hazardous waste were exported to Sweden for disposal, according to a technical agreement between OSCE Presence in Albania, Ministry of Defense and a Swedish company. Other 83 tons of hazardous chemicals of the Armed Forces are planned to be destroyed by a company contracted by OSCE in April 2012.

There is no industrial facility or landfill for the treatment of waste defined and classified according to the guidelines of Basel Convention in Albania. Problem remains the collection and dissemination of information on quantities and types of industrial waste generated from the activity of industrial subjects licenced after 1992.

One of the objectives of the National Plan for Waste Management 2010-2025 and of the project “Implementation of the National Plan for the Approximation of Environmental Legislation” is the proper management of waste through the construction of new waste landfills according to environmental standards in some regions.

The provision of **recycling** activities is yet in its start and depends on the availability of recyclable materials of good quality. In most cases the recycling industry depends on recyclable raw materials that are imported to Albania. Problem remains the lack of separation of waste at source. Individual collectors and companies find difficulties in finding clean and sorted waste. The biggest part of recyclable waste comes from urban waste and partly from industry sector. Currently metal recycling sector is most developed. To keep control of waste being imported for recycling purposes, in 2010 it is approved the “Green list”.

There is a dominant and widespread policy of opening holes in the ground and collecting waste in them. Economic instruments for waste management are few and insignificant.

In storage houses of economy system there are stored about 130 tons of industrial and laboratory **obsolete chemicals**. In 2010 about 90 tons of chemicals were repackaged and removed from this storage house to Germany, Belgium and Greece. Cleanup operations cost was about 476’000 USD and was financed by the Government of Netherlands, Albanian Government and OSCE. A sustainable solution for solving the problem of disposal of obsolete chemicals is needed.

During the last 10 years lots of efforts has been made by MoEFWA for the identification of donors and for mobilization of funds for identification, prioritization, feasibility studies for the cleanup of problematic **historic pollution hotspots** in Albania, created during early ‘90s. The implementation of the MoEFWA project “Rehabilitation of the Porto-Romano hotspot” of a value of 5 million USD supported by a grant of Dutch Government through World Bank made possible the completion of rehabilitation of 3 hotspots of this area in June 2011. Another historic hotspots identified in frame of the project “Strengthening capacities in Western Balkans to address environmental problems through remediation of high priority hotspots”, Bajza rail-station in Shkodër was also cleanedup in 2009. In continuation of MoEFWA efforts for addressing the problematic of hotspots, in 2011 was completed the implementation of the project of MoEFWA and UNDP “Identification and prioritization of environmental hotspots in

Albania” with a value about 1.3 million USD, financed by the Government of Netherlands. This project assisted the Albanian Government to achieve its mid-term objectives related to the rehabilitation of polluted areas for the elimination of toxic materials within basic safety standards. In frame of this project, it was finished in 2011 “Preliminary environmental study of 35 environmental hotspots in Albania”. This study has defined a short-list of 14 priority hotspots, which urgently need rehabilitation interventions.

The responsibility for the pollution is a very important issue regarding the cleanup of polluted sites and their privatization. There doesn't exist specific legislation on the responsibilities for former industrial pollution and it is not clear who is to pay for the cleanup.

New hotspots like disposal sites out of hygienic, sanitary and environmental conditions and near rivers and waterstreams are present all over the country with few exceptions. Problems are also discharges from actual industries. The lack of periodical monitoring from private companies or governmental institutions constitutes a basis for the creation of new hotspots. Under these conditions should be increased the responsibility of state structures not only for the identification and monitoring as prevention actions, but also for promoting environmentally friendly policies, like „Sustainable development“, and the implementation of the „Polluter pays“ principle.

Local structures should intervene through local plans and programmes of urban environment management in order to prevent urbanization of areas identified as hotspots or that might have tendency to be such.

The first inventory of **unintentionally produced POPs** in Albania was made in frame of the preparation of National Implementation Plan for Reduction and Disposal of POPs, financed by GEF with UNDP as executing agency and cofinanced by the Albanian government, during 2004-2006. The uncontrolled burning resulted the main source of PCDD/Fs discharges to air in Albania for 2004, constituting 73.5% of total discharges. The incineration of hospital waste was the second biggest discharge source, constituting 23.8% of the total PCDD/Fs discharges. Discharges from transport sector seemed to contribute with 5.6% of total PCDD/Fs to the air. Discharges from other sources resulted insignificant. As a reaction to the alarming results of the inventory, in 2007 it was approved from the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and the Minister of Health the regulation No. 6 “On the administration of hospital waste”.

LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND NON-REGULATORY MECHANISMS FOR LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

The Republic of Albania has ratified by law the Rotterdam Convention, Basel and Stockholm Conventions. The relevant laws reinforce the need to establish the Chemicals Bureau which will ensure implementation of obligations deriving from these Conventions to which Albania is party.

Although the legal framework on chemicals and hazardous substances exists, it is partially in line with the EU legislation, REACH and CLP.

As regards approximation of the national legislation with the EU environmental *acquis*, pursuant to the legal initiatives foreseen in NIPSAA 2012 - 2015 and in accordance with the requirements of the Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations", the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration has drafted several legal acts,

which will transpose some of the base EU Directives on chemicals; 10 of them have been recently approved and the others are in their final phase, foreseen to be approved within 2013.

In the process of the preparation of the chemicals legislation, MoEFWA has been supported by the EU project, “Strengthening Environmental Legislation Enforcement in Albania, SELEA”, IPA 2010.

The control of hazardous substances is mainly covered by the relevant international conventions, but further transposition of European legislation is necessary. In addition, there is a lack of the necessary information for security measures and the protection from these kinds of chemicals.

Enforcement of legislation regarding the identification of industrial operators that produce, maintain, use, import or trade chemicals is low. Strengthening capacities for sanitary inspectors, environmental, occupational safety and customs employees remains a priority. *Developing and implementing the procedures related to import and export of chemicals and disposal of their waste according to the requirements of the Rotterdam, Stockholm, Basel Conventions should be considered as high priority.*

RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRY, PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND THE RESEARCH SECTOR

The cooperation between the governmental bodies and non-governmental sector on environmental issues has generally consisted in consultations with the interested parties during the process of review of legislation, strategies, national plans and reports of environmental impact assessment. Till now the governmental policies have been relatively favourable for receiving information from the national non profit organizations (NPOs); they are more favourable to use the expertise and experience of the international organizations.

NPOs have often been lobbying at different decision-making bodies, particularly regarding the environmental legislation and, recently, also regarding chemicals, particularly the hazardous ones. The role of the NPOs in public awareness is noticeable. Through publications, journals, posters, awareness raising campaigns, TV shows they inform the public on potential risks and also take active stand in TV debates, national and international conferences and at universities. The active involvement of NGOs in public debates organized for the introduction of different projects and their environmental impact has had a positive influence in improving the quality of implementation of these projects through the objections, comments and suggestions from NGOs, impacting also awareness rising of governing authorities for the importance of environmental protection and for the serious assessment of the activities with environmental impact.

The voluntary initiatives of the industry do not seem to play a significant role in the activities of chemicals management in Albania. The self-monitoring of the pollutants discharges is an obligatory activity and has been put on efficiency especially in cases of industries which emit pollution. Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning public-private cooperative initiatives in the area of training public and private bodies/agencies e.g. with regard to the usage of biocides for the control of disease transmitting vectors and pests in public health. As an example of such initiatives can be mentioned trainings organized in the last 2 years from Institute of Public Health and Ministry of Health, in cooperation with companies which produce and/or trade biocide products.

It is worth mentioning the regional assistance given from international bodies for the scientific research institutions, such as the project “Support for the reinforcement and strengthening of the Institute of Training and Curricula (Ministry of Education and Science) on the inclusion of the extra-curricular subject of the environmental education “Green Package” for the classes 5-9 of the basic education (REC with the financing of the Government of Netherlands).

Strengthening the role of NPO-s particularly related to consumer protection is needed and should be achieved through cooperation with governmental bodies on the central and local level. Strengthening their capacities, financial management, institutional development, partnership in different projects with the local government and the private sector, public communication are still problematic areas which require development and assessment.

The project “Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” has significantly increased the involvement of the non-governmental stakeholders, like NPOs and industry, in chemicals management in country level.

INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS

Currently in Albania are functioning these coordinating mechanisms related directly or indirectly to chemicals management:

- State Commission for the Registration of Plant Protection Products,
- Inter-ministerial Committee for Civil Emergencies,
- Technical Advisory Commission for Civil Emergencies,
- Commission for the Protection from Radiations,
- Governmental Commission for Water Related Issues with Neighbouring Countries,
- Commission for the Authorization of DDD products.

It is recently established a task force/committee for the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), with representatives from all relevant ministries and sectors in the country, which is connected to the National Contact Point at IPH. This committee will plan, survey and monitor the implementation of IHR (2005). Fulfilling the basic requirements for capacities for IHR (2005) will contribute also in fulfilling some of the requirements for entering in EU.

In the relevant legislation it is foreseen the establishment of other commissions, such as: Inter-ministerial Committee of Waste Management, the Competent Authority for Control of Major Accident Hazards (legal bases for the second one is not yet approved).

Successful management of chemicals in national level is complicated by the fact that ministries participate in control of chemicals in different life-cycle phases and by the fact that there is to some extent overlapping of the responsibilities for a given problem. For these reasons, it is needed the establishment of a coordinating institution for chemicals management between all relevant ministries, such as a **National Inter-sectoral Committee on Chemicals Management** (NICCM).

The **Office for Chemicals Management and Registration**, which establishment is required by the Law No. 9108, dated 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and preparations” is also very much needed. The establishment of this office is foreseen in the National Plan for the Implementation of SAA 2012-2015, for year 2015. This office may serve also as the Secretariat of the National Inter - sectoral Committee on Chemicals Management (NICCM).

In most cases, the governmental bodies and agencies participate in problem solving with their concrete means, based on ad hoc working groups, without having the possibility to go to the depth of problems, due to lack of staff, lack of bylaws, and in many cases, by the lack of participation, due to changes in staffs, in important meetings, where they could contribute by representing the mechanism they cover.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND USE

The legal instruments require the information provision and exchange in several contexts. The complete legal basis, the legal acts in process of public discussion, strategic documents, projects, reports and the information on services offered from the ministries, such as licences, certificates, are in principle available online in the websites of relevant ministries.

Some data, particularly on import-export are made publicly available from General Directorate of Customs, health state data are made available from INSTAT. Some data, such as e.g. data on use of plant protection products, registered plant protection active ingredients and products are published periodically; quantities of stored chemicals are available by request from relevant ministries. Ministry of Health publishes in the website the updated list of permitted active ingredients for biocide products and documents needed for authorisation procedures.

The last decade has signed a revolution regarding the networking in public institutions; research institutes and practically every office in Tirana has nowadays access to information available through internet. The situation is more problematic in districts, where not every office has access in internet.

The information of the public on the environmental issues in Albania is based on Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 “On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention”, what makes the Aarhus Convention a normative act and its implementation an obligation.

The Institutional Environmental Network and the Sector for Public Information and Information Technology (SPIIT) in MoEFWA are public institutions and networks, which carry out collection and the information of the public on the environment. The dissemination of the information is made in passive way, through written requests for information sent to SPIIT, or in active way: monthly publication of the Electronic Environmental Bulletin, publication of the Annual Report of the State of Environment, preparation and submission of biannual report of the state of environment from Regional Environmental Agencies for the respective district, websites of municipalities, etc. The structures for public information for environmental matters are supported by three Aarhus Information Centers (AIC) placed in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra.

Yet, in some cases, the information is scarce or lacks, due to lack of personnel, capacities and infrastructure, such as the lack of a database and of a centre for information exchange, etc. The absence of a Chemicals Office, which according to Law 9108/2003 would have also obligations on data collection and exchange, is a big handicap.

Albania does not yet have a **centre for information on poisonings (Poison Centre)**.

There is lack of literature, basic information and information dissemination, what is connected to a relatively weak information system in the country. This situation is result of limited budget for the literature and a limited representation of the country in foreign institutions related to chemicals.

In frame of the project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” it is established the website www.chemicals.al as a tool for information exchange on chemicals

management. In this website all the legislation on chemicals and other relevant information and links can be easily found. A database on biocides will also be put in this website within January 2013; this database will have the capacity to be enriched with other chemicals classes or other sections.

TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

In the Republic of Albania operates a relatively big number of chemical and physico-chemical laboratories. They carry out analysis of the quality of chemicals, identification of unknown substances, analysis of hazardous and harmful substances for the human and environmental health, monitor chemicals in the environment (water, soil, sediment, air), food, etc.

Public chemical laboratories operating in different areas generally have **quality systems** far from the international requirements and they need continuous improvement. Excepting the laboratories which are accredited or in accreditation process, generally the laboratories do not have a quality assurance office. The laboratories lack also inner audits for quality control and assurance of their products. Consequently, only a limited number of them is accredited or certified. The laboratories use different methods, such as standard methods ISO, AOAC methods, methods of Pharmacopeia and old classic methods for some parameters. This is conditioned by the presence of old instruments and other devices in different laboratories. The trend is the inclusion and adoption of ISO methods. In general, in Albania there is no national programme for improvement of quality of analysis, which is necessary for a better laboratory performance, better data quality, safer products and better involvement in different national and international scientific and/or monitoring programmes.

Standards and standard methods for the chemical laboratories are supplied by the **General Directorate of Standards (GDS)** which is the national standards organization, depending from MoETE. GDS is the only public institution in Albania certified according to the international standard ISO 9001:2008. Except the cases when another accreditation agency is specified, all the accredited laboratories are accredited by the **General Directorate of Accreditation (GDA)**, which is the only national accreditation body recognized by the Government to assess the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies, which carry out activities such as testing, calibration, certification and inspection, in private or public sector, in accordance with international standards. **General Directorate of Metrology** is in the first steps of development of training on Metrology in Chemistry.

Generally, the **technical management** of the laboratories is not in the required level. In some laboratories there is lack or delay of the regular service of instruments, in others there is lack of certified reference materials and standard materials. In some laboratories there is a lack of reagents due to *limited funds*, in others, there are stock materials due to miscalculations of laboratory needs or lack of planning.

In general the laboratories do not have written procedures for the management of chemicals and hazardous materials and for their disposal.

Often the laboratories do not have proper environmental conditions for safety at work of the staff.

Heterogeneity of the instrument producing companies makes the periodic service of the instruments complicated and makes necessary the provision of such a service from international companies. This makes indispensable an every year fund from the institutions budget for instruments service.

Training of the new staff within the country and abroad, as well as the refreshment of knowledge or specialization of the existing laboratory staff is needed.

PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

The most important document of the Albanian Government regarding civil emergencies is the National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP), adopted by the Council of Ministers Decree No. 835, of 3.12.2004. The National System of Civil Emergencies Management consists of permanent and provisional structures at a central, regional and local level. The Council of Ministers governs the national system of civil emergencies management in Albania, Ministry of Interior implements the policy of the Council of Ministers in the areas of planning and CE management, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Civil Emergencies coordinates the actions of all concerned institutions through all the phases of response to civil emergency situations.

As part of these structures each concerned ministry, directorate or institution currently shoulders specific roles. The Civil Emergency Plans are established in regional level and in the biggest municipalities, but these plans are for all kinds of emergencies. There are **no special external emergency plans for industrial activities**, prepared by the responsible authorities in regional or local level. Some of the activities such as petroleum storages have established their internal plans of emergencies, but these plans are not in compliance with the requirements of SEVESO II Directive and the Annex VII of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Under the EC Project CARDS 2006 INPAEL, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA) has prepared the draft law “On the control of major industrial accident hazards involving dangerous substances”. This draft-law that fully transposes the SEVESO II Directive, constitutes the base for drafting the secondary legislation that should assure its implementation. This draft- law is foreseen to be approved soon.

Given industrial incidents happened in Albania in last years, such as explosion of an ammunition dismantling facility in Gerdec, the explosion of a mineral oil storage near Tirana in 2011, etc., it was learned how important is the obligation of operators for the preparation of the internal emergency plans and their submission to MoEFWA, together with accompanying documentation to be provided with environmental permits. The relevant sector that issues permits for these operators needs increased capacities for defining the proper permit conditions to prevent industrial accidents. Another weakness that was observed was associated with the lack of expertise to assess the damage to the environment and the operator liability to make the rehabilitation of the environment, aiming at reducing environmental pollution.

A national register for the registration of incidents that may occur due to the chemical substances and a specialized technical institution that conducts the investigation of the causes and responsibilities of the occurrence of an incident are needed.

There are plans to establish the national health and environmental indicators, including chemicals. Institute of Public Health (IPH) is focal point for implementation of International Health Regulations (2005) and some activities are already carried out in this frame, such as the appointment of a Task Force with representatives from relevant ministries, trainings, etc.

There is no **information centre about poisonings** from chemicals, and the actual capabilities in practical terms are limited, especially for transportation of victims in case of accidents involving hazardous chemicals.

The surveillance for events caused by chemical substances is extremely weak because of lack of coordination despite the existing documentation and legislation. There is an urgent need for training on risk assessment and management as well as in terms of concepts of applied epidemiology and surveillance for all specialists working in the area of chemicals management.

There is no guidance document on the incidents from hazardous chemicals, on incident management, general toxicology, decontamination methods, use of antidotes or equipments during the occurrence of a chemical emergency, etc.

Increasing the capacities of competent authorities at national, regional and local level for the identification and assessment of safety reports of industrial activities that constitute risk for industrial accidents due to dangerous substances is a necessary requirement. The National Training Center should organize training on prevention, preparedness and response to the chemical emergencies for the authorities and industrial operators. In order to successfully respond to problems caused by chemical accidents it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of intervention forces from the MoI, alert structures of Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue and health aid bodies, to respond to an accident in terms of the use of equipment and the suitable tools for industrial accidents.

Increasing the awareness of the population on the risk of the industrial accidents and the right to information is needed.

AWARENESS/ UNDERSTANDING OF WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC' TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF TARGET GROUPS AND PROFESSIONALS

Awareness raising and training on the safety of chemicals use of different professional groups, such as farmers, transporters, industry workers, technical staffs, as well as of the consumers, is an important action for risk reduction. In recent years several training activities on chemicals management and safety have been carried out in frame of projects mainly with the support from Intergovernmental organizations or, in few cases, supported by the industry. Yet, there are no **regular training programmes** such as for agricultural and industrial workers, customs workers, chemical emergency response professionals. MoH is preparing new draft- acts deriving from the Law "On health and safety at work". The purpose of these draft-acts is to cope between others with this gap.

The awareness about the chemicals hazards at all age-groups and all levels is low. Action is needed at university level for the development of a curriculum on chemicals safety. Along with the Green Package, a separate subject should be introduced at the high schools of Bachelor system the Occupational Hygiene and Safety at Work, especially for the medical schools and other professional branches. It will contribute to increase the knowledge level of the new generation related to factors affecting the health, including the chemicals.

It is needed the organization of information/training courses with specialists of public health in districts, on risk assessment, risk management, in order to protect the health of employees.

The role of media should be more active and opened and other means for communication, such as social networks, can be used for knowledge and awareness purposes as well.

CO-OPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BODIES AND AGREEMENTS

In December 2005 the Council of Ministers of Albania (CoM) formally established the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) as an integral part of its organisational structure. DSDC's Aid Co-ordination Unit provides a 'one stop shop' for donors with respect to strategic matters related to external assistance. As such, it is responsible for organizing major co-ordination activities such as the Government donor roundtables and the IPS Support Group, which is a policy-level advisory board. The Department, in cooperation with the Donor Technical Secretariat, has already established a donor database, which comprises data about all active donors that have been working since 1994; including information on foreign assistance disbursements. Together with the Ministry of Finance DSDC co-leads negotiations with donors on policy-based conditions for loans/credits and participates in negotiations led by the Ministry of European Integration on IPA programming. In co-operation with donors and line ministries, the Department established ten Sectoral Working Groups, which aim to ensure that external assistance is effectively coordinated and supports sector strategy aims.

In the MoEFWA there is a directorate that manages projects in the environmental area, coordinates the work of technical departments in the ministry to identify needs and priorities for the identification of various projects related to air quality management, waste water, waste, chemicals, climate change, and industrial pollution, in accordance with the requirements of signed international agreements.

Nevertheless, there is generally no coordination at national level regarding implementation of the requirements of international agreements in the field of chemicals, integrated into a national program. There is a lack of procedures to ensure coordination between agencies responsible for development assistance activities and those responsible for protecting health, safety and environment. In this context, it is important that the country, with the support of international agencies, improves mechanisms of coordination between institutions to ensure better communication. Practical adaptation to the requirements of the relevant adopted agreements to local conditions is also a key issue that needs to be addressed.

Difficulties in implementing the requirements of international agreements are related to the lack of capacity in number of employees and technical capacities in the responsible institutions. There is no national agency for chemicals management to carry out tasks in accordance with the requirements of international conventions and relevant EU regulations in the field of chemicals. There is a lack of technical assistance projects for the development of technical capacities at national and local levels.

EXISTING RESOURCES AND NEEDS FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

In the country do exist basic capacities for chemicals management. The staff is in part trained, especially in central institutions. Specialists in ministries level are generally well prepared, but they face a very heavy workload, due to the lack of sufficient staff, considering numerous legal obligations related to chemicals management. As a positive phenomenon in this level it is noticed a relative stability of the staff during last years, what has made possible improvement and completions of legislation on chemicals and timely response to requirements and pressure towards central institutions, such as obligations for reporting and action in frame of efforts for

the European integration of the country. However, despite the fact that the existing staff is devoted and prepared, it is an immediate need to increase the number of staff at the central level, to qualify the new staff and to establish **an agency or office for chemicals management**.

Despite efforts made for training of the personnel involved in various levels of chemicals management and numerous sources used for this purpose in recent years, still remains a lot to be done in this regard. This need is consequence of several reasons and pressures, such as requirements related to the new legislation, new requirements related to efforts of Albania to assess EU, new legal requirements as result of ratification of chemicals conventions and protocols, establishment of new institutions and services, continuous changes of professional staff, particularly in local level.

Trainings are needed on implementation of tasks on respective aspects of chemicals management, such as:

- Procedures for health and environment risk assessment;
- Strengthening of analytical capacities; improvement of the performance and increase of number of analysed indexes;
- Need for establishment of an information centre for poisonings and the training of relevant staff;
- Chemicals management from local government in support of legislation (not only obligations, but also ways and means to improve the management);
- Assessment of safety reports of industrial activities which pose a risk for industrial accidents due to hazardous substances (capacity strengthening in national, regional and local level);
- Prevention, readiness and response to chemical emergencies (for competent authorities and industrial operators, training in local level); efforts for the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005) could be coordinated with those of other institutions for this purpose;
- Strengthening of the cooperation government- local government-business for managing the use of chemicals and polluted sites;
- Definition of conditions at environmental permit (National Licensing Centre).

In district level the problem of existence of several inspectorates (sanitary inspectorate, environment inspectorate, labour inspectorate and inspectorate of the National Food Authority) is faced; their competencies regarding chemicals are not always clearly defined. The establishment recently of the Central Inspectorate is expected to solve problems related to different inspectorates, their respective scope and competencies.

In this context it is necessary to clarify and/or coordinate respective competencies, what will be assisted by the recent establishment of Central Inspectorate. At the same time, it is needed the completion of the legal basis to institutionalize the cooperation between them.

Problem is also the lack of adequate training of specialists and inspectors in districts, also due to the lack of organized training programmes, particularly on chemicals. Proper training programmes, sustainable methodologically consolidated are needed. There are needed complete training programmes for the new staff, as well as refreshment training courses. In the health system, the functioning of training programmes could be supported by the National Center of Continuous Education, which applies a credit system for the health staff.

Other lacks and needs related to increase of competence of chemicals management bodies are:

- Need for completion of secondary legislation and compilation of relevant guidance documents;

- Need for the establishment of databases, e.g. for chemicals used in industry, for hazardous chemicals as biocides, plant protection products, for emergencies plans, etc.;
- Lack of the registers of industrial discharges to the environment;
- Control of business on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals, storage conditions, occupational health care, prevention of impact on surrounding ecosystem, etc.;
- Conducting eco-social-health studies in inhabited areas near industrial establishments.

Last years initiatives to encourage the public-private partnership have developed; examples of this partnership are joint training activities undertaken by Institute of Public Health and biocides trading companies. These activities have been effective in qualification of specialists in districts, as well as in creation of a new culture of partnership of public system with industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE ACTIONS

Guiding principles taken into account during the process of developing these recommendations are precautionary approach and participatory approach, according to which all the parties involved have had the opportunity to contribute and have their voice heard by participating in the update of the profile and numerous meetings held during the process of preparing the revised profile.

Following the thorough analysis of the the legal, institutional, infrastructural, technical aspects of chemicals in Albania, the following conclusions and recommendations are proposed for further action:

The **legal framework** on chemicals and hazardous substances in Albania is partially in line with EU legislation; the need for drafting a **new legislation on chemicals** has come up, more specifically on the approximation of national legislation with CLP Regulation (EC)1272/2008, and of REACH Regulation (EC)1907/2006. With the proposal and contribution of SAICM-QSP Project “Strengthening of Capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania”, Ministry of Health has recently prepared a draft-law on biocides and aims to fully approximate the EU directive 98/8 with the relevant secondary legislation. Technical assistance will be highly needed for this process. MoEFWA is currently working for the preparation of secondary legislation on hazardous chemicals and will have substantial assistance during 2013 from the project SELEA (Strengthening Environmental Legislation and Enforcement in Albania)..

Legal framework and procedures for **managing plant protection products**, including registration and control are complete and functional; there is still a lot of work to be done on filling in the gaps in legislation and its implementation for other chemicals such as **industrial chemicals, biocides, chemicals of consumption**. Following the completion and update of the legal bases, respective **guidance documents** are to be prepared. A “**Chemicals Law/Act**” needs to be prepared, in which all legal and normative acts, precautions for health protection, steps to be taken for chemicals management etc. will be included.

Approximation of EU legislation by continuously following and reflecting changes and new developments for the improvement of the existing national legal framework, requires a higher commitment from the government, involvement of nongovernmental organizations and workers’ unions since the beginning of legal initiatives and especially when dealing with hazardous substances.

Chemicals management on national level becomes more complex by the fact that different ministries take part in control of different groups of chemicals in different stages of their lifecycle. In addition to this, to some extent there is overlapping of responsibilities for specific

problems. It is necessary the establishment of a coordinating institution for chemicals management, such as the **office of chemicals management** and registration. In the National Plan of Implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU it is foreseen the foundation of this office within 2015. This office will serve also as secretariat of a intersectorial (sub)committee of chemicals management, which is very much needed as well.

The existing mechanisms work separately according to their area of expertise and interest. They do not cover all important aspects of chemicals, which require a better inter-sectorial cooperation and coordination. There is a lack of coordination on the national level regarding the implementation of requirements from international agreements in the field of chemicals. In this context, is an urgent necessity the establishment of an inter-sectorial committee for a better coordination. Terms of reference for the functioning of this committee have been prepared in the framework of project “Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania”.

The central institutions face gaps and problems, such as the urgent need of adequate staff, insufficient budget for the pursuing of problems as well as lack of infrastructure. The lack of **human resources** constitutes a serious problem which could affect to a great extent the ability of the country to effectively absorb EU pre-accession support and to fulfil the requirements for accessing EU. It is crucial to increase the number of staff members who will be involved in chemicals management and so prepare the necessary human resources for the establishment of a Chemical’s Bureau. This process ought to occur during the implementation of projects and other intensive activities which are held currently and which are expected to further intensify in the near future. It is of equal importance the recruitment of **qualitative and qualified staff**, capable of absorbing and coping with highly demanding requirements related to chemicals management.

There is lack of adequate capacities in institutions which collect and disseminate **information**. In order to improve the present situation on data management, it is necessary an increase in the budget, organization of trainings and strengthening capacities of the responsible structures. In the framework of project “Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” a webpage is established as a tool for information exchange related to chemicals management www.chemicals.al.

In the Republic of Albania there is still no **chemicals register** to fulfil the requirements of EU legislation. It is needed the creation of **databases** for example: database for industrial chemicals, for hazardous chemicals, for emergency plans etc. In frame of SAICM-QSP project, a database on biocides is developed, which can further host other chemicals classes or issues.

There are no mechanisms and approved methodologies for the assessment of chemicals properties, their classification according to their hazard as well as risk assessment of chemicals on human health and environment. The procedure of risk assessment for hazardous substances on human health should be defined by the Minister of Health, while risk assessment of chemicals on environment should be defined by Minister of Environment. Presently the Ministry of Health has no mechanism for risk assessment and impact of chemical substances on human health.

There is no **information centre on poisonings (poison centre)** from chemicals. There are enough toxicologists which have adequate qualification and would need only short term training in order to assist the “poison centre”. For certain types of chemicals there is a lack of necessary information and there are no guidebooks for safety measures from these chemicals.

Until now governmental policies have been relatively favourable in receiving information from the national **non-profit organisations** (NPOs); they are more favourable in the usage of expertise from international NGOs. NPOs often play an active role by lobbying in different decision-making bodies related with environmental legislation and recently even for chemicals, especially hazardous chemicals. The role of NPO-s in informing the public on the hazards from chemicals is considerable but it needs improving. Strengthening the role of NPOs particularly on matters related to consumer's protection should be achieved through cooperation with governmental bodies on central and local level as well. Strengthening of their capacities, financial management, institutional development, partnership in different projects with the local government and the private sector, public communication remain still the most problematic issues which require assessment and development.

Voluntary initiatives of **industry** do not have yet a visible role on the activities of chemicals management in Albania. However, as positive examples in this matter should be mentioned the self-monitoring of the release of pollutants, activities enforced by law, which in recent times have been practiced more particularly in cases of industries emitting pollutants. A new practice of public-private partnership has recently started in the area of trainings of public and private structures; as examples of such practices we can mention trainings on pest control and biocides in public health organized by Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health with the contribution of trading companies of biocide products. SAICM-QSP Project "Strengthening of Capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania" has contributed in increasing the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders such as NPOs and industry. Mechanisms and ways to increase industry and business involvement in chemicals management need to be further developed.

There are needed guidance documents regarding the incidents from hazardous chemicals, management of incidents, toxicology in general, methods of decontamination, use of antidotes or helping tools during a state of chemical emergency. Strengthening of capacities on national, regional and local level of the designated authorities for the identification and assessment of security reports for industrial activities which constitute a risk for an industrial accident due to hazardous substances is highly needed. Existing capacities in practical terms are quite limited, particularly for the transportation of victims of accidents which involve hazardous chemicals. The National Centre of Training should organize trainings on the local level for **chemicals emergency preparedness, response and follow-up** for the designated authorities and industrial operators. One of problems identified is the lack of a database for industrial activities which constitute a risk for accidents of a chemical nature.

There is no **national register for the registration of incidents** that may occur due to the chemical substances and there is no specialized technical institution that conducts the investigation of the causes and responsibilities of the occurrence of an incident. There is yet no system for the collection and dissemination of data on quantities and types of new industrial wastes generated from the activity of industrial subjects licensed after 1992.

In the framework of **strengthening of capacities** for chemicals management in the country it is needed the establishment of proper **training programs**, sustainable and methodologically consolidated, for inspectors and professional staff, both as programs for the qualification of new staff as well as short refreshing programs. In the healthcare system the functioning of training programs could be supported from the National Centre for Continuous Education, which applies a system of credits for medical staff. Training programs may also be organized for business on safe storage of chemicals, occupational health and safety, GHS, etc. There is an urgent need for training on risk assessment and management as well as in terms of concepts of

applied epidemiology and surveillance for all specialists working in the area of chemicals management. There is still a need for interventions in the university level for the development of curricula on chemical safety. Besides the Green Package, occupational health and safety should be included as a separate subject in higher schools of the Bachelor system, especially in schools of medicine and other types of higher schools with medical profile.

Laboratory infrastructure needs to be upgraded with up-to-date analytical methodology and technology. An internal quality system is to be established in all the laboratories and laboratories should aim accreditation. Procedures for chemicals and hazardous materials management as well as for disposal of their wastes have to be developed.

There is no safe system for the **administration of hazardous waste** (industrial wastes and home-made waste). It is still an issue the lack of separation of waste at source. Individual collectors and companies are faced with problems in collection of cleared and separated waste. There is no central industrial landfill in the country for wastes defined and classified according to the instructions in the Basel convention. Analysis and improvement of the conditions for storage and use of chemicals used in public health are needed as well as more funds for the provision of protective outfits for workers etc. The training of staff for handling biocides is also of high importance.

A program for **integrated pest control** in public health and in agriculture is needed as an alternative to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals. Also natural and less harmful alternatives to household chemicals need to be promoted.

Awareness on chemicals risks is still low. Awareness and training of different groups of professionals, such as farmers, transporters, industry workers, technical staff as well as consumers on safe use of chemicals is an important step for reducing the related risk. There is no cooperation between different institutions and organizations on awareness raising and responsibilities. The role of the media should be increased and structured and new communication means such as social networks can be used.

The **responsibility for pollution** is an important issue in cases of cleanup of polluted sites and for their privatization. A specific legislation regarding responsibilities for the previous industrial pollution and the clarification of the responsibility for the pollution are needed.

It is required the drafting and implementation of a **national plan of action** for chemicals management which will make possible filling in the various gaps identified during the revision of the National Profile.

CHAPTER 1: NATIONAL GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of this chapter is to give general information of our country related with its geographical and natural characteristics including the terrain, climate, surface, underground and marine waters as well as forests. General information on Albania's demographics, population, education, migration and employment is provided.

Albania's form of government is a parliamentary republic with the central power exercised by the government and the judicial branch by courts. Albania is divided in 12 administrative prefectures, 36 districts, 374 communes/municipalities.

Economy is based on free initiative where 80% of the domestic production comes from the private sector. Economic growth in recent years appears to be on average 4-5% per year.

According to INSTAT data for 2008, the industry has contributed to the Gross Domestic Product with 9.8 %, the agricultural and fishing sector with 18.5%, and services sector, including trade, hotels, transport and communication and other services, with 50.7%. The main industrial activities in Albania are the oil and gas extraction industry, processing industry, light industry, food and beverage industry, cement production, metallurgy and mining. Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors of the economy. Development in industry and mineral sector in some regions of the country has caused the generation of waste, sterile and chemicals, which are disposed in places which do not fulfil the environmental criteria.

According to INSTAT data, for the period 2006-2009 'Tumours' and 'External injury and poisoning' were respectively the second and third identified cause of deaths in Albania after circulatory system diseases with respectively about 85 and 30 deaths/100'000 inhabitants/year.

1.1 Geographic and natural characteristics



The Republic of Albania is located in South-East Europe, in the west of Balkan Peninsula, with coastline on Adriatic Sea (mainly sandy shore) and on Ionian Sea (mainly rocky shore). Its geographic coordinates are 39° 38' South (Konispol), 42°39' North (Vermosh), 19° 16' West (Sazani Island) and 21° 40' East (Vernik, Korça).

The surface of Albania is 28'748 km², of which 27'398 km² land and 1'350 km² water. The number of habitants in 2009 was 3'194'417 and the population density was 110.03 habitants/ km².

The general length of the border line is 1'094 km, of which 657 km land borderline, 48 km river borderline and 73 km lake borderline. In the north-west Albania is bordered by Montenegro, in north-east by Kosovo, in east by FYR of Macedonia, in south by Greece.

Terrain

About ¾ of Albania's terrain is hilly and mountainous,

more than 300m above the sea level. The highest top is the Korabi Mountain's (2'751 m).

The other part consists of coastal plains or low hills. Albania is distinguished for the extension of terrigenous and carbonate structural units mostly NW-SE, expressed in the same direction in the mountains and hills ridges. During the whole new alpine development, the biggest part of structures of Albanides is involved in tectonic rise movements, defining the dominance of hilly-mountainous relief in Albania, while from tectonic collapses have originated the lowlands, holes and valleys between mountain and hill ranges, which have defined expressed contrasts of alpine nature of this relief, with average height 7.8 m and maximal height 2'751 m (Korabi Mountain). Ridges and mountainous and hilly blocks can be assorted in three areas: North, Central and South, and the lowland lays on the west, along the Adriatic Sea, between Hani i Hotit in the North and Vlora in the South.

Climate

The geographic position of Albania determines the inclusion of the territory in the subtropical Mediterranean climatic area, with soft and wet winter, hot and dry summer and precipitations concentrated mainly during the cold half of the year. The influence of the Sea can be felt along the west shore; moving towards east it gets weaker, with lower temperatures and less precipitations. Generally the climatic elements differ significantly between different areas of the country, particularly the temperatures and precipitations. The average annual temperatures vary from 17,6 °C (Saranda) to 7°C (Vermosh), with those for January respectively from 10°C to 3°C and those of July from 21°C to 17°C. Lowest temperatures are registered in Sheqeras (-25,8°C) and Voskopoja of Korça (-25,6°C) and in Biza (-4,7°C), while the highest temperatures are observed in Kuçova (43,9°C), Roskoveci of Fieri (42,8°C) and in Çiflig of Saranda (42,4°C).

Albania is distinguished for the high quantity of precipitations, concentrated mainly in the north, west and southwest region, with an annual average value 1'430 mm. Their seasonal territorial distribution is different: biggest part (about 70%) falls during the cold half-year. The wettest territories are Albanian Alps (Boga with 3'094 mm) in the North and Kurveleshi in the South (Nivica 2'425mm). The mountainous areas of the country are rich in snow precipitations with an average snow height 60-120cm, and the bigger heights of 2-3m have been registered in Vermosh, Boga, Thethi, Valbona, Upper Curraj, Lura, etc.

Surface waters: Because of the rugged terrain, the rivers are fast flowing, with high erosion power. Rivers Buna, Drin, Mat, Ishëm, Erzen, Shkumbin, Seman and Vjosa flow into Adriatic Sea, Bistrice River flows into Ionian Sea. The rivers flowing into Adriatic Sea create several coastal lagoons and marshes. The Albanian rivers are a very important source of hydro-electric power. The main rivers of Albania and their main characteristics are given in Table 1.A-1.

Table 1.A-1: Main rivers of Albania and their characteristics

Rivers	Length inside country (km)	Surface (km ²)	Height (m)
Drin	285	14'173	971
Seman	281	5'649	863
Vjosa	272	6'706	855
Shkumbin	181	2'444	753
Mati	115	2'441	746
Erzeni	109	760	435

Source: INSTAT

Lakes in Albania have different origin: glacial lakes in mountainous areas, karsts lakes in hilly areas and tectonic lakes, such as Lake of Shkodra, Ohri and Prespa. Hilly and mountainous lakes are important from the tourism ecosystem viewpoint. The biggest artificial lakes built for the hydro electropower production are situated in North Albania on Drini River (Fierza, Vau Dejës, Koman) and on Mati River (Ulza and Shkopet). The reservoirs of Gjanca, Thana, Kurjan, Bezhan are artificial lakes used for irrigation of agricultural land. The main natural and artificial lakes of Albania are given in Table 1.A-2.

Table 1.A-2: Main lakes

Lakes	Surface (km ²)	Height on Sea level (m)	Depth (m)
Natural lakes			
Shkodra	368	5	9
Ohri	362.6	695	287
Prespa	285	853	35
Buntrinti	16.3	0	21
Artificial lakes			
Fierza	72.6	295	128
Vau i Dejës	24.7	74	52
Ulza	12.5	129	61

Source: INSTAT

Underground waters in Albania are a very important natural resource, as they constitute the main drinking water source. The drinking water supply is realized using underground water sources with forced circulation. The drinking water supply networks provide water not only for domestic purposes, but also for industrial use.

Marine waters: The Albanian coast comprises the coastlines of the Adriatic Sea and the Ionian Sea. The highest sea level is observed during November and December, due to the shove of seawater masses from strong south winds during this period of the year. The lowest sea level is observed in July and August, which is the calmest part of the year.

Forests cover 36% of the territory of Albania. They consist of high forests (45.7%) and grove (54.3%). According to their functions, forests are divided to productive forests (86.0%) and protective forests (14.0%). Natural forests constitute 91,2% and artificial forests or plantations 8.8%. Forests in Albania are used for production and protection, to fulfil the needs of consumers for wood (in construction, wood industry) and for fire wood, as well as for other functions (erosion control, biodiversity conservation, recreation, tourism, hunting, sports, etc.).

The general surface of forests fund for 2009 was 1'071'880 ha, with a general timber volume about 76 million m³. The general timber volume sold from state forests in 2009 was 92'881m³ of which 25'959m³ for construction and 66'922 m³ for firewood; the total timber volume sold from communal forests was 9'976 m³.

1.2 Demography

Table 1.A-3: General data

Official language	Albanian
Population in total (2011)	2'800'138 habitants
Population density	110.03 habitants/km ²
Number of births in 2009	29'189
Urban population	1'498'508

Rural population	1'301'630
Number of deaths in 2009	15'662
Marriages	17'875
Average longevity (years)	75.3
Females-	77.8
Males-	72.9
GDP, 2008	1'088'132 million ALL
Unemployment rate, 2009	13.8%
Employment rate, 2009	53.4%
Number of vehicles	397'981
Road accidents, 2009	1'800
Number of pupils 2008-2009	187'000
Number of students 2008-2009	29'000

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.A-4: Age-groups included in education according to education level, year 2008, in %

Preschool	Basic education		Secondary education	Higher education
	First level	Second level		
53	93	97	73	30

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.A-5: Demographic data for the period 2006-2009

	Births			Deaths			Marriages
	Females	Males	Total	Females	Males	Total	
2006	15'979	18'250	34'229	7'600	9'082	16'682	21'332
2007	15'524	17'639	33'163	6'448	8'080	14'528	22'371
2008	17'138	19'113	36'251	7'015	8'911	15'926	21'290
2009			29'189			15'662	17'875

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.A-6: Annual average population (,000)

Annual average population	2006	2007	2008	2009
Population	3'142	3'161	3'182	3'194
0-15 years old	793	775	762	747
15-59	1'963	2'049	2'126	2'147
60+	386	337	294	300

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.A-7: Population by districts, year 2009

District	Total	Males	Females
Berati	170'815	86'098	84'717
Dibra	140'007	67'761	72'246
Durrësi	310'442	153'219	157'223
Elbasani	343'054	173'818	169'236
Fieri	374'005	188'759	185'246
Gjirokastra	102'531	51'709	50'822
Korça	257'530	128'650	128'880
Kukësi	79'289	38'640	40'649
Lezha	158'800	77'252	81'548
Shkodra	246'016	124'160	121'856
Tirana	800'199	409'128	391'071
Vlora	211'734	104'828	106'906

Source: INSTAT

Migration: The Albanian population is considered a young population. After the '90s Albania faced a migration of population, what had a significant influence on the population structure; the free uncontrolled inland population movement influenced the change of urban to rural population ratio. Two sorts of inland migration were noticed: long-distance migration to main economically areas in central Albania, and the migration to short distances towards the seashore. In 2001 the immigrants constituted respectively 23% and 18% of the total respective population of the districts of Tirana and Durrësi. In the districts of Vlora, Lezha and Fieri this indicator was respectively 9%, 7% and 6%, while in other districts this indicator was negligible, less than 3%. Almost all the districts with positive migratory balance have incurred an increase of the urban population, e.g. 62% of the immigrants in Durrësi and 62% of the immigrants in Elbasani are located in urban areas.

About 1/5 of the Albanian population or about 0,75 million individuals, emigrated abroad after the 1990's.

Employment

According to INSTAT data for the year 2009, 16.6% of employees were employed in the governmental sector, about 43.7% in private agricultural sector and 39.8% in the private non-agricultural sector.

Table 1.A-8: Indicators of the labour force ('000) for the period 2007-2009

Indicator	2007	2008	2009
Population (end of the year)	3'170	3'193	3'195
Population in working age	2'106	2'052	2'150
Labour force	1'082	1'290	1'346
Employment level (%)	56.4	53.8	53.4
Employees	1'198	1'123	1'160
Unemployed	185	168	185
Unemployment rate (%)	13.2	12.5	13.6
-males	11.2	10.4	11.5
-females	16.3	15.9	16.7

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.A-9: Registered unemployed by age-group

Age group	2006	2007	2008	2009
15-19	11'250	10'616	10'220	9'073
20-24	24'542	21'887	20'920	20'199
25-34	35'577	34'053	31'670	32'363
35+	78'433	76'315	77'789	80'433
Total	149'794	142'871	140'599	142'068

1.3 Political structure

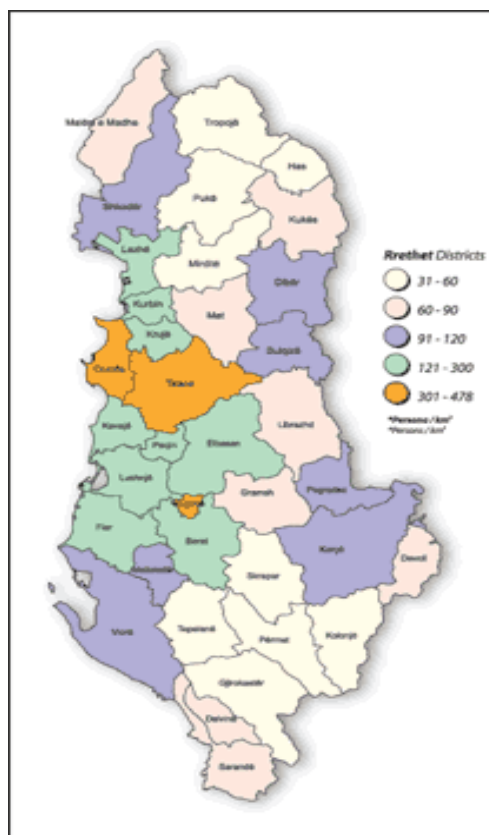
The form of government of Albania is Parliamentary Republic. According to the Constitution of Albania the President of the Republic is the head of state. The President is elected by the Parliament for a 5 years mandate and is entitled to a potential second term. The Prime-minister is head of Government, which consists of 15 ministries.

The central government is exercised by the Government, while the local government from local authorities, including municipalities and communes. The legislative power is exercised by

Parliament and the Government. The current Parliament of Albania consists of 140 members which represent the coalitions “Alliance for Change” with 70 members, “Union for Change” with 66 members and “Socialist Alliance for Integration” with 4 members.

The judicial power is exercised by the courts and prosecution, in accordance with the Constitution and powers assigned to them by law. Judges have the power to examine all penal, military penal, administrative cases, as well as any other case defined by law, while the prosecutors have the obligation to participate in penal trials, but not civil ones, etc. The Albanian justice system comprises Courts of First Instance, Courts of Appeal and the High Court.

The issues of environmental protection, health and soil use are covered in central government level by Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA), Ministry of Health (MoH) and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoAFCP), which develop policies, strategies and related plans.



According to Law No. 8652, of 31.7.2000 “On the organization and functioning of the local government”, the main responsibilities of the local government on environment protection are: developing local plans for environment protection integrating environment protection in plans of territorial adjustment, defining sites for collection and processing of industrial and urban waste according to environmental criteria and development plans, organizing the disposal of waste and hazardous materials and the conservation of vegetation in urban areas and their surroundings, managing the urban waste, plants for waste water treatment and treatment of solid waste, protection and development of forests, pastures and natural resources with local character.

Administrative division

Albania is administratively divided into 12 regions, 36 districts, 374 communes/municipalities.

Table 1.A-10: Administrative division

Qarku Prefecture	Rrethi District	Nr. i Bashkive No.Municipality	Bashki Municipality	Nr. Qyteteve No. Cities	Qytete City	Komuna Comunes	Fshatra Vilages
Gjithsej/Total		65		72		308	2,980
1 BERAT		5		5		20	245
	Berat	2	Berat, Urë Vajguore		Berat, Urë Vajguore	10	122
	Kuçovë	1	Kuçovë		Kuçovë	2	18
	Skrapar	2	Çorovodë, Poliçan		Çorovodë, Poliçan	8	105
2 DIBËR		4		6		31	280
	Diber	1	Peshkopi		Peshkopi	14	141
	Bulqizë	1	Bulqizë		Bulqizë, Krastë	7	63
	Mat	2	Burrel, Klos		Burrel, Klos, Ulëz	10	76
3 DURRËS		6		6		10	106
	Durrës	4	Durrës, Shijak		Durrës, Shijak, Manzë, Sukth	6	62
	Krujë	2	Krujë, Fushë-Krujë		Krujë, Fushë-Krujë	4	44
4 ELBASAN		7		6		43	396
	Elbasan	3	Elbasan, Cërrik, Belsh		Elbasan, Cërrik	20	177
	Peqin	1	Peqin,		Peqin	5	49
	Gramsh	1	Gramsh		Gramsh	9	95
	Librazhd	2	Librazhd, Prrenjas		Librazhd, Prrenjas	9	75
5 FIER		6		6		36	278
	Fier	3	Fier, Patos, Roskovec		Fier, Patos, Roskovec	14	117
	Lushnjë	2	Lushnje, Divjakë		Lushnje, Divjakë	14	121
	Mallakastër	1	Ballsh		Ballsh	8	40
6 GJIROKASTËR		6		6		26	271
	Gjirokastrë	2	Gjirokastrë, Libohovë		Gjirokastrë, Libohovë	11	96
	Tepelenë	2	Tepelenë, Memaliaj		Tepelenë, Memaliaj	8	77
	Përmet	2	Përmet, Këlcyrë		Përmet, Këlcyrë	7	98
7 KORÇË		6		6		31	345
	Korçë	2	Korçë, Maliq		Korçë, Maliq	14	153
	Kolonjë	2	Ersekë, Leskovik		Ersekë, Leskovik	6	76
	Devoll	1	Bilisht		Bilisht	4	44
	Pogradec	1	Pogradec		Pogradec	7	72
8 KUKËS		3		3		24	187
	Kukës	1	Kukës		Kukës	14	89
	Has	1	Krumë		Krumë	3	30
	Tropojë	1	Bajram Curri		Bajram Curri	7	68
9 LEZHË		5		9		16	168
	Lezhë	1	Lezhë		Lezhë, Shëngjin	9	62
	Mirditë	2	Rrëshen, Rubik		Rrëshen, Rubik, Kurbnesh,Reps	5	80
	Kurbin	2	Laç, Mamurras		Laç, Mamurras, Milot	2	26
10 SHKODËR		5		6		28	272
	Shkodër	2	Shkodër, Vau-Dejës		Shkodër, Vau-Dejës	15	141
	Malsi e Madhe	1	Koplik		Koplik, Bajzë	5	56
	Pukë	2	Pukë, Fushë-Arrëz		Pukë, Fushë-Arrëz	8	75
11 TIRANË		5		6		24	233
	Tiranë	3	Tiranë, Kamëz, Vorë		Tiranë, Kamëz, Krrabë, Vorë,	16	167
	Kavajë	2	Kavajë, Rrogzhinë		Kavajë, Rrogzhinë	8	66
12 VLORË		7		7		19	199
	Vlorë	4	Vlorë, Himarë, Orikum, Selenicë		Vlorë, Himarë, Orikum, Selenicë	9	99
	Sarandë	2	Sarandë, Konispol		Sarandë, Konispol	7	62
	Delvinë	1	Delvinë		Delvinë	3	38

Localization of ethnic groups

The biggest ethnic group in Albania are Albanians (about 98%).

Based on language dialects and certain cultural and religion distinctions Albanians are divided into two groups: Gegë and Toskë. The Toskë population is located in South and comprises Muslims (Suni and Bektashi) and Orthodox Christians, while Gegë population is located in North and comprises Muslims (the vast majority Suni and the minority Bektashi) and Catholic Christians.

The biggest national minority in Albania is the Greek one. According to the General Population and Housing Census of 1989, its population was 58'758 habitants. Its majority is located in 40 villages of Gjirokastra, 35 villages of Saranda, 16 villages of Delvina and 3 villages of Përmeti in South Albania.

Vlachs/ Aromanians officially are recognized in Albania as linguistic minority, similar to *Roma*. The Vlach/ Aromanian population is mainly located in South and Middle Albania. Vlachs have conserved their customs and traditions.

A small minority of *Montenegrins* is located in North of Shkodra.

5'000-10'000 *Macedonians* are located in nine villages around Prespa Lake near Korça, as well as in some other villages in Dibra district. Administratively, 9 villages of the minority constitute one commune, Liqenas, by the name of Liqenas village, which is the biggest one.

1.4 Development sectors

The Albanian economy is based on free initiative; about 80% of the domestic production comes from the private sector. Public investments of recent years have increased in proportion to GDP and were significantly much higher than the total deficit. Most of these public investments are financed by state revenues.

Albania's economic growth in recent years appears to be on average 4-5% per year, increasing steadily from year to year. GDP growth per capita has a positive impact in increasing the standard of living. During 2009 it was provided an economic positive growth of 3.3% versus GDP.

Table 1.B-1: GDP for the period 2005-2008

Gross Domestic Production	2005	2006	2007	2008
GDP at current prices	814'797	882'200	967'670	1'088'132
Annual growth of GDP at constant prices Compared with the previous year, in %	5.7	5.4	5.9	7.7
GDP per capita in USD	2'597	2'854	3'385	4'076

The distribution of active enterprises by economic sector is: trade 47.1%, industry 9.3%, hotels, bars and restaurants 14.8%, transport and communication 9.6%, other services 13.3%, construction 4.6%, agriculture and fishing 1.2%.

Table 1.B-2: Overview of national economic sectors according to number of employees, enterprises and contribution to GDP and GVA

National economic sectors	No. of employees (%)	No. of enterprises	Contribution to GDP, (%) in 2008	Contribution to GVA (%) in 2008
Agriculture, hunting and forests	44.7	1'702	16.6	18.5
Industry	9.4	9'964	8.8	9.8
-Extractive industry			1.0	1.1
-Processing industry			7.8	8.7
Construction	8.4	4'245	13.3	14.9
Trade, hotels and restaurants	11.7	60'383	18.9	21.2
Transport and communication	3.6	10'361	8.6	9.6
Other services	22.2	14'032	23.1	25.9

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.B-3: Structure of main economic sectors by size (by number of employees)

Economic activity	Total	Grouped by number of employees			
		1-4	5-9	10-49	50+
Producers of goods	15'911	12'087	1'786	1'637	401
Agriculture and fishing	1'702	1'591	57	43	11
Industry	9'964	8'051	878	752	283
Construction	4'245	2'445	851	842	107
Producers of services	84'776	79'479	2'992	1'863	442
Trade	44'709	42'699	1'307	629	74
Hotels, bars, restaurants	15'674	14'829	698	131	16
Transport and communication	10'361	9'931	222	166	42
Other services	14'032	12'020	765	937	310
Total	100'687	91'566	4'778	3'500	843

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.B-4: Structure of export –import by commodities, in %

Commodity group	Export				Import			
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2006	2007	2008	2009
Food, beverages, tobacco		7.3	6.4	7.3	17.9	16.2	16.6	17.3
Minerals, fuels, electric energy	7.5	15.4	18.1	20.0	13.9	16.7	17.9	14.4
Chemical and plastic products	0.7	0.8	1.0	1.6	11.1	10.5	10.3	11.8
Leather and leather products	1.9	2.1	1.5	1.5	2.2	2.1	1.6	1.6
Wood and paper products	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.6	3.5	3.4	4.0
Textiles and shoes	54.8	48.4	43.4	46.8	11.7	10.4	9.0	9.2
Construction materials and metals	17.1	15.8	20.0	12.5	16.0	15.8	15.4	15.5
Machineries, equipments and spare parts	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.7	20.2	20.9	22.1	22.8
Others	3.0	3.0	2.3	2.3	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.4
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.B-5: Active enterprises by region and economic activity, year 2010

Regions	Total	Producers of goods	Agriculture and fishing	Industry	Construction	Producers of services	Trade	Hotels, Bars, Restaurants	Transport and Communication	Other services
Berat	4'311	747	79	559	109	3'564	2'136	598	436	394
Dibër	2'010	386	33	261	92	1'624	730	319	371	204
Durrës	12'233	2'110	247	1'215	648	10'123	5'573	1'956	1'298	1'296
Elbasan	6'842	1'026	112	734	180	5'816	3'012	960	1'028	816
Fier	9'329	1'509	223	978	308	7'820	4'505	1'336	1'009	970
Gjirokastrë	2'861	566	65	377	124	2'295	1'184	441	319	351
Korçë	6'556	1'046	114	771	161	5'510	3'064	842	856	748
Kukës	915	164	21	79	64	751	400	125	99	127
Lezhë	2'772	575	102	321	152	2'197	1'157	434	263	343
Shkodër	6'088	995	203	596	196	5'093	2'744	1'101	586	662
Tiranë	38'361	5'054	130	3'230	1'694	33'307	16'856	6'111	3'217	7'123
Vlorë	8'409	1'733	373	843	517	6'676	3'348	1'451	879	998
Total	100'687	15'911	1'702	9'964	4'245	84'776	44'709	15'674	10'361	14'032

Source: INSTAT

Industry: The industry sector has contributed steadily with about 11% of GDP. The permanent dependence of Albania on minerals extraction is due to the existence of many deposits that can be used for commercial purposes. Deposits of chromium, copper and nickel have been opened long ago, but the mining equipment and the methods are already outdated and many works have been abandoned; nevertheless Albania has an important position in Europe for chromium extraction.

Other industrial activities which operate in Albania are the oil and gas extraction industry, processing industry, light industry, food and beverage industry, cement production and metallurgy.

Table 1.B-6: Volume of main industrial products, in '000 ton

NP ¹ Code	Industry/ Product	2006	2007	2008	2009
C	Extraction industry				
11.10.10	Crude oil	316	281	216	260
11.10.20	Natural gas (million m ³ N)	11.1	10.4	6.2	7.9
D	Processing industry				
DA	Food and beverages industry				
15.13.12	Meat products	10	10	12	11
15.61.21	Flour	388	191	141	129
15.81.11	Bread	76	95	101	89
15.96.10	Bier, in thousands hl	348	365	330	249
	Fuels				
23.20.11	Petrol	32	23	16	
23.20.15	Gasoline	99	81	75	
23.20.17	Solar oil, distillate, crude oil	78	85	73	
23.20.32	Petroleum coke	64	59	47	
23.20.32	Bitumen	83	69	92	
DI	Plants for non metal mineral processing				
26.51.12	Cement	525	889	918	1'108 ²
DJ	Metallurgy				
27.10.40	Rolled steels	114	136	194	216
E	Electric energy production				
40.10.10	Electric energy, million/kWh	5'551	2'947	3'850	5'230

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.B-7: Mineral production for the period 2007-2010, in '000 tons

Article	2007	2008	2009	2010
Chromium mineral	187	230	298	305
Copper mineral	98	105	114	121
Fe - Ni mineral	354	404	35	35
Stones	1'346	4'258	6'377	7'566
Clays	1'097	923	4'309	4'522
Others	425	425	1'200	1'304

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy

¹ Products Nomenclature according to INSTAT

² Estimated

Table 1.B-8: Employment in mining sector, 2007-2010

Sub-sector	2007	2008	2009	2010
Albkrom	60	56	54	50
Albbakri	50	41	38	38
Coal	68	71	68	70
Fe-Ni, Ni, Si, various	70	65	65	66
Concessions	1'270	1'300	1'350	1'565
Private	2'808	2'852	2'912	2'900
Total	4'326	4'385	4'487	4'689

Source: MoETE

Agriculture remains one of the most important sectors of the economy. Its contribution has decreased over the years. Families living in rural areas continue to have greater impact in the economy of the country; 51.4% of the population resides in rural areas, where agriculture is the main activity for generating income. The real average growth rate of agricultural production during the last five years is estimated to be about 3% per year.

Land use

Table 1.C-1: Soil structure (in 1000 ha)

Land type	1998	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Land total	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875	2'875
Agricultural land	699	699	699	699	699	699	699	699	698	697	696
%	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24	24
Forests	1'026	1'026	1'024	1'041	1'041	1'041	1'041	1'043	1'043	1'040	1'043
%	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36	36
Meadows and pastures	445	445	440	441	422	423	423	421	421	484	505
%	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	15	17	18
Other land	703	703	712	692	713	712	712	712	713	654	631
%	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	25	23	22

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection

Table 1.C-2: Irrigated area (ha)

District	2006	2007	2008	2009
Berat	3'170	1'508	1'768	10'180
Dibër	12'923	13'405	14'700	16'016
Durrës	3'240	3'308	9'120	13'637
Elbasan	14'195	14'089	9'492	20'699
Fier	18'200	21'299	22'448	47'398
Gjirokastër	4'598	4'025	4'058	10'045
Korcë	12'178	11'183	15'765	23'291
Kukës	5'808	4'487	5'254	7'861
Lezhë	3'969	4'497	6'005	8'328
Shkodër	11'433	11'853	12'712	15'988
Tiranë	2'496	6'355	5'458	10'864
Vlorë	10'460	10'521	11'150	20'584
Total	102'670	106'530	117'930	204'891

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.C-3: Agricultural entities

Sort of entity	2006	2007	2008	2009
Plants and livestock	328'668	331'404	298'496	305'378
Plants without livestock	39'870	37'508	57'676	48'108
Field plants	366'068	364'917	352'766	350'067
Arboriculture	149'636	148'660	144'578	151'784
Fallow	123'510	113'384	115'014	105'133

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.C-4: Number of livestock farms

Sort of livestock farms	2006	2007	2008	2009
Bovine	256'356	270'930	226'442	231'055
Goats	378'484	35'380	261'175	26'275
Sheep	69'045	69'232	55'942	54'941
Swine	29'448	44'841	42'036	39'069
Poultry	289'527	296'593	273'073	279'552
Horses/donkeys	108'851	108'821	92'299	87'540

Source: INSTAT

Fishing sector is underdeveloped in Albania. Compared with an average of 15.1 kg per capita per year of fish products consumption for Mediterranean countries, this consumption in Albania is relatively low, with about 3.3 kg per capita per year. Fishing in marine wetlands, which cover about 10'000, ha is frequent and there are obtained 42-97 kg products per hectare. The fish processing industry is expanding.

Energy: Albania is rich in various energy sources, oil and gas, coal and other fossil fuels, as well as hydro power, forests natural biomass and other renewable energy sources. Hydro-power comprises over 97% of the produced electric energy. Currently there are used only 30% of water resources. The energy sector contributes with about 10% of GDP through bigger energy companies: AEC, CEZ Distribution and Albpetrol, as well as other companies which have Agreements on Fuel (Albania's Fuel Storages, Oil and Gas Flows, etc.), ARMO and about 50 anonymous companies which trade oil and gas products.

Sources of electric energy have increased in the last 2-3 years with the construction of new concessionary hydroelectric stations (HES). Despite the large number of the concession contracts realized and start of the production of some hydroelectric stations built from the private sector, yet the portion of the production from the private sector in the general national electric energy production is quite low, only about 2%. Currently 51 small and medium HES in ownership of 19 concessionary or private companies with general installed power of 25.9 MW have been set to work till the end of 2010, while the total capacity of HES in the country is 1460 MW.

The annual production of the electric power in last 27 years has varied from a minimum of 2'940 GWh in 2007 to 7'743 GWh in 2010, which was the historical record achieved in the production of electric energy from the HES in Albania. From an energy viewpoint, that year was characterized by an extraordinary production of electricity; from a hydrological viewpoint, 2010 is also considered a year with extraordinary precipitations and rivers flows, what happens once every 50 years. From an environmental viewpoint, that year was accompanied by floods in many regions of the country, particularly in the lowland of Shkodra and Lezha.

Table 1.C-5: Agricultural production

Year	Grains	Quantity '000/tons	Production area '000/ha
2008	Bread grain	608.5	149.1
	Wheat	335.0	83.4
	Maize	245.0	49.0
	Rye	3.1	1.4
	Barley	3.6	1.4
	Forage	21.8	13.9
	Vegetable and melons	715.4	29.6
	Potato	190	9.8
	Beans	21.8	14.3
	Tobacco	1.3	1.1
	Sunflower	2.2	1.4
	Soybean	0.6	0.3
	Green forage	5.333	194
	Total	2'153.6	548.7
2009	Bread grain	629.9	146.1
	wheat	333.1	82.8
	Maize	265.1	47.6
	Rye	2.2	1.1
	Barley	4.5	1.7
	Forage	25	13
	Vegetable and melons	730	30.3
	Potato	200	9.1
	Beans	23	14
	Tobacco	1.6	1.2
	Sunflower	2.3	1.2
	Soybean	0.5	0.3
	Green forage	5.326	200
	Total	2'222.5	548.4

Source: INSTAT

Table 1.C-6: Pesticide use in agriculture (tons)

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Pesticide	183.4	283.7	226.7	232.3	293.6

Source: MAFCP

More than 85% of the national production of electric energy is realized by HES of Drini River Cascade, which minimal and maximal flows have an extraordinary fluctuation in years; maximal and minimal flows of this river, which has a basin about 12'000 km², differ more than 150 times.

It is quite clear the total dependence of the electric power supply of the country from the climate. Periodic climate changes have huge influence on the power supply management and very often with serious economic and social consequences.

In order to minimize this spontaneity in power supply planning, usually the construction of hydro energetic sources is accompanied by a diversity of power supply through the construction of conventional planned energy sources, such as termocentrals or import.

In recent years serious investments have been made to diversify power sources with thermal power sources as well as to increase the capacities of the transmission and interconnection network. In 2011 was completed the construction of TEC of Vlora with installed power of 97 MW. During year 2011 was also completed the construction and setting under voltage of the overhead transmission lines with voltage 400 kV and transmission capacity 1'000 MW Tirana-Podgorica and Tirana-Elbasan to make possible the interstate interconnection with the countries of the region. In the same year was completed the construction of the sub-station 400/220/110 kV in Kashar, which makes possible a balanced distribution of the electricity, reduction of losses and improvement of the quality of service. The project for the construction of the interconnection line with voltage 400 kV Tirana-Prishtina and of the 400 kV line Elbasan-Bitola (Macedonia) is underway

The energetic system uses big quantities of mineral oils, over 13'000 tons. The quantity of oil in the transformers varies from 70 kg to 100 tons per transformer. The total number of the transformers of all capacities in use, located in all energetic objects according to the Preliminary inventory for the identification of PCBs of 2006 is about 12'000 pieces. About 98% of the total number of low capacity transformers for energy distribution, belonging to the CEZ Distribution Company are placed in small electric cabins and serve for the supply of household consumers. About 4% of the total number of transformers is placed in substations, from which about 300 transformers belong to CEZ Distribution Company, 164 transformers belong to AEC (Albanian Electroenergetic Corporation-AEC) and 60 transformers with high capacity belong to OST (Operator of Transmission System). The average age of transformers is 27 years.

Several electric devices containing oil are in Albanian Army facilities, but these transformers are of low power up to 560 kW; as a consequence the oil quantity in these transformers is relatively small, varying from 20 to 900 kg.

During the period 2008-2010 in special storage-houses next to the generating units of AEC are stored about 35'795 kg oil considered out of use based on the analytical results. The oil recovery workshop in Tirana treats the oil of damaged transformers that has lost its properties; this workshop functions since 40 years and presents problems of environmental pollution. The company is working for the compilation of the project for the rehabilitation of this workshop within a short time.

Transport has a direct impact on environmental quality in general and on that of urban areas in particular. The transport sector is one of main emission sources of greenhouse gases and contributes considerably to air pollution.

The international civil air transport is carried out through the airport "Mother Theresa" in Rinas. During 2010 in this activity have operated 18 airlines, 16 of which are foreign and 2 are joint ones. The number of flights and passengers transported in 2010 were respectively 2.8 and 10.2% higher than in 2009. The number of passengers travelled in and out of Rinas airport in 2010 was 1'536'822.

The maritime transport in Albania is carried out from/to 4 harbours: Durrësi, Vlora, Saranda and Shëngjini. The loading-unloading volume in harbours in 2010 was 0.5% smaller than that of 2009. The biggest and most important harbour in Albania is Durrësi, which for 2010 realized 81.8% of the total loading-unloading volume of all harbours. The maritime international transport of passengers has decreased with 3.5% in 2010 comparing to 2009.

The length of the railway line in use in 2010 was 399 km. In 2010 the rail transport had an increase of 17.5% of the work volume of goods transport comparing to 2009. The volume of passengers transport decreased by 33.3% in 2010 compared to 2009.

The volume of oil transportation by pipeline, expressed in tons-km, decreased by 68.4% in 2010 compared to 2009.

The increasingly use of private road transport is associated by a big number of vehicles, which has increased by 5.5% in 2010 comparing to 2009. In particular the number of passenger cars in 2010 increased by 4.7% comparing to 2009.

The number of car accidents increased in 2010 comparing to 2009, leading to increased number of injured persons by 13%.

Tourism has increased considerably during the last two years and the tourism infrastructure has been significantly improved. The increase has been observed in the number of housing units, as well as in the services standard.

During 2010 about 2.9 millions of tourists have visited Albania. The number of hotels which have hosted foreign visitors in 2010 was 290. The contribution of income from tourism to GDP is estimated 3.8-4% or about 45 billion leks, while the contribution of tourism to the Albanian economy was about 11%. Along with the coastal tourism, there are increasingly encouraged new tourist products, such as rural tourism including ecotourism, agro tourism, sportive and mountain tourism and the cultural one.

Construction: Permits for construction for different types of objects with a value of 229 billions ALL (Albanian leks) are approved during 2010. The number of approved construction permits was increased by 20.3% in 2010 compared to 2009. The number of housing permits constituted in 2010 69.5% of the total number of construction permits. The prefectures of Tirana, Durrësi, Fieri, Korça, Vlora keep having highest requests for construction permits. Characteristic for the prefectures of Tirana and Durrësi are the requests for high objects mainly for housing and commercial buildings. The majority of the constructions are residential buildings, hotels, commercial and industrial buildings, and are financed primarily by private investors. Social cultural objects, health objects and infrastructure are primarily financed by state investors. The private investors are most interested in financing in construction sector.

1.5 Discharges from main economy sectors

Discharges from main economy sectors for 2008 are given in table 1-E.

Table 1- E: Discharges of the pollutants to air by macro sectors, year 2008

Pollutants	Unit	Macrosectors											Total	
		Combustion in energy industry	Non industrial combustion installations	Combustion in production industry	Production processes	Fuel extraction and distribution	Use of solvents and other products	Road transport	Other mobile sources	Waste handling and disposal	Agriculture	Other sources		
PCB	kg	0.0	1.0	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	3.0
SOx	mg	9'905	12'689	3'235	141.5	0,0	0,0	2'451	8'182	0.0	6.3	-	36'609	
NOx	mg	366.8	1'178	1'687	435.1	0,0	0,0	16'305	9'117	0.0	36.6	26.8	29'152	
PM ₁₀	mg	438.5	7'385	258.3	3'865	0,2	0,0	2'488	601.6	0.0	2'484	3'359	20'879	
PM _{2.5}	mg	315.1	7'086	169.8	2'585	0,0	0,0	2'382	547.0	0.0	464.4	3'023	16'571	
CO	mg	41.0	50'983	2'052	26'061	0,0	0,0	66'620	635.3	0.9	948.7	56'833	204'174	
VOC	mg	6.3	10'192	112.0	897.2	1'601	11,240	7'544	414.9	105.1	43.4	99'590	131'745	
NH ₃	mg	0.0	43.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	152.1	0.4	82.5	23'431	-	23'709	
CO ₂	mg	211'376	1'474'099	538'774	547'601	86.6	0.0	2'462'965	234'811	0.0	0.0	793'058	6'262'771	
CH ₄	mg	7.5	8'003	13.5	11.6	1'135	0.0	0.0	9.1	11'366	67'454	3'897	91'896	
N ₂ O	mg	0.8	62.7	7.8	1.2	0.0	0.0	136.9	59.2	194.8	14'599	62.6	15'125	
As	kg	10.9	12.6	25.8	3.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.0	53.7	
Cd	kg	3.3	10.9	8.3	46.0	0.0	0.0	7.5	0.5	0.0	0.8	-	77.2	
Cr	kg	37.2	106.9	51.6	23.0	0.0	0.0	37.3	2.3	0.0	3.9	-	262.2	
Cu	kg	30.8	118.7	67.6	4.6	0.0	0.0	1'267	77.6	0.0	0.0	-	1'566	
Hg	kg	0.4	8.3	102.6	11.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	-	122	
Ni	kg	2'581	1'693	280.4	161.0	0.0	0.0	52.2	3.2	0.0	3.3	-	4'773	
Pb	kg	12.6	490.2	113.6	2'584	0.0	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.0	15.1	-	3'216	
Zn	kg	145.5	980.1	441.8	828.0	0.0	0.0	745.2	45.7	0.0	0.5	-	3'186	
PCB	kg	0.0	1.0	0.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	3.0	
C ₆ H ₆	kg	0.3	37.9	6'740	441.6	2'159	0.0	404.3	0.0	242.1	8.0	-	10'033	
BAP	kg	0.0	2'149	9.2	3.9	0.0	0.0	24.0	1.4	0.0	127.6	608.9	2'924	
BBF	kg	0.0	2'073	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30.4	2.3	0.0	76.6	608.9	2'800	

Pollutants	Unit	Macrosectors											
		Combustion in energy industry	Non industrial combustion installations	Combustion in production industry	Production processes	Fuel extraction and distribution	Use of solvents and other products	Road transport	Other mobile sources	Waste handling and disposal	Agriculture	Other sources	Total
BKF	kg	0.0	1'296	3.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	26.2	0.0	0.0	38.3	338.3	1'701
INP	kg	0.0	1'535	4.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	51.0	473.6	2'064
HCB	kg	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.4

Source: Report on air pollutants inventory in Albania in frame of LRTAP Convent (MoEFWA)

1.6 Assessment

The transition period in Albania during the '90s led to the closure of many industrial and mineral enterprises. The waste and chemicals generated during the activity times had been disposed in dumps or storage places during time, creating highly polluted areas with a negative impact on the environment and on the health of people living near these places.

Also the free uncontrolled movement of people towards urban areas after the '90s has influenced the population growth, and consequently, the increase of the urban waste and chemicals waste. Many families migrating from one place to another have been accommodated to buildings next to or inside polluted areas, constituting problems for the health of people and for the activities of chemicals management in these areas.

Regarding chemicals management, local government is responsible for organizing the disposal of waste and hazardous substances.

The Regional Environmental Agencies are specialized bodies for environmental monitoring and control established in prefecture level and depending from MoEFWA. The Environmental Inspectorate exercises continuous control on polluting activities to ensure the implementation of the environmental legislation.

Development in industry and mineral sector in some regions of the country has influenced the generation of waste, sterile and chemicals, which are put into places which do not fulfil the environmental criteria.

The population migration and the increase in constructions in urban areas has had an impact on the decrease of green land and of the land for agricultural production.

According to INSTAT data, for the period 2006-2009 'Tumours' and 'External injury and poisoning' were respectively the second and third identified cause of deaths in Albania after circulatory system diseases with respectively about 85 and 30 deaths/100'000 inhabitants/year.

CHAPTER 2 : CHEMICAL PRODUCTION, IMPORT, EXPORT, STORAGE, TRANSPORT, USE AND DISPOSAL

The purpose of this chapter is to provide basic information about existence of chemicals in the country throughout the lifecycle.

Data on the enterprises producing chemical products are given, as well as data on the import and export of chemicals. For plant protection products more detailed data and a short description of registration procedure is given. Data on use of chemicals are given, particularly on plant protection products and some problems associated with biocides use are described. Storage and transport issues are shortly dealt with, due to lack of data.

The politic and socio-economic developments after the '90s had an important role in all the situation of chemicals management in Albania. These events were associated with the closure of most of chemical enterprises and with stockpiles of unused chemicals and polluted sites. In this chapter are summarized actions for rehabilitation of hotspots, as well as efforts to identify and prioritise other hotspots.

There is no safe system in Albania for the management of hazardous waste generated from industry or household. With foreign assistance quantities of obsolete hazardous chemicals have been exported abroad for disposal.

Only small quantities of glass, iron scrap, paper, plastic and aluminium cans are sorted for recycling or export purposes. Currently metal recycling sector is most developed. There is no facility for hazardous chemical waste treatment, with the exception of an incinerator for hospital waste.

A summary of problems identified and proposals for action is given.

2.1 Background

As a result of the policy of the former comunist regime to cover all country needs with internal production, the production of pesticides, fertilizers, sodium hydroxide, sulphuric acid, glicerine, etc. was before the '90s high priority for Albania. These chemicals were needed to provide raw materials for the agriculture and industry, as well as to be partly exported. Macroeconomic conditions in the country from the beginning of '90s until today are characterized by dinamic processes, related to a considerable decrease in the chemicals production, limited monetary policies, etc. This was result of the delay of the structural reforms (privatization) and other specific external conditions: the provision almost exclusively from the import from the neighbour countries and other countries with developed economies, dispropotion between continuous import and any possibility for export of raw materials or semi-products, etc.

The situation seems optimistic considering the reaction of private investors, who, noticing the efectiveness of the production of some chemicals which raw materials can be found in the country, are considering investments. This would help the country to enter another phase of economic transition, where the national economy would approach the economic indices of other countries with economies in transition.

The period after '90s, was characterized by the destruction of several chemical plants, which were transformed to polluted sites of high concern and with high risk for human health and environment. Due to many national and international efforts, a big part of these sites are already rehabilitated, but still continuous the identification and the action in other less problematic areas.

2.2 Production, import and export of chemicals

2.2.1 Industrial chemicals

The greatest decrease of the production of chemical industry in the country after the '90s was noticed in the industry of production of sulphuric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, caustic soda, Solvey soda (sodium carbonate), superphosphate, nitrogen fertilizers, production of oil and gas, of SiO₂, glicerine, SO₂, CO₂, etc. A significant decline occurred in the machinery production and in the metal processing industry, as well as in the industry of wood processing.

Nevertheless, during these years a part of this industry started to reactivate through privatization of the objects of light industry, wood industry, chemical industry, mechanical industry and some sectors of mining (quarries), as well as through the concessions of chromium, copper and coal, some plants of steel production, ferrochromium, etc.

In Albania is developed the cement industry, partly the metallurgy, the industry of consumer products; these industries need raw and aid materials, which are mostly imported and in few cases, produced, posing the need for an export market place, such as O₂, N₂, etc. Industries of plastic materials, sponge, polystirol, detergents, paints, lubricating oils production, etc. have recovered recently.

Albania imports pesticides, fertilizers, different chemicals for detergents, lubricating oils, chemicals for dry-cleaning, building, etc.

Informations for the quantities of production, import, export of chemical substances in the period of the actual update of the National Profile of Chemicals Management are found from the Institute of Statistics (INSTAT), General Directorate of Customs, directorates in the line ministries and private producers.

In Table 2.A-1 it is indicated the number of the enterprises producing chemicals and chemicals products according to INSTAT, for the period 2006-2008:

Table 2.A-1: The number of enterprises producing chemicals and chemical products

Year	Chemical enterprises					
	Micro	Small	Medium	SMEs	Big	Total
2006	31	10	4	46		46
2007	44	17	4	65		65
2008	50	17	4	71		71

Source: INSTAT

In table 2.A-2 data are given on import of chemicals according to the chapters of Combined Goods Nomenclature (CGN) (updated each year), based on the Combined Goods Nomenclature of the European Commission (CN 20XX (year)). The data of export-import are based on customs declarations. Generally, these data are influenced by the changes in the customs fees.

Table 2.A-2: Quantities of chemicals imported according to CAN chapters, in tons

CGN ³ Chapters	Description	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
27	Mineral fuels, mineral oils and their distillation products, tarry substances, mineral waxes.	505'187	613'351	663'008	802'925	858'797
28	Inorganic chemicals, organic or inorganic compounds of precious metals, radioactive elements, rare soil metals and isotopes	30'535	31'956	29'417	33'090	30'553
29	Organic chemicals	2'009	2'072	1'850	2'381	1'786
30	Pharmaceutical products	3,638	4,504	3'571	4'509	4'246
31	Fertilizers	84'988	94'221	74'626	79'195	81'151
32	Dyer and tannic extracts, tannins and their derivatives, dyestuff, pigments and other dyeing substances, varnishes and paints, Stucco and glues, inks	20'235	25'622	25'629	23'699	24'585
33	Essential oils and resins, perfume preparations, cosmetics and makeup	5'145	5'900	6'235	6'354	6'910
34	Soaps, tension-active agents, washing preparations, lubricant preparations, artificial waxes, prepared waxes, products for cleaning and shining, candles and similar products, plasticine	37'114	37'706	36'461	42'820	44'988
35	Albumin substances, modified starch, gluing agents, enzymes	1'636	1'763	1'465	2'000	2'094
36	Explosives, pyrotechnical products, matches, pyrophoric connections, flammable substances	1'482	2'289	3'021	3'496	1'559
37	Photographic or cinematographic products	385	352	293	277	308
38	Different chemical products	24'628	26'748	42'068	36'545	16'592

Source: General Customs Directorate

Table 2.A-3 shows the volumes of exports of chemicals and other chemical products towards EU and other countries.

Table 2.A-3: Exports in volume towards EU and other countries, in tons

Industries classified according to NACE ⁴ , rev.1.1	To EU			Other countries			
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007	2008	Countries
24.13	688	606	380	65	70	172	Greece, Bulgaria, FYR of Macedonia
24.14	4'861	4'395	7'060	41	45	55	Greece, Italy, Turkey
24.15	0			215		85	Kosovo, Hungary, Montenegro
24.51	47	98	140	115	123	45	Serbia, FYR of Macedonia,

³ Combined Goods Nomenclature (CGN)

⁴ NACE –Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community

							Greece
24.52		1	1	5	32	30	Serbia & Montenegro, Kosovo, Bulgaria
24.16	61	172	399	896	686	1'231	Turkey, Kosovo, Greece
24.2	1	2		8	18	8	Kosovo, Italy
24.3	4	25	34	563	864	2'148	Kosovo, Serbia & Montenegro

Where:

24.13. Production of inorganic basis chemicals

24.14. Production of other organic basis chemicals

24.15. Production of fertilizers and nitrogen compounds

24.51. Production of soap and detergents, cleaners

24.52. Production of perfumes and makeup products

24.16. Production of primary plastics

24.2. Production of pesticides and other agrochemical products

24.3. Production of paints, tinfoils and similar coatings, printing inks

During the period 2006-2008, exports from industries classified under 24.13 (chemicals with inorganic basis) to EU have decreased, while exports of groups 24.51 (soaps and detergents) and 24.16 (primary plastics) have increased.

2.1.2 Chemicals for agriculture

Plant Protection Products (PPPs)

Some PPPs are produced in Albania till early '90s: insecticides, mainly carbamate (Sevin) and organochlorine (Lindane), in formulations up to 5%, for soil treatment and to powder the plants, fungicides Zineb 20% and Sulphur powder, which have been used through pulverising, and Bodreau pasta and Calcium Polysulphur for plants spraying. After the '90s there have been no PPPs production in Albania.

Problems related to agricultural production are reflected negatively in the country production, but the PPPs import has generally increased during the last years, what can be seen at table 2.A-4. The PPPs trade and the new normativ bases are reflected positively in the PPPs management. On one hand, the high prices have limited their use, on the other hand the import and national production are limited in sorts according to EC directives and experiences in EU countries.

Given the progress in development of the agriculture from the extensive viewpoint (the increase of the cultivated areas, particularly glasshouses and arboriculture), but also from the intensive one (planting of crops with high performance which require more agricultural inputs), it is expected the duplication of imports of PPPs in the coming 2-3 years compared with those of 2001-2004.

Table 2.A-4. Data on imports of PPPs for the period 2005-2009

Product	Import / year in liters or kgs				
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Acaricides	2'000	2'500	2'000	5'200	3'600
Insecticides	40'000	44'500	51'500	101'000	40'800
Soil disinfection (Insekt.)	80'000	60'000	43'800	180'000	68'400
Insekt. Fumigants	4'000	3'000	2'500	10'000	2'000
Nematocides	1'500	1'000	1'500	4'000	6'100
Fungicides	80'000	110'000	124'100	180'000	142'200
Moluscicides	9'000	7'000	5'500	30'000	6'000
Rodenticides	5'500	4'500	3'000	6'500	5'000
Herbicides	25'000	23'000	20'000	56'000	39'200
Total	337'000	355'000	253'900	572'700	313'300

Active ingredients in the composition of PPPs

In DCM 1555, of 12.11.2008 it is stipulated that a PPP can be registered in Albania only if the active ingredient(s) in its composition is (are) contained in Annex II of the DCM. The inclusion of active ingredients in the Annex II of the DCM (which corresponds to Annex I of the EC Directive 91/414/EEC), for a period up to 10 years, as well as modifications and omissions, are updated with joint order of the Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Health and Minister of Environment.

The list of registered PPPs for trade and use in Albania is published any time it changes, according to the pattern given in table 2.A-5. This list does not contain PPPs active ingredients which are illicit according to the Directive 79/117/EEC and not included in Annex I of the Directive 91/414/EEC. These European directives are very heuristic, particularly in the conditions of lack of proper capacities for health, occupational health and environment risk assessment.

Chemical fertilizers

The Albanian agriculture receives fertilizers through import from different countries, such as: nitrate and urea from Ukraina and Russia, superphosphate from Egypt, diammonium phosphate from Tunizia and mixed fertilizers (N, P, K) from Europe (Germany, Italy, Austria, Greece, Norway, Finland, Spain, Ukraina) and Middle East (Israel). Yearly there are imported ca. 86'900 tons fertilizers; 11'115 tons of mixed fertilizers (N, P, K) and 76'00 tons of massive fertilizers; altogether there are 183 separate formulae. There are imported about 2 tons (13 formulae) of organic products with humic acids bases. Massive plain fertilizers with one element comprise 80%, complex and mixed fertilizers 15.8 %, liquid fertilizers 4.2% of the overall amount of imported fertilizers. In Table 2.A-6 there are given the imports of chemical fertilizers in Albania for the period 2006-2010.

Table 2.A-6.: Import of chemical fertilizers in Albania for the period 2006-2010, in tons

Fertilizer	Imports of fertilizers in tons				
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Nitrogen fertilizers	25'873	61'316	42'787	53'728	56'999
DAP (Diammonium Phosphate)	98	336	488	124	1.1
Superphosphate	11'407	19'348	18'917	10'307	9'905
Complex fertilizers	9'656	16'680	16'455	15'527	13'950
N, P, K+micro-elements	220	397	4'610	564	558
Chemical fertilizers, total	47'254	98'077	83'256	80'249	81'414

2.1.3 Biocides for use in public health

The import of biocide products is based on the Order No.365 of 3.08.2012 of Minister of Health "On approval of the list and use of substances for use as disinfectants, disinsectants and rodenticides in public health" <http://www.moh.gov.al/images/shendet/3b.pdf>; Biocides can be imported only after the importing subject is equipped with Import Authorization from Ministry of Health. The documents needed to obtain an authorization are to be found in the webpage <http://www.moh.gov.al/index.php/shendeti-publik>. Ministry of Health issues periodically an updated list of active ingredients of products allowed to be imported and traded in Albania. The updated list of permitted active ingredients can be found in the address <http://www.moh.gov.al/images/shendet/3c.pdf>.

A draft law on biocides is prepared by Ministry of Health and is expected to be approved soon.

Table 2.A-5: List of plant protection products registered to be imported and traded in Albania (August 2011, example)

	TRADE NAME	Active ingredient	Classification	Applicant	No. and date of registration	
1.	ABA-MEX	Abamectin	Acaricide	Willowood Limited	277	23/02/2007
2.	ACROBAT WG	Dimetomorph+Mancozeb	Fungicide	BASF	168/2	18/03/2011
3.	ACTARA 25 WG	Thiamethoxam	Insecticide	Syngenta	164/1	25/05/2005
4.	AFALON 45 SC	Linuron	Herbicide	Mahkteshim-Agan	338	21/11/2007
5.	AKTELLIC 50 EC	Pirimiphos Methyl	Insecticide	Syngenta	5/2	14/11/2008
6.	ALLIETTE FLASH	Fosetil aluminium	Fungicide	BAYER AG	65/1	14/11/2008
7.	AMISTAR OPTI	Azoxystrobin+Chlorothalonil	Fungicide	Syngenta	337	21/11/2007
8.	ANTRACOL 70 P	Propineb	Fungicide	BAYER AG	73/1	23/02/2007
9.	AVAUNT 15 SC	Indoxacarb	Insecticide	Du Pont	284	23/02/2007
10.	BAKRENI ANTRACOL WP 63	Propineb+ Cu Oxychloride	Fungicide	BAYER AG	43	01/02/2006
11.	BASAMID GRANULAR	Dazomet	Insecticide-Nematocide	Certis Europe	53/1	09/06/2008
12.	Bi – 58	Dimethoate	Insecticide	BASF	54/1	30/10/2006
13.	BASTA 15	Glufosinate ammonium	Herbicide	BAYER AG	278	26/02/2010
14.	BORDO MICRO	Methalic Cu	Fungicide	IQV SA	140	11/11/2009
15.	BRAVO 500 SC	Chlorothalonil	Fungicide	Syngenta	154/1	14/11/2008
16.	BRIK 24 EC	Myclobutanil	Fungicide	FARMA-CHEM S.A.	313	25/05/2007
17.	CABRIO TOP	Metiram+Pyraclostrobin	Fungicide	BASF	40/1	18/03/2011
18.	CALIPSO SC 480	Thiacloprid	Insecticide	BAYER AG	197	24/12/2003
19.	CALLISTO 48 SC	Mesotrione	Herbicide	Syngenta	156/2	14/11/2008
20.	CANTUS	Boscalid	Fungicide	BASF	53	12/02/2008
21.	CAPTAN 80 WG	Captan	Fungicide	Arysta LifeScience	32/2	26/5/2011
22.	CAZA 20 SL	Imidacloprid	Insecticide	FARMA-CHEM S.A.	6	25/05/2007
23.	CHAMPION WP	Cu Hydroxide	Fungicide	Nufarm GmbH & Co KG	239/1	18/03/2011
24.	CHORUS 50 WG	Cyprodinil	Fungicide	Syngenta	155	14/11/2008
25.	CLORTOSIP WP	Chlorothalonil	Fungicide	SIPCAM	14/1	30/10/2006
26.	CONFIDOR SL 200	Imidacloprid	Insecticide	BAYER AG	233/1	18/03/2011
27.	COPROXIDE	Hidroxid Cu	Fungicide	VAPCO	322	21/11/2007
28.	CURTINE V	Mancozeb+Cymoxanil	Fungicide	VAPCO	172/1	23/02/2007

2.2 Chemicals use by categories

2.2.1 Industrial chemicals

Transformer oil is the main constituent in all the energy system objects that can pollute the environment. The energy system objects have in use very big quantities of mineral oil, about 13'000 tons. The quantity of oil per transformer varies from 50 kg to 90'000 kg/transformer.

Based on the data of a preliminary inventory of PCBs, carried out in year 2005 in frame of the preparation of the National Implementation Plan for Removal and Elimination of POPs, and the data taken from OST sh.a. and Ministry of Defense in August 2010 in frame of the preparation of the National Action Plan for the POPs Protocol to CLRTAP, it resulted that the number of the transformers in use of all capacities, situated in all the objects is 12'000 pieces. The biggest part of them (ca. 96%) belong to the private company CEZ Distribution; they are with low capacity and are placed in small electric cabins which serve for the supply of family consumers.

The other part of the transformers are situated in electric sub-stations, about 300 of them belong to CEZ Distribution, 165 belong to KESH and 60 transformers with very big quantities of oil belong to OST. 35 transformers of the system of the Ministry of Defense contain about 14'000 kg transformer oil, while 60 transformers of OST contain about 1'400'000 kg transformer oil. About 50% of the overall number of the transformers are produced before the year 1990 (about 6'000 pieces) and their average age is about 27 years.

The spare transformer oil is kept in closed metal barrels and in safe places.

Under OST operates the Workshop for Regeneration of Oil of damaged transformers for the entire energy system, but the oil is not preliminarily tested for the presence of PCBs, in order to prevent the cross-contamination. This workshop operates since 40 years and presents problems of environmental pollution. The company is preparing a project for the rehabilitation of this workshop within a short period.

2.2.2 Chemicals for Agriculture

Plant Protection Products (PPPs)

General rules to be followed during the use of PPPs are prescribed in the plant protection legislation, in DMC No. 1188, dated 20.08.2008 "On the approval of rules for the import, trade, transport, storage, use and disposal of PPPs". In this DMC there are prescribed the preventive measures in areas to be treated, rules for the preparation of spraying solutions, criteria for the use of herbicides, areas where their use is not allowed, the care for useful insects, treatment of spraying solutions after the work, treatment of the package, etc.

The use of PPPs in Albania is based on their import. The data on use of PPPs for the period 2004-2010, are given in the graph of Figure 2.1.

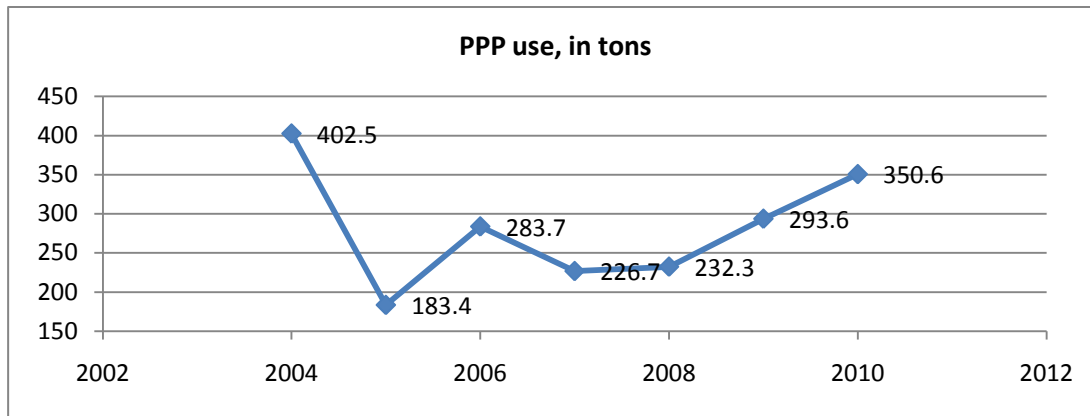


Figure 2.1: The use of PPPs in Albania during the period 2004-2010, in tons/year

Chemical fertilizers

The use of mineral, organo-mineral fertilizers and organic products is closely related to the results of soil analysis, but also with the natural laws of movement of the active nutrients and micro-nutrients, due to the diffusion of groundwaters and gravitational movement of surface waters. In addition, their use is conditioned by the specific features of each category; so nitrogen fertilizers are very mobile, while the potassium fertilizers are bound onto the soil, and so on. Five cycles of agrochemical production control were completed till 1990.

Agrochemical analysis are only performed when the producer requires, as he is paying for the analysis and for the recommendations for the fertilizers' use. There is a decrease in the number of tests performed, because of lack of coordination in the agriculture system; free of charge tests are made in frame of a PHARE programme. The limited number of analysis performed does not allow drawing overall conclusions on national level, but clarifies that there is a negative trend.

Table 2.C-1: Use of chemical fertilizers, years 1998-2009, in tons

Year	No. of farms that fertilize	Chemical fertilizers	Urea	Ammonium nitrate	Diammonium superphosphate	Super-phosphate	Others
1998	372'507	124'052	25'875	48'674	7'075	42'428	-
1999	377'000	121'575	27'512	47'709	7'743	38'611	-
2000		129'108	25'939	50'186	12'871	40'112	-
2001	332'516	114'604	30'415	44'773	39'416	-	-
2002	332'113	119'726	33'896	46'293	39'537	-	-
2003	336'425	119'903	31'676	44'687	43'540	-	-
2004	343'625	129'231	35'794	44'401	25'928	22'354	754
2005	345'117	133'330	35'952	46'582	27'535	22'518	743
2006	341'327	109'622	30'789	35'515	22'952	19'419	947
2007	333'450	111'567	32'116	36'037	23'957	17'285	2'172
2008	313'489	103'637	28'935	33'689	20'696	17'493	2'824
2009	324'494	120'472	35'564	38'464	24'710	20'084	1'650

Source: MAFCP, INSTAT

According to the data of table 2.C-1 for the period 1998-2009, it can be seen that the use of chemical fertilizers is almost at the same levels, despite no obvious differences in their structure. One exception is the group “others”, including complex chemical fertilizers and the humic ones, used after the year 2004 onwards in relatively much smaller doses than usual, but with great impact. This is because they are concentrated fertilizers with microelements content, used mainly on intensive crops, such as vegetables, orchards and vineyards. This is today’s trend of using them, as they provide high and quick impact on the plants.

2.2.3 Biocides for use in public health

Before the year 1993 the use of pesticides for public health protection was responsibility of the health system. After 1993 the DDD service was transferred under the administration of local government, based on DMC No. 369, dated 26.7.1993 “On the reorganisation of the service of disinfection, disinsection and deratting (DDD)”. The DDD service is yet performed by the Directorates of Public Health in districts for the control of epidemic outbreaks, based on Law No. 7761, dated 19.10.1993 “On the prevention and combating of infectious diseases”.

The DDD service sector at municipalities has the duty to cover this service in nurseries, kindergartens, schools, shelters, gardens, parks, manholes and public facilities. The DDD service of the Municipality of Tirana, which is the largest city in the country, depends from Enterprise No.3 of the City employees. This directorate performs twice a year the deratting, disinsection and disinfection of city’s public facilities, such as schools, kindergartens and nurseries, in total 147 facilities, and also in cases when there are complaints from the public institutions. Interventions for Blata in kindergarten kitchens are performed twice a year and for rodents once a year.

This directorate is also responsible for the performance of DDD service in other public environments and facilities, such as Lana River, gardens, parks, green environments, small neighbourhood parks, etc., but this is not implemented for lack of funds and specialized personnel.

The budget for the application of biocidal products, excepting employees salaries, is 15’000 EUR/year, which is insufficient. According to this directorate, currently there are 6 employees who deal with biocide application, but there are needed yet about 30 other employees to face the emergency situation presented by rodents and insects. There are also needed more funds for purchasing biocide products, as well as other handling devices, protective clothes and devices, etc. It is also needed training of the workers who deal with biocide products.

It is needed a joint project of MoH, IPH and local government in which frame a programme for integrated pest control in all public facilities, gardens, green areas, sewerage, waste collection places.

The use of biocides is indispensable, but yet care should be taken not to abuse with their use. The local government should identify areas which need pest control, either closed facilities or open areas. Pest control shouldn’t be considered as the process of getting rid of insects, rodents, etc.; local government should increase the investments in these areas in order to minimize the polluted areas and, consequently, the use of biocides.

2.3 Storage of chemicals

2.3.1 Industrial chemicals

In the system of Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (MoETE) are included several objects where different chemicals are stored: the former Energetic Kombinat, Laçi Complex, the Laboratory of UB Rubik, the Plant of Nitrogen Fertilizers, Fier, the Central Geology Laboratory, Regional Branches of Tropojë, Rubik, Pukë. Chemicals stored in these facilities are generally out of use (see table 2.G-1).

2.3.2 Chemicals for agriculture

Plant Protection Products (PPPs)

General rules to be followed during the storage of PPPs are prescribed in the plant protection legislation, in DMC No. 1188, dated 20.8.2008 "On the approval of rules for the import, trade, transport, storage, use and disposal of PPPs". In this decision, there are prescribed the criteria for the objects to be used for wholesale and retail storages of PPPs, rules and documentations to be filled during storage, the ways different PPPs are to be stored, etc. Main wholesale PPP storehouses are listed in Table 2.D-1.

Table 2.D-1: Main wholesale PPPs storage houses (and biocides*)

Subject	Location	
	Offices	Storehouses
AGROKONI	Tirana	Marikaj, Tirana
BRUKA AB Sh.p.k.	Divjakë, Lushnjë	Divjakë, Lushnjë
MELDI Sh.p.k. *	Tirana	Bilisht, Devoll
RESMI FERKO	Fier	Fier
A & K 2001	Durrës	Durrës
SOFOKLI SHETI	Tirana	Sauk, Tirana
ARLI INTERNATIONAL *	Maminas, Durrës	Maminas, Durrës
PERLA- AGRO *	Elbasan	Elbasan
AGRO HELP SA *	Sukth, Durrës	Sukth, Durrës
Agro Blend *	Vorë, Tirana	Vorë, Tirana
AGROINPUT JAZXHI *	Tirana	Kashar, Tirana
LILA Sh.p.k. *	Tirana	Syzez, Berat
ALBASEED	Sarandë	Sarandë, Lushnjë
AGRO-HELP Sh.p.k.	Sukth, Durrës	Sukth, Durrës
ALFA- LIDRA	Bilisht, Devoll	Bilisht, Devoll
LICO Sh.p.k.	Tirana	Bilisht, Devoll
PEGASUS-VET	Gjirokastër	Gjirokastër
SELIM ISTREFI	Durrës	Durrës
MARRASH MICI	Shkodër	Shkodër
AGROPROGRES	Tirana	Tirana
AGROINPUT Sh.p.k.	Lushnjë	Lushnjë
ENVER ISUFI	Tirana	Marikaj, Tirana

Source: I.Bici, Manual of PPPs, 2011

Chemical fertilizers

Rules to be followed during storage of chemical fertilizers are prescribed in Law No. 10390, dated 3.3.2011 "On fertilizers for use on plants". All sorts of fertilizers, after production or import, are stored in closed storages, protected from humidity. The environments to be used for the storage and trade of fertilizers must be approved by the State Sanitary Inspector of the district.

2.3.3 Biocides for use in public health

From an inventory of biocide products carried out by Ministry of Health in the year 2010 resulted that in the storehouses of the Directorates of Public Health there were present about 7'000 kg biocide products, and in the storehouses of the municipalities there were about 4'600 kg biocide products. Most of these products were insecticides (mainly deltamethrin, known as K-Othrine), disinfections (mainly hypochlorites) and rodenticides. With the exception of 30 kg Lindane, which has expired and unauthorized, other chemicals are allowed to be used and usable.

The storage conditions of biocide products in the Directorates of Public Health in the districts generally are not adequate; in some cases it is observed their storage within the Directorate building.

2.4 Chemicals transport

The legislation on the transport of chemicals includes:

- DCM No.1188, dated 20.8.2008 "On the approval of rules for the import, trade, transport, storage, use and disposal of plant protection products (PPPs)";
- DCM No.798, dated 29.9.2010, on the approval of the regulation "On the administration of hospital waste";
- Law No.8450, dated 24.2.1999, "On oil, gas and their by-products processing, transport and trade";
- DCM No.129, dated 28.3.1999 "On the procedures and conditions for issuing the permission and authorization for the trade of oil, gas and their by-products";
- Law No.9876, dated 14.2.2008, "On the production, transport and trade of bio fuels and other renewable fuels for transport";
- Law No.10390, dated 3.3.2011 "On the fertilizers for plants";

Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPWT) licences subjects which transport hazardous goods, classified and marked as hazardous by the European Agreement on the International Road Transport of Hazardous Goods (ADR), which transport on the road is forbidden or allowed only under the conditions defined in this agreement. There are defined the criteria of licensing for the road transport of hazardous goods, where the requirement for professional competence is besides the possession of the Certificate of Professional Competence according to the respective activity or the university diploma for mechanical engineering or economy, the possession of the Certificate of Training as Security Adviser in hazardous goods transport.

Article 31 "Transport of hazardous goods within the country" of the Guideline No.15, dated 24.7.2007 of MoPWT "On the criteria and procedures for issuing licences, authorizations and

certificates for exercising the activity in road transport” regulates the activity of hazardous goods transport within the country, activity which is exercised with possession of the hazardous goods certificate. This certificate is issued to each physical or legal subject which asks to carry out transport of dangerous goods within the country and which possesses the Approved Certificate for Vehicles that Transport Certain Hazardous Goods (according to ADR), issued by the General Directorate of Road Transport Services, and the Certificate of the Control of the Transportable Device for hazardous goods, issued by the Inspectorate for Pressure Vessels.

The list of the subjects licensed for the transport of hazardous goods is identified by MoPWT.

2.5 Management of chemical waste

There is no safe system in Albania for the management of hazardous waste generated from industry or household. Hazardous waste generated from industry sector as well as from municipal waste are disposed of together with urban waste in certain landfills, posing high risks to the environment and human health. In frame of fulfilling the objectives for a better waste management, MoEFWA has prepared the National Plan of Waste Management 2010 – 2025, in cooperation with the project “Implementation of National Plan for Approximation of Environmental Legislation”.

The main generators of industrial waste are chemical, metallurgical, mineral, oil, light, food industry, chemicals used as fertilizers, etc. Enterprises which produce big quantities of waste are former Metallurgical Kombinat in Elbasan, Nitrogen Fertilizers Plant in Fier, Superphosphate Plant in Laç, etc.

The volumes of sterile from mineral exploitation of the main mines, till the end of the year 2007 are given in table 2.F-1:

Table 2.F-1: Volumes of sterile material from mine exploitation

Sterile material from mine exploitation	Volume, m³
Steriles of chromium mines	28'023'660
Steriles of copper mines	18'000'000
Steriles of coal mines	23'081'530
Steriles of Fe-Ni mines	1'112'183

* Source : MoETE

These steriles are positioned next to mineral resource, in the form of stocks.

According to MoETE, solid waste generated by the enrichment and smelting industry of copper, chromium, Fe-Ni (floating steriles, slags, furnace dust, etc.) resulting in 28 million tons.

Data from General Directorate of Customs through Environment and Forests Agency related to the quantities of solid industrial waste exported and imported during the period 2005-2008 from/to the territory of Albania are given in table 2.F-2. The quantity of exported items during that period was about 288'124 tons, where 48% of this quantity consisted of karton paper, paper pulp items, followed by food industry waste with 32%.

During the period 2008-2009 about 27'780 tons of hazardous waste were exported to Sweden for disposal, of which 13.6 tons were rocket fuel, 0.2 ton dichloroethane and about 16 tons AK-20F oxidiser. This project was realized according to the technical agreement of 25.7.2008 between OSCE Presence in Albania, Ministry of Defense and the Swedish company Sakab AB.

Table 2.F-2: Data on waste export-import for the period 2005-2008, in tons

Item	2005		2006		2007		2008	
	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import	Export	Import
Waste from food industry	1'995	22'601	23	27'217	2'771	37'791	1'450	38'317
Minerals, slag and ashes	205'384	0	355'374	461	670'849	3'308	510'090	4'413
Paper or carton waste	1'015	76	358	194	4'577	101	5'339	543
Carton paper, items of paper and carton pulp	9'042	39'030	11'187	46'181	14'236	50'204	15'312	53'687
Books, newspapers, magazines, pictures, manuscripts, typescripts and schetches	73	1'432	102	1'349	119	1'895	54	2'150
Wool, animal hair, horsehair, etc.	344	178	194	270	147	393	312	540
Other textile plant fibres, paper yarn and fabrics woven of paper yarn	-	78	0	46	1	19	-	36
Felt padding and not-woven fabrics, special yarns twine, cordage, rope and articles thereof	33	6'237	178	5'016	85	4'595	93	4'236

In April 2012 the Ministry of Defence signed a Technical Agreement with OSCE for the elimination of chemicals found in the inventory of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Albania. This agreement is reached on the framework of demilitarization and destruction of surplus ammunition and dangerous toxic chemicals created by them. This effort is also stimulated by events and accidents with high civil sensitivity and risks as well as considerable economical losses which often result in human losses such as the Gerdec incident. According to this agreement, in which the Czech Republic and Turkey play an important role, around 83 tons of chemicals will be destroyed by a company contracted by the OSCE. This project is in line with other similar projects for the destruction of military chemicals.

Stocks of old chemicals, chemicals waste and polluted sites

There are several facilities for storage of chemicals depending on MoETE. Some of these facilities where there are yet stored old chemicals for industry and for laboratory uses are to be found in table 2.G-1. One of the biggest existing storage houses depending from this ministry is the storage of NFIM (Enterprice for Mines Industry Supply) in Balëz, Elbasan, where after the '90s are stored mainly chemicals of the economy system, but also of other systems, e.g. health system. The storage comprises some buildings, one of which in good condition. The

place is managed and safeguarded, nevertheless it is situated next to inhabited properties and next to a school and a branch of Shkumbin River, posing health and environmental risk.

Table 2.G-1: Stocks of chemicals in storage houses of economy system

Old chemicals storage houses	Position	Main content of chemicals or waste	Size of stock (approximate value), in kg
NFIM storage houses	Balëz;Elbasan	Cyanides, different chemicals	15'000
Former Energetic Combine	Elbasan	Chemicals for laboratory use	300
Laçi Complex	Laç	Chemicals for laboratory use	60
Laboratory of Copper Plant Rubik	Rubik	Chemicals for laboratory use	70
Nitrogen Fertilizers Plant, Fier	Fier	Formic acid, V ₂ O ₅ , TS 605, potasium carbonate	93'300
Regional Branch Tropojë	Tropojë	Chemicals for laboratory use	18'300
Central Geology Laboratory		Chemicals for laboratory use	5'000
Regional Branch Rubik	Rubik	Chemicals for laboratory use	280
Regional Branch Pukë	Pukë	Chemicals for laboratory use	230

Source: MoETE

In year 2010 about 90 tons of chemicals were repackaged and removed from this storage house to Germany, Belgium and Greece from the Greek company Environmental Protection Engineering S.A (EPE). Cleanup operations cost was about 476'000 USD and was financed by the Government of Netherlands, Albanian Government and OSCE.

NFIM Elbasan continuous to be used for the collection of chemicals from former economic enterprises; after the removal of the first quantity, in the storage houses of this enterprise there are deposited other chemicals, e.g. from the former Chemical Enterprise Durrës, from the Geological Service, and MoETE is preparing to send there chemicals from former Nitrogen Fertilizers Plant too. MoETE is trying to find donors for the removal of these chemicals collected in NFIM storage houses in Elbasan. A sustainable solution for solving the problem of disposal of obsolete chemicals is needed.

Rehabilitation of hotspots with toxic waste

During the last 10 years lots of efforts has been made by MoEFWA for the identification of donors and for mobilization of funds for identification, prioritization, feasibility studies for the cleanup of problematic pollution hotspots in Albania.

The area of Porto-Romano Durrës is considered since the '90s a problematic hotspot. In this area, where before the '90s was functioning the Chemical Enterprise Durrës, had high content of hazardous chemicals, such as hexachlorocyclohexane and chromium (VI). These pollutants were of very high concern for the health of the habitants of the area and had deteriorated the quality of environment in the area. From a mission of UNEP in 2004 this area was considered as one of the most hazardous hotspots in Balkan. The implementation of the project "Rehabilitation of the Porto-Romano hotspot" has been a direct responsibility of MoEFWA, which with the World Bank support made possible the complete cleanup of a surface of 78'000m². The implementation of this project with a value of 5 million USD donated by a grant of Dutch Government, which works started in spring 2010 and were completed in June 2011, made possible the rehabilitation of 3 hotspots of this area. During cleanup works it was enabled the removal and encapsulation of 60'000 m³ polluted soil in an isolation capsule, the first one constructed in Albania for hazardous waste. It was developed a plan for the

management, monitoring and maintenance of the area during the post-rehabilitation period. With another grant of 1 million USD the repackaging and removal of chemicals stocks from storage houses in Bishti i Pallës was enabled.

One of the hotspots identified in Albania in frame of the project “Strengthening capacities in Western Balkans to address environmental problems through remediation of high priority hotspots” was Bajza rail-station in Shkodër, where in 1991-1992 hazardous chemicals transported from Germany were left unattended. A large part of these was sent back to Germany in 1993; the other part was left there for a long time, constituting a serious risk for the environment. From investigations carried out in 2008 it appeared there were about 80 tons of sodium fluorosilicate and leather waste. This waste was partly exported to UK for disposal and partly put into a landfill in Albania. The storage houses in Balëz, Elbasan, were identified as hotspot from UNDP (2008). There were deposited about 216 tons of different chemical waste, such as dichloromethane, arsen salts, cyanides, ammonium nitrate, ammonium hydroxide, etc.

The cleanup operation was completed in September 2009; its cost were 316’000 USD and was covered by the Government of Netherlands and by the Albanian Government.

In the frame of this project with a total value 2 million EUR, environmental hotspots of NFIM Balëz in Elbasan, and Reps and Rrëshen mines were identified and rehabilitated . In frame of this project also activities were carried out aiming at capacity building with focus on chemicals management, water quality, air quality, mines and risk.

In continuation of MoEFWA efforts for addressing the problematic of hotspots, in 2011 was completed the implementation of the project of MoEFWA and UNDP “Identification and prioritization of environmental hotspots in Albania” with a value about 1.3 million USD, financed by the Government of Netherlands. This project assisted the Albanian Government to achieve its mid-term objectives related to the rehabilitation of polluted areas for the elimination of toxic materials within basic safety standards. In frame of this project, it was finished in 2011 “Preliminary environmental study of 35 environmental hotspots in Albania”. This study has defined a short-list of 14 priority hotspots according to table 2.G-2, which urgently need rehabilitation interventions.

Based on this study:

- There are prepared reports of environmental impact assessment and 10 plans for the rehabilitation of priority hotspots;
- The community is preliminarily notified for the future rehabilitating activities in frame of Aarhus Convention and Law “On environmental impact assessment”;
- It is agreed in principle with MoETE for other areas object for environment impact assessment;
- It is organized the preliminary meeting with doners for financing future rehabilitation of priority hotspots;
- It is completed the establishment of a database for the environmental hotspots in the Agency for Environment and Forestry <http://hotspotsproject.org/>;
- There are prepared tender documents for environmental impact assessment for other 4 hotspots.

Table 2.G-2: List of priority hotspots for rehabilitation

No	Hotspot	Main pollutants	Surface
1	Bitinckë Mine in Korçë	Dumps of Fe-Ni (iron-nickel) minerals	2-2.5 ha
2	Guri i Kuq, Pogradec;	Dumps of Fe-Ni	3 ha
3	Alba Film, Tiranë	Different toxic chemicals	2 ha
4	Battery Enterprise in Berat	Bateries containing Pb (lead)	2 ha
5	Former Dajti Enterprise, Tiranë	Cianides	10 m ²
6	Metalurgic Plant in Elbasan	Fe-Cr waste	11 ha
7	Textile Enterprise, Berat	Amonium	0.6 ha
8	Fe-Ni Mine in Përrenjas	Fe-Ni waste	23 ha
9	Storehouse in Rrëshen	Pesticides	0.2 ha
10	Waste disposal site in Fushë Arrëz	Mine waste containing copper	20-30 ha
11	Superphosphate Plant in Laç	Chemicals waste, mineral sterile	38 ha
12	Copper Plant in Laç	Chemicals waste	12 ha
13	Agricultural storage house in Lushnjë	Pesticide waste	2'000 m
14	Mine in Rehovë	Waste of mine containing Cu, Fe, CuFeS ₂	1km ²

The responsibility for the pollution is a very important issue regarding the cleanup of polluted sites and their privatization. There doesn't exist specific legislation on the responsibilities for former industrial pollution and it is not clear who is to pay. During the privatization, the buyer may discuss with MoEFWA and MoETE about who has to pay. The ministries may agree that the government covers one part of expenses. The responsibilities can also be shared between the government and the owner.

When hotspot are mentioned, usually we refer to areas polluted from industry before the '90s, the abandonment of objects, populating in industria areas because of demographic uncontrolled movements, etc., but it should not be forgotten the creation of new hotspots. New hotspots like disposal sites out of hygienic, sanitary and environmental conditions and near rivers and waterstreams are present all over the country with few exeptions. In these sites chemicals and toxic substances created during composting of waste penetrate to groundwater and move to surface water, causing pollution of ecosystem of the area. Problem are also discharges from actual industries. The lack of periodical monitoring from private companies or governmental institutions constitutes a basis for the creation of new hotspots.

Under these conditions should be increased the responsibility of state structures not only for the identification and monitoring as prevention actions, but also for promoting environmentally friendly policies „Sustainable development“, and the implementation of the „Polluters pays“ principle.

Local structures should intervene through local plans and programmes of urban environment management in order to prevent urbanization of areas identified as hotspots or that might have tendency to be such.

Facilities for the recovery and recycling of chemicals

The system for the management of hazardous waste in Albania is generally weak and biggest part of waste collection is carried out from the private sector; recycling facilities are also private property. The provision of these activities and the management system are yet in their

start and depend on the availability of recyclable materials of good quality. In most cases the recycling industry depends on recyclable raw materials that are imported to Albania.

There is a dominant and widespread policy of opening holes in the ground and collecting waste in them. Economic instruments for waste management are few and insignificant.

There are some private recycling companies which collect and process different types of waste: scrap, paper, plastic, textile, used tires. There are about 12'000 informal individual collectors and about 100 collection companies for different recyclable waste. Problem remains the lack of separation of waste at source. Individual collectors and companies find difficulties in finding clean and sorted waste. The biggest part of recyclable waste comes from urban waste and partly from industry sector.

The paper, plastic and glass recycling sector are not developed as a functional sector; only small quantities of glass, iron scrap, paper, plastic and aluminium cans are sorted for recycling or export purposes. Currently metal recycling sector is most developed. In the country there are about 60 recycling activities for different sorts of waste, but the most important are a big steel production plant, two small foundries of aluminium and non-ferrous metals which use as raw material waste of collected metals, 2 facilities for recycling of used batteries, 2 facilities for paper recycling and 2 for plastic recycling.

To keep control of waste being imported for recycling purposes it is approved the “Green list” with DCM No.825, dated 13.10.2010 “On the approval of the lists of waste allowed to be imported for use, recycling and processing”.

Facilities for chemicals and their waste disposal

There is no facility for hazardous chemical waste treatment, with the exception of an incinerator for hospital waste installed in vicinity of the hospital Mother Theresa in Tirana. This incinerator doesn't work continuously and at full capacity. A considerable amount of hospital waste untreated in the plant are burned in open areas or deposited together with urban waste.

There is no industrial facility or landfill for the treatment of waste defined and classified according to the guidelines of Basel Convention in Albania.

Problem remains the collection and dissemination of information on quantities and types of industrial waste generated from the activity of industrial subjects licenced after 1992.

One of the objectives of the National Plan for Waste Management 2010-2025 and of the project “Implementation of the National Plan for the Approximation of Environmental Legislation” is the proper management of waste through the construction of new waste landfills according to environmental standards in some regions and some others that are in the process. Landfills planned to be put into use are presented in table 2.F-3.

Table 2.G-3: Landfills planned to be put into use

No	Landfill	Surface	Capacity	State
1	Bestrova 1 (Vlorë)	12 ha	1'044'690 m ³	Study completed
2	Bushat (Shkodër)	12 ha	1'000'000 m ³	Construction has started
3	Bajkaj (Delvinë)	5 ha	-	Feasibility study completed
4	Sharrë (Tiranë)	15 ha	2'900'000 tons	Usage has started
5	Korçë	10 ha	-	Feasibility study completed
6	Rubik (industrial landfill)	5'000 m ²	3'500 tons/year	Completed
7	Peshkopi	8'000 m ²	-	Feasibility study completed

**Source: MoPWT*

2.6 Unintentionally produced chemicals

The first inventory of unintentionally produced POPs in Albania was made in frame of the preparation of National Implementation Plan for Reduction and Disposal of POPs, financed by GEF with UNDP as executing agency and cofinanced by the Albanian government, during 2004-2006. This inventory was prepared in accordance with the UNEP Manual for the Identification and Quantitative Estimation of Dioxins and Furans Discharges.

The uncontrolled burning resulted the main source of PCDD/Fs discharges to air in Albania for 2004, constituting 73.5% of total discharges. In the category of uncontrolled burning processes there were considered only the combustion of urban waste and accidental fires.

The incineration of hospital waste was the second biggest discharge source, constituting 23.8% of the total PCDD/Fs discharges. Discharges from transport sector seemed to contribute with 5.6% of total PCDD/Fs to the air. Discharges from other sources resulted insignificant.

As a reaction to the alarming results of the inventory, where it was obvious a significant contribution of the hospital waste incineration to the total PCDD/Fs emission, on 30.11.2007 it was approved from the Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration and the Minister of Health the regulation No. 6 "On the administration of hospital waste". According to this regulation, the producers of hospital waste are responsible for the collection, separation, packaging, labelling, storage, managing, treatment, transport and disposal in proper way of hospital waste generated from them and for all damages caused in direct or indirect way to the environment and public health from the process of collection, separation, packaging, labelling, storage, managing, treatment, transport and disposal of hospital waste generated from them and for related expenses. The facilities for the incineration of hospital waste should respect the conditions of incineration and the norms of discharges to air defines in article 5.1.2 "The line for incineration of hazardous and hospital waste" of the DCM No.435, dated 12.9.2002 "On the approval of discharges norms in the Republic of Albania".

2.7 Assessment

Storage and use of chemicals

Despite numerous attempts of MoEFWA and other institutions for the improvement of the storage conditions of chemicals, there is yet much work to be done with this respect. There are still cases, e.g. in the health sector, when the storage of hazardous chemicals is done in inappropriate facilities, constituting risk for human life and health.

Mechanisms are be found to increase the number of soil analysis for the content of microelements and nutrients, in order to increase the effectiveness of the use of chemical fertilizers and to reduce their excessive unnecessary use. It is needed strengthening of coordination within the agriculture system for a better use of existing opportunities, such as PHARE programme.

Despite the legal obligations of line ministries for the development of **methodologies for health and environmental risk assessment**, it is not yet done much with this respect.

It is necessary to improve the conditions of storage and use of biocides for public health; there are needed more funds for purchasing biocide products and application materials, employees' protective clothing, etc. It is highly needed training of staff directly involved in treatments.

It is needed a joint project of MoH, IPH and municipalities for integrated pest control of all public facilities of the cities, parks, green areas, sewerages, waste landfills. The use of disinfectants is indispensable; yet it is needed to use them carefully. The local government should identify the areas where disinfection is needed, either closed facilities or open ones; DDD service should not be seen as the process of getting rid of insects, rodents, etc., but the local government should increase the investments in order to prevent and/or minimise the polluted areas and, consequently, the use of biocides.

Waste management

It is still a problem the collection and dissemination of information on sorts and quantities of new industrial waste generated from the activity of industrial subjects which are licensed after 1992.

There is no safe system for the administration of hazardous waste (produced from industry of household). Hazardous waste that is generated from industry sector and from municipality waste is deposited together with urban waste in the defined landfills, constituting high risk for environment and human health. There is a dominant and widespread practice of opening holes in the ground and collecting waste in them. Economic instruments for waste management are limited and unconsiderable.

A sustainable solution for solving the problem of disposal of obsolete chemicals is needed.

It is still problem the separation of the waste at the source. The individual collectors and the companies find difficulties to find clean and sorted waste. The biggest part of recyclable waste comes from urban waste and partly from industry sector.

The country lacks a central industrial landfill for the processing of certain classified waste according to Bazel Convention.

There is no facility for the treatment of hazardous chemical waste, excepting an incinerator for hospital waste installed in vicinity of hospital "Mother Theresa" in Tirana. This incinerator doesn't function continuously and with full capacity. A considerable quantity of the waste not disposed in this facility is burned in open areas or are deposited together with urban waste. In frame of fulfilling the objectives for a better waste management MoEFWA has prepared the National Plan for Waste Management 2010-2025 in cooperation with the project "Implementation of National Plan for Approximation of Environmental Legislation".

Environmental hotspots

MoEFWA has made a good job for the identification, prioritization and study of environmental hotspots. The most problematic hotspot of Porto-Romano and other hotspots are cleaned up with the assistance of UNDP and with the contribution of Government of Netherlands. In continuation of the efforts of MoEFWA for identification and cleanup of other problematic hotspots, it is carried out a preliminary study of 35 environmental hotspots in Albania and it is prepared a short list of 14 priority sites for rehabilitating actions.

The responsibility for the pollution is an important issue related to the cleanup of polluted areas and their privatization. There is no specific legislation on the responsibilities for the former industrial pollution and it is not clear who should pay for it.

Table 2.J: Priorities and possible actions: Chemical production, import, export, storage, transport, use, and disposal

Priority Issues (Ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of Existing Capacity	Summary of Capacity Strengths, Gaps, and Needs	Possible Action	Concerned Actors
Management of hazardous waste	Low	Hazardous waste are deposited together with urban waste	Establishment of a system for the management of hazardous waste, including facility(s) for processing of hazardous waste; Construction of an industrial landfill for chemicals waste; Separation of waste at source	MoEFWA, MoETE, industry
Methodology for hazards characterization and procedures for risk assessment	Low	Lack of methodology for the assessment of properties of chemicals such as toxicity, carcinogenicity, related to classification; Lack of approved procedures for risk assessment for hazardous chemicals	Preparation or adoption and approval of methods for assessment of properties of chemicals related to classification; Adoption of procedures for risk assessment from hazardous chemicals	MoH, MoEFWA
Programme for integrated pest control in public health	Low	Lack of integrated efforts for pest control in public health	Joint project	MoH, IPH, local government, private infesting companies
Inventory for industrial waste generated by industrial subjects	Medium	Lack of the inventory for industrial waste	Establishment of the methodology and procedures of reporting and control; Creation of an industrial waste inventory	MoEFWA, Agency for Environment and Forestry, industry
Improvement of DDD service and of management of biocide products	Medium	Storage and usage conditions of biocide products are often inappropriate; Lack of adequate knowledge of staff involved.	Preparation and approval of relevant legislation; Capacity building of staff; Investments related to storage and usage conditions.	MoH, local government

CHAPTER 3: LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND NON-REGULATORY MECHANISMS FOR LIFE CYCLE MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

The scope of the chapter is to provide a summary of existing legal instruments and non-regulatory mechanisms for managing chemicals, including unintentional by-products and toxins of natural origin, to undertake a general analysis of the suitability of this legislation and to address the implementation and enforcement, as well as to identify relevant strengths, weaknesses and gaps. This chapter summarizes the main findings regarding the gaps in legislation, implementation and enforcement of the relevant legislation as well as the final conclusions.

In general, chemicals life cycle consist of several steps, from production, formulation, storage, transportation, distribution/marketing, use/handling, and finally, disposal. This is the main reason of the need for participation and agreement between the institutions in chemicals' management. Laws, regulations, and standards for the management of chemicals in each stage of their life cycle have to be prepared with inter-institutional participation and agreement. The lack of capacities on legal and technical issues has caused some of the legal instruments to have gaps, which need to be completed. For example, some do not have detailed descriptions regarding chemical's control/monitoring, which makes it difficult to enforce the laws or causes ineffective compliance.

3.1 Overview of legal instruments which address the management of chemicals

A summary of the legal instruments that address the management of chemicals in Albania is given in table 3.A.

Table 3.A: Overview of all existing legal instruments, which address the management of chemicals

Legal instruments (type, reference, year)	Ministry or competent authority	Category of chemicals, type of by-products, waste	Coverage period of chemicals lifecycle	Purpose/ objective of legal instruments	Relevant article/ provisions
Law No. 9108 of 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and preparations”	MoEFWA MoH, MoETE	Chemical substances and preparations	Manufacturing, place in market and storage	Impose of rights and obligations to natural and juridical persons in determination of properties and classification of chemical substances and preparations for their registration, inventory, announcement, management and commerce	Chapters III, VIII and article 9 stipulate respectively the registration of substances and registration and notification of hazardous substances. Article 10 defines the application for registration. According to article 22 the producer, importer and distributor of hazardous substances and preparations are obliged to register type, quantity and properties of the substance and the preparation. Articles 7, 8, 13 stipulate evaluation of chemical substances and preparation, by testing the chemical substances and preparations from the system of accredited laboratories, risk assessment of hazardous substances for the health of human and the environment. Article 5 stipulates the classification of chemical substances and preparations due to their properties. Chapters V and VI stipulate putting into market of hazardous substances and preparations, and authorization for management of hazardous

					substances and preparations. Chapter VII focuses on import and export of chemical substances and preparations.
DCM No. 824 of 11.12.2003 “On classification, packaging, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations”	MoEFWA MoH, MoETE, MoI	Chemical substances and preparations	Management of all chemicals and preparations import, export, production, market, use and storage	Defines rules of classification, packaging and labelling in Albania with the purpose to prevent accidents, to protect the health and the lives of people dealing with management of hazardous chemical substances	
Law No. 10431 of 9.6.2011 “On environmental protection” that transposes some directives such as IPPC Directive, LCP, Seveso II, PRTR, Liability Directive, etc. Enters into force by January 2013.	MoEFWA	Air, water and biodiversity protection, climate change, pollution control, prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances, integrated waste management chemicals, ozone depleting substances, POP-s	Management of the environment as a whole	This law aims at ensuring a high level of environmental protection, with the purpose of protecting, preserving and improving the environment, preventing and reducing risks to human health and lives, ensuring and improving the quality of life, for the benefit of both present and future generations.	
Law No. 10448, of 14.7.2011 “On permitting” that transposes IPPC and LCP Directives. Enters into force by January 2013	MoEFWA NLC, NEA	Protection of the environment as a whole	Integrated pollution prevention of air, water, management of	Setting permit conditions that assure prevention of air and water pollution, management of wastes and chemicals.	Article 3.i defines emission limit values; Anexes 1-9 of this law contain the list of main pollutants to be taken into

			wastes and chemicals, prevention of major accidents involving hazardous substances		consideration, whether they are the right ones to establish the emission limit values, Emission Limit Values of SO ₂ – for solid fuels and liquid fossil fuels, ELV of SO ₂ –for gas fossil fuels, ELV for NO _x – (measured as NO ₂), ELV for dusts for liquid fossil fuel, Methods to decide ELV on a facility with a multiple combustion unit, methods of emission measurement from Large Combustion Plants.
Draft-law “On environmental strategic assessment”	MoEFWA	Environmental protection	Prevention of environmental pollution before the development of a project.		In procedure to be approved by the CoM.
Law No. 8990, of 23.1.2003 “On environmental impact assessment”	MoEFWA	Environmental protection	Prevention of environmental pollution before the development of a project	Defines the rules, procedures, deadlines, rights and duties to identify, clarify and assess the direct and indirect impacts of the project or activity, to provide quality, technical and legal review of the application and taking decision by the relevant authorities. Defines activities that are subject to EIA.	
Law No. 10440, of 7.7.2011 “On environmental impact assessment (EIA)”	MoEFWA	Environmental Protection	Prevention of environmental pollution before the development of a project		Enters into force by January 2013.
DCM No. 175, of 19.1.2011. “On	MoEFWA	Wastes	Integrated waste	- Establishes the policy direction of the	

endorsement of the National Plan and Strategy on Integrated Waste Management”	NEA, MoH, MoETE, MoPWT, MoAFCP, Operators that carry out economic activity		management, prevention, permitting, import, export, transport, disposal, recovery, reuse, recycling, etc.	Albanian Government for sustainable waste management until 2025, divided in three operational phases of 5 years each. - Represents the main mechanisms for investment in waste - Ensures the collection of wastes separated from each other and spread throughout Albania, for paper, glass, metal and plastics; - Aims advising businesses on waste minimization and to develop markets for recycling materials, to make it possible to recycle and reduce production costs	
Law No. 10463, of 22.9.2011 “On Integrated Waste Management”	MoEFWA, NEA, MoH, MoETE, MoPWT, MoAFCP, Operators that carry out economic activity	Wastes	Integrated waste management, prevention, permitting, import, export, transportation, disposal, recovery, reuse, recycling, etc.	To protect human health and the environment and to ensure proper environmental management of waste through (i) the prevention or reduction of negative impacts from waste generation and management, (ii) reducing the overall impacts of resource use, and (iii) improving the efficiency of their use.	
DCM No. 825, of 13.10.2010 “ On approval of the list of wastes permitted to be imported for purpose of use, recycling and processing ”	MoEFWA General Directory of Customs	Waste from the green list	Import of waste	DCM allows only importing of waste for purpose of use, recycling and processing "	

Draft DCM “On waste incineration”	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local governme nt Operators	Waste that are accepted or not for incineration	Waste disposal	Defines detailed requirements for incineration and co-incineration of waste, aiming to prevent, as much as possible, or to limit the negative effects on the environment and the resulting risks to human health from pollution caused by emissions from these processes in the air, soil, surface water and groundwater.	
Draft DCM “On landfilling waste”.	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local governmt. Operators	Wastes that are accepted or not for landfill	Waste disposal	Determination of the accurate technical and operational requirements for waste and landfills, measures and procedures for prevention or reduction as much as possible of possible negative effects in the environment, especially the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, as well as the global environment, including greenhouse effect, as well as any kind of risk that may be caused to human health from waste disposal	DCM in the approval process.

Draft DCM "Waste from electric and electronic equipments". Draft DCM in approval procedure.	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local governme nt Operators	Waste from electric and electronic equipments	Aims to facilitate differentiated collection of electric and electronic wastes, label them with the symbol set out in Annex IV of the Draft Decision.	This decision aims to protect, preserve and improve environmental quality by minimizing the negative impacts of electric and electronic equipment wastes.	Anex 2.2 of draft DCM WEEE; point V, VI, VII dhe VIII
Draft DCM " On packaging and packaging waste". Draft DCM in approval procedure.	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local governme nt Operators	Waste from packaging		This decision aims to protect, preserve and improve environmental quality by minimizing the negative impacts of packaging and packaging wastes.	
Draft DCM "On batteries, accumulators and their waste". Draft DCM in approval procedure.	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local governme nt Operators	Draft DCM "On batteries, accumulators and their wastes," describes the procedures and rules for the collection of waste batteries and accumulators, their treatment, recycling and disposal	Draft DCM "On batteries, accumulators and their waste," establishes rules for sale of batteries and accumulators, the banning of sale of batteries and accumulators containing hazardous substances.	This decision aims to protect, preserve and improve environmental quality by minimizing the negative impacts of batteries, accumulators and their waste. Also this draft decision aims to maximize the separated collection of waste batteries and accumulators, promote a high level of battery recycling and to reduce the amounts of waste of batteries and accumulators that disposal together with municipal mixed waste.	Item V of the draft Decision specifies that is prohibited the place in market: a) of batteries or accumulators, whether or not installed in the device, containing mercury more than 0,0005 % of their weight; b) Of portable batteries or accumulators, including those installed in the device, containing cadmium more than 0.02% of their weight. Related to the labelling of batteries and accumulators Draft Decision specifies that: -Manufactures of batteries, and button accumulators and

					batteries containing more than 0,0005 % Hg, more than 0,002 % Cd or more than 0,004 % Pb. Have to label them with chemical symbol of metals. -Treatment and recycling requirements is prescribed in detail in Annex III of the draft Decision.
<i>Draft DCM “On approval of the regulation on used oils management ”.</i> Draft DCM in approval procedure	MoEFWA NEA, MoPWT, Local government Operators	Wastes from used oils	Provides measures for all the life cycle of used oils.	Aims to set the rules for management of used oils for their import, production, use and disposal.	
DCM No. 798, of 29.9.2010, on approval of the regulation “On administration of hospital waste ”	MoEFWA NEA, MoH, Local government Operators	Protection of human health and environment	Production, registration, treatment, environmental permit, monitoring	This regulation applies to all natural and legal persons, public and private, domestic and foreign: - whose activities create hospital waste; - when they are the waste holder, the licensee, for collection, preservation, storage, transportation, recycling, processing and disposal of hospital wastes.	Chapter II, III, IV, V, Appendix 1: types of hospital hazardous waste Appendix 2.a: label of containers Appendix 3: methods for treatment and disposal Appendix 4: condition that should be respected during the transportation of infected hospital waste. Appendix 5: technical standards on incineration and autoclaving of hospital wastes.
DCM No.99, of 18.2. 2005 “On the approval of the Albanian Catalogue of Wastes Classification”	MoEFWA MoH, MoETE, Customs	Wastes	This decision determines hazardous and non-hazardous	Albanian catalogue of waste classification that fully transposes Directive 2000/532/EC (European waste catalogue), according annex. A	Appendix I: Classification of waste; Appendix II: properties and characteristics of hazardous

			wastes, generated according to industries; it establishes the features that make the waste hazardous (H-Code), the elements and chemical substances that make them hazardous and their concentration.	which includes Appendixes I, II, III and IV.	wastes; Appendix III: categories of waste generated, listed according to their nature (III.A) and activity that generates them (III.B); Appendix IV: waste constituents in Appendix III.B that make them hazardous when they manifest properties described in Appendix II
Law No. 10266 of 15.4.2010 "On corrections and amendments to Law No. 8897 of 16.5.2002 'On protection of air from pollution'"	MoEFWA MoH, MoPWT, Local government	Air protection		Objectives: a. Define and set objectives for air quality for avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on health and the environment; b. Assess ambient air quality based on the methods and criteria used in the European Community; c. Obtain sufficient information on quality of environmental air and ensure availability of this information to the public, by signaling thresholds, among others; d. Preserve the quality of environmental air, when it is good and improve it in other cases.	Article 3 of Law No. 10266, of 15.4.2010, defines the basic environmental indicators of air state SO ₂ , NO ₂ , PM ₁₀ , SM, Pb, ozone, benzene, CO, PAH, Cd, As, Ni, Hg of operators of mobile sources of pollution, limitation of emissions into air accomplished through the establishment and enforcement of mandatory emission rates. Read phonetically Article 9 - Discharging norms for mobile sources Listen
Decision No. 803, of 4.12.2003 " Concerning the Approval of Norms for Air Quality "	MoEFWA MoH, NEA	Air quality	Monitoring of air quality, relevant indicators	Defines the limit values (maximum allowed levels) of air quality for the most important pollutants encountered in urban air, PM ₁₀ , PM _{2.5} , SO ₂ , NO ₂ ,	

				Pb, ozone, carbon monoxide, benzene	
DCM No. 435, "On the approval of Emissions Norms in the Air in the Republic of Albania" of 12.9.2002	MoEFWA	Air protection	Emission in to the air from industrial pollution	Sets the emission norms for the subjects which begin their activity, after entry into force of this Decree	
Guidelines No. 6527, of 24.12.2004 "On permitted values of atmospheric polluting elements in the environment, resulting from gas emissions and noises caused by vehicles and the ways for controlling them", in effect since 8.6.2005 amended by Guidelines No.12, of 15.6.2010 "On amendments and addenda to Guidelines No. 6527, of 24.12.2004 accompanied by the Manual of Vehicles Control.	MoPWT, MoEFWA General Directory of Roads, NEA municipality Communes, etc.	Protection of air quality		The main purpose of this guideline is to define the permissible limits of air pollutants in the ambient air, discharged from vehicles and road traffic	The relevant annexes define the allowed norms.
Law No. 8450, of 24.2.1999, "On Processing, Shipping and Trading Oil, Natural Gas, and their by-products" amended by Law No. 9218, of 8.4.2004, "On some amendments to Law No. 8450, of 24.2.1999"	MoETE, Central Technical Inspectorate, National Licensing Centre	Oil products	Processing, shipping and trade	Establishing the legal framework, procedures of permitting and authorisation as well as the responsibilities of state structures on processing, shipping and trade	
DCM No. 129, of 28.3.1999 "On procedure and conditions for issuing permits and authorisations for trading oil, natural gas, and their by-products "	MoETE, NLC, NCI	Oil products	Trade	Establishing the legal framework, procedures of permitting and authorisation as well as the responsibilities of state structures processing, shipping and trade	

General Order No. 6, of 9.10.2007, "On collecting and maintaining data related to fuels' quality" in compliance to the requirements of Directive 98/70/EC	MoETE, NLC, NCI	Oil products	Processing, shipping and trade	Aims to control the entities that process, transport, trade fuel, through the collection and storage of data on the quality of fuels.	
Order of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy No 166, of 1.7.2004, "On quality control, sampling, quantity of sample, respective payments and documentation, as well as controls on respect of technical norms and conditions at oil, gas, and their by-products 'installations'	MoETE, NLC, NCI	Oil products	Processing, shipping and trade	Aims to control the entities that process, transport, trading fuel, relating to compliance with technical norms and conditions in installations of oil, gas and their by-products.	
Law No. 9876, of 14.2.2008, "On the production, transport and trade of biofuels and other renewable fuels for transport".	MoETE, NANR, NCI	Bio fuel	Processing, shipping and trade	Aims to promote the production and use of biofuels and other renewable fuels to replace petroleum products for transportation sector, to contribute to fulfilling the commitments undertaken within the framework of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, and to provide supplies and promoting renewable energy resources, by promoting the cultivation of energy crops to protect the environment.	According to the Article 4 of this Act, carrying out the activities of production and the use of biofuels and other renewable fuels, aims to promote the production and use of biofuels and the other renewable fuels in the transport sector, to contribute in environmental protection and sustainable development, etc.

DCM No. 147, of 21.3.2007, "On the quality of gasoline and diesel fuels"	MoETE, TCI, NEA	Fuels	Production, trading, storage	Aimed at controlling the quality of fuel for the content of lead and sulphur in Albania, according to DCM No.147, of 21.3.2007 "On the quality of fuel, gasoline and diesel ", the trade of diesel and gasoline fuel is permitted only for use in road vehicles and generators, that in the nomenclature of goods, is described in CN codes 27101141, 27101145, 27101149, 27101151, and 27101159 and fulfill the requirements of the Albanian standards S SH EN 590 and S SH EN 228 specified in Annex 1 and 2 attached to this decision.	Requirements for the content of sulphur in gasoil according to the time objectives are specified.
Law No.9126 of 29.7.2003 "On civil use of explosive substances in the Republic of Albania"	MoETE, IRMU	Explosive substances	Production, storage, use, control, disposal, transfer and the way the marketing of the explosive materials for civil use	Aims to determine the procedures, rules and responsibilities of state administration on producing, storing, using, controlling, eliminating, transferring and marketing manner of explosives for civil use, protection and life security, human and animal health safety, material and environmental values due to explosives.	
Decision No.853 of 17.12.2004 "On the procedure for giving the import, export and production permit of pyrotechnic materials, fireworks, for civil use"	MoD, MoI, MoF	Pyrotechnics, for civil use	Import, export and production		
DCM No.52 of 29.1.2004 "On permission procedures on civil use of explosives"	MoETE, IRMU	Explosive substances	Permitting for civil use	Determines the permitting procedures for civil use of explosive materials	
DCM No.453, 23.6.2005, "On approval of the list of equipments,	MoEFA Customs	Ozone depleting	Production, export, Import,		

using ozone depleting substances, whose production and import is banned, as well as the rules and procedures of ozone depleting substances substitution in existing equipments.		substances	trade, use and disposal of ODS		
DCM No.290, of 28.4.2010 "On some changes and additions of the DCM No.453, of 23.6.2005, "On approval of the list of equipments, using ozone depleting substances, which are prohibited to be produced and imported, as well as the rules and procedures of ozone depleting substances substitution in existing equipments	MoEFWA Customs	Ozone depleting substances	Production, export, Import, trade, use and disposal of ODS		
Law No. 10390, of 3.3.2011 "On the use of fertilizers for plants"	MoAFCP	Fertilizers		<p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Evaluation of fertilizer; -Determination of the types of fertilizers, used in the Republic of Albania; Control of production, packaging, labelling, transportation, storage and trade of fertilizers; determining the liability for registration of fertilizers that do not have the label "EC Fertilizers"; -Organization and functioning of the structures responsible. <p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To support the growth of productivity in agriculture; To enable the direction and control of production and trade of fertilizers; -To help maintain the life and health of people and animals and of consumer 	<p>Article 4. Production, free movement and placing in the market.</p> <p>Article 5. Transport, storage and maintenance.</p> <p>Article 6. Packaging, labelling, certificates of analysis and origin</p> <p>Article 7. Inappropriate fertiliser.</p> <p>Article 8. Ammonium nitrate fertilizers with high nitrogen content.</p> <p>Article 9. Requirements and conditions for fertiliser treatment.</p> <p>Article 10. Obligations of manufacturers.</p>

				protection; to help preservation of land and environmental protection.	
Law No. 9199 "On the production, processing, certification and marketing of "Bio products"	MoAFCP	Bio products		Purpose: a) promotion of organic production in the country; b) establishing the necessary legal framework c) determination of the conditions of production, processing, transportation, certification and control of agricultural and food products with animal and plant origin, produced, processed and/or imported and marketed as "Bio" products	
DCM No. 388, of 31.5.2005 "On the composition, functions, rights and duties of the state commission of organic production"					
Law No. 9362, of 24.3.2005 "On the plant protection service"	MoAFCP	Plant Protection Products (PPP)	Part of this law provisions regulate planting quarantine, whereas the other part regulates PPPs issues.		
Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 1188 of 20.8.2008 "On adopting regulations on import, marketing, transport, storage, use and disposal of PPPs"	MoAFCP	Plant Protection Products (PPP)	Import, trade, transport, storage, use and disposal of PPP	Provides rules related to the monitoring of registered PPPs from the import to the use and the disposal of its packaging.	
DCM No. 1555 of 12.11.2008 "On definition of rules for the registration and the criteria for	MoAFCP, MoEFWA MoH	Plant Protection Products (PPP)	Rules of PPP registration	Defines rules on classification, labelling and packaging of Plant Protection Products (PPP)	

assessment of plant protection products”				The provisions of DCM 1555/08 regulate: 1. registration of plant protection products (PPP) into their marketing form, which will be imported and used into the territory of the Republic of Albania; 2. registration of active substances and other substances contained in PPPs to protect plants and plant products from pests, without adverse impacts on health and environment	
DCM No.860 of 20.12.2006 “On adopting of the national action plan on banning of use and elimination of persistent organic pollutants”	MoEFWA MoETE	POPs	POPs inherited from the industry before 90 and monitoring of the new cases	Aims the rehabilitation of several environmental hotspots, some of which contaminated with POPs, including the removal of large amounts of chemicals abroad for incineration.	
DCM No.447 of 19.9.1994 “On preventing asbestos use as a thermo-isolator to all sorts of building”	MoEFWA MoH, MoETE	Asbestos products		Aimed at preventing the use of asbestos as thermo insulation material in all types of construction	
DCM No.100 of 3.2.2008 “On designation of hazardous substances”	MoLSAE O			The object of this decision is the designation of hazardous substances aiming to protect the health and safety at work from their use. This decision is binding for all legal and natural persons, manufacturers or importers, who are obliged to respect the norms in the workplace. In this decision it is transposed partially the Directive 90/394/CEE of 6.28.1990 "On protection of labours at work from carcinogenic substances"	

Law No.9707, of 5.4.2007 "On state control of the import-export of military goods and dual use goods and technologies"	MoD, State Export Control Authority, (SECA)	Intermediate activities of military goods and Dual Use Goods and Technologies	Export, import, transit, transshipment, brokerage, transfer or exposition of these goods, are legally obliged to get a certification or authorization from the State Export Control Authority (SECA)	This law regulates the activities of state control over the export, import, transit, transshipment of Military and Dual use Goods and Technologies, intend to guarantee the security of the national interests of the Republic of Albania, supervising the compliance of its commitments in the international treaties for non proliferation of conventional arms, weapons of mass destruction and obviation of their use by terrorists or other groups for illegal intentions.	
DCM No.1569, of 19.11.2008 "On approval the lists of military and dual use goods and technologies subject to the state control of import-export"	MoD, SECA		Import, export		
Law No.9323, of 25.11.2004 "On drugs and pharmaceuticals service", reviewed by Law No. 9523, of 25.4.2006 Law No. 9644, of 20.11.2006, Law No. 10008, of 27.10.2008, Law No. 10350, of 11.11.2010	RPSD, NCDC, MoH, MoF, MoETE, IHCA, DNC	Manufacture imports, exports, marketing, description, use, quality control and inspection		This law intends to establish rules on manufacture, importation, exportation, marketing, description, use, quality control and inspection activities related to drugs used for people in the Republic of Albania.	
Law No.10137, of 11.5.2009, "On some amendments to the legislation in force for the licences, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania". Law No.10081, of 23.2.2009, "On the licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania"	NLC, MoD, MoI, MoETE, MoAFCP, MoEFA MoH, MoPWT, MoLSAE, MoJ, MoF			The object of this law are the changes in various laws, according to fields of activities and /or use of the goods. - This law aims to improve the business climate by reducing administrative barriers to the free initiative in carrying out economic activities, trade or professional, or the use of public resources, ensuring at the same time, protecting the public	

DCM No. 538, of 26.5.2009 "On licenses and permits subject to or through the National Licensing Centre (NLC) and some other adjustments of common by-laws", amended.				interest in exercising these activities and the use of public goods. - Establishes the basic rules of licensing by or through the NLC	
Law No. 10480 of 17.11.2011, "On the general safety of non-food products"	MoETE	Non-food items, manufactured goods/ products	Production, usage, repair of manufactured or other non-food items	The object of this law is to determine the various rights and obligations of manufacturers and distributors of non-food goods. This law aims at consumers products in markets to be safe for use. It also deals with the different competences of the responsible authorities for the market's supervision and monitoring.	- Article 6: Other obligations of the manufacturer and distributors; - Article 10: Rights and obligations of the responsible authorities; - Article 14: Competences of Inspectorate; - Article 23: Policies on market's supervision/ monitoring; - Article 24: Control of products entering Albanian markets
Law No. 10489 of 15.12.2011, "On trading and market surveillance of non-food products"	MoETE	Non-food items except chemical substances (object of registration/authorization) and cosmetic products	During the stage of supply of products and while they are already launched in markets	The object of this Law is to determine the role and responsibilities of economic operators during the process of supply in markets with products. The obligations of the persons responsible for some products, groups of products or those products which are already in use at markets, are defined. This Law also gives the rights, competencies and the manner in which are organised the responsible authorities, as well as main principles for controlling the imported products which is done in collaboration with customs authorities.	

3.2 Additional details on key legal instruments related to chemicals.

The legislation concerning chemical substances in the Republic of Albania regulates the management of substances and chemical preparations, plant protection substances, explosive substances, gas and liquid inflammable substances, hazardous substances, ozone depletion substances, persistent organic pollutants, etc.

In the Republic of Albania, the principal act that regulates the management of substances and chemical preparations is Law No.9108 of 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and preparations”. This law scopes the establishment of rights and natural or legal persons’ obligations on setting out the properties and substances classification and chemical preparations on record, inventory, notification, management and their marketing.

Law No. 9108/03 provides rules for classification and testing of chemical and preparation substances before placing on the market. According to this law, testing should be on methods which fulfill the principals of experimental animals protection designated on the order of competent ministries. According to this law, the Ministry of Environment keeps the National Register on substances and chemical preparations and data are ensured due to this register from the responsible ministries.

Council of Ministers adopted Decision of Council of Ministers No. 824 of 11.12.2003 “On classification, packaging, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations”, which aims to regulate production, marketing, preserving and transporting of hazardous substances and preparations in conformity with the Albanian legislation and international rules.

Law No. 8531 of 23.9.1999 “On fertilizer substances control service” regulates control of imported and domestic fertilizers, put into Albanian market, to ensure safe and qualified fertilizers use in compliance with the requirements on safety of human health and animals, plants for environmental and consumer’s protection.

The legislation on Plant Protection Products (PPP) includes:

- Law No. 9362 of 24.3.2005, “On Plants protection service”, amended. Part of this law provisions regulate planting quarantine, whereas the other part regulates PPPs issues. This law was drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection and was approved by the Albanian Parliament.

- Decision of Council of Ministers (DCM) No. 1188 of 20.8.2008 “On adopting rules on import, marketing, transport, storage, use and disposal of PPPs”. This sub-legal act is drafted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection.

- DCM No. 1555 of 12.11.2008 “On the approval of rules for registration and evaluation criteria for PPPs”. This decision is compiled by MoAFCP, MoH and MoEFWA.

The provisions of DCM 1555/08 regulate:

1. Registration of plant protection products (PPP) into their marketing form, which will be imported and used into the territory of the Republic of Albania;
2. Registration of active substances and other compounds contained in PPPs, in order to protect plants and plant products from parasites, without impacts on human and animal health and environment.

Under the Law "On the production, processing, certification and marketing of ‘Bio’ products”, the only products and substances which can be used in organic farming are those placed in the list of fertilizers and products for improvement of soil properties, the list of plant protection

products, and the list of authorized cleaning products and disinfectants (Annex II). In this Law, Annex VII and VIII specify loads of different species of livestock and poultry per unit of area at levels not exceeding the limits of 170 kg N/ha per year. Law “On the production, processing, certification and marketing of ‘bio products’” is harmonized with EU Regulation No. 2092/91.

Law No.9362, of 24.3.2005 "On the plant protection service" and Law no. 9908 of 2008 "On amendments and additions to the Law 9362 of 24.3.2005 "For the plant protection service" are in accordance with Directive 91/414/CE (which deals with placing of phito-pharmaceutical products on the market) and are implemented in accordance with the rules of good practice phyto-sanitation.

Law No. 9817 "On Agriculture and Rural Development", Article 3, item (d) defines environmental conservation as one of the objectives of agricultural and rural development, ensuring that agriculture preserves its natural resources. The law in question supports the implementation of the four basic Regulations of Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Law No. 9426 "On the breeding of livestock" of 2005, among others, deals with practices in breeding of farm animals, as to ensure their welfare. According to the principles of sustainable development, these practices take into consideration the natural qualities of the agricultural area, provide permanent soil fertility and production of safe dairy products, and guarantee "environmental standards" within allowed maximum levels for environmental pollution in livestock farmland.

Law No. 8450 of 24.2.1999 “On processing, transporting and marketing of fuel, gas and their by-products” as amended by the Law No. 9218 of 8.4.2004, describes the issuing procedures of permits and authorizations, as well as state structural responsibilities on processing, transport and marketing of gas and fuel.

Law No. 9126 of 29.7.2003 “On civil use of explosive substances in the Republic of Albania”, aims to determine the procedures, rules and responsibilities of state administration on producing, storing, using, controlling, eliminating, transferring and marketing manner of explosives for civil use, protection, and life security, human and animal health safety, material and environmental values due to explosives. DCM No. 52 of 29.1.2004 “On permission procedures on civil use of explosives” determines the permitting procedures for civil use of explosive materials.

Regulation of import, export, transit, transshipment activity of all chemical substances included in the chemical conventions is made under the following normative acts:

Law No. 7747 of 29.7.1993 “On the ratification of the Convention for the Banning of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”.

Law No. 9092 of 3.7.2003 “On the implementation of the Convention for the Banning of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”.

DCM No. 38 of 22.1.2004 “On composition, functioning and board of counsellors’ duties, for the implementation of Convention for the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction”;

Law No.9707 of 5.4.2007 “On state control of import– export activity of military equipment and dual-use goods and technologies”;

DCM No. 1569 of 19.11.2008 “On adopting the list of military goods and the list of dual-use goods and technologies, subject to the State Import-Export Control”.

All the chemicals included into chemical convention of first, second, third instance, other chemical producing equipments, special ones which are controlled according to this convention, may be inspected at any time by the Organization for the Banning of Chemical Weapons in the above legal framework implementation. Also the above chemicals are reported to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, which could inspect at any time.

International conventions are ratified by the Parliament through laws, in compliance with Article 122 of the Constitution of Albania, and are published in Official Journal as an integral part of national legislation and prevail over the national acts which are not compatible with them.

The Republic of Albania has ratified the Rotterdam Convention through the Law No.10277 of 13.5.2010 "On the Adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Rotterdam Convention 'On the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade'". This law reinforces the need to establish the Chemicals Bureau which will ensure implementation of obligations deriving from the Basel and Stockholm Conventions to which Albania is party. Together with the Basel and Stockholm Conventions, it completes the necessary legal framework that regulates international movement of hazardous chemicals, thus avoiding threats from them.

The Republic of Albania has signed the Stockholm Convention on 5 December 2001 and ratified it with the Law No. 9263 of 29.7.2004 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Stockholm Convention", taking on the obligations to ban the most of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and to outline a National Action Plan.

In this context, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration in cooperation with the GEF-UNDP Project "Preparation of the POPs National Implementation Plan (NIP) under the Stockholm Convention 2004-2006", prepared the NIP for the reduction and elimination of POPs. In frame of this project, a preliminary physical inventory of POPs in Albania is prepared.

Regarding some important issues identified for the POPs NIP, Albania, with the support of international bodies and the bilateral agreement, has made obvious progress in resolving them. In this view, the removal of all pesticide POPs abroad must be noted. HCH and lindane waste of the former chemical plant in Durres were deposited into a CDF (confined disposal facility) and the site was remediated.

The Republic of Albania ratified the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (CLRTAP) with the Law No. 9425 of 6.10.2005 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution". Also, five CLRTAP Protocols were ratified:

- Law No. 10062 of 29.1.2009 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol concerning the Control of Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides of the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution",
- Law No 10063 of 29.1.2009 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol on the Reduction of Sulphur Emissions or their Transboundary Fluxes by at least 30%, of the 1979 Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution";
- Law No. 10422, of 26.5.2011 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol on Long-term Financing of the Cooperative Programme for Monitoring and Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP)" (Geneva, September 1984);
- Law No. 10436, of 28.6.2011 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to Protocol on Further Reduction of Sulphur Emissions (Oslo, June 1994).

- Law No. Nr.10476, of 3.11.2011 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Protocol to Abate Acidification, Eutrophication and Ground-level Ozone" (Gothenburg, November 1999);

Two other protocols are under procedure of ratification:

- Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs), to which the Republic of Albania has acceded by way of statement, but it has not ratified it yet. (Aarhus, June 1998);
- Protocol on Heavy Metals, to which the Republic of Albania has acceded by way of statement, but has not ratified yet. (Aarhus, June 1998);

Other international agreements are ratified as follows:

- Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents" signed on 18.3.1992, and ratified on 5.1.1994;
 - Law No 9299, of 28.10.2004 "On the adhesion of the Republic of Albania in decision III/1, amendment of the Basel Convention "Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal";
 - Law No. 9263, of 29.7.2004 "On the ratification of Stockholm Convention "On Persistent Organic Pollutants";
 - Law No. 10277, of 13.5.2010 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to Rotterdam Convention;
 - Aarhus Convention "On the right of the broad public for information, participation in decision-making and to address the court on issues related to environment". Date of ratification: 26.10.2000;
 - Law No. 9548, of 1.6.2006 " On the adherence of the Republic of Albania in the Protocol of Pollution Releases and Transfer Register (PRTR)";
 - Convention "For protection of the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution" (Barcelona Convention). Date of ratification: 16.11.2000;
- In the context of this Convention, Albania is party to 6 of its Protocols, which are the following:

- Protocol "On prevention and elimination of pollution of the Mediterranean sea from dumping of waste from ship vessels and air crafts and burning in the sea" (Dumping Protocol);
- Protocol "On cooperation to combat pollution of the Mediterranean caused by oil and other harmful substances spills in the case of accidents" (Mediterranean Emergency Protocol);
- Protocol "On protection of the Mediterranean Sea from land sources and activities";
- Protocol "On protection of the Mediterranean Sea from pollution caused from the exploration and exploitation of the continental shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil";
- Protocol "On prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean sea from cross border transportation of hazardous waste and its depositing";
- Procedures are underway for Albania for being party to the seventh protocol of the "Coastal Zone Integrated Management" Convention.

Albania ratified the Vienna Convention and the Montreal Protocol in October 1999 with the Law No. 8463 of 10.3.1999 "On the adherence of the Republic of Albania to the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer".

The implementing agencies United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration drafted the National Programme for Ozone Layer and later on the National Programme on Banning the Use of Ozone-Depleting

Substances which was approved by the Decision 39/34 of the Executive Committee of the Multilateral Fund of Montreal Protocol in 2003.

The audit conducted by UNIDO concluded that Albania has virtually met all the obligations under the Montreal Protocol. Main legal obligations of Albania stemming from the Montreal Protocol were accomplished through:

- DCM No 290, of 28.4.2010 “On some amendments and addition on DCM No. 453 of 23.6.2005 "On the approval of the list of equipment using ozone-depleting substances the import or production of which is prohibited, as well as on the rules and procedures of substitution of ozone-depleting substances in existing equipment", fulfilled one of the main obligations of the Albanian government towards the Montreal Protocol.
- Law No. 9480 of 16.2.2006 approved the Copenhagen Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
- Law No. 9484 of 2.3.2006 approved the London Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;
- Law No. 9485 of 6.3.2006 approved the Montreal Amendment and the Beijing Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

The national legislation on environment is currently undergoing an intensive phase of enrichment through approximation of EU Directives on the environment. Based on the assistance of the Implementation of the National Plan to Approximate Environmental Legislation (INPAEL) project funded by CARDS 2006 and re-enforcing the National Plan for the Implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement (NPISAA) for 2009-2014, the following laws have been prepared:

- The Law “*On environmental protection*” No. 10431 of 9.6.2011 has been modified by several directives, including Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control, Large Combustion Plant, SEVESO II, Pollution Release and Transfer Register, Liability Directive, etc.;
- The Law No.10440, dated 7.7.2011 “*On environmental impact assessment*” incorporates several directives, including Directive 85/337/EC on assessment of effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, Directive 97/11/EC and 2003/35/EC;
- The Law No. 10448, dated 14.7.2011 “*On environmental permits*” incorporating the Directives of Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control and Large Combustion Plant;
- Draft Law “*On major industrial accidents*”, incorporating the SEVESO II Directive;
- Draft law “*On waters*”, incorporating the Water Framework Directive (WFD);
- Law No. 10 463, dated 22.9. 2011 “*On integrated waste management*”, incorporating the new Waste Framework Directive 2009;
- DCM No. 175, dated 19.1.2011”*On endorsement of National Strategy and Action Plan on integrated management of waste*” for 2010 deri 2025
- Draft Decision of the Council of Ministers (DCM) “*On Waste Landfills*”, incorporating the Landfill Directive;
- Draft DCM “*On incineration*”, incorporating the incineration Directive;
- Draft DCM “*On pollution release and transfer register*”;
- Draft DCM “*On batteries and accumulators and their waste*” that fully transpose 2006/66/EC Directive;
- Draft DCM “*On electronic and electric equipment waste*” that fully transpose WEEE **2002/96/EC** Directive;
- Draft DCM “*On packaging and packaging waste*”, which will transpose Directive No.94/62/EC, of 20.12.1994, “*on packaging and packaging waste*”, amended;
- Draft DCM “*On public information*”, transposing 2003/4/EC Directive;

- Draft DCM “*On water quality standards*”; transposing 2008/105/EC Directive;
- Draft DCM “*On watershed management plans*”.

In line with legislative initiatives foreseen in NPISAA 2010 - 2014 for chemicals management has planned for the period 2012-2014 to develop and adopt:

- Project/act on "Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals", which will fully transpose Regulation No. 1907/2006 (REACH), of the Council of Europe. Complete transposition of this Regulation will be done under the assistance of the EU project IPA 2010, which is expected to start in January 2012.
- Project/act " On import and export of hazardous substances", pursuant to Article 15 of the Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations", which will transpose Regulation (EC) No. 689/2008 of the Council and the European Parliament of 17 June 2008, related to import and export of hazardous chemicals.
- Project/act "List of hazardous substances which by their nature pose a serious risk to life and human health and the environment", comes in frame of Article 13 of the Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 "On substances and chemical preparations" and will transpose Annexes XIII and XIV of the Council and Parliament Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006, of 18 December 2006, concerning the Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of Chemicals (REACH).
- Draft/Decision "On the approval of substances and chemicals, manufacture, placing on the market and use of which is restricted or prohibited", which fully transposes Annex XVII "Restrictions on the manufacture, placing on the market and use of certain hazardous substances, preparations and articles", of the Regulation No. 1907/2006 of the Council of Europe, of 18 December 2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals (REACH).
- Draft Decision "On persistent organic pollutants", which transposes the Regulation of the European Parliament and Council (EC) No. 850/2004 of 29 April 2004 “On Persistent Organic Pollutants”.

3.3 Existing legislation by use category, addressing various stages of chemicals from production/import through disposal

Table 3.B addresses various stages of chemicals from production, storage, transport, distribution, marketing, use and disposal in our country.

In the following chapter is given a detailed description of the national legislation relating to administrative procedures that cover the life cycle of chemicals, categorized according to their type.

3.4 Summary of the main administrative procedures for the control of chemicals

3.4.1 Pesticides

Plant Protection Products

According to the amended Law “On plant protection service”, only officially registered Plant Protection Products (PPP) can be imported and used in the Republic of Albania. Thus, PPPs should be registered before entering in the Republic of Albania.

Table 3B: Overview of legal instruments to manage chemicals by use category

Category of Chemical	Import	Production	Storage	Transport	Distribution/ Marketing	Use/ Handling	Disposal
Pesticides	X		X	X	X	X	X
Ind. Chemicals	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Petroleum Products	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Chemical Wastes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Fertilizers	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Cosmetics Products	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pharmaceutical	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Detergents	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Others							

PPPs registration is based on DCM No. 1555 of 12.11.2008 “On definition of rules for the registration and the criteria for assessment of plant protection products”, changed with DCM No. 791, of 24.9.2010 “On some changes and additions in DCM No. 1555, of 12.11.2008”. This DCM has approximated Council Directive 91/414/EEC of 15 July 1991 concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market and its amendments; covering rules of registration and requirements to be met from PPP to be registered, conditions of registration, modification, annulment, deletion, re-registration and expanding range of PPPs use, criteria of authorization and use for experimental purposes, information on potential hazardous effects for human and animal health, on ground waters and environment, data retention and confidentiality. This DCM has approximated part of Council Directive 1999/45/EC of 11 September 1999 concerning the classification and labelling of PPPs.

Department of Plant Protection (DPP) in the University of Agriculture, Tirana; Institute for Public Health (IPH); Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV); Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration are the institutions which perform certain professional and technical activities, especially related to evaluation of the registration file during registration procedure.

Biocides

A registration procedure for biocides is not yet established. For these products the licensing is regulated through DCM. 538, of 26.5.2009 "On licenses and permits subject to be handled from or through the National Licensing Centre (NLC) and some other adjustments of common by-laws", amended. The authorisation on importing of products for disinfection, desinsectation and deratisation is regulated by DCM No. 415 of 17.8.1993 “On licensing of import-export and wholesale and retail trade of DDD products”.

The list of substances allowed to be used for disinfection, desinsectation and deratisation (DDD) in public health and the requirements to be met by the importers in order to obtain Import Authorization are prescribed in the Order of Minister of Health No. 365 of 3.8.2012 “On the approval and use of the substances to be used for DDD in public health”. In MoH is established a commission which consults the list of allowed DDD substances. This list is renovated every year based on the recommendations of WHO and Council Directive of EU. Import Authorization is issued by the Hygiene and Epidemiology Division and is approved by the Director for Public Health in MoH. Import Authorizations for DDD substances are registered into a special register.

Actually the MoH has prepared a draft law on biocides that intends the protection of public health from organisms harmful to health, through specialized services of (DDD).

This draft law sets the rules for:

- a. Pests control service (pathogen micro-organisms, arthropods and rodents) in public and private location.
- b. Registration, manufacture, packaging, transportation, storage, marketing and use of biocide products for use in public health in the territory of the Republic of Albania .

3.4.2 Fertilizers

Law No. 10390, of 3.3.2011 "On the use of fertilizers for plants" is intended to assess the fertilizer, to determine the types of fertilizers used in the Republic of Albania, production control, packaging, labelling, transportation, storage and trading of fertilizers, determining the liability for registration of fertilizers that do not have the label "EC fertilizers" and the organization and functioning of the responsible structures

Registration of fertilizers, that does not have the label "EC Fertilizer", will enable the completion of all deficiencies and gaps, which are observed in practice as: - facilitating the management and control of the production and placing on the market of fertilizers;-enabling for increased use of fertilizers and their quality; - help for preservation of human life and health, the protection of animal and consumer; -support for land conservation and environmental protection; - determining the requirements for nitrogen-based fertilizers, such as ammonium nitrate, with nitrogen content in over 28 percent in weight and the conditions to be met by the fertilisers, on a test of resistance to detonation;

3.4.3 Chemical substances & mixtures regulated by REACH and CLP

REACH

Chapters III, VIII of Law No 9108 of 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations" stipulate respectively the registration of substances, and registration and notification of hazardous substances.

Article 9 and 10 stipulate the obligation of registration and the application for registration. According to article 22 of Law 9108/03, the producers, importers and distributors of hazardous substances and preparations are obliged to register type, quantity and features of the substance and the preparation.

Articles 7, 8, 13 of law 9108/03 stipulate evaluation of chemical substances and preparation, by testing of chemical substances and preparations by the system of accredited laboratories, risk assessment of hazardous substances for the health of human and the environment.

Article 5 of law 9108/2003 stipulates the classification of chemical substances and preparations due to their properties. Chapters V and VI stipulate putting into market of hazardous substances and preparations, and authorization for management of hazardous substances and preparations.

Regarding the exports of chemicals, Chapter VII of law 9180/2003 stipulates the obligations of importers and exporters for hazardous substances and preparations. According to article 21, the import and export of hazardous substances and preparations shall be performed only on permit of the relevant minister.

The office of chemicals registration, based on the data from designated ministries by this law, registers the applications for import and export of certain hazardous substances and preparations, the issued approvals, and notifies the Minister of Environment about the international exchange of data on these substances.

As regards relevant infrastructure to ban and control the export and import of certain hazardous and/or banned chemicals, including pesticides:

1. Customs authorities control in the state border crossing points the goods declared as hazardous substance or preparation, on the import and export of which approval from the relevant ministry designated by this law is required;
2. The State Inspectorate of Environment cooperates with customs authorities and provides them assistance with specialists;
3. The State Sanitation Inspectorate cooperates with the State Inspectorate of Environment and with customs authorities and provides them assistance with specialists;
4. The Inspectorate of Plant Protection (phyto-sanitary inspectorate) at the National Food Authority (NFA) is responsible for control and supervision of plant protection related to PPPs.

The inspector at the NFA has the right to confiscate a PPP when:

- Analyses results do not match the quality indicators declared for that PPP;
- PPP is not registered according to the legislation in force for PPPs registration.

Approximation of legislation in the field of chemicals has fallen behind, but in 2013 the implementation of the SELEA project is planned, which will provide the approximation of legislation in the field of chemicals. Mechanisms for the control of industrial chemicals provided in the law "On chemical substances and preparations" are not established. Registry Office of chemicals is not yet established.

Banned and restricted chemicals

According to the Annex 2 of Law No.9108, of 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations" shall be prohibited in the Republic of Albania the production, import, export and distribution of the substances listed in table 3.C. The Annex 2 is based in the Directive 76/769/EEC of 27 July 1976.

Restricted chemicals

The restricted chemicals are set out in Tables 1, 2, and 3 of Law No. 9092, "On prohibition of the development, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction". Physical or legal persons who produce, own, use, transfer, import, export or carry out activities with the above chemical substances, are subject to declaration and verification by the state authority. Rules for declaration and obtaining the license are approved by the Council of Ministers.

Classification, labelling, packaging

DCM No. 824 of 11.12.2003 "On classification, packaging, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations" lays down regulations on classification, labelling and packaging in Albania. It has been prepared in compliance with European Union Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 "On classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances".

DCM 824/03 aims to establish safe conditions for the administration of all chemicals and chemical preparations imported, exported, marketed, produced, used and stored in Republic of Albania.

Table 3.C: List of substances, which production, import, export and distribution is prohibited in Albania

No	Name of chemical substance	CAS No
1	Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) and preparations with PCB content in quantity higher than 0,005 % (with exception of mono and dichlorinated biphenyls)	1336-36-3
2	Polychlorinated triphenyls (PTC) and preparations with content in quantity higher than 0,005 %	61788-33-8
3	Asbestos fibers a) crocidolite b) amazonite c) anthophyllite ç) actinolite d) tremolite	12001-28-4 12172-73-5 77536-67-5 77536-66-4 77536-68-6
4	Monomethyl tetrachlorobiphenyl methane (commercial name Ugilec 141)	75623-60-6
5	Monomethyl bichlorobiphenyl methane (commercial name Ugilec 121)	

Pursuant to item 3 of Decision of Council of Ministers 824/03, the classification of hazardous substances and preparations is done according to international standards, based on physico-chemical, toxicological properties and on the bases of special effects on human health and environment. According to the Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 “For chemical substances and preparations”, the risk assessment of a chemical substance or chemical preparation for human health is made with traditional methods using individual threshold concentrations of the preparation.

Item 4 of this Decision regulates the requirements for packaging hazardous substances and preparations to be fulfilled by the producer, importer and distributor, and also gives instructions on packaging, the material which should be used, and also on the isolation conditions. The requirements are related to packaging resistance, hermeticity and warning signs for hazardous substances and preparations.

This decision (item 5) gives also rules on labelling of hazardous substances and preparations before placing them on the market. At the same time, the content of the label of the hazardous substance or preparation placed on the market, is also defined and specific provisions are provided concerning the labelling of some preparations classified as hazardous intended for sale to the general public. According to item 7 of DCM 824/03, chemical substances and preparations are stored under specific conditions defined for this purpose.

In the annexes of this decision are also presented the lists of standard phrases on specific risks from substances (R-phrases), safety rules through safety phrases (S-phrases), and also the classification of chemical substances and preparations according to ordinal number of element.

Rules on classification, labelling and packaging of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are designated on DCM No. 1555 of 12.11.2008 “On definition of rules for the registration and the criteria for assessment of plant protection products”. In this DCM, the label content for PPPs is given, which has to be in Albanian language and non-erasable; its completion and placement on the package; requirements to be fulfilled by the subjects dealing with PPPs packaging; legal obligations of their activity, etc.

In view of European and international developments regarding classification and labelling of chemicals, it is necessary to review the relevant existing legislation based on Regulation (EC) 1272/2008 “On classification, labelling and packaging of substances and concentrations”, or

on Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). As regard to the GHS the only sector that is partially implemented it is the sector of pesticides (MoAFCP).

3.4.4 Cosmetic products

There are no control mechanisms.

The basic law and other regulations for these chemicals are missing. Ministry of Health is preparing the new legislation on cosmetic products.

3.4.5 Detergents

Rules for placing on the market the detergents and tensio-active substances for detergents are defined in the Law No. 10216, of 21.1.2010 "On detergents", which transposes the European Regulation 648/2004/EC and its amendments no. 907/2006.

This law aims at ensuring a high level protection of public health and the environment in relation to:

- biodegradation of tensioactive substances in detergents;
- restrictions or prohibition of the use of tensionactive substances due to biodegradation;
- labelling of detergents, including aromatic allergenic substances

The implementation of this law provisions is carried out by the responsible structure for market surveillance in the responsible ministry for matters of trade and industry, provided in the Law No. 9779, of 16.7.2008 "On general safety, essential requirements and evaluation the conformity of non-food products".

Two by-laws are in the drafting process:

- Draft - DCM "On labeling and the record of detergents ingredients", sent for approval to the Council of Ministers.
- Draft - DCM "On standards, test methods and the allowed limits related to the biodegradation of detergents, as well as risk assessment for tensioactive substances in detergents" sent for approval to the Council of Ministers.

According to the law on detergents cited above, market surveillance relating to the implementation of legislation in this area is covered by Central Technical Inspectorate, till the establishing of the structure responsible for market surveillance.

3.4.6 Pharmaceutical products

The management and the disposal of confiscated medicines in the country is regulated by Law No.9323, of 25.11.2004 "On medicines and pharmaceuticals" revised by Law No. 9523, of 25.4.2006; Law No. 9644 of 20.11.2006; Law No. 10008, of 27.10.2008 and Law No.10350, of 11.11.2010.

According to the Article 59 of this Law, the confiscated drugs that are usable, with legal documents, should be put under the administration of the Ministry of Health.

The unusable expired and confiscated medicines should be disposed in the presence of pharmaceutical inspectors, in compliance with the environmental protection legislation, at the expenses of the entity committing the violation.

3.4.7 Oil Products

The permitting procedures on imports and transit transport are regulated by Law No. 8450, of 24.2.1999, "On processing, shipping and trading of oil, natural gas, and their by-products" amended with Law No 9218, of 8.4.2004, DCM No. 129, of 28.3.1999 "On procedure and conditions for issuing permits and authorisations for Commercialising Oil, Natural Gas, and their by-products " and DCM No.130, of 8.4.1999 "On State Inspectorate of control of oil, gas and their by-products " and the Order of the Minister of Economy, Trade and Energy No. 166, of 1.7.2004, "On quality control, sampling, quantity of sample, respective payments and documentation, as well as controls on respect of technical norms and conditions at oil, gas, and their products' installations ". MoETE is the responsible ministry for licensing.

The quality of fuel is controlled by the Central Technical Inspectorate (CTI). In accordance with the relevant legislation, the CTI takes samples from each shipment of the product entering Albanian customs (through sea or land), in order to conduct quality analysis, whose results are documented. The same procedure is followed for all samples of domestically produced gasoil. The CTI conducts periodic controls and all year around surveys at all retail stations of gasoil, diesel, and liquid propane gas and at all wholesale deposits of oil and gas products.

Monitoring of atmospheric pollution from the gases emission resulting from traffic of vehicles in urban areas, or even other areas, is undertaken by entities that own the roads, when such actions are deemed necessary (the General Road Directorate, municipalities, etc.)

Article 17 of Law No. 8897 of 16.5.2002 "On air protection from pollution" obliges industrial operators whose activities cause emissions to the air, to obtain environmental permits from MoEFWA, through the National Licensing Centre.

Under Article 11 of Law 8897/2002, operators of large and medium sources of pollution are obliged to carry out self-monitoring of air emissions and periodically publish his data, and measures taken to control pollution. They must also submit self-monitoring data at the Regional Environmental Agencies.

3.5 Non-regulatory mechanisms for managing chemicals

The national environmental legislation defines the mechanisms and instruments used to fulfill the law requirements, presented above, assessing them as obligatory link through which should pass the compilation and approval of strategies, action plans, programs and projects, addressing the sectoral socio-economic development, as it is the Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment.

UNIDO and UNEP are jointly implementing a National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) in Albania. It supports the achievement related to legal and regulatory mechanics and financial incentives in place to:

- Reduce environmental degradation;
- Promote energy efficiency and sustainable natural resource utilization.

The NCPP in Albania was officially launched on 30 March 2010. The main outcomes of this programme are:

- Capacity development, promotion and professional training, building a network of national experts who deliver RECP assessment services to Albanian enterprises and other organizations, in particular in the priority industry sectors.

- Industry demonstrations developing a collection of success stories on implementation of RECP concepts, methods and techniques by Albanian businesses with verified environment, resource use and economic benefits.
- Opportunities for mainstreaming RECP in national policy, strategy and action plans (led by UNEP)

A pool of 24 national experts has been established and trained under the programme. 12 industries and businesses are currently being supported to develop and implement their respective resource efficiency improvement programmes being focused in three priority industry sectors, respectively: mining and minerals processing; agro-industry and food processing; and tourism/hotels.

Consultations with the broad public, NGOs, and other stakeholders represents yet another useful instrument which contributes to the integration of environmental protection in the documents that provide for the developments in different sectors of economy.

Participation of the public, NGOs and other stakeholders during different stages of assessment and approval of a strategy or of another document that provides for developments in different economic and social areas and sectors is considered as an irreplaceable mechanism that contributes to the integration of the environmental protection in the sector development policies. This is as a result of the implementation of the Aarhus Convention Where the public participation is considered especially important in environmental issues.

As such, the public participation has deserved long and detailed address in the national environmental legislation. Almost in every piece of environmental legislation, public information, organization of public debates, evaluation of suggestions and requirements, and involvement of the public in decision-making have also been considered in details. In particular in DCM No.994, of 2.7.2008 “On receiving the public opinion in decision-making related to environment”, in one of the articles provides particular details regarding the rules, procedures, forms for their implementation in practice, together with the communication channels and deadlines that state bodies should respect in order to attract the public opinion and that of the NGOs.

Representation of environmental structures in decision-making bodies of different kinds and levels is another mechanism, as well as an additional possibility/tool to enable the integration of environment in sectoral plans and programs.

In the Albanian reality, there are many decision-making bodies, whose legal competence includes the approval of documents that provide for the economic and social developments in different sectors and at different levels. Also, the specific legislation that regulates the organization and activity of these decision-making bodies guarantees the participation of the representatives of environmental bodies and structures as members in the composition of these collegial bodies, in order to exercise positive influence in the integration of environmental requirements in the documents to be approved.

The Council of Ministers, National Council of Territorial Adjustment, National Water Council (NWC) are decision-making bodies where the Minister of Environment is member and the MoEFWA submits officially in written form the views and requirements for the document under review and approval. To continue with local decision-making bodies where the representatives of regional environmental agencies are members, there is the opportunity that until the approval of documents provided for the development of different sectors, the process of harmonization of expected developments with the requirements for environmental protection can continue.

The Regional Environmental Agencies (REAs) are integral parts of the collegial decision-making bodies at the regional level and in concrete terms of the Territorial Adjustment Councils, whose competencies include the approval of developmental documents within a given region such as: regional development plans, etc. The representation of REAs in these bodies serves as an instrument to represent the environmental interests in the decision-making process, while ensuring the integration in the documents of the issue of environmental protection. The National Territorial Adjustment Council of the Republic of Albania is the highest decision-making body in terms of territorial planning documents. The Minister of Environment is also member of this Council, as the representative authority of the objectives of environmental protection.

In line with the support for research and development, MoEFWA has been cooperating with NGOs and NGO groups (in the course of three years); about 42 contracts have been signed for projects implementation and environmental assessments, as well as for awareness raising and informational activities regarding environment.

It is important to point out the regional support given by international organizations for scientific research institutions. The Regional Environmental Centre (REC) for Central and Eastern Europe has contributed through a series of environmental projects. We can mention the project of Support for Strengthening and Empowerment of the Institute of Training and Curricula (Ministry of Education and Sciences) to introduce an extracurricular topic on Environmental Education, called “green package” for 5-9 grades of basic education.

3.6 Legal instruments for related activities which impact on chemicals management

Table 3.D summarizes other related legal regulations, such as water quality regulations that have indirect impact in the field of chemical management.

Table 3.D: Legal instruments that indirectly impact chemicals management legislation

Legal instrument	Ministry and the competent authority department/company	Objectives and scope
Law No.9115, of 24.7.2003, “On environmental treatment of wastewaters”	MoEFWA	This law aims to establish rules on their environmental treatment as well as the obligations of natural and legal persons whose activities cause the discharge of wastewater.
Law No. 8905, of 6.6.2002, "Protection of marine environment from pollution and damage"	MoEFWA, Line ministries	This law aims to protect Albanian maritime waters from pollution and damages caused by human activities in the coastal area and sea, which affect the water quality, damage sea resources and the flora and fauna, threaten human health and prevent the normal development of activities in this environment.
Law No. 9103, of 10.7.2003 "On protection of international lakes”	MoEFWA	Provides environmental protection of Lakes Shkodra, Ohrid and Prespa and guarantees appropriate conditions for maintenance of their ecosystem.
Council of Ministers Decision No. 177 of 31.3.2005, "For liquid emissions limits and zoning criteria of receiving water bodies"	MoEFWA, Line ministries	<p>The Decision aims to prevent, reduce and avoid pollution from hazardous substances, discharged through contaminated waters, by setting the threshold limit values for the allowed ingredients.</p> <p>Appendixes I,II,III,IV of this decision provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowed rates of hazardous substances and allowed parameters in the wastewaters discharged by industrial activities; - Allowed rates of urban liquid discharges, subject to preliminary environmental treatment through sewage system, separated from other liquid discharges; - Zoning criteria for water hosting environments grouped into sensitive and less sensitive; - Treatment according to incoming load into the collector system; - Monitoring performed in accordance with procedures under appendix 2 of the decision.
Law No. 7643, of 2.12.1992 “On the state health inspectorate”, regulates the activity of sanitary inspectors in taking measures for preventing pollution and minimising the effects of various types of exposures to hazards.	MoH, MoEFWA, Local government	<p>Drinking water, production, treatment, supply</p> <p>This law defines the organization and competencies of the State Sanitary Inspectorate and sanitation administrative offenses. It provides surveillance and security of water supplies used for drinking purposes to ensure health and hygiene. According to Article 13 of this Law, the Environment Inspectorate, the State Sanitary Inspectorate, and the Municipality Inspectorate, exercise control for compliance with water norms.</p> <p>It provides amendments and represents the legal basis for monitoring and controlling the quality of drinking water. The control of safety related water supply inspections are</p>

		carried out throughout the year according to a plan approved by the Ministry of Health. The law prohibits the distribution of drinking water that exceeds established safety limits.
Council of Ministers Decision No. 145, of 26.2.1998, "For the Approval of 'Hygienic-sanitary Regulation' on Control of the quality of drinking water, design, construction and supervision of potable water supplying systems"		This regulation is applicable to water intended for human consumption, with the exception of natural mineral water. Special rules and requirements for utilization of a new drinking water sources, quality control of water intended for human consumption (including bottled waters), hygienic-sanitary requirements in using water supply system, maintenance of water supply works, supervision of drinking water quality, sanitary and technical requirements for water extraction works, and sanitary protection zones are defined. This regulation harmonizes with the Council Directive 80/778/EEC, 15 July 1980 (Drinking Water Directive) related to the quality of water for human consumption, and WHO Drinking Water Quality Guidelines. Under this regulation, drinking water may come from groundwater (natural resources of different geological formations, hydrogeology well-drillings, individual or collective wells), and surface waters (rivers, watersheds, lakes). Surface waters, depending on their characteristics in relation to drinking water standards, must be subject to treatments.
DCM No.797, of 29.9.2010 "On approval of the regulation hygienic-sanitary management of bathing water quality"	MoH, Local government	The Regulation "On management of bathing water quality" has been prepared in harmony with European Parliament and Council Directive 2006/7/EU of 15 February 2006, concerning bathing water quality (and the annulment of Directive 76 / 160/EEC).
DCM No.1189, of 18.11.2009, "On the rules and procedures for the development and implementation of the national environmental monitoring programme"	MoEFWA, NEA, Line ministries	The Decision defines the methods of measurement, sampling, frequency and unit of measurement, method of processing and presentation of data for air, water quality etc. Annex I, item d) defines for sources of pollution discharged into the air: a) their inventory, annual quantity of discharges of CO ₂ , NO _x , CH ₄ , NH ₃ , SO ₂ , levels of smoke and soot, volatile organic compounds, dioxins, furans, heavy metals in general; b) the sectoral distribution of the letter "a", for the sectors of industry, energy, transport and services.
Law No. 10137, of 11.5.2009 "On some changes in the legislation on licensing, authorization and permits in Republic of Albania"	National Center for Licensing, Line ministries	Changes in relevant legislation, according to activity area
Law No. 10081, of 23.2.2009 "On on licensing, authorization and permits in		The purpose of the law is the improvement of business climate through reduction of administrative barriers to economic, commercial or professional activities,

Republic of Albania”		guaranteeing the protection of the public interest in exercising these activities and use of public benefits.
DCM No.538, of 26.5.2009 “On the licenses and permits to be given from or through National Centre for Licensing (NCL) and other common by-laws”, amended		This DCM prescribes basic rules for licensing from or through NCL.

3.7 Assessment and comments

The Republic of Albania has ratified by law the Rotterdam Convention, Basel and Stockholm Conventions. The relevant laws reinforce the need to establish the Chemicals Bureau which will ensure implementation of obligations deriving from these Conventions to which Albania is party.

Although the legal framework on chemicals and hazardous substances exists, it is partially in line with the EU legislation, REACH and CLP.

As regards approximation of the national legislation with the EU environmental *acquis*, pursuant to the legal initiatives foreseen in NIPSAA 2012 - 2015 and in accordance with the requirements of the Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations", the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration has drafted several legal acts, which will transpose some of the base EU Directives on chemicals; 10 of them have been recently approved and the others are in their final phase, foreseen to be approved within 2013.

In the process of the preparation of the chemicals legislation, MoEFWA has been supported by the EU project, "Strengthening Environmental Legislation Enforcement in Albania, SELEA", IPA 2010.

As for the control of hazardous substances, this is mainly covered by the relevant international conventions, but further transposition of European legislation is necessary. In addition, there is a lack of the necessary information for security measures and the protection from these kinds of chemicals.

Table 3.E: Priorities and possible actions: Legal instruments and non-regulatory mechanisms for the sound management of the chemicals

Priorities according to the importance (ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacities	Summary of capacity building, gaps and needs	Possible actions	Stackeholders
Compiling the primary legislation for the chemicals sector by transposing REACH, CLP Regulations	Low	Transposing REACH, CLP Regulations	Technical Assistance by EU on designing the legislation	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Develop the secondary legislative documents which are required to ensure effective implementation and enforcement of the primary legislation already drafted in the chemicals sector.	Low	Compiling the secondary legislation	Technical Assistance by EU on designing the legislation	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Prepare Directive Specific Action Plans for the Chemicals Directives	Low		Technical Assistance	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Establishment of infrastructure, setting up an Agency for the Management of Chemicals	Low	Low capacities of staff; Trainings	Trainings	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Increased capacity at central level regarding the management of chemicals, evaluation of chemicals, import and export of chemicals etc	Low	Trainings	Trainings in central and local levels	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Implementation of REACH and CLP regulations	Low	Trainings		Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE
Capacity building and technical assistance for training of industrial entities on security measures and protection from chemicals	Low	Trainings	Training programs for businesses that produce, store, use, import or export chemicals	Foreign assistance, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoD, MoLSAEO, MoETE

CHAPTER 4: MINISTRIES, AGENCIES AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS MANAGING CHEMICALS

The management of a chemical throughout its life-cycle is dealt with by several ministries, agencies, and other institutions. Government ministries and agencies responsible for most of the stages of a chemical's life-cycle (i.e. import, storage, transport, distribution, use, handling, and disposal) in Albania are Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration, Ministry of Agriculture Food and Consumer Protection, Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Customs. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration has the key responsibility for regulation and protection of the environment from activities using chemical substances that pose potential risks to the environment. The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration is involved in the import, storage, use, and disposal of chemicals; Ministry of Public Works and Transport mainly in the transport and Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy in the import, storage and disposal of chemicals, particularly obsolete ones.

The Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities are jointly responsible for occupational health and safety related to chemical hazards in the workplace. Environmental Inspectorate, State Sanitary Inspectorate, and State Labour Inspectorate are responsible for enforcing the control of all stages of the chemical's life cycle. The import and export of chemicals is mainly managed by the customs. Resources for chemicals management are currently insufficient; improvement is needed for most of the stages of chemicals life-cycle. Prevention of overlapping of mandates among ministries and bodies and the potential for duplication of activities and efforts should be addressed through the revision of legislation.

4.1. Responsibilities of different government ministries, agencies and other institutions

The table 4.A shows the roles and responsibilities of each institution according to the legislation in place related to chemicals management throughout their life cycle: importat, production, storage, transport, distribution/marketing, use/handling and disposal. The considered chemicals groups are pesticides, fuel products, industrial chemicals and consumer chemicals. Following the table, in a more detailed way are described the ministerial authorities and their mandates.

4.2 Description of ministerial authorities and mandates

The chemicals management responsibilities are divided among several institutions presented in the Table 4.A, which have the obligations and rights arising from the relevant national legislation and the regulatory instruments.

Table 4.A: Responsibilities of government ministries, authorities and other institutions

Ministries	Life Cycle State						
	Importation	Production	Storage	Transportation	Distribution/ Marketing	Use/ Handling	Disposal
Pesticides							
MoEFWA		X	X	X		X	X
MoH		X	X		X	X	
MoAFCP	X		X	X	X	X	
MoLSAEO		X	X	X		X	X
MoETE		X			X		
MoPWT	X			X	X		
MoD							
MoJ							
MoF	X				X	X	
MoI	X	X	X	X		X	
Fuel Products							
MoEFWA		X	X	X	X	X	X
MoH		X					X
MoAFCP						X	X
MoLSAEO	X	X	X	X		X	X
MoETE	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MoPWT	X	X	X	X			
MoD	X		X	X	X	X	X
MoJ					X		
MoF	X		X			X	X
MoI		X	X	X		X	X
Industrial Chemicals							
MoEFWA		X	X	X	X	X	X
MoH	X	X	X		X	X	X
MoAFCP	X		X	X	X	X	X
MoLSAEO	X	X	X	X		X	X
MoETE	X	X	X		X	X	X
MoPWT	X		X	X	X		X
MoD	X		X	X	X		X
MoJ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MoF	X		X				X
MoI	X		X	X	X		X
Consumer Chemicals							
MoEFWA							X
MoH						X	X

Ministries	Life Cycle State						
	Importation	Production	Storage	Transportation	Distribution/ Marketing	Use/ Handling	Disposal
MoAFCP	X		X	X	X	X	X
MoLSAEO	X					X	
MoETE	X		X		X	X	
MoPWT			X				X
MoD	X		X	X	X		X
MoJ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MoF			X			X	
MoI				X			

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA): Pursuant to the articles 5 and 7 of Law 9108/2003, MoEFWA is responsible for issuing environmental permits for activities which produce substances and preparations possessing properties of class 15⁵ (hazardous for the environment), as well as for the evaluation, testing and their control.

MoEFWA through the Chemicals Registration Office should register the applications for import and export of substances and certain hazardous preparations according to the data collected from the ministries in charge by this Law. Since 2003 when the law on Chemicals was approved, the Chemical Registration Office is not established yet. In the MoEFWA since January 2011 is established a sector that covers Air, Climate Change and Chemicals, where only 2 specialists cover the chemicals between other issues. There is a lack of capacities in the MoEFWA to cover all issues regarding the sound chemicals management.

MoEFWA has the authority to control all the activities with environmental impact and has the mandate to enforce legal sanctions through the Environmental Inspectorate. Under this ministry are functioning the Regional Environmental Agencies in the prefecture level. Although the structure is in place (200 employees in regional level) the technical capacities regarding chemicals are very low. There are no training programmes related to the chemicals management.

MoEFWA and the MoH are responsible for the control of hazardous substances. The law imposes the Regional Environmental Agencies and the two state inspectorates, Environmental Inspectorate and the Sanitary Inspectorate, to exercise the power in case of violations of the obligations that private or governmental entities have for the management and storage of hazardous substances.

Ministry of Health (MoH): Pursuant to the Articles 5 and 7 of the Law No. 9108/2003, the MoH is responsible for issuing permits for the production of substances and preparations that possess properties of the classes 6 to 14⁵, for their evaluation, testing, management and control. Pursuant

⁵ Reference for numbers of hazard classes is made from Law 9108/2003

to the Law "On chemical substances and preparations" and the Law "On State Sanitary Inspectorate" MoH should control the import, manufacture, marketing, storage, use and decontamination of hazardous substances, issues permits for new chemicals that are administered by industry, agriculture and the consume needs.

This ministry has a network of institutions in the central and local levels that deals with basic health protection of citizens, hygieno-sanitary control of the work premises and the health state of employees. In **Institute of Public Health** operates the Occupational Health Section, which has the following tasks:

- Assesses the health risk sources,
- Estimates the exposure levels at work areas,
- Assesses the health examination of employees,
- Designs the health inspection methodology,
- Undertakes research and analysis of the situation of workers in various sectors of economic activities,
- Performs measurements of the work environment pollution: air, water, noise, toxic substances and infections.

Currently, the occupational health services are comprised in 24 Directorates of Public Health and in 12 Regional Health Directorates. The Hygiene Service, organised in both these structures is based on the relevant legislations attends the following issues:

- Monitoring and control of production in all branches of public and private entities, mining, geological, various industries, etc.,
- Monitoring and control of the health status of workers, through collaboration with other structures, such as the State Labour Inspectorate,
- Monitoring of hygiene and sanitary conditions of the industrial facilities through the risk assessment in the working areas.

Every hygiene service has a separate industrial toxicological laboratory, which is generally very poorly equipped.

According to draft-law on biocides prepared by MoH which is expected to be approved soon, the Ministry of Health is the responsible authority for drafting the policies for DDD services and biocide products in public health as well as for organizing the practical and scientific implementation of this service. In compliance with this draft-law the State Health Inspectorate, will have these responsibilities:

- Inspecting the premises, facilities, equipment and documentation of natural and legal persons which offer services of biocide products in public health;
- Sampling of biocide products;
- Verifying whether the products are registered or not, except as otherwise provided by law;
- Checking if hazardous biocide products launched in markets are in accordance with requirements of this law and by-laws pursuant to it;
- Checking if biocide products launched in markets are classified, packaged and labelled in accordance with this law and by-laws pursuant to it;
- Checking if the subject is licensed according to law;

- Deciding on the disposal of biocide products according to the law, if the biocide product is found to be unlicensed while launched in markets or has expired.

The Secretariat for the Registration of Biocide Products will carry out the procedure of registration of biocide products.

The **Institute of Public Health** is research institution and national reference centre for the implementation of the draft-law of biocide products and its duties are as follows:

- Monitors public health pests, determines their status, methods of control and informs the Ministry of Health;
- Carries out diagnostics and prognosis / warning of public health pests by determining their control measures;
- Performs biological tests of effectiveness as well as physical-chemicals analysis of biocide products for their monitoring;
- Carries out trainings of professional users of biocide products services in public health.
- Carries out trainings of dependant institutions staff responsible for monitoring of biocide products service in public health.

The **Commission for the Registration of Biocide Products** is a technical-advisory body which gives recommendations for issuing or refusing the acts of registration and launching it in the markets of biocide products, banning or restricting the usage of biocide products, determining the framework formulation of biocide products. This commission currently functions based also in Order of Minister of Health Nr. 365 of 3.8.2012 "On the approval of the list and use of disinfecting, deratting and disinsecting substances" (DDD).

The **National Centre of Drugs Control** prepares and periodically publishes the register of drugs, which comprises respective prices, names of authorized importers, holders of the trade licenses or manufacturing companies. The Centre deposits the drugs database and updates it through the General Directorate of Customs, and is obliged to immediately notify the pharmaceutical entities and the General Directorate of Customs for any new medicine registered or unregistered that should be imported with the special authorization by Law No. 9323, of 25.11.2004 "On the medicine and pharmaceutical service"

Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (MoETE): Pursuant to the articles 5 and 7 of the Law No. 9108/2003, MoETE has the responsibility for issuing the permits for the activities that produce substances and preparations that possess the properties of class 3 (extremely flammable), 4 (very flammable) and 5 (flammable), evaluation, testing and their administration.

This ministry is the competent authority for the control of fuel quality. The Central Technical Inspectorate (CTI) conducts periodic controls and year-round surveys at all retail dispensers of gasoil, diesel, and liquid propane gas and at all wholesale storage sites for oil and gas products.

MoETE issues permit for civilian use of explosives after the approval of this activity by the Local government, MoH, MoEFWA and other local institutions. MoETE also exercises periodic controls through the security technical inspectors. The Ministry has the legal right to temporarily suspend or prohibit any activity that violates the laws in force. MoETE has the main responsibilities for licensing the manufacturing plants, the technical approval of their projects and the establishments of their management boards with the government participation.

MoETE represents the owner state. All the privatized state assets are managed by this Ministry and in case of granting the concession approved by the Government, this ministry prepares the necessary documentation for privatization. A part of the facilities and assets has passed for the administration to the local government.

National Licensing Center (NLC) as a central public institution under MoETE operates on the basis of an electronic system, which automates the process of licensing and allows tracking of application progress step by step. NLC provides the following services:

- Deals with the licensing procedures, authorizations, permits, amending and revoking in compliance with the Law No.10081, of 23.2.2009, “On licenses, authorizations and permits in the Republic of Albania”,
- Maintains and administers the National Registry of Licenses and Permits,
- Provides easy access of the business and public to information on laws and regulations,
- Governs licenses and permits in Albania, as well as the application process, including criteria, required documents, review process, deadlines of decision-making, fees and charges,
- Informs and advises the applicant and the public for licensing, authorization and permit procedures.

Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) is the leading authority for implementation of the Labour Code. State Labour Inspectorate depending on this ministry and in cooperation with other state inspectorates ensures the enforcement of labour legislation by employers and their insured employees.

MoLSAEO exercises control in workplaces in order to provide and protect employees with the necessary tools for the job without breakdown and accidents and meeting the needs of employees with hygienic sanitary conditions.

MoLSAEO has set a list of difficult or dangerous works as well as the hazardous substances list in DCM No. 100, of 3.2.2008 “On hazardous substances”, in order to protect the health and safety at work. MoLSAEO issues the work permit through the labour inspectorate. A special permit is required by the employer for employees that will work with substances designated as hazardous by this Ministry. Within MoLSAEO functions the Sector on Hazardous Substances and Professional Diseases (3 persons) and the Sector on Monitoring the Work Conditions (3 persons). State Labour Inspectorate in National level (8 persons) coordinate their control inspection with labour inspectors (93) in the local level.

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoAFCP) prepares the policies on plant protection products (PPPs) and fertilizers and drafts rules for registration of PPPs. Institutions that perform certain professional and technical activities during the PPP registration procedure, including toxicological and ecotoxicological research, and physico-chemical analyses of plant protection products include: the Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary Matters (IFSV), the Department of Plant Protection (DPP) of the University of Agriculture, Tirana, the Institute for Public Health (IPH) and MoEFWA.

The import and export of PPP are controlled by this Ministry, through National Food Agency. The ministry has the authority to suspend or prohibit any kind of PPP or fertilizer that does not comply with approved standards.

With regard to PPPs, the Directorate of Animal Health and Plant Protection (DAHPP) in MoAFCP is the competent authority in the Republic of Albania for:

- Drafting PPP policies,
- Registration and monitoring of administrative procedures,
- Inspection activities,
- International collaboration.

The Inspectorate of Plant Protection (phytosanitary inspectorate) at the Regional Directorates of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection are responsible for control and supervision of plant protection related to PPPs. The inspector has the right to confiscate a PPP when:

- Analyses do not match the quality indicators declared for that PPP,
- The PPP is not registered according to the legislation in force.

A laboratory for PPP residue testing was established in 2009 at the Food Safety and Veterinary Institute. It also analyses residues in products of plant or animal origin. The laboratory is being improved with additional technical capacity and upgraded with new equipment.

Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPWT) is responsible for the transport of dangerous goods. It issues permits for vehicles that transport dangerous goods, makes technical control and jointly with the Ministry of Interior accompanies these goods to the final destination within country. The transport of explosive substances is provided with the tools and personnel of the Ministry of Defence.

Ministry of Defence (MoD): Pursuant to the articles 5 and 7 of the Law 9108/2003, MoETE has the responsibility for issuing the permits for the activities that produce substances and preparations that possess the properties of class 1 (explosives), 2 (oxidising) and 3 (extremely flammable). This ministry has no responsibility to the class 1 only for the explosive substances for civil use, which responsibility has passed to MoETE as the main user of these substances. For all the other types of explosives this Ministry has the responsibility of their evaluation, testing, management and control. The Ministry of Defence gives permission and has the main responsibility for the import, export, testing of explosives and transportation of hazardous chemical substances.

State Export Control Authority (SECA) is a central public institution legally holding the status of Legal Person. It is accountable to the Minister of Defence. The object of its activity is the state control upon import, export, transit, transfer and brokering of military and dual-use goods. SECA is the responsible institution for the implementation of the state policies on export and import of military and dual use goods and technologies. Its establishment and activity are legally based on the Law No. 9707, of 5.4.2007, "On state control over the import-export of military and dual use goods and technologies" and on Decision of Council of Ministers No. 43, of 16.1.2008 "On organizing, functioning and the status of SECA"

This institution has these responsibilities:

- Issues licences and authorizations to physical and juridical persons which perform commercial activities concerning import, export, transit, transfer or brokering of military and dual-use goods and technologies, based on the evaluation of the criterions required by law;

- Effectuates all the necessary verifications concerning the documentation presented by the commercial subjects and also performs all needed analytical inquiries concerning the goods object of export. This control includes all the phases of the process, from pre-licensing phase to the post-licensing one and verification of the final user and destination of the goods;
- Applies sanctions to the commercial subjects in cases of legal offense.

Ministry of Interior (MoI) is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the National Plan on Civil Emergencies (CE) and together with the other institutions implements the policy of the Council of Ministers in the areas of planning and CE management. General Directorate of Civil Emergency is a permanent and specialized structure, participating in all the stages of the civil emergency management cycle.

The Civil Emergency Service in Albania operates pursuant to Law No. 8756 of 26.3.2001 "On civil emergencies", the Law No. 8766 of 5.4.2001 "On protection and rescue from fire" and the National Civil Emergency Plan approved by DCM No. 835 of 3.12.2004, as well as bylaws implementing these documents, where there is a section on industrial accidents.

Civil Emergency Service (civil protection) functions are established for as long as the emergency persists. Standing structures are categorized as:

- a. Planning, managing and monitoring structures, including leading structures at the central, regional and local level, as well as monitoring and scientific institutions;
- b. Active response (operational) structures including the State Police and other police forces, Fire Protection and Rescue Police, Health Emergency Services, Armed Forces, Regional Brigades of Civil Protection, as well as other search & rescue structures in the Civil Protection and outside it;
- c. Other logistic support structures, such as General Directorate of State Reserves and various NGOs.

For the health and safety at work and specifically for the fire protection, operates Fire Protection and Rescue Directorate which activity is regulated by the Law No. 8766/2001 "On protection from fire and rescue".

Ministry of Finance (MoF): Customs authority controls state border crossing points and entry of declared hazardous substances or preparations, with approval from the relevant ministry. In cases of doubt or violation of the law, Customs authorities confiscate the goods and notify the Environmental Inspectorate or the State Sanitation Inspectorate about the contravention of the rules. Customs authorities register lots of hazardous substances and preparations that pass through the state border. Customs authorities also allow the staff of the MoEFWA and other inspectorates to review the registers.

4.3 Comments and recommendations

Currently a big number of legal acts and regulations cover all the sectors of economy, which define the obligations and rights of different institutions and their authority for control.

The coordination between institutions for implementation of the legal base is needed in the transition period to the market economy. The adoption of the European legislation, transposing the EU legislation in our national legislation following the ongoing changes and updates to them, for the completion and update of the existing legal framework, requires increasing the state structure role, involvement of nongovernment structures and the workers' unions from the early stages of the law drafting process, in particular when dealing with hazardous chemicals. Currently there is a huge gap and lack of legal rules and non-regulatory mechanisms related to chemicals.

A new law on chemicals is needed, where are to be included all the legal and normative acts on assessments, safety and protection measures for maintaining the workers and citizens healthy, as well as on chemicals disposal.

It is necessary the establishment of the legal base for the management of chemicals, as well as the enforcement of the legislation. The consumer chemicals are recently covered by the new laws "On general safety of non-food products" and "On trade and market surveillance of non-food products", approved in 2011, but yet their control is missing. The establishment recently of the Central Inspectorate is expected to solve problems related to different inspectorates and their respective scope and competencies also regarding chemicals.

According to the existing legislation, MoEFWA should establish the Registration Office of Chemicals, MoETE should establish the service on the control of the chemicals. MoH and the MoLSAEO have special tasks related to the allowed norms and emergencies security measures, training of staff etc.

Despite the achieved progress in the management of chemicals, the main obstacle in completing the necessary legal framework and meeting the requirements for proper management of chemicals is on one hand limited financial support for stabilizing the situation created by the presence of many chemicals stockpiles in privatized companies, not protected according the proper rules and, on the other hand, the low level of awareness of the community and politicians to strengthen the legal basis and measures for the safe storage and protection from chemicals in general and from hazardous ones in particular.

Table 4.B: Priorities and possible actions: ministries, agencies, and other governmental institutions Managing Chemicals

Priority Issues (Ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity	Summary of Capacity, Strengths, Gaps, and Needs	Possible Action	Concerned Actors
Transposing the EU legal base on chemicals sound management	Low	The existing legislation is not updated with the new regulations of EU	Transposing EU regulation into the national legislation	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoPWT, MoETE
Increase the coordination between institutions for implementation and enforcement of chemical legislation	Low	The level of coordination is still low as regards the implementation and enforcement of chemicals legislation	Clearly to be defined the responsibilities of each institution through cooperation during the transposition of EU regulation into the national legislation.	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoPWT, MoETE
Training activities for the business for the safe storage and protection from chemicals in general and in particular from the hazardous ones	Low	There are not developed training activities for the business regarding safety management of chemicals	Technical assistance under twining projects	MoEFWA MoH, MoAFCP, MoPWT, MoETE
Training activities for the inspectors and other control authorities on chemicals	Low	Training activities for chemicals control authorities regarding safe management of chemicals are scarce and not programmed	Technical assistance under twining projects	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoPWT, MoETE

CHAPTER 5: RELEVANT ACTIVITIES OF INDUSTRY, PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS, PROFESSIONAL BODIES AND THE RESEARCH SECTOR

The purpose of this chapter is the description and the review of activities of non-profit organizations (NPO), which support national efforts on chemicals management. In this chapter are described briefly the main nonprofit organisations in our country, the websites as well as their mission related to chemicals, environment etc. Relevant legislation for nonprofit organisation is also provided. Information related with chambers of commerce located in all the main cities of the country as well as their address directory show the support and counseling services they offer to bussines, access information on industry, tourism, agriculture, environment, imports and exports etc. as well as legal aid.

The relevant bodies for consumer protection, institutions and organisations representing consumer's interests, their misson and purpose, the areas which they are involved in as well as their relation with legislation and market-consumer relations and awarness are also described.

An important part of this chapter is the scientific research sector, higher education reforms, the legal and institutional framework of the science system and its institutions: Albanian Science Academy, Ministry of Education and Science, Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation, Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education, accreditation system, higher education institutions (universities), Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration, National research centres, public agencies/centres for technology development and transfer etc.

In the last part of the chapter a summary of expertise outside the governmental system is given.

5.1 Description of nongovernmental organizations/ programmes

5.1.1 Description of the industry organizations and activities

The non-profit organisations (NPOs) of the business express their views on the environmental protection and administration in an institutional way. They participate in the drafting and accomplishment of the programmes of development and environmental protection and administration. The Minister of Environment defines the rules and procedures for the communication between environmental public organisms and professional business organisations.

Konfindustria (Confederation of the Industries of Albania) (<http://www.konfindustria.al/>) is the institution that brings together and represents the interests of the manufacturing and service industries in the country. Members of Konfindustria are the most important representatives of Albanian industries in all the fields, such as the energy, oil exploration, exploitation and processing, mineral and metal extraction and processing, food industry, beverage producing industry, paper industry, kosmetic production, wood processing, tourism, air transport, etc. It was established as a necessity during the period of preparations of Albania for the European Integration and to create the conditions for a national market. Konfindustria comprises the

national manufacturing and service industries; it doesn't comprise the traders of the foreign products.

Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CCI) are situated in all the main cities of Albania. The CCI addresses can be found in the website: http://www.informacioni.com/dhomat_e_tregtise.html.

CCIs offer support and advice for the businesses, access in information on industry, tourism, agriculture, environment, import, export, etc. and opportunities for legal aid. CCIs are close collaborators with the central and local government for matters related to the business community. The chambers cooperate also with other community groups of interests, schools, religious institutions, artistic and cultural organizations and so on, organizing conferences, business forums, fairs, business missions, charity fund raising etc. CCIs are organized in the Union of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry (<http://www.abcinfos.com/uccial/index.html>).

The Confederation of the Trade Unions of Albania (www.kssh.org) (CTUA) is created and functions as a voluntary union of the professional or economic branches trade unions. CTUA is the biggest and the most organized trade union organization in the country.

The Structure Responsible for Consumer Protection (SRCP) (<http://www.konsumatori.org>) includes some directorates in METE and has the responsibility to propose measures to protect the health, safety and economic interests of the consumers, to propose decisions for the immediate removal from the market of hazardous goods, to watch upon and to claim as non valid not fair conditions, and continuous sensitization and notification of the consumers. The institutions and organizations that represent consumers are: The Lawyer of the People, the Office for the Consumer Protection, the Association of the Albanian consumers, etc. The last one is an independent association and has as mission and aim the protection of the rights and interests of the Albanian consumers. The areas in which the association operates are different, such as education and awareness raising in schools through meetings, talks, aiming the knowledge on the laws, on the relationship between the market and the consumer, through disseminating different publications, brochures, and also out of them, through information exchange with governmental institutions, giving opinions on different legal acts, claiming of complains on issues sensitive to collective interests of the consumers related to, between others, food products, potable water, environmental protection, removal of pesticides from different areas, etc.

5.1.2. Non-Profit Organisation (NPOs) in Albania

Legislation on NPOs

The legislation on which is based the activity of NPOs comprises:

- Law No.8788, of 7.5.2001 "On non-profit organisations",
- The Law No. 8789, of 7.5.2001 "On the registration of the non-profit organisations",
- The DCM No.1679, of 24.12.2008 "On the criteria and procedures for defining the status of non-profit organizations for public benefit".
- The Law No. 8652, of 31.7.2000 "On the organisation and functioning of the local government" defines as an obligation of the local government the provision of needed information, what enables the participation of the citizens in decision-making in relation to the functions and powers of the given unit of the local government.

- The Guidance No.1, dated 3.3.2009 “On the tasks of the environmental bodies to ensure the public participation and environmental NPOs in the environmental impact assessment process”

There is a wide-basis national legislation with respect to the stakeholders participation and their role in decision-making in matters related to the chemicals management, such as the “Crosscutting Strategy on the Environment” (approved with DCM No. 87, of 29.11.2007), which creates a vision and sets as a priority the information of the public and the inclusion of the civil society in drafting of the environmental legislation, its implementation and monitoring. Also, in the Law No. 8934 of 5.9.2002 “On the environmental protection” amended in 2008, there are set as indispensable elements the cooperation and common actions between public authorities during the approval of strategies, programmes, plans, etc., as well as during the implementation of policy, control and other environmental measures for the environmental protection. According to this Law, the public and the NPOs are notified for the state of the environment through the publication of data from governmental organisms and from physical and legal persons, as well as asking for data at the governmental bodies. The Minister of Environment defines the rules and procedures for the publication and dissemination of the environmental data from the environmental protection bodies, as well as for the public participation in decision making process of the environmental bodies. The environmental NPOs have the right to oppose and to cooperate with the environmental protection bodies. The Minister of Environment defines the rules and procedures obligatory for the environmental bodies to fulfil the rights of the NPOs, especially a) in drafting the policies, strategies, development plans and programmes on environmental protection; b) in preparing and implementing the management plans for different areas, c) in preparing and implementing monitoring programmes, d) in environmental control e) in the process of environmental impact assessment and approval of environmental permit, e) in the preparation of drafts of environmental normative acts.

The NPOs representatives participate as members in councils and committees created for the environment administration and protection. MoEFWA supports the NPOs projects on environmental protection, according to the rules approved by the Ministerial Council with the proposal of the Minister of Environment. The Minister of Environment defines also the rules and procedures on the communication of the public environmental bodies with the professional business organizations.

DCM No. 994, of 2.7.2008 specifies as a legal requirement taking into account the public opinion in environmental decision making: in the process of preparation of policies, regional and national strategies, generic or sectorial, and of the plans for their implementation related to the environment. This DCM also specifies the steps to be taken in order to ensure the public participation during the preparation of drafts of environmental normative acts. In one special chapter there are given the rules, procedures, forms of their practical realization, the ways of communication and the deadlines to be respected by the governmental bodies in order to take into account the opinion of the public and NPOs.

In the Law No. 10 431, of 9.6.2011 “On environmental protection” it is expressed as an indispensable principle the stakeholder participation in the article “The principle of the right for information and public participation” as well as in the article 14 on the encouragement of the activities for environmental protection, where in point 1.b) is written “... can make agreements

with the polluting subjects and their associations on the voluntary measures that they can undertake in order to reduce further the impact to the environment ...”.

Registration of NPOs

The legal registration of NPOs in Albania is yet difficult, complicated and time consuming, in spite of the efforts for reforming the legislation. In Albania it is applied a registration process with two steps, in central and local level. The first step is the legal registration and the second is the registration for taxes. The majority of the problems appear in the second step of registration. As a result of the difficulties during the registration, lots of NPOs report that they function without officially accomplishing all the stages of the registration, particularly those dealing with the financial authorities. Lawyers would be able to facilitate the procedures, although the majority of NPOs do not consider legal services as necessary.

Data on NPOs and international organizations in Albania

General information on NPOs, on the legislation on which their functioning is based, their activities, etc. can be found in the website of the MoLSAEO:

<http://www.mpcs.gov.al/dpshb/sq/bashkepunetoret/organizatat-jofitimprurese-ojf-te>

General information on the international organizations in can be found in the website of the same ministry:

<http://www.mpcs.gov.al/dpshb/sq/bashkepunetoret/organizatat-nderkombetare-ne-shqiperi>

The list of NPOs registered at the tax authorities can be found in the address:

www.fint.gov.al/doc/Lista%20e%20OJF%20.xls

Some of the main environmental NPOs in Albania are shortly described below:

Regional Environment Center (REC) (<http://al.rec.org/>) The Regional Environment Center for Central and East Europe (REC) is an international organization with the mission of giving support for the solution of environmental problems in Central and East Europe. The fields of activity of REC in Albania cover all the technical support aspects in areas such biodiversity, environmental financing, environmental legislation, environmental management, education means, health and environment, as well as green transport.

“Ekolëvizja Group” (<http://www.ekolevizja.org/>) “Ekolëvizja” is a nationally extended group of several environmental NPOs. The mission of the “Ekolëvizja” group is to unite and reinforce the voice of the civil society for the environment protection and sustainable development, to be a factor in the decision making processes through the reinforcement of the integrity of the network of the environmental associations, improvement of the quality of their activities, enlargement of their participation, and public information and awareness. The programme of this group comprises between others strong opposition to non-environmental policies, strengthening of the civil society awareness, being an active factor in the solution of the environmental problems and sustainable development, participation in composing environmental policies and decision making, advice, training, concrete research and studies, gathering and dissemination of environmental information, Organisation of activities for solution of environmental problems, etc. Some of the organizations that take part in the Ekolëvizja group are Egnatia, Ecological Club Krujë, Ecologic Club Elbasan, Institute of the Environmental Studies, Milieukontakt International Tiranë,

Ekomjedisi Durrës, the Association for the Conservation and Protection of the Natural Environment, Shkodër, etc.

Milieukontakt has been active since 2000. Its goal is “the development of a strong, environmental and democratic movement; of a visible movement in society; capable of raising public awareness and actively involved in decision-making policies and processes in local, national and international levels”. Its strategy can be summarized in three concepts: building capacities, involving citizens and solving environmental problems. It provides training, coaching, support and advice for sustainable organization work, stimulates and supports the involvement and empowerment of citizens and develops processes of participative strategy development and decision making, and connects these activities to solutions for environmental problems. All three elements can be found in the majority of its projects. Milieukontakt has had a successful cooperation with Albanian associations on the national level by working with different work groups (NPO – coaches – counselling programme, Ekolëvizja (Eco-movement) with their newspaper and their undertaken campaigns, annual strategic meeting of associations, environmental education and the planning of natural values-the green agenda).

EDEN Center (www.eden-al.org) aims to contribute to the sustainable development, to a healthy environment through the information and education and offering services to the interested parties and partners. Eden Center promotes the concept of the sustainable development to the governmental institutions and assists the governmental authorities in policy and environmental programmes writing. It also supports local initiatives on environmental education and the reinforcement of the cooperation between environmental NPOs, local structures, business and other key actors. Eden Center develops educational programmes, publishes materials and organizes public activities, which aim the increase of the public awareness in relation to the environment. The organization leads the Center of Environmental Resources and has a group of trainers and programmes for capacity building for public and private interested parties.

5.1.3 The sector of scientific research

The legislation on the higher education and science

- Law No. 9741, dated 21.5.2007 “On the high education in the republic of Albania” (updated),
- Law No.8834, dated 22.11.2001 “On the ratification of the Convention for the recognition of the high education in Europe”(Lisbon, 1997)’
- Law No.9704, dated 2.4.2007 “On the ratification of the agreement between the Ministerial Council of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy for the realization of a service center and of a telematic network for the universities”.

The science system and its institutions

The science system comprises the institutions of higher education, of the scientific research, of the development of knowledge and technology (innovation). As such, it doesn’t only include the public and non-public basic institutions of the higher education, but also ventures acting in the field of research, development and innovation.

The Academy of Sciences of Albania <http://www.akad.edu.al/>

The Academy of Sciences of Albania, established in 1972, is the most important scientific institution in the Republic of Albania. It includes the most distinguished scientists, academics which carry out their activity in research institutes and centers and other scientific bodies in the country and abroad.

The Academy of Sciences has two sections: the Section of the Social and Albanologic Sciences and the Section of the Natural and Technical Sciences. In its structure are comprised also the Unit of the Projects of Technological Research-Development and Innovation, the Branch of the Public and Foreign Relations, the Scientific Library and Publications.

Ministry of Education and Science (MoEC) (www.mash.gov.al) writes strategies and policies for the development of the higher education, for the improvement of the curricula and their quality, based on the actual legislation and standards. In line with the Bologna Process it promotes different research programmes under the umbrella of EU and keeps contacts with the base units covering these programmes in the universities.

The Agency on Research, Technology and Innovation (www.akti.gov.al): The mission of the Agency on Research, Technology and Innovation (ARTI) is to evaluate, finance, monitor and administer programmes and projects in the field of science, technology and innovation in Albania. The Agency aims to finance projects on the Small and medium business and on the transfer, modernisation and renovation of their technologies. The vision of ARTI is to develop the science and technology in accordance with the national priorities, cooperating with all the line institutions and sectors. ARTI contributes in the creation of the proper infrastructure and instruments for the implementation of the research and development in Albania, promoting activities and ventures for the development of the science, technology and innovation and playing the role of the leader in the establishment of the culture of the scientific research.

The Public Agency for Accreditation of Higher Education (PAAHE) is a public institution, part of the Quality Control System of the Higher Education in Albania. PAAHE is responsible for the process of the external evaluation of the programmes and public and private institutions of higher education in Albania before their starting / licencing, as well as of those existing or in process. PAAHE carries out also the process of ranking, systematic and comparative analysis and evaluations of institutions and/or programmes in higher education.

The system of accreditation in Albania is established in 1999. It comprises two institutions: the Agency for Accreditation and the Council of Accreditation. Both these institutions cooperate for the improvement of the quality of the higher education.

The institutions of the higher education (universities) are teaching/ research institutions, which, according to the strategy for higher education (2008) have as scope the higher education, the scientific research, the development and the transfer of the knowledge and technology. The extent and the level of the scientific research in different universities is different. Actually in Albania there are 11 public universities and 17 private universities. The last ones are quite new (the first public university has been opened 7 years ago). Nevertheless, some of them have started to show their potentials also in the field of research.

The lists of the public and private institutions of higher education can be found respectively in the addresses:

<http://www.mash.gov.al/faqe.php?id1=2&id2=98>

<http://www.mash.gov.al/faqe.php?id1=1&id2=7&id3=26>

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA), as institution responsible for environmental protection, has supported and is engaged in scientific research and development in the field of the environment.

This support is prescribed in the Law No. 8934, dated 5.9.2002 “On the environmental protection”, changed, where it is claimed that “The Ministry of Environment supports projects for scientific research for the improvement of the state of the environment, for the inclusion of ecologically clean technologies, for the encouragement of the activities of the environmental non-profit organizations”.

In this context MoEFWA supports each year different scientific institutions with the Environmental Monitoring Programme with an average sum of 200'000 EUR. This programme makes available data on the state and trend of the environmental components and at the same time guarantees the stability of the research institutions through the financial support.

National research centres are research/teaching institutions with mission the scientific research, extended university education in the second and third study cycles, the development and transfer of the knowledge and technology.

In the public schools, with limited capacities for research, it is important to support the establishment of the *regional development centres*, where researchers of different faculties and departments cooperate through projects for important studies for the region. According to the strategy for the higher education, the establishment of these centres should be supported through an initial encouraging starting fund.

The public centers/agencies of the development and technology transfer have as a mission carrying out studies and development projects, as well as knowledge and technology transfer in the practise of manufacturing and service provision.

Centers, agencies institutes and other private enterprises on research, development and knowledge and technology transfer. This element is yet in the first steps of its development in Albania. Nevertheless, the trend is very positive.

ECAT Tirana (www.ecat-tirana.org) works with the central and local government, assisting for the improvement of the work and for service provision and allowing them to be more responsible. ECAT works with policies, with the industry, with the rural and urban communities to develop, integrate and implement policies for a sustainable environmental development. ECAT Tirana supports environmental initiatives in Albania in order to face the challenges of the public participation and the requirements for a higher transparency and a better governance.

The reform of the scientific research system

The Albanian Government undertook in 2006 a deep reform of the system of the scientific research. The Prime Minister nominated an expert group from the academic community, which prepared a platform for the reform of the scientific research system, based on a detailed evaluation of the scientific research system. The recommendations from the experts group were detailed from the Council of the Higher Education and Science, and on this basis the

government took decisions on the reorganizing the network of the institutions of the scientific research. The results of the reform can be summarized as below:

- a) The Academy of Sciences was reorganized according to the model of several European countries. It acts through a community of selected scientists organized in sessions and doesn't administrate research institutes.
- b) Research institutes of the Academy of Sciences were separated from it and were integrated in the system of the higher education. Some institutions are already under the subjection of the line ministries and some other are under the main universities, as below:
 - Three interdisciplinary research centers (the InterUniversity Center of the Albanological Studies, the Research University Center on Energy, Water and Environment at the Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT), the Research University Center of Geosciences at PUT;
 - two new faculties: the Faculty of Information Technology at PUT and the Faculty of Biotechnology and Food at the Agriculture University of Tirana (AUT);
 - Two new centers/ departments in the composition of the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Tirana (UT): the Center of Applied and Nuclear Physics and the Biotechnology Department.
- c) The research institutes of the line ministries were reorganized and on their basis there were established 12 technology transfer centers and agencies depending from the ministries, with dominating mission the transfer of the technology and knowledge, as well as the technical support for the policy-making in the respective areas.

The completion of the structural reform in 2008, integrating the research institutes of the Academy of Sciences and of the ministries into the universities brought the research system of Albania in line with most of the European countries, where the higher education is integrated with the scientific research, what is a basic principle of the modern systems of the science. The implementation of the process of reorganizing of the scientific research system has created only a modern institutional frame, which opens the path for a quick development of the scientific research and for the transfer of technologies and knowledge. Institutions of higher education and the new centers for research and technology and knowledge transfer have started to write development strategies.

On the capacities and the performance of the system Science Technology Innovation

The capacities and the competence to manage fundamental and applied research in Albania are limited and, generally, far from the standards that would make possible the cooperation and the integration in the international and European programmes. The scientific infrastructure is also old and insufficient to support qualitative research. It is needed a sustainable programme for reinvestments, in order to bring the scientific devices and environment in a minimal quality level for teaching purposes in all science areas and to develop new specializations and to reform the existing ones, with the objective towards national and international cooperation.

5.2 Summary of expertise available outside of government

Table 5.A: Summary of expertise available outside of government

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
Data collection	Research institutes gather data on chemicals in frame of projects	Students can gather data (including on chemicals) from relevant ministries, agencies and community as part of their research	Gathers and saves data from all labour aspects	NPOs and the community, Organizations gather different data through programmes such as those related to waste management, environment, food and health	-	-	
Testing of chemicals	In some labs is done with contemporary methods and techniques	Simple tests are carried out in frame of science subjects in school laboratories	Testing of chemicals belongs to routine tests for identification purposes				
Risk assessment	Is made through assessment of the levels of pollutants and exposure	-	-	Environmental impact assessment is made from studios or private institutions with licensed environmental experts or from individual licensed experts			

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
				from MoEFWA			
Risk communication	Publication of assessments and risk assessments, through mass-media, workshops, etc	Increase of the communication and the awareness in university level and at a wider scale, in university websites, etc.	Through publications and writing of brochures or posters, particularly for very hazardous chemicals.	The establishment of the networks for risk communication through writing communication policies and use of mass media.	Labour unions play a very important role in writing policies for risk communication and awareness.	Professional organizations Raise awareness through specific professional information on chemicals risks.	NGOs through publications in their websites, as well as in the online journals or “hard copy” play an important role in risk communication.
Risk reduction	- Through sensibilisation of decision-makers on risk levels	“Safety” procedures and policies and the responsibilities of the universities as education centers ensures risk reduction in chemicals management and activities related with them. The university staff is informed on these issues.	Establishment of safety management system; Preparation of internal emergency plan; Notification of population and training of the population around; Cooperation with the units of local government for coordination of internal and external emergency plans	Cooperation programmes of NPOs with the community and with school pupils, such as environmental awareness and voluntary activities contributing in health and environmental risk reduction; e.g. the reduction of the waste		-	

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
Policy analysis		Lectors, tutors and students of higher classes are often involved in the research policies	Industries participate in the analysis of the policy through executive boards				
Classification and labelling			The applicants for registration of PPPs are obliged to include in the registration dossier all the data about the PPP classification, as well as the label, as risk communication element.			Lobbing and awareness, taking into account European and international developments related to classification and labelling of chemicals it is needed to review the actual legislation, based on Regulation (EC)1272/2008 “On the classification, labelling and packaging of the substances and mixtures”, or on GHS.	
Training and education	Continuous training through national and	Universities in general ensure education and training	The staff may have formal and non-formal at the workplace or can participate in				

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
	international trainings, conferences, seminars	programmes in environmental and engineering sciences on chemicals related topics, such as effects related to air and water pollution, climate changes.	qualification courses from other education institutions.				
Accreditation	Some laboratories are already accredited. Some are in process or aim towards it	Policy to start the accreditation process through application in national projects and cooperation with qualified bodies	Accreditation remains as a requirement to produce and control produced products, in order to improve their quality				
Research on alternatives					As a part of the environmental risk assessment the consultants or expert groups making the assessment can also provide	For programmes of technical assistance are contracted professional bodies, such as environmental experts.	

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
					alternative solutions for minimizing risk and adverse effects in the proposed activities	Groups that make research provide alternative solutions.	
Monitoring	Monitor environmental pollutants in waters, soils, sediments, air		Monitoring in chemicals management is related to the work, e.g. reporting for the daily inspection of storage conditions, transport and distribution of chemicals, treatment, accidents report, etc.				
Health surveillance	Research centers undertake studies on health impacts of environmental pollutants, based on respective indicators		Monitoring of workers health, particularly when dealing with hazardous chemicals. Keeping health registers and consultations with specialists	List of hazardous substances, that constitute hazard for human health and environment			
Environmental surveillance	Monitoring for areas they cover	Prepare projects on monitoring, make monitoring activities,	Monitoring every three months on industrial discharges in laboratories approved by MoEFWA. Write			Propose methods for monitoring and risk assessment	Civil society raises awareness on environmental monitoring

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
		prepare texts with monitoring informations and reports.	monitoring reports, which are sent to Regional Environmental Centers.				
Enforcement			Legal obligations of legal or physic persons in defining the properties and classification of the substances and chemical preparations on registration, inventory, notification, etc.				
Information to workers			The workers are informed on the working conditions and for the safe use of the devices, for treatments with chemicals they use through orientation and access programmes and relevant work manuals				
Information to specific professional groups	In cooperation with industry make promotion on workers health protection from	Apply as partners in specific and professional groups in chemicals management				Realize professional qualification under supervision of qualified staff	

Field of expertise	Research institutes	Universities	Industry	Environmental/ Consumer Groups	Labour Unions	Professional organizations	Other
	chemicals at working place						
Information to public	Through private or public media give information for the public				The information is offered to the public through media, internet, organization of national information days, etc.		

5.3. Assessment

Till now the governmental policies have been relatively favourable for receiving information from the national NPOs; they are more favourable to use the expertise and experience of the international NPOs.

NPOs have often been lobbying at different decision making bodies, particularly regarding the environmental legislation and recently, also regarding chemicals, especially the hazardous ones. The role of the NPOs in public awareness is big. Through publications, journals, posters, awareness raising campaigns, TV shows they inform the public on potential risks and also take active stand in TV debates, national and international conferences and at universities. The active involvement of NGOs in public debates organized for the introduction of different projects and their environmental impact has had a positive influence in improving the quality of implementation of these projects through the objections, comments and suggestions from NGOs, impacting also awareness rising of governing authorities for the importance of environmental protection and for the serious assessment of the activities with environmental impact.

The voluntary initiatives of the industry do not seem to play a significant role in the activities of chemicals management in Albania. The self-monitoring of the pollutants discharges is an obligatory activity and has been put on efficiency especially in cases of industries which emit pollution.

Nevertheless, it is worth mentioning public-private cooperative initiatives in the area of training public and private bodies/agencies with regard to the usage of biocides for the control of disease transmitting vectors and pests in food industry. As an example of such initiatives can be mentioned trainings organized in the last 2 years from IPH and MoH in cooperation with companies which produce and/or trade biocide products, like the Italian companies Colkim, Quark and Pelgar International with headquarters in London. In these trainings participated epidemiologists and hygienic-sanitary inspectors of DPH-s, municipalities, National Food Authority, and users of biocides in the country.

The cooperation between the governmental bodies and non-governmental sector on environmental issues has generally consisted in consultations with the interested parties during the process of review of legislation, strategies, national plans and reports of environmental impact assessment. The project "Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania" has induced an increase of the involvement of the non-governmental stakeholders, like NPOs, IGOs and industry. In national level it is important to mention the regional assistance given from international bodies for the scientific research institutions. Here in can be mentioned the project "Support for the reinforcement and strengthening of the Institute of Training and Curricula (Ministry of Education and Science) on the inclusion of the extra-curricular subject of the environmental education "Green Package" for the classes 5-9 of the basic education (REC with the financing of the Government of Netherlands). The value of this support was about 470'000 EUR.

As result of the contributions given by the scientific research institutions in the field of environment, of the support of foreign donators, international organizations and non-governmental environmental organizations, the data and other products have been reflected as basis of data for several policy documents and national strategies in the field of environment, in writing different environmental plans and programmes, in monitoring projects on the state of the environment, etc.

Strengthening the role of NPO-s particularly related to consumer protection is needed and should be achieved through cooperation with governmental bodies on the central and local level. Strengthening their capacities, financial management, institutional development, partnership in different projects with the local government and the private sector, public communication are still problematic areas which require development and assessment.

Table 5.B: Priorities and possible actions: Relevant activities of industry, public interest groups, professional bodies and the research sector.

Priority issues (ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity (low, medium, high)	Summary of capacity; Strengths, Gaps and needs	Possible Action	Concerned Actors
Awareness on the use of hazardous chemicals	Low		Awareness campaign, application in projects	NPOs, Universities, Industry
Awareness on pesticides and their use	Medium	Legislation on pesticides is good; Need for knowledge on risk reduction in application level	Awareness campaign, application in projects	NPOs, Universities
Awareness on the disposal of hazardous chemicals	Low		Awareness campaign, application in projects	NPOs, Universities, Industry
Awareness on expired chemicals	Medium		Awareness campaign, application in projects	NPOs, Universities
Awareness on consumption chemicals: detergents, household and professional cleaning products, biocides, etc.	Medium	Completion of legislation on phosphorus content in detergents, MSDS for raw materials, etc.	Awareness campaigns with posters on protective measures, TV spots, publications on replacement alternatives or minimisation of use	NGOs, IPH, Universities, business, etc.

CHAPTER 6: INTERMINISTERIAL COMMISSIONS AND COORDINATING MECHANISMS

Chapter 6 describes the mechanisms which facilitate co-ordination and co-operation among ministries, agencies and other relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies in particular areas of chemicals management.

The relevant mechanism for obtaining input from non-governmental bodies in decision-making is established through the implementation of Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 994, of 2.7.2008 “On involvement of the public in decision making”. A draft guideline “On public participation in decision making for environmental issues in compliance with Aarhus Convention principles” is prepared.

Existing mechanisms work separated according to their scopes and specifics. They do not cover all important aspects of the chemicals, which need a very good interministerial cooperation and coordination. It is very much needed the establishment of an interministerial committee for chemicals management.

6.1 Overview of inter-ministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms

The table 6-A describes the mechanisms which facilitate co-ordination and co-operation among ministries, agencies and other relevant governmental and non-governmental bodies in particular areas of chemicals management. In the last column is evaluated the effectiveness of the relevant Commission or Committees. “High” evaluation means that these bodies are established under relevant regulations, and undertake regular updates on the functioning. “Low” evaluations means that the body is foreseen to be set up according to the legislation, but there are no rules on its functioning; such bodies are not functioning at all.

Table 6-A. Overview of interministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms

Name of mechanism	Responsibilities	Secretariat	Members	Legislation	Info in section 6.2 (yes/no)	Effectiveness
State Commission for the Registration of PPPs (Plant Protection Products)	MoAFCP	MoAFCP	MoAFCP MoEFWA MoH MoLSAEO Institute of Public Health, Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary; Agricultural University of Tirana	- Point 2/II of DMC No. 1555, of 12.11.2008 “On the approval of registration rules and criteria for evaluation of PPPs”; - Order of the Minister of Agriculture No. 51, of 13.2.2009 “On the functioning of the State Commission for the Registration of PPPs”	Yes	High

Name of mechanism	Responsibilities	Secretariat	Members	Legislation	Info in section 6.2 (yes/no)	Effectiveness
Inter-ministerial Committee for Civil Emergencies	MoI and line ministries	MoI	Deputy Prime - Minister and ministers of line ministries	Articles 6 and 7 of Law No. 8756 of 26.3.2001 "On civil emergencies"	Yes	Medium
Technical Advisory Commission for Civil Emergencies	MoI and line ministries	MoI	Line ministries and their respective dependency institutions ⁶ , NCBD, IEWE, ISS, AGS, NANR, IPH, CRS, IFSV, CNP, ATD, MGI, IGS, AEF	DMC No. 663, of 18.12.2002 "On the composition, functioning and responsibilities of the Technical Advisory Committee on Civil Emergencies"	Yes	Medium
Committee for Waste Management	MoEFWA MoPWT	MoEFWA	-Minister of MoEFWA; -Deputy Minister (DM) of MoPWT; - DM of Finance; - DM of Interior; - DM of Justice - DM of Health; - DM of Tourism, Culture, Youth and Sports; - DM of METE; - DM of Defence; - DM of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection; -DM of Education	Article 23 of Law No. 9010, of 13.2.2003 "On the environmental administration of solid waste"	Yes	Low
Commission for the Protection from Radiations	MoH	MoH	MoH, MoEFWA, University of Tirana, National Agency of Natural Resources.	DMC No.510, of 13.5.2009, "On the establishment, composition, organization, functioning and remuneration of the		High

⁶ For explanation of acronyms see point 6.2.3 and Acronyms

Name of mechanism	Responsibilities	Secretariat	Members	Legislation	Info in section 6.2 (yes/no)	Effectiveness
				Commission for Protection from Radiations”		
COMAH (Control of major accident hazards) Competent Authority	MoEFWA MoLSAEO	MoEFWA, MoLSAEO	MoEFWA, MoLSAEO, AEF, Environmental Inspectorate, Labour Inspectorate, Authorities for civil protection of local government	Draft Law on Control of Major Accidents Hazards	-	Low
Governmental Commission for Water Related Issues with Neighbouring Countries	MoEFWA	MoEFWA and line ministries		DMC No.124 of 2.3.2006 "On the establishment of the Governmental Commission on Water Problems with Neighbour Countries”	Yes	High
Commission for permitting, for disposal and storage of hazardous chemicals	MoETE	MoETE	MoETE, MoH, MoI and MoEFWA.	According to point 7.10 of DMC 824/03, the disposal and storage of chemicals hazardous for health and environment is subject of procedure of permission and registration. Applications for permission are addressed to MoETE, and for registration to MoEFWA. Near MoETE is established the commission with representatives from line ministries. The procedure for obtaining permission and the regulation for the functioning of the Commission are approved by the office-holders of responsible Ministries.	No	Low

Name of mechanism	Responsibilities	Secretariat	Members	Legislation	Info in section 6.2 (yes/no)	Effectiveness
Commission for the Authorization of DDD products	MoH	MoH	Director of Public Health in MoH; Specialists of the Sector Hygiene-Epidemiology, MoH; Legal expert, MoH; Specialists of IPH	Order of Minister of Health No. 5, dated 4.1.2011 "On authorization for import of DDD products"	No	High

6.2 Description of interministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms

6.2.1 State Commission for Registration of Plant Protection Products (PPPs)

The Commission for Registration of PPPs, created near the Sector for Plant Protection in MoAFCP consists of seven members. Its composition is defined by DCM No. 1555, of 12.11.2008 "On the approval of rules for registration and criteria for evaluation of PPPs", as follows:

- One representative from the service of plant protection in MoAFCP;
- One representative (hygienist doctor) from MoH;
- One representative (environmental expert) from MoEFWA;
- One representative (expert of occupational health) from MoLSAEO;
- One analytical chemist from IPH;
- One specialist from IFSV;
- One lecturer of plant protection, from Agricultural University of Tirana.

The list of names of the members of the Commission is approved with order of Minister of Agriculture, after the proposals from the respective institutions.

The Commission acts as advisory body in the procedure of registration of PPPs. The functioning of this Commission is regulated through the regulation, which is approved with the Order of Minister of Agriculture No. 51, of 13.2.2009 "On the functioning of the State Commission for Registration of PPPs". The members of the Commission should not have conflict of interest in the area of PPPs. They should declare the relationships, if any, to the subjects importing or trading PPPs. There are regular updates in the functioning of this Commission. Any changes in the members of the Commission are updated based in the minister's order.

6.2.2. Interministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies

In any case of a national civil emergency, according to Law No. 8756 of 26.3.2001 it is created the Interministerial Committee of Civil Emergencies near the Ministerial Council. The Ministerial Council defines the head of this Committee and its composition. The

Committee remains in place until the solution of the causes of the emergency. It can ask specialists for advice on emergencies. The Committee has these duties:

- Coordinates the actions of the civil emergencies services forces;
- Coordinates the management of the state reserves and defines the way of their use;
- Defines the ways and procedures for the use of material and financial resources in emergency cases;
- Discusses and preliminarily decides for the assessment of the damages caused by natural or other disasters;
- Assesses the reconstruction and the rehabilitation from natural or other disasters with the purpose of protecting the human life and health of livestock, property, cultural heritage and environment, preventing potential damage in the future and securing the basic life conditions;
- In cases of a national civil emergency appoints the leader of the operation for its management;
- Carries out other duties prescribed in the law and special duties, defined by the Ministerial Council for facing of the civil emergency.

6.2.3 Technical Advisory Commission on Civil Emergencies

The Technical Advisory Commission on Civil Emergencies is established near the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies of MoI, with specialists from ministries, institutions, different entities and operational forces. Line ministries are responsible for planning and facing civil emergencies for activities under their responsibility, compile plans, programmes, develop projects on civil protection according to type of activity.

For the development of policies and programmes in the area of civil protection, the line ministries have structures of research, monitoring and operational nature. Here can be mentioned the National Committee for Big Dams (NCBD), Institute for Energy, Water and Environment (IEWE), Institute for Soil Studies (ISS), Albanian Geological Service (AGS), National Agency of Natural Resources (NANR), Institute of Public Health (IPH), Centre for Radiologic Studies (CRS), Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV), Centre for Nuclear Physics (CNP), Agency for Tourism Development (ATD), Military Geographic Institute (MGI), Institute of GeoSciences (IGS), Agency of Environment and Forestry (AEF) and the dependency structures in regional and local level.

6.2.4 Inter-ministerial Committee of Waste Management

The Inter-ministerial Committee of Waste Management is not established yet. Based on the relevant legal provisions, this Committee analyzes and proposes legal and administrative measures for waste administration, based on four policy pillars: Planning, Education, Resources and Legislation. The Committee assures within each ministry a common and unified policy for the administration of the waste and of the environment. It guarantees an inter-ministerial consultation of the communication networks within the Government, which deals with the administration of the waste and of the environment in a high policy level, assuring that these issues are taken into consideration in all ministries.

When there is a cost of waste management which is related to the fulfilment of environmental standards, MoEFWA assures that the affected ministry calculates and reports preliminarily to the Committee.

When the Committee deems reasonable, it can ask experts and representatives of civil society and representatives of interest groups for discussion of specific issues related to waste.

The Minister of Environment is in charge for organizing the meetings of the Committee.

6.2.5 Commission of Protection from Radiations

Commission of Protection from Radiations (CPR) is an interministerial commission depending from MoH and is headed by the Minister of Health. The executive authority of the Commission is the Office of Protection from Radiation. It is its responsibility to prepare and update the inventory of sources of waste or of usable sources of radiation in Albania. The Centre of Nuclear Physics is the only centre dealing with radioactive waste. CPR has this composition:

- One representative from IPH;
- The director of the Legal Directorate in MoH;
- One representative from MoEFWA;
- One expert of ionizing radiations;
- Two representatives from the University of Tirana, experts of protection from radiation;
- One representative from National Agency for Natural Resources.

The chair of the Office for Protection from Radiations is secretary of the CPR, expert of ionizing radiations.

CPR in national regulatory authority, which surveys and assures the implementation of the Law No. 8025, dated 9.11.1995 "On the protection from ionizing radiations", changed, and of other primary and secondary legal acts in the field of ionizing radiation. The Commission is gathered every two months with the call of the chair and the meetings are convened with not less than 2/3 of the members. The mandate of the members is 4 years.

6.2.6 The Competent Authority of COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards)

Competent authorities described in the draft-Law "On the control of major accidents hazards", which fully transposes the Directive SEVESO II (COMAH) are:

- The Ministry responsible for Labour, health and safety at work;
- The Ministry responsible for civil emergencies (Department of Planning and Facing Civil Emergencies);
- The Ministry responsible for health;
- The Ministry responsible for environment,

Acting within their respective competencies, they are jointly named "Competent Authority" and will be responsible for the implementation of the Law.

The National Inspectorate of Environment, the State Labour Inspectorate and the State Sanitary Inspectorate, acting within their respective competences, are responsible for the inspections and assuring the implementation of the respective Law and are named jointly "Inspection Authority".

For the implementation of the draft-Law "On the control of major accidents hazards", it is prepared the draft Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between MoLSAEO and MoEFWA.

Both ministries have respective responsibilities for the protection of humans and environment.

As MoLSAEO has the primary expertise for workers health and safety matters and the National Environmental Agency (NEA)⁷ has primary expertise for environmental matters, the Law and derived decisions will be applied from both actors acting jointly and individually as Competent Authority. The separation of the functions needed for the implementation of this Law between MoLSAEO and NEA is the scope of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoA). A common Steering Group will be established to assure that MoA is implemented and reviewed every three years.

To ensure the implementation of this draft-Law, there are prepared also the derived draft-acts:

- Draft-Decision on criteria that will be used for limiting the information to be used in Safety report,
- Draft Decision on the notification of major industrial accidents,
- Draft Decision on safety reports and emergency planning.

The Competent Authority of COMAH is not functional yet. The draft law is foreseen to be approved by the end of 2012.

6.2.7 Governmental Commission for Water Related Issues with Neighbouring Countries

The deputy Minister of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration chairs the Commission for the Water Related Issues with Neighbouring Countries.

The Commission is composed by nine representatives from MoI, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, MoF, MoETE, MoPWTT, MoAFCP, MoEFWA, Academy of Sciences, and Technical Secretariat of National Water Council.

6.2.8 Committee for the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005)

It is recently established a task force/committee for the implementation of the International Health Regulations (2005), with representatives from all relevant ministries and sectors in the country, which is connected to the National Contact Point at IPH. This committee will plan, survey and monitor the implementation of IHR (2005). Fulfilling the basic requirements for capacities for IHR (2005) will contribute also in fulfilling some of the requirements for entering in EU.

6.3 Description of the mechanisms for obtaining input from NGOs

The relevant mechanism for obtaining input from non-governmental bodies into government review and decision-making procedures is established through the implementation of Decision of the Government No. 994, of 2.7.2008 “On involvement of the public in decision making”. A draft guideline “On public participation in decision

⁷ National Environmental Agency, according to the new legislation. Currently it is still named Agency of Environment and Forestry.

making for environmental issues in compliance with Aarhus Convention principles” is prepared. In addition, through the participation in different projects of MoEFWA or international bodies, NGOs publish the results of their work in written media through brochures, publications, TV, websites, available for the public and interested parties.

6.4 Assessment

Existing mechanisms work separated according to their scopes and specifics. Successful management of chemicals in national level is complicated by the fact that ministries participate in control of chemicals in different life-cycle phases and by the fact that there is to some extent overlapping of the responsibilities for a given problem. For these reasons, it is needed the establishment of a coordinating institution for chemicals management between all relevant ministries, such as a National Inter-sectorial Committee on Chemicals Management (NICCM).

The Office for Chemicals Management and Registration, which establishment is required by the Law No. 9108, dated 17.7.2003 "On chemical substances and preparations" is also very much needed. The establishment of this office is foreseen in the National Plan for the Implementation of SAA 2012-2015, for year 2015. This office will serve also as the Secretariat of the National Inter-sectorial Committee on Chemicals Management (NICCM).

The existing institutions and organisms not always function properly for many reasons:

- The responsibilities and the rights of different actors are not always clear and defined with normative legal acts;
- Line ministries that manage these mechanisms do not have the necessary budget to follow the problem solving in continuity;
- Directorates and specialists follow the chemicals issues between other matters they cover in multidisciplinary sectors;
- There are lacks in communication (data online, phone, fax).

The above-mentioned problems are related to financial shortcomings, which do not allow having a more complete and competent team to follow the problems, particularly in line ministries, which already have a significant reduction of the administrative staff.

In most cases, the governmental bodies and agencies participate in problem solving with their concrete means, based on ad hoc working groups, without having the possibility to go to the depth of problems, due to lack of staff, lack of bylaws, and in many cases, by the lack of participation, due to changes in staffs, in important meetings, where they could contribute by representing the mechanism they cover. To make possible the fulfilment of the tasks of governmental bodies, with the request or need to resolve specific cases, it is made possible depending on the case bringing additional mechanisms from outside the government, such as the contribution of national and international experts for problems related to the disposal of chemicals wastes, etc.

Table 6.B: Priorities and Possible Actions: Inter-ministerial commissions and coordinating mechanisms

Priority Issues (Ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity	Summary of capacity strengths, gaps, and needs	Possible action	Concerned actors
Establishment of an inter-ministerial committee for the chemicals management	Low		Preparation of the draft regulation on establishing interministerial committee for the chemicals management	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoETE, MoLSAEO
Increase the capacities of the chemical sector's staff in the MoEFWA	Medium	Increase number of staff; Training the staff	It is foreseen in the NPISAA the establishment of the chemical bureau	MoEFWA
Establishing and functioning of the Competent Authority of COMAH	Low	Lack of legal bases	Adoption of the draft law	MoEFWA, MoH, MoLSAEO
Establishing the Interministerial Committee of Waste Management	Low		Preparation of the decision on establishing the Interministerial Committee of Waste Management	MoEFWA, MoH, MPWT, MoF

CHAPTER 7: INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, ACCESS AND USE

The purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the availability of data in country and their use for risk reduction in local and national level. It is described the national legal basis related to the collection and dissemination of information related to chemicals management, where responsible institutions and their obligations with this respect are defined. The procedures for information collection and dissemination on chemicals management are described. Identified existing information sources on chemicals, national systems of data exchange, information technology (IT) capacities, as well as international information sites and links are also given.

There are pointed out shortcomings related to lack of adequate literature, basic information and its dissemination, which are related to the weak information system in the country, as well as with the lack of ad information exchange centre on chemicals management, for the collection and dissemination of information from central to local level.

7.1 Overall availability of data for national chemicals management

The legal basis on chemicals management includes also the aspect of data management. In DMC No.100, of 3.2.2008 “On the definition of hazardous chemicals” are specified the responsible institutions, such as MoLSAEO, MoETE, MoPWT, MoEFWA, MoH, MoES, MoD, MoI, MoAFCP and inspectorates depending from them, as well as their obligations on the import and export of chemicals. According to this decision there is made the exchange of the scientific, technical, economic, as well as toxicological and ecotoxicological information related to chemicals. The provision of information for the public and other interested parties is made through the secretary of the responsible institutions.

Based on Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 “On chemical substances and preparations” there are defined the rights and obligations of legal and physical bodies in determining the properties and classification of chemical substances and preparations for their registration, inventory, notification, management and trade.

The criteria on classification, labelling, packaging and storage of hazardous substances and preparations are defined in DMC No. 824, of 11.12.2003 “On the classification, packaging, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations”. The improvement of the safety and health at work through the prevention of occupational hazards, elimination or mitigation of risk factors and accidents, information, counselling, participation of employees and their representatives is made according to the Law No.10237, of 18.2.2010 “On safety and health at work”.

Table 7.A gives general data on the existence of information on chemicals in the responsible institutions. These data are available for responsible institutions dealing with chemicals management.

7.2 Sources of national data, their access and format

Table 7.B presents existing sources of national data related to chemicals management, belonging mostly to the relevant ministries, Institute of Statistics and General Directorate of Customs, as well as potential sources of data (based on the legislation obligations). In some cases, the information is scarce or lacks, due to lack of personnel, capacities and

infrastructure, such as the lack of a database and of a centre for information exchange, etc. In frame of the project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” it is established the website www.chemicals.al as a tool for information exchange on chemicals management.

Table 7.A: Availability of information

Data needed for/to:	Pesticides (agricultural, public health, and consumer use)	Industrial chemicals	Consumer chemicals	Chemical waste
Priority setting	MoAFCP, MoEFWA	MoETE	MoETE	MoETE
Assess chemicals impact under local conditions	MoAFCP, MoEFWA, MoH	MoEFWA, MoH	MoEFWA, MoH	MoETE
Risk Assessment (environment/health)	MoEFWA, MoH, AEF	MoEFWA, AEF	MoEFWA, MoH	MoEFWA, MoH
Classification/ Labelling	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoETE	MoETE	MoETE
Registration	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoETE	MoETE	MoETE
Licensing	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoETE, NLC	MoETE, NLC	MoETE
Permitting	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoEFWA, MoETE	MoEFWA, MoETE	MoEFWA, MoETE
Risk reduction decisions	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoETE	MoETE	MoETE
Accident preparedness/ response	MoEFWA, MoI, MoH	MoEFWA, MoI, MoETE	MoEFWA, MoI, MoETE	MoEFWA, MoETE, MoI
Poisoning control	MoAFCP, MoH, Centre of Clinical Toxicology, Hospital Centre of Tirana	MoH, Centre of Clinical Toxicology, Hospital Centre of Tirana	MoH, Centre of Clinical Toxicology, Hospital Centre of Tirana	MoH, Centre of Clinical Toxicology, Hospital Centre of Tirana
Emissions inventories	MoEFWA	MoEFWA, MoETE, MoPWT	MoEFWA, MoETE	MoEFWA, MoETE
Inspections & Audits (environment/ health)	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH	MoEFWA, MoH, MoLSAEO	MoEFWA, MoH	MoEFWA, MoH
Information to public	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH, Ministerial Council	MoEFWA	MoEFWA	MoEFWA
Information to the workers	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH, MoLSAEO, State Labour Inspectorate	State Labour Inspectorate		MoEFWA

Table 7.B: Sources of national data, their access and format

Type of data	Location (s)	Data source	Who has access	How to gain access	Format
Production statistics	INSTAT, MoETE, NCDC, MoH, INSTAT	MoETE, INSTAT	Public	With request from interested parties www.qkqb.gov.al	Website Excel
Import/Export statistics	INSTAT, MoETE, Customs, NCDC, MoH	INSTAT, MoETE, Customs	Public	http://www.dogana.gov.al/	Website Excel
Chemical use statistics	MoETE, MoAFCP, MoD	INSTAT, MoETE, MoD, MoAFCP	Public	With request from interested parties	
Industrial Accident Reports	MoEFWA, Inspectorate of Occupational Health	MoETE, MoLSAEO, Inspectorate of Occupational Health	Public	The operator notifies the public	Currently the notification is made by MoI and Media. According to the project-decision "On the format of the notifications obliged by Law "On Control of risks from major industrial accidents caused by hazardous chemicals" it is defined the format of the notification.
Transport accident reports	MoPWT	MoPWT, INSTAT	Public	With request from interested parties	
Occupational health data (industry)	MoH, MoLSAEO, Inspectorate of Occupational Health	State Sanitary Inspectorate; Inspectorate of Occupational Health ; IPH	Public	With request from interested parties	
Occupational health data (agricultural)	MoLSAEO, MoH, Inspectorate of Occupational Health, MoETE, MoAFCP	State Sanitary Inspectorate Inspectorate of Occupational Health, IPH	Public	With request from interested parties	
Poisoning Statistics	MoH, Clinical	MoH, Clinical	Public	With request from interested parties	-

Type of data	Location (s)	Data source	Who has access	How to gain access	Format
	Toxicology Service Hospital University Centre, Tirana	Toxicology Service Hospital University Centre, Tirana			
Pollutant Release and Transfer Register	MoEFWA	Environmental Inspectorate	Public	With request from interested parties	
Hazardous waste data	MoEFWA AEF (Agency of Environment and Forestry), MoETE	Industrial operators, MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoETE	Public	With request from interested parties	
Register of Pesticides	MoAFCP	MoAFCP	Public	With request from interested parties	
Register of Toxic Chemicals	MoH	MoH	Public	With request from interested parties	
Inventory of Existing Chemicals	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoETE, NCDC	MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoETE, NCDC	Public Partial	With request from interested parties www.qkbb.gov.al	Website
Register of Imports	Customs	Customs	Ministries experts	http://www.dogana.gov.al/	Website
Register of Producers	MoETE, MoAFCP	MoETE	Ministries experts	www.mete.gov.al/ www.MoAFCP.gov.al/	Website
Prior Informed Consent Decisions	MoEFWA	MoEFWA	Ministries experts	-	-

7.3. Procedures for collecting and disseminating national or local data

Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 “On Chemical substances and preparations” and Law No. 9362, of 24.3.2005 “On the plant protection service”, changed with Law. No. 9908, of 24.4.2008 “On some changes and additions in the Law No. 9362” prescribe the development of the procedures for collecting data and risk assessment for chemicals and pesticides in different phases of their life-cycle (import, trade, control, registration, etc.).

The producers and traders are obliged to register the substances to be put into market according to the sort, quantity, properties of the substance and preparation. The registration is to be made separately for every business. The way and details of the registration and the notification are defined by the chemicals registration office. The chemicals registration office, based on the data from the ministries in charge by the law, has to register the applications for the import and export of the defined hazardous substances and preparations,

the approvals given, and notifies MoEFWA for the international data exchange for these substances. **Actually, this office has not been established yet.**

The legal or physical persons authorized to carry out trade activity are obliged to notify the regional environmental agency to register the entries and the maximal quantity stored of substances classified as toxic. Regional environmental agency, together with the local unit of health protection defines 24 hours before the starting of the notified activity, special conditions for the activity.

The import and export of the hazardous substances and preparations are done only with the permission of the relevant minister. The producers and importers of the hazardous substances or preparations containing hazardous substances, in quantities larger than 10 tons/year are obliged to notify in written the relevant ministry once a year on the kind of hazardous substance, which produce or import, on its properties and quantity.

In the DMC No.1555, of 12.11.2008 “On the definition of the rules for the registration and the criteria for the assessment of plant protection products PPPs” there are defined the procedures and requirements for the registration of the PPPs in their commercial form, to be imported and used in the country.

Actually, there is no official register for the PPPs on the market. The list of PPPs registered to be imported and used in Albania is published periodically each time it undergoes changes. The list is sent officially for execution to all PPP importing and trading subjects, as well as to the Phyto-sanitary Inspectorate in the districts.

The storage and depositing of the hazardous chemicals is subject to the procedure of licence and registration. Applications for the license are addressed to MoETE and the registration applications for the chemicals are addressed to MoEFWA. In MoETE there is established the commission for licensing for the disposal and storage of the hazardous chemicals with representatives from MoETE, MoH, MoI and MoEFWA. The procedure for licensing and the regulation of functioning of the commission are approved by the office-holder of the respective ministry.

A body that deposits and stores hazardous chemicals must have a technical administrator, who knows the regulation for the treatment and administration of chemicals and the measures for accident prevention. The chemical substances and preparations stored in storage-house are subject to continuous control. The control includes periodical control of depots and other storage places, the check of the packages and laboratory analyses.

The list of hazardous materials and wastes, of other waste for which the import is prohibited is approved by the Council of Ministers with proposal of the Minister of Environment. The import of any kind of waste with the purpose of use, handling and recycling is made with the decision of the Ministerial Council according to the rules, procedures, quantities and terms approved from it with the proposal of the Minister of Environment.

The prevention of the industrial accidents is based on the establishment of the systems of accidents prevention and control. The identification of the activities which use hazardous substances, the criteria of the establishment of the systems for accidents prevention and control, the measures to be taken, the obligations of the physical and legal persons, the control bodies and their responsibilities are regulated with decision of Ministerial Council with the joint proposal of the Minister of Environment, Minister of Labour, Minister of Health and Minister of Interior.

The control for the state of environment is obligation of the Inspectorate of Environment from Ministry of Environment and regional environmental agencies. Controls on state of the environment are made also from the Forest Police, Construction Police, State Sanitary Inspectorate, Inspectorate of Plant Protection, Fishing Inspectorate, Hydrocarbon Inspectorate, Zoo-veterinarian Inspectorate, inspectorate and control bodies of the local government.

7.4 Availability of international literature and databases

The last decade has signed a revolution regarding the networking in public institutions, research institutes and practically every office in Tirana has nowadays access to information available through internet. The situation is more problematic in districts, where not every office has access in internet.

Table 7.C Availability of international literature

Literature	Location (s)	Who has access and in what form?	How to gain access
SAICM Information Clearinghouse	http://www.saicm.org	All parties interested in chemicals management	Website
Environmental Health Criteria Documents (EHC-WHO)	http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/ehc/en/index.html	Researchers, specialists of environment, specialists of food safety, specialists of health and safety at work	Website
Health and Safety Guides (IPCS-International Programme for Chemicals Safety)	http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/hsg/en/index.html	Labour inspectors, sanitary inspectors; Health and safety specialists in industry	Website
International Chemicals Safety Cards (IPCS)	http://www.inchem.org/pages/icsc.html	Labour inspectors, sanitary inspectors; Health and safety specialists in industry	Website
Decision Guidance Documents for Prior Informed Consent Chemicals	http://www.pic.int/TheConvention/Chemicals/DecisionGuidanceDocuments/tabid/2413/language/en-US/Default.aspx	Experts of MoEFWA	Website
FAO/WHO Pesticides Safety Data Sheets	http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/pds/en/index.html	Members of the State Commission for PPPs	Website

Literature	Location (s)	Who has access and in what form?	How to gain access
		Registration, health and safety at work staffs, Traders and handlers of PPPs and biocides, Experts for PPPs, universities	
Documents from the FAO/WHO Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues	http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jmpr/en/	Food inspectors, National Agency for Food, specialists of food safety	Website
Documents from FAO/WHO Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives	http://www.who.int/ipcs/publications/jecfa/en/index.html	Food inspectors, National Agency for Food, specialists of food safety	Website
Globally harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)		Experts of ministries, applicants for chemicals registration, industry	
Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) (Industry)	http://www.msds.com/index.asp http://www.permabond.com/	Experts, industry workers	Website
OECD Guidelines for the Testing of Chemicals	http://www.oecd.org/document/40/0,3343,en_2649_34377_37051368_1_1_1_1,00.html	Experts on health effects issues of chemicals	Website
Good Laboratory Practice Principles (OECD)	http://www.oecd.org/document/63/0,3343,en_2649_34381_2346175_1_1_1_1,00.html	Laboratories	Website
Good Manufacturing Practice Principles (WHO)	http://www.who.int/medicines/areas/quality_safety/quality_assurance/production/en/index.html	Pharmaceutical producers, NCDC	Website

International organizations, such as UNDP, UNEP, ILO, WHO, UNITAR, FAO etc. play a major role in informing on chemicals management. Their publications can be found in internet, about also as hard copies such books, brochures, Journals, etc.

In frame of the project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” it is under preparation a database on biocides, which will have the capacity to be further enriched with other classes of chemicals.

Table 7.D Availability of international databases

Database	Location (s)	Who Has Access?	How to Gain Access
ILO CIS	http://www.ilocis.org/	Health and safety at work specialists, labour inspectors	Website
IPCS INCHEM	http://www.inchem.org/	Health and safety at work specialists, labour inspectors	Website
IPCS INTOX	http://www.intox.org/ (not any more available, but yet in the address can be found valuable links e.g. on poison centres)	Toxicologists, public health workers	Website
IRPTC	http://www.chem.unep.ch/irptc/irptc/databank.html	Toxicologists, oncologists, public health and food safety specialists	Website
Chemicals Abstracts Services Database	http://www.cas.org/	Chemists, Toxicologists	Website
Global Information Network on Chemicals (GINC)	www.nihs.go.jp		
STN Database	http://www.cas.org/products/stnfamily/index.html	Researchers	Website

7.5 National systems for data exchange and the capacities of the information technology (IT)

The information of the public on the environmental issues in Albania is based on Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 “On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention” (Official Journal 2000, No.35, p.1705, date 20.11.2000) makes the Aarhus Convention a normativ act and its implementation an obligation.

Albania has adhered to the Protocol for the Registers for Discharges and Pollutants Transfer the to the Law No. 9548, of 1.6.2006 “On adhering of Albania in the Protocol for the Registers for Discharges and Pollutants Transfer”. According to this protocol, every party establishes and maintains a national register of the discharges and transfer of more potential pollutants. This is a specific service regarding reporting on sources, assissts the reporting on scattered sources, is pollutant- specific or residue- specific, includes information on transfers and is based on obliged periodic reporting.

Public institutions and networks, which carry out the information of the public on the environment, are:

- Institutional Environmental Network, established based on the Law No. 8934, of 5.9 2002 “On environmental protection”. The legal definition of this institutional network

obliges these structures directly to undertake steps for the dissemination of the information they possess. On the other hand, the identification of this environmental institution helps the public to identify the structure where it can ask for environmental information.

– MoEFWA through its Sector for Public Information and Information Technology (SPIIT) makes possible collection of information from all its structures and its dissemination for the public. The dissemination of the information is made in passive or active way:

(i) Passive dissemination of the environmental information

The written request for information are sent to SPIIT, to make possible replying to the public. To prepare the answer, this structure cooperates with directorates in MoEFWA or with dependent structures. The response is made according to Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 and Law No. 8503, of 30.6.1999. In about 90% of the questions the reply is given immediately.

(ii) Active dissemination of information

MoEFWA has the obligation to put in its website all the available information without special request from the public. This information includes the complete legal basis of the Ministry, the legal acts in process of public discussion, strategic documents for the environment and those in public discussion process, reports of the state of environment and the information on services offered from the ministry, such as licences, certificates, etc.

The Ministry also informs through the Electronic Environmental Bulletin, a monthly publication compiled by the Sector for Public Information and IT. The bulletin is sent to more than 200 electronic addresses including environmental NPOs, information points of all ministries, Commerce Chambers and to the offices of the projects acting in the field of environment.

– The Agency of Environment and Forestry, established with DMC no.579, of 23.8.2006 “On the establishment of the Agency of Environment and Forestry” compiles and publishes the Annual Report of the State of Environment.

– The Regional Environmental Agencies compile and submit for approval to the District’s Council the biannual report of the state of environment for the respective district. These agencies present this report to the public, as stipulated by article 19 of the Law No. 9890, of 20.3.2008 “On environmental protection”, changed.

– The Environmental Inspectorate, based on DCM No. 24, of 22.1.2004 ‘On the Environment Inspectorate’ makes public the action plans to be undertaken throughout the year, in a visible place in the premises of the institution. According to point 16, it makes public the report of the inspection of the subjects with environmental license, the inspection results and the measures taken.

– All the ministries, based on the Order of Prime Minister No.202, of 16.12.2005, have published in their websites documents which serve to the public as environmental information. Also the contact point of the public relations offices are used by SPIIT to collect the environmental information available in them.

– Important structures possessing environmental information are the local government bodies, which have information. Almost all the municipalities have active websites, such as Municipality of Tirana (www.tirana.gov.al), Municipality of Shkodra (www.bashkiashkoder.gov.al), Municipality of Kukës (www.bashkiakukes.com), Municipality of Korça (www.bashkiakorçe.gov.al); Municipality of Fier

(www.bashkiafier.com), Municipality of Pogradec (www.bashkiapogradec.gov.al), Municipality Vlorë (www.bashkiavlore.org); these webpages can serve as important information source.

– Structures for public information for environmental matters are supported by three Aarhus Information Centers (AIC) placed in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra. These centers are established in frame of the Memorandum of Understanding between MoEFWA and the OSCE presence “On the cooperation in the field of environmental information and implementation of the obligations of Aarhus Convention in Albania”, signed in July 2006. Aarhus Center in Tirana is in MoEFWA, near the Sector of Public Information. The centers help in dissemination of environmental information in faster way to the public in the areas they cover. The information is made in different ways, e.g. through publications, through the website www.aic.org.al, or through contacts with media in the areas they cover.

AICs are also involved in training of local authorities, raising the awareness and pushing them to fulfil their legal obligations to Aarhus Convention. Through their counseling boards, they act also as a link between central and local government, and environmental NPOs and interested public in the areas of their coverage.

In 2010 has started the implementation of the World Bank Project “For the consolidation and implementation of Aarhus Convention”, which in one of its components aims to realize the connection in network of the Sector for Public Information and IT, and the Aarhus Center Tirana with Regional Environmental Centers, what will provide information in real time.

The website www.dogana.gov.al established in year 2006, is active in Albanian and in English languages. The information in this website is complete, comprising customs procedures, fees, legislation, normative acts, statistics, organization of customs administration and other information, which is updated on a regular basis from the Directorate of Computerization with request from other directorates of General Customs Directorate.

One of the main objectives of the Albanian Custom Administration (ACA) is to develop the automation of customs procedures and an integrated IT system, which fully supports the strategy of ACA in conformity with international standards. For this reason and in frame of the process of the general modernization of the Customs, ACA migrated from the declaration processing system ASYCUDA ++ to the last version of this application ASYCUDAWorld. This integrated IT system, which constitutes a complete basis for E-customs, is implemented in 19 customs points.

In ACA the risk analysis and risk profile construction for different goods category is based on the information received from the informatics system AW, intelligence databases and information from other directorates/departments of customs administration. In the customs system are implemented safety, misclassifying, quantity, origin, excise, procedure, value, company, etc. risk profiles.

In frame of the project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” it is established the website www.chemicals.al as a tool for information exchange on chemicals management.

7.6 Assessment

The legal instruments require the information provision and exchange in several contexts. The complete legal basis, the legal acts in process of public discussion, strategic documents, projects, reports and the information on services offered from the ministries, such as licences, certificates, are in principle available online in the websites of relevant ministries. Some data, particularly on import-export are made publicly available from General Directorate of Customs, health state data are made available from INSTAT. Some data, such as e.g. data on use of plant protection products, registered plant protection active ingredients and products are published periodically; quantities of stored chemicals, are available by request from relevant ministries. Ministry of Health publishes in the website the updated list of permitted active ingredients for biocide products and documents needed for authorisation procedures.

The last decade has signed a revolution regarding the networking in public institutions, research institutes and practically every office in Tirana has nowadays access to information available through internet. The situation is more problematic in districts, where not every office has access in internet.

The information of the public on the environmental issues in Albania is based on Law No. 8672, of 26.10.2000 “On adhering of Albania in Aarhus Convention”, what makes the Aarhus Convention a normative act and its implementation an obligation.

The Institutional Environmental Network and the Sector for Public Information and Information Technology (SPIIT) in MoEFWA are public institutions and networks, which carry out collection and the information of the public on the environment. The dissemination of the information is made in passive way, through written requests for information sent to SPIIT, or in active way: monthly publication of the Electronic Environmental Bulletin, publication of the Annual Report of the State of Environment, preparation and submission of biannual report of the state of environment from Regional Environmental Agencies for the respective district, websites of municipalities, etc. The structures for public information for environmental matters are supported by three Aarhus Information Centers (AIC) placed in Tirana, Vlora and Shkodra.

Yet, in some cases, the information is scarce or lacks, due to lack of personnel, capacities and infrastructure, such as the lack of a database and of a centre for information exchange, etc. The absence of a Chemicals Office, which according to the Law 0108/2003 would have also obligations on data collection and exchange, is a big handicap.

Albania does not yet have a **centre for information on poisonings (Poison Centre)**.

There is lack of literature, basic information and dissemination, what is connected to a relatively weak information system in the country. This situation is result of limited budget for the literature and a limited representation of the country in foreign institutions related to chemicals.

In frame of the project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania” it is established the website www.chemicals.al as a tool for information exchange on chemicals management. In this website all the legislation on chemicals and other relevant information and links can be easily found. A database on biocides will also be put in this website within 2012; this database will have the capacity to be enriched with other chemicals classes.

Table 7. E: Priorities and possible actions on information access, management and use

Priority issues	Capacity level	Summary of capacity strengths, gaps, and needs	Possible actions	Concerned actors
Collection and dissemination of information	Low	Lack of adequate capacities in institutions in charge of collecting and disseminating information Lack of chemicals registers	Establishment of a Chemicals Management Office (Bureau) ; Establishment of chemicals registers; Establishment of chemicals databases; Specification and enforcement of legal requirements for reporting; Capacity building of responsible bodies	MoEFWA, Agency of Environment and Forestry, MoH, MoLSAEO, Health and environmental professionals and NGOs
Poisonings from chemicals	Low	Lack of an information centre on poisonings (Poison Centre)	Establishing a poison centre "Poison Centre" Capacity building	General population, MoH, Centre for Clinical Toxicology Central Tirana Hospital Centre, WHO
Literature	Medium	Lack of literature, basic information and dissemination	Relevant budget	Health and environment professionals

CHAPTER 8: TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

This chapter is an overview of technical infrastructure and the capacities of Albanian chemical laboratories, which are classified in two groups: laboratories depending from the ministries and research-scientific laboratories of public and non-public universities.

Detailed description of the types of chemical and physico-chemical analyses, as well as location, analytical instruments, state of certification or accreditation and the purpose of each laboratory is given. All these technical data, are reported in two separated tables, for laboratories responsible for regulatory chemical analysis and for the laboratories for monitoring and analysis, respectively.

The quality management of public chemical laboratories is discussed, pointing out that only a limited number of them is accredited or certified. In general, in Albania there is no national programme for improvement of quality of analysis, which is necessary for a better laboratory performance and better involvement in different national and international scientific and/or monitoring programmes. There is an urgent need for the introduction of standard methods (e.g. ISO) in all laboratories and the establishment of the quality system and the accreditation in all laboratories. Neither the technical management of Albanian laboratories is in the required level. In some of them, there is a lack of chemicals, certified reference materials, standard materials and regular service of the analytical instruments. There are no funds for regular training of the laboratory staff. Laboratories, in general, do not have written procedures for the management of chemicals/hazardous materials and for their disposal. Often, they do not have proper environmental conditions for their personnel.

Main priority issues for improving the technical infrastructure of laboratories, along with different possible actions and concerned actors are summarized at the end of the chapter.

8.1 Overview of the laboratory capacity

Most of physico-chemical laboratories in the country are regulatory and a few of them monitor different pollutants in environment or food. Data on the analysing and monitoring laboratories infrastructure, on their analytical capacities and the state of accreditation are given in tables 8.A and 8.B.

8.2. Other relevant areas of technical infrastructure

In the Republic of Albania operates a relatively big number of chemical and physico-chemical laboratories. They carry out analysis of the quality of chemicals, identification of unknown substances, analysis of hazardous and harmful substances for the human and environmental health, monitor chemicals in the environment (water, soil, sediment, air), food, etc.

Table 8.A: Laboratory infrastructure for regulatory chemical analysis

Name/ description of the laboratory	Location/ dependence	Equipment/ analytical capabilities available	Accreditation (if yes, by whom?)	Certified GLP (yes or no)	Purpose
Laboratory of Instrumental Analytical Chemistry	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environment and Health	GC, GC-MS, HPLC, AAS with furnace, flame and hydride device, UV-Vis spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Determination of pesticide residues, PCBs, chlorination by-products in water, PAHs, heavy metals in water, soil, sediment, food, air.
Laboratory of Water Chemistry	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environment and Health	pH, Spectrophotometer, BOD-apparatus, conductometer	NO	NO	Physico-chemical analysis of drinking, surface and ground waters, bottled water, recreational waters
Laboratory of Food Chemistry	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environment and Health	pH meter, spectrophotometer UV-Vis, HPLC-Fluorescence detector, Kjeldahl apparatus, polarimeter, refractometer, Gerber centrifuge etc.	NO	NO	Analysis of the food quality, protein nitrogen, sugar, dry matter, nitrates, nitrites
Laboratory for Urinary Iodine	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environment and Health	UV-Vis Spectrophotometer , analytical balance, Vortex, etc.	NO	NO	Analysis of urinary iodine
Parachlinical Toxicology Laboratory	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environment and Health	UV-Vis Spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Determination of toxicological indices at metalurgic industry workers
Histamine Laboratory	IFSV – Tirana	HPLC	NO	NO	Analysis of histamine in fresh and processed fish
Laboratory of Analysis of PPP (plant protection products)	IFSV – Tirana	GC-MS, LC-MS; HPLC; GC - ECD/NPD, conductometric analyzer, titrator, UV-VIS spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Analysis of the quality of PPPs

Laboratory of Instrumental Organic Analysis	Faculty of Natural Sciences	GC-FID and GC-ECD, HPLC-UV, UV-Vis spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Pesticides, PCBs, PAHs, BTEX, chlorobenzenes, essential oils, etc.
Laboratory of Analytical Chemistry	Faculty of Natural Sciences	SAA, spectrophotometer UV-Vis, microwave furnace, DTA, titrimeter and automatic pH-meter, electrochemical workstation	NO	NO	Heavy metals, nutrients , etc.
Laboratory of the Centre of Applied and Nuclear Physics	Faculty of Natural Sciences	SAA with furnace and flame	NO	NO	Heavy metals
Laboratory of Chemistry	Central Laboratory of Army	GC-MS, HPTLC, AAS with furnace, flame and hydride device, SPM UV-Vis, sulphur analyser, APD2000, multi RAE , LUDLUM for β and γ radiations	YES from General Directorate of Accreditation (GDA) ISO 17025	No	Analysis of military poisons, explosives, heavy metals, toxic gases CO,VOX, H ₂ S, fuel
Chemical Laboratory at TEC- Ballsh	Ballsh	Universal spectrophotometer , photometer	NO	NO	Water analysis
Chemical Laboratory	Kurum Company, former-Metallurgic Plant, Elbasan	GC, Spectrophotometer etc	NO	NO	Analysis of iron metals
Physico-Chemical Laboratory	Institute of Minerals Extracting and Handling Technology, Tirana	AAS, Specol 21, Universal spectrophotometer, photometer.	NO	NO	Minerals analysis
Chemical Laboratory of Customs	General Customs Directorate, Tirana	GC, HPLC, AAS, apparatus for octane number IROX 2000, apparatus for determination of sulphur in gasoil multi EA	Preparing for application	NO	Analysis of all goods (food, textiles, hydrocarbons, fertilizers, pesticides, etc) imported in Albania
Chemical Laboratory of Mining Inspection-Rescue Body	Tirana	Apparatus for air monitoring	NO	NO	Analysis of air and water

Chemical Laboratory	Institute of Hydrometeorology, Tirana	AAS, GC, etc.	NO	NO	Analysis of air and water
Petroleum and Gas Control Laboratory	Central Technical Inspectorate, Tirana	IR spectrometer, flash & fire point apparatus, viscosimeter	YES (GDA)	NO	Analysis of petroleum parameters: S, H ₂ S in liquid gas, flash point, corrosion, oxygenated compounds
Laboratory of Chemistry and Pesticides	AUT, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Department of Plant Protection	HPLC- DAD and fluorescence detector, GC (FID, ECD, NPD), Kjeldal apparatus, BOD/COD apparatus.	NO	NO	Physical analysis of pesticide formulations, pH, conductivity, emulsifying capacity, etc., pesticide residues analysis for the registered PPPs in soil, plants and water.; Physico-chemical analysis of irrigation waters pH, conductivity, N-total, BOD, COD etc.; Physico-chemical analysis of agricultural soils, pH, conductivity, organic matter, humus, ash, total nitrogen (Kjeldahl)
Laboratory of Environment	Agricultural University of Tirana, Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, Department of Agroenvironment and Ecology	AAS and spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Water analysis (pH, conductivity, nutrients, BOD, COD, heavy metals).; Soil analysis, pH, conductivity, organic matter, ash, heavy metals.
Sector of Analytical Laboratory	Centre of Agricultural Technology Transfer Fushë -Krujë	pH-meter, spectrophotometer, conductometer, AAS, apparatus for nitrogen distillation	In accreditation process in frame of an Albanian-Italian cooperation	Expecting the assessment	Analysis of soil samples, irrigation waters, plants and fertilizers.

Physico-mechanic and Chemical Laboratory of Textile and Leather Analysis	Faculty of Textile, Tirana		YES from GDA	YES	Textile fibres and leather
Laboratory of "Kibe" Company	KIBE Sh.p.k. TR-Dr highway Km 13		YES from GDA		Raw inorganic materials, building materials
Laboratory of "EHW" Company	Tirana	Microscope, thermostat for bacteriology, etc.	In process		Microbiology of meat products
Research Laboratory	University "A.Xhuvani" Elbasan		YES from GDA		Concrete and steel
REDI-SH shpk	Kombinat, Tiranë		YES from GDA		Food microbiology
Toxicological Laboratory	Tirana University Hospital Center "Mother Theresa", The Clinic of Occupational Diseases	Centrifuge, thermostat, oven, spectrophotometer	NO	NO	Analysis for occupational diseases from poisonings at working place

Table 8.B: Laboratory infrastructure for monitoring and analysis

Name/description of laboratory	Location	Equipment/ analytical capabilities available	Accreditation (if yes, by whom)	Main purpose and chemical substances analysed	Number of samples/year, (state which substance)
Laboratory of Air Quality	IPH – Tirana, Department of Environmental Health	Analytical balance, automatic analyser station, air samplers	NO	Air quality monitoring, PM ₁₀ , SO ₂ , NO _x , NO, NO ₂ , CO, BTX, PM ₂ , soot, Pb, total particulate matter	960 samples / year for total PM, soot, PM ₁₀ , NO _x in 5 cities and continuous monitoring through automatic station
Laboratory of Biotoxins	IFSV – Tirana	HPLC	Yes, ACREDIA (Italian Accreditation Body)	National Residues Plan (NRP), biotoxins (ASP, PSP, DSP) in mollusk and fish products	144 samples /year from 3 monitoring stations for 3 toxins
Laboratory of Residues of Veterinary Drugs	IFSV – Tirana	ELISA, HPLC, GC, LC-MS, LC-MS/MS, GC-MS/MS	NO	NRP, residues of veterinary drugs (antibiotics, hormones)	2500 samples /year animal origin product for antibiotics, hormones
Laboratory of Heavy Metals Analysis	IFSV – Tirana	AAS with graphite furnace	Has initiated the accreditation procedure from GDA	NRP, mollusk analysis, heavy metals: Pb, Cd, Cr, Hg etc. in seawater and in animal origin products	24 samples /year
Laboratory of Pesticide Residues in Animal-origin Foods	IFSV – Tirana	GC, GC-MS/MS	Has initiated the accreditation procedure from GDA	NRP, molluska analysis, organochlorine pesticide residues and PCBs in animal origin food	12 samples /year
Chemical Laboratory	Central Military Laboratory	GC-MS, HPTLC, AAS with furnace and flame, hydride device, UV-Vis spectrophotometer, sulphur analyzer, APD2000, multiRAE, LUDLUM for β and γ rays	YES from GDA, in process of accreditation update	Environmental Monitoring for three parameters	720 samples /year

Name/description of laboratory	Location	Equipment/ analytical capabilities available	Accreditation (if yes, by whom)	Main purpose and chemical substances analysed	Number of samples/year, (state which substance)
Physico-chemical Laboratory	Agency of Environment and Forestry (AEF)	AAS, Spectrophotometer UV-Vis, GC-ECD/FID, oximeter, multi-meter	YES, for some parameters, from GDA	-Surface water monitoring pH, BOD, COD, nutrients, conductivity, TDS	150 samples/year

8.2.1 Laboratories depending from ministries

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Health (MoH) include laboratories of Institute of Public Health (IPH), which are reference laboratories for the public health system, laboratories of the National Centre for Drugs Control (NCDC), laboratories of the Directorates of Public Health (DPHs) of the districts and the laboratories of the hospital centres.

The laboratories of hospital centres carry out chemical, biochemical, toxicological and bacteriological analysis in biological fluids.

The laboratories of Institute of Public Health (IPH) analyze a wide range of physic-chemical indices (ca. 20 parameters) of the quality of drinking waters, industrial discharge waters, surface and ground waters. IPH laboratories analyze also pesticide residues in water, soil, sediments, serum, food, air, PAH in water, soil and sediments, hexane extractable matter (oil and grease) in water and soil, polar products in cooking oils, toxic elements in blood, iodine in urine, PM₁₀, PM₂, SO₂, soot, NO_x, NO, NO₂, CO, total particulate matter, BTX in air, etc. IPH laboratories are mainly regulatory ones, but there are also monitoring laboratories, such as the laboratory of air quality and the laboratory of water microbiology.

The main physic-chemical laboratories of IPH are: Laboratory of the Instrumental Analytical Chemistry, Laboratory of Water Chemistry, Laboratory of Food Chemistry, Laboratory of Air Quality, Parachlinical Toxicological Laboratory, Urinary Iodine Laboratory.

These laboratories are equipped with main measuring and handling laboratory devices, such as UV-Vis spectrophotometers, GC-ECD/TSD (NPD), GC-MS, HPLC, Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer with graphite furnace and flame, conductometer, spectrophotometer with on-site reading for water analysis, apparatus for BOD-5 determination, chlorimeter, oxymeter, pH-meter, automatic station for air monitoring, etc.

Laboratories of National Centre for Drugs Control (NCDC) carry out quality control and physico-chemical analysis of drugs that enter in Albania and are equipped with UV-Vis and IR spectrophotometers, pH-meters, HPLC, Dissolutest, conductometer, Kofier apparatus, hardness apparatus, polarimeter, toxinometer.

Laboratories of Directorates of Public Health (DPHs) in districts are partly equipped with UV-Vis spectrophotometers for the control of water quality, but not all the districts and regions are equipped with necessary instruments for the control of harmful substances to health. In 2011 MoH has taken measures to equip the main laboratories of 12 regions with necessary instruments and devices for physic-chemical analysis of drinking water. DPHs laboratories analyze drinking waters for main physic-chemical parameters, such as pH, hardness, free chlorine, nitrates, nitrites, ammonia, phosphates, salt content, etc., as well as for bacteriological parameters. These laboratories analyze air samples, as well.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoFACP) are represented by the laboratories of Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (IFS), which in frame of the National Plan of Residues, monitor residues of organochlorine pesticides and PCBs in food products of animal origin, carry out analysis of heavy metals (Pb, Cd, Cr, Hg) in sea water and food products of

animal origin, analysis of residues of veterinary drugs (antibiotics and hormones) in foods of animal origin, analysis of marine toxins (PSP, DSP, ASP) in fish, mollusk, etc., analysis of the quality of plant protection products (PPPs), etc.

Main chemical laboratories of IFSV are: laboratory of biotoxins, laboratory of residues of veterinary drugs, laboratory of heavy metals, laboratory of pesticide residues in food of animal origin, laboratory of analysis of PPPs, laboratory of histamine, etc. These laboratories are equipped with modern instruments for sample preparation and analysis, such as spectrophotometers, HPLC-UV and fluorescence detectors, HPLC-MS, HPLC-MS/MS, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS, AAS with furnace and flame, microwave ovens, etc. Some IFSV laboratories are accredited by the Italian Agency of Accreditation (ACREDIA) and are in process of accreditation for some other parameters in animal origin foods with General Directorate of Accreditation.

The laboratories of IFSV are national reference laboratories on food safety (for heavy metals, residues of veterinary drugs, pesticides, toxins, etc.), animal health, quality control of veterinary drugs and PPPs and food control.

Centre for agricultural technology transfer in Fushë-Krujë has the sector of analytical laboratory, where they analyze soils, irrigation waters, plants and fertilizers. This laboratory is equipped with spectrophotometer, conductometer, AAS, nitrogen distilling apparatus, etc.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA)

Chemical environmental laboratories are represented by the physico-chemical laboratories of the Agency of Environment and Forestry (AEF) and the Laboratory of Monitoring of Lake Ohrid in Pogradec. These laboratories carry out physico-chemical analysis of surface waters and analyze heavy metals in water, soil and air. The chemical laboratories of AEF monitor surface waters for the primary physico-chemical parameters (pH, COD, BOD, nutrients, conductivity, TDS, etc.) in 8 biggest cities of the country, while the laboratory of Pogradec monitors the waters of Lake Ohrid. These laboratories are equipped with up-to-date instruments, such as spectrophotometers UV-Vis, AAS with furnace and flame, GC-ECD and FID, oximeter, multimeter, etc. The laboratory of AEF is already accredited for some parameters of water quality. Improvements can be made through increase of staff number, trainings, more funds for the laboratory current costs and update of ISO methods with the latest versions.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Defence (MoD)

Central Military Laboratory (CML) has a good technical instrumental basis, such as GC-MS, HPTLC, AAS with flame, furnace and hydride device, UV-Vis spectrophotometer, ADP2000 apparatus (for military toxic substances detection), conductometer, pH-meter, MultiRae (for detection of toxic gases CO, VOX, H₂S and O₂ levels), LUDLUM for determination of levels of β and γ rays, etc. CML analyses military poisons, quality of food for the army, fuels, explosives and environment.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Interior (MoI)

Here are comprised the laboratories of legal medicine, forensic and drugs. Laboratories of legal medicine carry out toxicological analysis of evidences in viscera of corps (fresh, putrified) and biological fluids (blood, urine), evidence material (hair).

These laboratories have standard operating procedures, but suffer the usual problems of supply with certified reference materials and training of staff.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy

There are some physico-chemical laboratories depending from this Ministry. Laboratory of Chemical Analysis of Albanian Geological Service, which carries out determination of metals with AAS in different minerals, soils, sands, etc. This laboratory carries out also monitoring of ground and surface water quality, through determination of main physico-chemical parameters, environmental analysis is soil, sands, etc. The laboratories of this institute are not accredited, but are considered as reference laboratories.

There are also other laboratories depending from METE:

- The Chemical Laboratory of Kurum Company (privatized),
- The Chemical Laboratory of DEKA Company (privatized),
- The Chemical Laboratory of Cable Plant, Shkoder (privatized),
- The Physico-chemical Laboratory of the National Agency of Natural Resources, former Research Institute for Design of Mining Technology, Tirana,
- The Chemical Laboratory of the Department of Mining Inspection/Rescue, Tirana,
- The Laboratory of Analytical Control of Oil Products in the Oil Refining Plant in Ballsh (privatized),
- Chemical Laboratory of TEC Ballsh.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Finances (MoF)

Laboratory of Customs is equipped with contemporary analytical instruments, such as GC, HPLC, AAS, apparatus for octane number (for hydrocarbon analysis), for the analyze of all imported goods (foods, textiles, hydrocarbons, fertilizers, pesticides, etc.) at the customs for classification for fiscal effect. The Customs Laboratory is not accredited but has started the accreditation procedures for some parameters.

Laboratories depending from Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPWT)

The Department of Laboratories of Institute of Construction depends from this Ministry. The Chemical Laboratory of this Department is equipped with basic devices for preparation and measurements by classic chemical methods, such as pH-meters, analytic balance, furnace, thermostate, etc. and carries out chemical analysis of construction matter, such as determination of sulphates, chlorides, loss in calcination, insoluble residue, oxides of Ca, Mg, Fe, Al, etc.

8.2.2 Research-scientific laboratories of the universities (public and non-public)

In the education system the Universities have physico-chemical laboratories equipped with preparation devices and measuring instruments, which analyse different parameters. These laboratories serve to the didactic process and to the research work of the academic staff. In several Albanian institutions of higher education have

already a long-term tradition in the functioning of these laboratories and in some others, including non-public universities, the laboratories have been established recently.

Research-scientific laboratories of the public universities

Laboratories of Tirana University: Besides the didactic activity, physico-chemical laboratories of Faculty of Natural Sciences (FNS) carry out research studies and projects for the determination of pesticide residues, PCBs, PAHs, HCs, BTEX, chlorobenzenes, essential oils, heavy metals, MTs, nutrients, etc. These analyses are carried out mainly in the laboratory of instrumental organic analysis, the laboratory of analytical and environmental chemistry and the laboratory of the Centre of Applied and Nuclear Physics. They possess instruments, such as GC-FID, GC-MS, GC-ECD/FID, SAA, spectrophotometers UV-Vis, microwave ovens, DTA, automatic titrimeters and pH-meters, HPLC-UV/DAD, etc. The number of the conducted analyses in this institution in different matrices is relatively small, because of the lack of a planned budget; funds are only made available through projects and analysis for third parties.

The laboratories of the Polytechnic University of Tirana (PUT): The Laboratory of the Chemistry Department in PUT is equipped with systems for determination of COD and BOD, gas analyser, spectrophotometer and portable turbidometer for water analysis, instrument for determination of PM₁₀, etc. The Laboratory of the Textile Department carries out mainly analysis of textile fibres.

The laboratories of the Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT): AUT includes some laboratories that carry out analysis of residues and formulations analysis, such as the Laboratory of Chemistry and Pesticides, in Faculty of Agriculture and Environment, in Department of Plant Protection, which carries out analysis of pesticide formulations, pH, conductivity, etc. In this laboratory the staff is carrying out also analysis of pesticide residues, in the registration process, in soil and water. These analyses are carried out by students, Master or PhD students, not for monitoring purposes. They carry out also physico-chemical analysis of irrigation waters and agricultural soils, such as pH, conductivity, organic matter, ashes, total nitrogen (Kjeldahl).

Laboratory of Environment in the Department of Agro-environment and Ecology carries out water analysis, such as pH, conductivity, nutrients, BOD and COD, heavy metals, as well as physico-chemical analyses of agricultural soils, such as pH, conductivity, organic matter, ashes, organic matter.

Laboratories of University of Shkodra: In the University of Shkodra are located the Laboratory of AAS, Laboratory of Chemical Analysis and Laboratory of Toxicology, which have respectively AAS, spectrophotometer UV-Vis and GC-FID/ECD. These laboratories carry out water analysis for heavy metals, phosphorus and nutrients, organochlorine pesticides and PCBs.

Laboratories of University "Fan Noli", Korçë: Main instruments in these laboratories are: UV-Vis spectrophotometer, HPLC, GC, Kjeldahl, apparatus for sample extraction. They carry out these analyses: methanol, ethanol, alcoholic beverages, proteins, nitrogen in soil, etc. It is in accreditation process for conservants in non-alcoholic beverages.

Research-scientific Laboratory of the University “Aleksander Xhuvani”, Elbasan carries out analysis of concrete and steel and is accredited.

Research-scientific laboratories of non-public universities

The non-public University “Kristal” has established a laboratory with up-to-date instruments, such as HPLC, GC-FID, FTIR and UV-Vis spectrophotometers, Dissolution Test *Equipment, etc. These instruments are only used for didactic purposes and diploma theses.*

The non-public University “Albanian University” also has up-to-date devices, such as HPLC, GS-FID and Spectrophotometer UV-Vis for didactic purposes.

8.3 Assessment of infrastructure management

8.3.1. Quality management

Public chemical laboratories operating in different areas generally have quality systems far from the international requirements and they need continuous improvement. Excepting the laboratories which are accredited or in accreditation process, generally the laboratories do not have a Quality Assurance Office. The laboratories lack also inner audits for quality control and assurance of their products. Consequently, only a limited number of them is accredited or certified. The laboratories use different methods, such as standard methods ISO, AOAC methods, methods of Pharmacopeia and old classic methods for some parameters. This is conditioned by the presence of old instruments and other devices in different laboratories. The trend is the inclusion and adoption of ISO methods. In general, in Albania there is no national programme for improvement of quality of analysis, which is necessary for a better laboratory performance, better data quality, safer products and better involvement in different national and international scientific and/or monitoring programmes.

The laboratories for the control of bivalve mollusks in IFSV are accredited for marine bio-toxins, phytoplankton and mollusc microbiology from ACREDIA (Italian Accreditation Agency).

The Central Military Laboratory is also accredited and in the process of refreshment of the accreditation, so it has a quality management system.

The laboratory of the Agency of Environment and Forestry is accredited for some water parameters and has in place a quality system.

Standards and standard methods for the chemical laboratories are supplied by the **General Directorate of Standards (GDS)** (<http://www.dps.gov.al/>), which is the national standards organization, depending from MoETE. It represents Albania in European and international standards organizations and the economic interests of the country in preparing and adoption of European and international standards as national ones. It cooperates closely with other institutions of the quality infrastructure in the country, offering them more recent European and international standards. GDS is the only public institution in Albania certified according to the international standard ISO 9001:2008.

Except the cases when another accreditation agency is specified, all the accredited laboratories are accredited by the **General Directorate of Accreditation (GDA)**

(<http://www.dpa.gov.al/>), which is the only national accreditation body recognized by the Government to assess the technical competence of conformity assessment bodies, which carry out activities such as testing, calibration, certification and inspection, in private or public sector, in accordance with international standards.

General Directorate of Metrology is in the first steps of development of training on Metrology in Chemistry.

Nowadays, there is an urgent need for the introduction of standard methods (e.g. ISO) in all laboratories and the establishment of the quality system and the accreditation in all laboratories.

8.3.2 Technical management

Generally, the technical management of the laboratories is not in the required level. In some laboratories there is lack or delay of the regular service of instruments, in others there is lack of certified reference materials and standard materials. Very often the laboratories' supply with reagents or test kits delays, due to long tender procedures; in some laboratories there is a lack of reagents due to *limited funds*, in others, there are stock materials due to miscalculations of laboratory needs or lack of planning.

In general the laboratories do not have written procedures for the management of chemicals and hazardous materials and for their disposal.

Often the laboratories do not have proper environmental conditions for safety at work of the staff.

Heterogeneity of the instrument producing companies makes the periodic service of the instruments complicated and makes necessary the provision of such a service from international companies. This makes indispensable an every year fund from the institutions budget for instruments service.

Training of the new staff within the country and abroad, as well as the refreshment of knowledge or specialization of the existing laboratory staff is needed.

There is an urgent need for an inventory of the existing laboratory instruments and devices in the country by each ministry, as there are institutions or laboratories that possess new instruments and do not use them. A redistribution of the unused instruments or training of staffs for their use could be considered in these cases.

Tab.8.C Priorities and possible actions: Technical infrastructure

Priority issues (ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity (low, medium, high)	Summary of capacity, strengths, gaps and needs	Possible actions	Concerned actors
Analytical capacities	Medium	Some institutions and laboratories that have started the accreditation procedure, are equipped with contemporary instruments (IFSV, AEF, Central Army Laboratory, Legal Medicine, some private labs, etc). There are yet laboratories with outdated instruments and devices, which need renovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financing from the government budget or donations; - Application in joint projects; - Redistribution and better management of funds provided from analysis for third parties 	Line ministries, laboratories staff
Professional level of the analytical staff	Medium	The staff of institutions and laboratories in many cases is not trained and needs training and/or update with new international standard methods and the analytical instruments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of a budget for training and knowledge refreshment, - Establishment of the quality system; - Trainings within country and abroad; - Participation in inter-laboratory exercises and proficiency tests 	Administration of laboratories, staff
Technical capacities	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The service and maintenance of instruments is not in due level and in due time. Only the accredited labs that receive this service from abroad can provide continuous maintenance of instruments. - National operators of service and maintenance are relatively new in service; they have to improve the technical level of their staff. - The use of high quality reagents, international standards and CRMs is low, due to their high costs. 	Establishment of the quality system, Provision of periodic service through trainings of the service staff and/or contracting operators from abroad; Provision of budget from CRMs	Administration of laboratories, staff, service offering companies
Management of laboratory waste	Low	In general the laboratories do not manage the hazardous waste and the expired reagents. The solvents are often discharged in the waste waters and solid chemicals are disposed together with urban waste.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management system of solid wastes should be established; - Solvents recycling in laboratories 	Private enterprises, laboratories management staff

CHAPTER 9: PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO CHEMICAL EMERGENCIES

The National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP), adopted by the Council of Ministers Decree no. 835, of 3.12.2004 is the most important document of the Albanian Government regarding civil emergencies. The National System of Civil Emergencies comprises permanent and provisional structures at central, regional and local level.

The National Operational Centre for Civil Emergencies (NOCCE) is in centre of civil emergency management in Albania. It plays an active role through four stages of civil emergency management.

The annexes of NCEP define the factors to consider in prevention, preparedness and response in emergency management during industrial emergencies. There are currently no external emergency plans special for industrial activities, prepared by the responsible authorities in regional or local level.

Under the EC Project CARDS 2006 INPAEL, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA) has prepared the draft law "On the control of major industrial accident hazards involving hazardous substances" that fully transposes the SEVESO II Directive. This draft law is foreseen to be adopted within 2012. The purpose of this Law is to prevent major accidents, which involve hazardous substances, and the mitigation of their consequences for humans and the environment.

9.1 Chemical emergency planning

The most important document of the Albanian Government regarding civil emergencies is the National Civil Emergency Plan (NCEP), adopted by the Council of Ministers Decree No. 835, of 3.12.2004. The National System of Civil Emergencies Management consists of permanent and provisional structures at a central, regional and local level. As part of these structures each concerned ministry, directorate or institution currently shoulders specific roles. The National Plan has been prepared based on a procedure and methodology, which includes risk assessment study, large-scale consultations, information sharing, wide consensus of all relevant institutions and organizations. The National Civil Emergency Plan:

- Reflects the policies and main priorities of Albania related to the National Service of Civil Emergencies and international experience in the field of civil emergencies;
- Reflects Albanian legal framework, standards and widely accepted procedures;
- Systematizes and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of all relevant governmental institutions and civil society organizations for the civil emergencies management;
- Assures a planned and coordinated use of all national and international capacities in the country;
- It doesn't substitute plans of other line ministries and institutions and, on the other side, serves as a guide for them.

The Civil Emergency Plans are established in regional level and in the biggest municipalities, but these plans are for all kinds of emergencies. There are not special external emergency plans for industrial activities, prepared by the responsible authorities in regional or local level.

Some of the activities such as petroleum storages have established their internal plans of emergencies, but these plans are not in compliance with the requirements of SEVESO II Directive and the Annex VII of the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

Annex A of NCEP defines the factors to consider in **prevention, preparedness and response** in emergency management during industrial emergencies, as follows:

- A national and local identification of risk areas and industrial emergency types is an effective way to zone risk according to population;
- Within these areas, national and local emergency planning, including public early warning system and evacuation plans can be invaluable should an event occur;
- This information needs to be included in other emergency plans for seismic events, landslides and floods, as there could be serious secondary effects of a industrial nature, which should not come as a surprise on the spot during response;
- The direct response to industrial disasters is a highly specialized work, which only qualified or experienced units should undertake;
- Apart from the planned evacuation of the immediate population, wide range effects may be unpredictable. Modeling of the possible secondary effects to water catchments and atmosphere should be a basis to planning for worst case scenario;
- Many agencies may be involved in ensuring the safety of the population and environment downstream or downwind from the disaster site. Strong coordination of response is essential with this respect;
- Health needs may be very specific, and scenario planning must include specific healthcare input and resources for both prevention and treatment;
- For extreme scenarios, international expert assistance is potentially available via the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) via UNDAC. The UN Resident Representative facilitates their deployment on request of the government of the affected nation.

According to Chapter V “Subjects involved in planning and dealing with civil emergencies” Article 29 2 (c) of Law No.8756, of 26.3.2001 “On Civil Emergency Services”, economic entities and institutions, which in the pursuance of their activities use, produce, transport or store hazardous substances: “. organise, when necessary, evacuation of their employees, set up their own organisation for responding to an emergency situation within their area of activity”.

In general the entities which store hydrocarbons products have emergency response plans. Most of the activities with environmental impact undertake the environmental permitting procedure, based in the relevant environmental legislation. As part of the permit application is also the request for submitting emergency plans, and the permit condition foresees measures regarding the emergency response plans. Some improvements in this regard need to be done and for this reason MoEFWA have also prepared a Draft-decision “On safety reports and emergency planning” under the law “On the control of major industrial accident hazards involving hazardous substances”.

Ministry of Interior has drafted the law "On civil protection from disasters", which is considered by some line ministries. The draft-law improves the entire legal framework and legislation for civil protection from disasters and emergencies and will be accompanied by the establishment of National Strategy on Risk Reduction, which will review principles, new legal basis, will develop sectoral policies for protection from emergencies and disasters,

strengthening and modernization of defense service system and disaster management, and compliance with analogue services of the EU.

In addition the National Plan of Civil Emergencies will be revised for:

- A better coordination among existing structures on the local and national level;
- Introduction of new means which will help in increasing efficiency in data and communication management;
- Developing new common practices among institutions for risk management.

Under the EC Project CARDS 2006 INPAEL, the Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA) has prepared the draft law “On the control of major industrial accident hazards involving dangerous substances” that fully transpose the SEVESO II Directive, constitutes the base for drafting the secondary legislation that should assure its implementation. This draft law is foreseen to be adopted within 2012.

The purpose of this Law is to prevent major accidents, which involve hazardous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for humans and the environment, so as to ensure a high level of protection.

Some of the basic obligations of the industrial operators according the quantity of the Dangerous Substances they store are:

- Notifications to the relevant competent authority;
- Prepare the major accident prevention policy document;
- Reporting the industrial accidents;
- Cooperation with authorities;
- Preparation of Safety Reports;
- Establishment of the Safety Management System;
- Prepare an internal emergency plan;
- Provision of information to the public.

The obligation of competent authorities are related to:

- Examination and evaluation of the safety report;
- Reviewing the documentation in case of modification;
- Inspection organization and legal sanctions;
- Prohibition of operation if there are serious deficiencies or inadequate documentation;
- External emergency plan preparation by the defined local or national authority;
- Identification of potential Domino Effect ;
- Implementation of the land use planning policies;
- The Authority communicates to the operators the details of Plan, to assure for the compliance of internal and external plans;
- Maintains a register containing the information comprised in notifications under Article 7, safety reports under Article 9, notifications under Article 17(2), and communications under Article 18.

Also the draft law foresees measures for the accidents in the transboundary context, in compliance with the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents.

The article 11 of chapter 4 of this draft-law has provisions for the upper tier establishments on preparations of the internal emergency plans.

According to the article 12, the local government unit in whose area the upper tier establishment is situated shall prepare an external emergency plan in respect of that establishment. Some of the requirements of this article are:

- The operator shall supply to the local government unit in whose area the establishment is situated the information necessary for enabling the local government unit to prepare the external emergency plan.
- The local government unit shall consult the operator, the Competent Authority, the emergency services and the health authority for the area near the establishment on the preparation of the external emergency plan.
- The local government unit consults members of public as it considers appropriate for the preparation of the external emergency plan and prepares a final version of the external emergency plan after due consideration of the comments received.
- The Government, acting on a proposal of the Ministers, shall adopt regulations on external emergency plans.

In Annex B of NPCE (National Civil Emergency Plan) are defined the roles, responsibilities and legal bases of main ministries and agencies concerned with civil emergency issues.

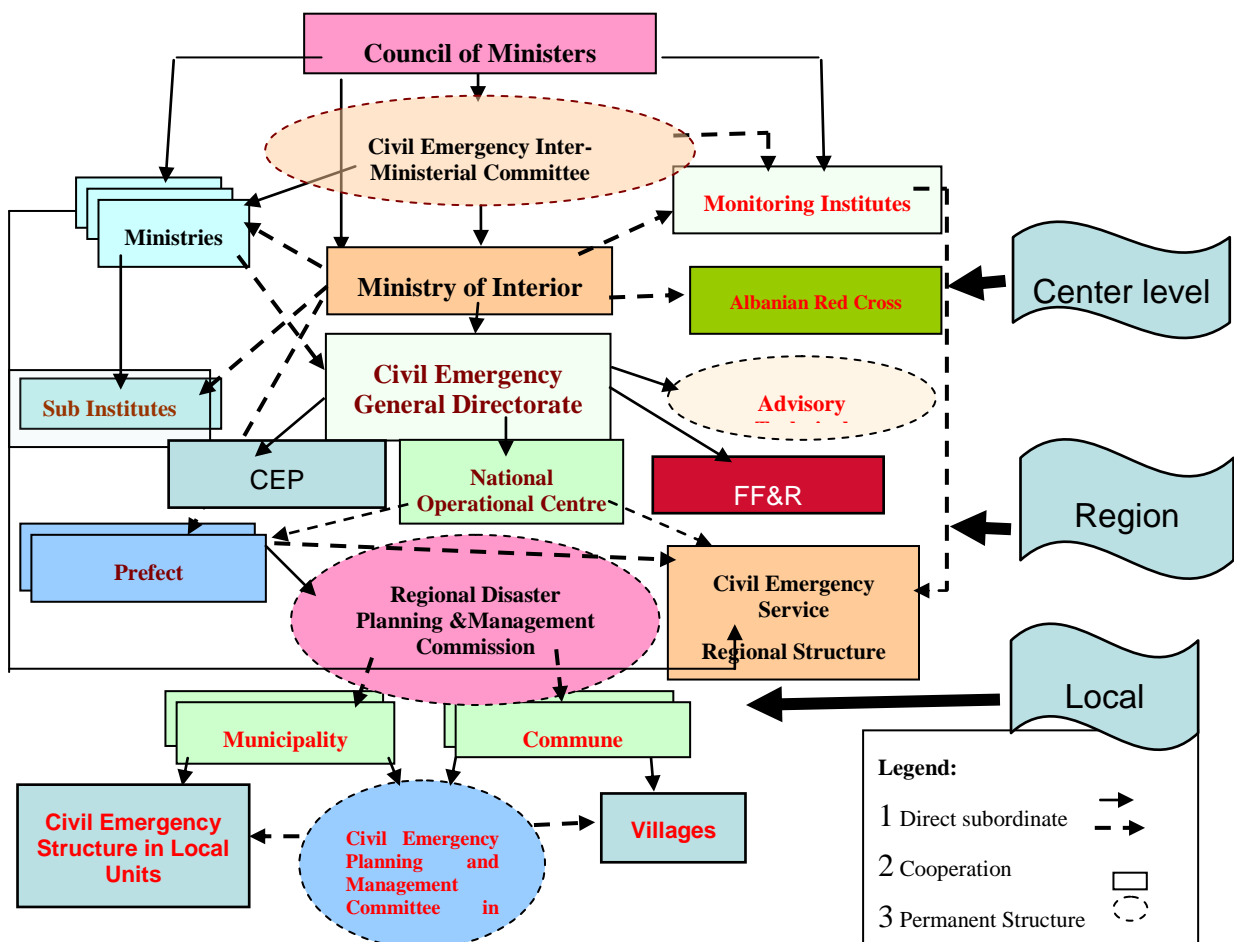


Fig. 9.A Responsibilities on a national level for civil emergencies

The National Civil Emergency System is composed by permanent and provisional structures on central, regional and local level.

- The Council of Ministers leads and governs the national system of CE management in Albania;
- Ministry of Interior implements the policy of the Council of Ministers in the areas of planning and CE management;
- The Inter-Ministerial Committee for Civil Emergencies coordinates the appropriate actions of all concerned institutions through all the phases of response to civil emergency situations;
- General Directorate of Civil Emergency is a permanent and specialized structure, participating in all the stages of the civil emergency management cycle. However, it is also directly responsible for handling the initial stages of response to an actual civil emergency situation. In the permanent structure, the General Directorate has the Directorate of Planning and Coordination of civil emergencies, Operational Directory of Guidance/ Command of Civil Emergencies National Operational Center of Civil Emergencies.

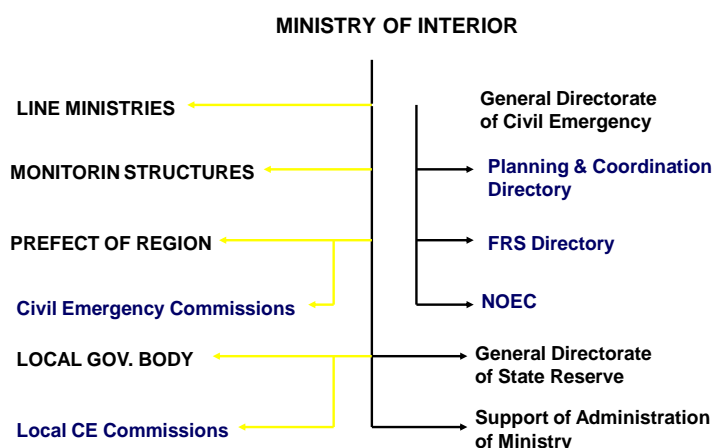


Fig. 9.B: Composition of National Civil Emergency System

Based on National Plan of CE as well as DCM No. 663, of 18.12.2002 "On the structure, functioning and responsibilities of the technical-advisory committee of emergency specialists" a technical advisory committee is established at the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies composed of specialists from ministries, other institutions, various entities and operational.

Each line ministry is responsible for planning and management of civil emergencies according to their area of expertise. Their activities encompass all stages of the civil emergency management cycle, and whenever appropriate they play either a leading or a supporting role.

The principal operational forces or active structures in Albania based on the National Plan of CE as well as on DCM No.531, of 1.8.2003 "On the structuring, functioning and responsibilities of the Civil Emergencies service" are comprised of:

Armed Forces, Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue (AFDFPR), the Ambulance Service, the State Police and other Police units, General Directorate of State Reserves, units specialized in mines and technical response, monitoring and operational supportive structures. These structures have specific roles, tasks and responsibilities for all the phases of the civil emergency management cycle, and it is essential that they cooperate closely with each other to provide the most effective response possible.

The Head of Operations is the leader of the response effort, and coordinates the management of the civil emergency operation in the affected area.

The National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies (NOCCE) is at the centre of civil emergency management in Albania. It plays an active role through all four stages of civil emergency management. The National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies functions 24 hours /day. Its main duty is keeping under control civil emergencies in the whole country, gathering information, coordination of operational forces in dealing with civil emergencies.

Responsibilities on prefecture, municipality and commune levels for Civil Emergencies:

A local commission, headed by the Prefect (or mayor of commune) is established in each prefecture (or commune, municipality) which task is to co-ordinate the activities of the prefecture authorities (or municipality or commune) and voluntary organisations.

Institutions and structures involve:

- Line ministries;
- Prefectures, municipalities, communes;
- Albanian Red Cross and other NGOs;
- Academy of Sciences and other researching institutes;
- Families, teachers, community;
- UNDP and other UN Agencies NATO/ CEP/ EADRCC;
- Partner countries;
- Regional and European Initiatives like CMEP, DPPI, Black Sea Agreement, EUROPA Hazard Agreement, NEQ.

Considering the fact that natural disasters of any kind are immensely destructive to environment, and indeed some of them are caused from the use of hazardous substances, the Ministry of Environment plays an important role in all disaster phases.

The Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration:

- Plays a primary role in preliminarily estimating a situation susceptible to cause an environmental emergency of immense proportions, with negative effects on the environment in general, on the life of citizens and livestock, private and public property and cultural heritage,
- Along with engaging active operational monitoring, informative and supporting structures, also submits a request for specialized international structures to engage in the mission, pursuant to bilateral covenants and agreements.
- Ensures the necessary technical for the teams of intervention, facilitating their receiving and accompanying them to the operations sites.
- The MoE coordinates its activity with the other ministries according to the case and the needs.

Inspections activities (including chemical facilities) are foreseen to be carried out by different inspectorates.

Ministry of Health:

The Ministry of Health, in cooperation with the Office of Albania of WHO (World Health Organization), has prepared the “General Platform of Ministry of Health for Management of risk and fatalities” and “Protocols of prompt health assessment in disasters”. These are guidance documents, assisting the process for preparing the response plans of health system on the management of disasters, including accidents from chemicals or fatalities, the structures which are involved according to different levels of civil emergencies, as well as the roles and responsibilities of each of these structures in any situation.

International Health Regulation (IHR) (2005)

In frame of IHR (2005) (<http://www.who.int/ihr/en/>), states should ensure that their systems of public health should be able to detect and respond to events caused by chemical substances.

In September 2010 through DCM No.772, of 29.9.2010 for the International Health Regulations, the Council of Ministers appointed the Public Health Institute (PHI) responsible for coordinating with relevant government sectors to ensure the implementation of the IHR. (2005). Apart from being Contact Point for IHR, IPH is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of the IHR (2005). It is established a group of IHR to supervise the coordination and implementation of the IHR (2005) in Albania. In 2011 was conducted a meeting with all relevant participants from IPH and other institutions mentioned in the DCM, involved in the implementation of the IPH (2005) to discuss the action plan for implementation of this regulation.

There are five contact persons who are in alert call 24/7/365. These five people use the decision instrument in Annex 2 of IHR to assess whether public health events are potential public health emergency that constitute international concern and must notify WHO. IPH has prepared a draft protocol or standard procedure of action for the IHR contact persons in the assessment of risks to public health and communication and information internally the country and with WHO. This protocol has been used in practice as still do exist some shortcomings.

Currently there is no mechanism to record the events of public health including those related to chemicals that are evaluated using the Decision Instrument. The five contact persons should have access to the website about Events (Event Information Site, EIS) and should be able to post to the EIS if is necessary. A person appointed to the office of WHO in Albania also has access to protected password of EIS.

Chemical surveillance and response

The **Service of Clinical Toxicology at Tirana University Hospital Center (TUHC)** with three experts in clinical toxicology convenes two-year trainings in clinical toxicology; 17 toxicologists have been trained to date. The budget for the service comes from TUHC. Every year about 6'000-7'000 patients have requested emergency services from this department and about 10% of them have been hospitalized. Most cases are caused by drugs overdose or other chemicals. There are 13 beds plus two beds for intensive care.

There are about 200 poisonings per month caused by pesticides, agricultural chemicals. Laboratory testing is carried out by Forensic Laboratory for legal cases. There are five chemists in the analytical laboratory at IPH which test for organic and inorganic compounds such as pesticides and heavy metals. The Pre-clinical Toxicology Laboratory at IPH has limited capacities. A manual on clinical treatment of poisonings has been completed in draft form and needs discussion and publication to be used for trainings.

There is no formal communication between the Service of Clinical Toxicology and IPH. There is a need for a formal process for communication and building a National Poisons Centre to provide a service 24 hours/ 7 days per week to the doctors across the country and to facilitate the documentation of poisoning cases in the country. This Center would contribute in the assessment and periodical review of chemical incidents and diseases caused by them, in collaboration with IPH.

From the results of assessment made in frame of the project on IHR 2005 implementation, the surveillance for events caused by chemical substances is extremely weak because the lack of coordination despite the existing documentation and legislation. There is an urgent need for training on risk assessment and management as well as in terms of concepts of applied epidemiology and surveillance for all specialists working in the area of chemicals management.

In meanwhile, by beginning of year 2012 has started an online training on knowledge on IHR 2005 with experts of chemicals management.

Environmental Inspectorate exerts continuous environment monitoring activities in order to guarantee the protection of the environment through the enforcement of the relevant legislation and the conditions of the environmental permit and declaration. Environment Inspectorate has the following responsibilities:

- Creates the environmental file for every activity dotted with an environmental permit. The Minister of Environment defines the detailed rules on the format, content and the administration of the environmental file;
- Assists the physical and legal persons to realize the self-monitoring, the verification and the implementation of the integrated management systems and controls their implementation;
- Orders for the implementation of obligatory measures to be taken for the improvement of the state of environment, for the mitigation of the pollution and the damage of the environment;
- Controls the pollutant's register, the inner, technical and technological regulations and other documents related to the activity and the risks of pollution;
- Imposes sanctions, according to this law and other legal acts that protect special constituents of the environment.

Central Technical Inspectorate (CTI) is a national public institution under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy and consists of:

- Directorate of Inspection of Oil and Gas;
- Directorate of Inspection of Electrical Equipment;
- Directorate of Inspection of Pressure Equipment;
- Department of the Central Control Laboratory.

Mining inspection and rescue unit, monitors through periodic inspections of special rules implementing safety techniques to guarantee a normal working regime of risk prevention in mining activities and intervene in time in case of emergency, to carry out rescue operations in mining activities and in the context of civil emergencies.

The State Inspectorate of Labor as responsible body in the field of occupational safety and health has these obligations:

- controls the implementation of document on prevention assessment of risks at work;

- requires the execution of sampling and measurements for analysis of materials and hazardous substances used during the work process. In any case, the employer or his representative should be aware of the purpose of sampling;
- orders banning the activity, repair of defects noticed during the operation of equipment or the use of working methods, or modification of installation within a time limit when ascertained the existence of a serious and immediate danger or illness and reports, if necessary, relevant body to the prosecution;
- investigates events in accordance to its competencies, to authorize the investigation, to confirm the character of accidents;
- coordinates, together with the Institute of Social Insurance and, if necessary, with other institutions involved in the process, reporting system and maintaining the process-verbal of occupational accidents.

In case of an industrial incident, the following sources may provide information for the National Operation Centre for Civil Emergencies (NOCCE): Citizens, private or state entities at risk, relevant inspectorates, Prefects, Local Authorities, monitoring structures, State Police Stations, Fire and Rescue Service Police, civil emergency practitioners, units of the Armed Forces, etc. This information should be transmitted immediately to Minister of Local Government and Decentralization, General Director of Civil Emergency Planning and Response, Director of Civil Emergency Planning and Coordination, Director of Fire-fighting and Rescue Service, and Head of National Operation Center for Civil Emergencies.

In addition, the National Operation Center for Civil Emergencies must inform: nearest Fire-fighting and Rescue Station, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (MoETE), Ministry of Defense (MoD), Ministry of Health (MoH), ambulance service and medical evacuation helicopters, Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA), the prefect of the respective prefecture and the head of affected communes/mayor, Albanian Red Cross, and others. The National Operations Centre of Civil Emergencies compiles the information mentioned above and the same institutions should keep this centre updated on this event.

Regarding the inventory of installations and means of transports that constitute risk for a chemical incident:

- Environmental Inspectorate has drafted the first list of industrial activities based on Annex I of IPPC Directive and PRTR Protocol;
- Some of the activities such as petroleum products stores are identified by the Central Technical Inspectorate.
- MoLSAEO has identified 73 hazardous activities all over the country according to Annex 1 of DCM nr.100 dated which listed about 220 dangerous substances;
- It is necessary increasing the capacities at national, regional and local level, by training activities in the way to improve the knowledge of experts in the identification of hazardous activities under the Convention and the Seveso II directive as well as to enhance awareness of industry with respect to the potential risk;
- Ministry of Public Works and Transports issues licence to the subjects that transport the dangerous goods, classified and marked as dangerous by the European Agreement on International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Roads (ADR), whose transport on roads is prohibited, or allowed only in certain conditions of this agreement; in the case of road transport of dangerous goods there are set the licensing criteria, where the demand for professional competence is completed except the possession of the Certificate of professional competence under the respective activities or possession of the diploma degree in mechanical

engineering or economic, and the possession of the Certificate of Training as a Security Advisor in the transport of dangerous goods.

Article 31 "Transportation of dangerous goods within the country" of the Guidelines No. 15, of 24.7.2007 " On criteria and procedures for issuing licenses, authorizations and certificates for activities of road transport" regulates the activity of transports of dangerous goods within the country, which is conducted activities against certification of dangerous goods.

This certificate is issued to any individual or legal entity that seeks to carry out the transport of dangerous goods within the country and possesses:

- The Approved Certificate for the means of transports that transport certain dangerous goods (according ADR), and issued by the General Directorate of Road Transport Services;
- Certificate of the Transported Equipment Control for dangerous goods issued by the Inspectorate of Equipments under Pressure.

List of entities licensed to transport dangerous goods is identified by MoPWT.

Based on Regulation (EC) 1272/2008, "On classification, labelling and packaging of substances and concentrations", and on the Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS), and European and international developments relating to the classification and labelling of chemicals and substances, Albanian needs to review its existing relevant system.

DCM No. 824 of 11.12.2003 "On classification, packaging, labelling and preserving of dangerous substances and preparations", laid down regulations on classification, packaging and labelling in Albania. It was drafted in compliance with European Union Directive 67/548/EEC of 27 June 1967 "On classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous substances".

It establishes secure conditions for the administration of all chemicals and chemical preparations imported, exported, produced, marketed, used and stored in Albania.

Pursuant to Paragraph 3 of DCM 824/03, the classification and preparation of dangerous substances takes place according to International Standards. Paragraph 4 of the Decision regulates producer, importer and distributor requirements for packaging, and Paragraph 5 defines markings and labelling of dangerous preparations and chemical substances. Paragraph 7 defines preservation and storage requirements. The annexes of attached to DCM 824/03 contain the standard definitions of risk (R-phrases), safety (S-phrases), and classification of chemical substances and preparations according to ordinal element numbers.

The rules for classification, labelling and packaging of Plant Protection Products (PPPs) are designated on DCM No. 1555 of 12.11.2008 "On rules approval of registration and assessment criteria of PPPs".

As far as chemical emergencies are concerned, there is currently no information center in the country about poisonings from chemicals, but there is a coordination center for medical emergencies under the administration of the Ministry of Health, whose capacities in practical terms are limited, especially for transportation of victims in case of accidents involving dangerous chemicals.

In addition, there is no guidance document with information on the incidence of hazardous chemicals, incident management, general toxicology, decontamination methods, and the use of antidote or equipments during the occurrence of a chemical emergency.

Regarding the trainings in the emergency response in general such as fire extinguishing, altitude climbing, rescue-safety, injured transportation, the Directorate of Defense Police and Fire Rescue (DPFR) in its structure has the Sector of Standard Assessment and Operational Coordination, as well as the National Training Coordination Center. The main task of the Directorate of DPFR is planning, coordination, control and raising the level of DPFR structures' staff at all levels.

The strengthening of institutional capacities is addressed through the new draft law "On civil protection from disasters" that is expected to be approved within 2012.

Structural changes in the General Directorate of Civil Emergencies in the new draft law aims its converting from directory into agency by changing its structures, responsibilities and direct function, as well as establishing of Civil Protection Inspectorate as a specialized structure with vertical extension, as a structural part of National Agency of Civil Protection.

It is anticipated that the education and training on civil protection will be organized by the National Agency of Civil Protection through the National Training Center.

There are neither special trainings regarding chemical emergencies in particular, nor trainings for veterinarians on animal exposure to toxic substances.

9.2 Response to chemical incidents

In table 9.A are given examples of incidents with implication of chemicals, occurred in Albania in last years.

Table 9.A: Examples on chemical incidents in the country

Date of incident	Location	Type of incident	Chemical(s) involved	D: Deaths I: Injured E: Evacuated	Environmental contamination or damage
2005	Shëngjin Lezhë	Industrial accident, explosion of fuel storage	Fuels	D: 0 I: 0 E: 0	Temporary air pollution; Pollution of Kune Vaini Lagune; Sea pollution
June 2005	Vau i Dejës, Shkodra	Explosion of the transformers from the Hydro Power Plant	Mineral oil for transformers	D: 0 I: 0 E: 0	Air pollution Building walls contaminated
2008	Gërdec Tirana	Explosion of a weapons dismantling plant	Weapons	D: 26 I: 300 E: 4000	Temporary air pollution Soil Pollution
2011	Tirana	Industrial accident, explosion of fuel storage	Hydrocarbons	D: 0 I: 0 E: 3	Temporary air pollution;
2011	Tirana	industrial accident, explosion of mineral oil storage	Mineral oil for cars	D: 0 I: 0 E: 0	Temporary air pollution;

Given the above incidents, it was learned how important is the obligation of operators for the preparation of the internal emergency plans and their submission to MoEFWA, together with accompanying documentation to be provided with environmental permits. The relevant sector that issues permits for these operators needs increased capacities for defining the proper

permit conditions to prevent industrial accidents. Another weakness that was observed was associated with the lack of expertise to assess the damage to the environment and the operator liability to make the rehabilitation of the environment, aiming at reducing environmental pollution.

A register of chemical accidents according to WHO recommendations is planned to be placed at the Department of Health and Environment in the Institute of Public Health. There are plans to establish the national health and environmental indicators for chemicals.

In frame of the National Action Plans on Environmental Health and the European Plan of Action for Children's Health and Environment, where Albania is participating, the collaboration with WHO and countries in the region continues.

9.3 Chemical incident follow-up and evaluation

National Plan on Civil emergencies has provisions on factors that should be considered on response to the industrial accident.

Factors to consider in response:

- The immediate evacuation of the affected and potentially affected population is essential. Public warning and information systems need to be maintained throughout the event;
- Highly specialized rescue services may be needed to free trapped people;
- Rapid evacuation to health facilities must be considered, with special health requirements including burns and other complications being specifically planned for;
- An immediate technological assessment is required to determine existing and potential effects, including widespread of environmental contamination;
- The initial cause of the event must be identified and put under control. A repeat scenario must be avoided;
- Secondary effects must be minimized, based on strongest coordination of concerned agencies;
- The health sector and fire and rescue services in particular may require immediate additional support. Potential support resources should be a key element in contingency planning at local and national level.

Factors to consider in recovery

- The evacuated population must be kept aware of the risks until the situation is safe. This includes specific risks, such as that posed by contaminated water supplies;
- There are incidences where a population has been unable to safely return to their homes, and suitable alternative provision has to be made for them;
- It is essential to assess wider scale or longer term environmental impacts, the effects on wildlife, livestock, crops and groundwater. Timely appropriate advice must be given to the affected population through public education means;
- There may be opportunities for mitigation for the affected site and similar sites during recovery operations. The building of inexpensive retaining walls or dykes, sealing concrete floors and catchments, and checking and repairing damaged existing safety features and agreeing indicators for early warning may have significant impact in preventing a repeat event.

There is no national register for the registration of various incidents that may occur due to the chemical substances and there is no specialized technical institution that conducts the

investigation of the causes and responsibilities of the occurrence of an incident. There are no standard forms for collecting information about the incidents and to follow the consequences in health or environment.

Regarding the responsibility for damage caused to the environment, the law “On Environmental Protection” No. 10431 of 9.6.2011 have provisions on Environmental Liability:

Article 47: Liability for environmental damage;

Article 48: Costs for preventive and corrective measures;

Article 49: Compensation for damage to the environment;

Article 50: Obligation to provide funds for compensation of damage;

Article 51: Supplementary expenditure coverage corrective measures.

9.4 Comments/Analysis

– Since the existing EU regulation on chemicals, respectively Directive 76/769/EEC 67/548/EEC, which have been transposed in existing Albanian legislation, has been repealed and other gaps are identified in the Albanian legislation, there is a need for drafting a new national legislation on chemicals which would transpose the European legislation, respectively the regulation (EC) 1272/2008, "On the classification, labeling and packaging of substances and their compounds" and REACH Regulation (EC) 1907/2006.

– One of the identified problems is the lack of a database for the industrial activities that constitute risks for industrial accidents caused by chemicals. It is necessary to carry out the inventory of industrial activities that contain hazardous substances.

– The permitting sector in the MoEFWA needs to increase the capacities especially in putting the relevant condition in the environmental permits, related to the management of chemicals for prevention of industrial accidents caused by them.

– According to the legislation, procedures for risk assessment for hazardous chemicals must be defined by the Minister of Health, while procedures for environmental risk assessment are to be defined by Minister of Environment. Currently the Ministry of Health and MoEFWA have no mechanism in place for assessing the risk and impact on health and environment of chemical substances.

– There is no **information center about poisoning** from chemicals, and the actual capabilities in practical terms are limited, especially for transportation of victims in case of accidents involving dangerous chemicals.

– There is no national register for the registration of incidents that may occur due to the chemical substances and there is no specialized technical institution that conducts the investigation of the causes and responsibilities of the occurrence of an incident. There are no standard forms for collecting information about the incidents and to follow the consequences in health or environment.

– The surveillance for events caused by chemical substances is extremely weak because of lack of coordination despite the existing documentation and legislation. There is an urgent need for training on risk assessment and management as well as in terms of concepts of applied epidemiology and surveillance for all specialists working in the area of chemicals management.

– There is no guidance document on the incidents from hazardous chemicals, on incident management, general toxicology, decontamination methods, use of antidotes or equipments during the occurrence of a chemical emergency.

- Increasing the capacities of competent authorities at national, regional and local level for the identification and assessment of safety reports of industrial activities that constitute risk for industrial accidents due to dangerous substances is a necessary requirement.
- The National Training Center should organize training on prevention, preparedness and response to the chemical emergencies for the authorities and industrial operators.
- In order to successfully respond to problems caused by chemical accidents it is necessary to strengthen the capacities of intervention forces from the MoI, alert structures of Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue and health aid bodies, to respond to an accident in terms of the use of equipment and the suitable tools for industrial accidents.
- Increasing the awareness of the population on the risk of the industrial accidents and their right to information is needed.

The table 9.B below shows the priority issues and possible actions regarding chemical emergency preparedness, response, and follow-up ranked from the highest to the lowest priority.

Table 9.B: Priorities and possible actions: Chemical emergency prevention, preparedness and response

Priority Issues (Ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity	Summary of Capacity Strengths, Gaps, and Needs	Possible Action	Concerned Actors
Drafting a new national legislation on chemicals transposing REACH and CLP	Low	No clear responsibilities defined between institutions in the existing legislation	Drafting new legislation	MoEFWA, MoH, MoETE
Carry out the inventory of industrial activities that contain hazardous substances	Medium	Lack of a database for the industrial activities that constitute risks for industrial accidents caused by chemicals	Training the staff on carrying out the inventory and completing the database	MoEFWA, MoLSAEO MoETE
Increase the capacities of the environmental permit bodies, environmental, health and labor inspectors and operators on industrial accidents	Low	Lack of capacities in national level of the responsible authorities addressing the prevention of industrial accidents	Training activities for permit bodies, environmental inspectors and operators	MoEFWA, MoLSAEO
Set up the mechanism for assessing the risk and impact on health and environment of chemical substances	Low	There is no mechanism in place for assessing the risk and impact on health and environment of chemical substances.	-Compiling the regulation on the risk and impact on health and environment of the chemical substances. -Preparation of a guidance document about the incidence of the dangerous chemicals, the incident management, in the general toxicology, the decontamination methods, the use of antidote or equipments during the occurrence of a chemical emergency	MoEFWA, MoH
Strengthening the capacities of intervention forces from the MoI and the health aid forces, to respond to an incident, in terms of the use of equipment and the suitable tools for industrial accidents	Medium		Training activities	MoI, MoH

CHAPTER 10: AWARENESS/ UNDERSTANDING OF WORKERS AND THE PUBLIC' TRAINING AND EDUCATION OF TARGET GROUPS AND PROFESSIONALS

Purpose of Chapter 10 is to describe the public and non public institutions mechanisms and activities available to provide information to workers and the public concerning the potential risks associated with chemicals, as well as existing capacities for training and education of target groups affected by chemicals.

This chapter describes legal instruments, programmes, policies, and activities related to awareness/ understanding of workers, public, target groups and professionals. It also provides information on education and training for specific sectors of society concerned with the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Relevant activities of governmental and non-public institutions on awareness and understanding of chemical safety issues are also summarized.

Although there is no production of hazardous chemicals in Albania, there are public and institutional concerns regarding their management. The numerous chemical products are used in everyday life, in school, at home and in other environments. These chemicals can have negative effects in humans and the environment when used improperly (e.g. medicines, detergents, cosmetics, paints, plastics, synthetic fibres, batteries, pesticides and other agricultural chemicals). Every citizen should be well informed about chemicals risks, in order to be able to understand the health and environmental risks.

The public engagement is needed in planning, decision-making and implementation of policies on environmental health.

In order to be able to contribute in a proper way, the citizens should be informed, as the public perceptions are limited and, usually, doubts based on inappropriate or disorienting information can play a big role in the shape of the public perception and attitude towards risk. In Albania awareness-raising is needed on potential risks from exposure and mishandling of chemicals.

The responsible institutions such as Ministry of Health, Public Health Institution, Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration etc., in the country should assist in public information on chemicals hazards through informing analysis and different remarks. A higher quality of the available information is to be provided to the public and for decision makers. This should be back up by investments in research, analysis and assessments.

The Albanian Government and the public have already perceived that a better information and awareness of the official levels and of the community would result in sustainable decisions. If the public is included in the decision making process, their concerns are reflected during the planning process, when it is easier to readjust than later, when every change is very costly.

10.1 Awareness and understanding of chemical safety issues

Public institutions

Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA): A significant achievement in the field of information and public participation was the signature on 25.6.1998 and the ratification on 27.6.2001 of Aarhus Convention of UNECE “On the right of the public for information, participation in decision- making and access to justice in environmental matters”.

Under the leadership of MoEFWA and in cooperation with other ministries and NPOs, in 2004 it was compiled the “Strategy and National Plan for the Implementation of Aarhus Convention in Albania”, which is the basic document on the Government’s policy on the increase of the active role of the civil society, public, NPOs, business organizations and individuals in the field of environmental protection. With the assistance of World Bank is on the way an update of this strategy.

At the same time, MoEFWA makes possible the communication to the public of air monitoring data through the publication of the Annual Report on the State of Environment, interviews, information through line ministries, NPOs, local government and media. The Annual Reports on the State of Environment can be found in the website of this ministry www.moe.gov.al and of the Agency of Environment and Forestry www.aefalbanian.org.

Aarhus Information Centre in Tirana, established as section of Public Information (Relations) of MoEFWA enables the provision of general and specific information on environment based on public requests. Public interest and requests for information addressed to the Aarhus Information Centre, on various issues related to chemicals, is limited. The main interest is expressed on other environmental issues. Aarhus Information Center is used by MoEFWA as an extension of the above-mentioned functions, as an institution to promote the Aarhus Convention. In addition, it is involved in supporting and coordinating with the line ministries, NPOs, business and other interested parties on activities deriving by the Convention obligations. The status of Aarhus Information centre and the terms of reference are discussed recently, after the establishment of the new Counselling Board.. The board comprises 14 members: 7 members from public authorities (representatives of MoEFWA (3), MoETE (1), MoPWT (1), MoH (1), MoI (1) and 7 members from the civil society, active in environmental issues, including one representative by the business community (Chamber of Commerce). The Aarhus information Centre acts as secretariat of the Counselling Board on the implementation of Aarhus Convention in Albania.

This centre facilitates public debates on draft-laws and strategies, which are drafted on the initiative of MoEFWA. During 2010, there are organized more than 13 public debates with the representatives of the interested public mainly on the environmental legislation. The function of AIC has been the facilitation of the participation of different interest groups and collection of comments on draft-policies and draft-laws, promoting the dialogue among NPOs, other stakeholders and MoEFWA.

Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO), through the **State Labor Inspectorate (SLI)** (<http://www.sli.gov.al/>) fulfils the obligations of the Labor Code of Albania, including obligations in the area of occupational health and safety. In the SLI website can be found guidance for the implementation of the legislation on occupational health and safety, as well as factsheets of European Agency for Safety and Health at Work on hazardous substances at workplace. Those factsheets are translated in Albanian and can be found in the address:

http://www.sli.gov.al/images/stories/focal_point/factsheet%2039-albanian.pdf

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoAFCP): In the mission and the programme of MoAFCP, a particular attention is given to food safety and consumer protection. The General Directorate of Agricultural Policies keeps the register of PPPs and fertilizers, tests and controls them based on the legislation and rules for a good administration.

Ministry of Health (MoH) implements the environmental health policies through the structures of the Directorate of Primary Health Care, i.e. Sanitary Inspectorate, the Sector of Hygiene and Epidemiology of MoH, the Department of Environmental Health in Institute of Public Health, the Directorates of Public Health with the respective inspectorates at local level. Ministry of Health does not carry out trainings activities. Other institutions of MoH structure are responsible for them, such as the Institute of Public Health. MoH has actually prepared a draft law on biocide products, which aims at to protect public health from pests through specialized service for pest control as well as the control of biocide products used in public health.

In order to implement the policy of environmental health, MoH cooperates with other national institutions, such as MoEFWA, which is one of the main partners, MoAFCP, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, MoETE, as well as with international organizations, such as WHO, UNICEF, UNDP, etc.

Institute of Public Health (IPH) is a research centre and reference centre of services in the field of public health; university and information centre. IPH is organized and functions based on Law No.10 138, dated 11.5.2009 "On public health". IPH is responsible to inform, advise and support of MoH in public health policy and strategy drafting, expertise, independent studies and capacity building in public health. It is responsible for information, education and awareness of public about health issues, also provide continuing education and professional support for public health specialists. One of the functions of IPH is information of the population on public health issues. For example, the Ministry of Health in Cooperation with IPH has organized with epidemiologists and sanitary inspectors of Health Care Departments and municipalities three trainings in last two years on subjects related to biocides and their use in public health.

Promotion department, as part of IPH, aims the improvement of population and individual health through health promotion, through social and political processes in national and local level, for creation of social, environmental and economic conditions resulting to health, and actions which enhance the ability and capability of community and individuals. The Promotion Department since years compiles the health promotion calendar, which serves for information and awareness-raising of public, media, and different interested parties on health issues. In this calendar there are distinguished the World Water and Environment Day on promoting environmental protection and use of clean water. Specialists of the department have published papers on risks of use of plastic bags, have carried out common activities with the Municipality of Pogradec with the participation of the high-school pupils, with theme: "Clean beach, health for you". On the World Environment Day in 2011 there were organized some cleaning actions at the artificial lake park of Tirana with pupils of schools of Tirana with theme "To protect the nature for a healthier life". These activities are to be found in IPH website (www.ishp.gov.al).

State Sanitary Inspectorate (SHI) functions under MoH. SHI has traditionally followed essential matters of health of employees in all manufacturing activities in the country, with focus industry hygiene, working conditions, hygienic-sanitary conditions of different branches of the activities of public and private subjects and the health state of the employees.

Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) aims quality education, contemporary European achievements at higher education, concrete impulses in scientific research and human potential, with a direct impact to the development.

Institute for Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV) is national reference institute and is organized based on DCM No. 515, dated 19.7.2006. This institute depends from MoAFCP and is specified as national reference laboratory. This institute carries out analysis in accordance to article 18 of the EC regulation 2076/2005 and of article 12 of the EC Regulation 882/2004. In cooperation with NPOs, experts of this institute provide contribution to awareness and education campaigning regarding the usage of pesticides and chemicals in food safety.

The Operator of the Transmission System: Since a few years ago too little has been done in Albania on awareness regarding PCBs and their impacts to the health and environment. The level of awareness of the workers at the objects of the energy system on PCBs risks has been very low because of the lack of information, lack of legislation, deriving normative acts and procedures for environmental administration of electric devices oil, potentially polluted with PCBs.

In order to improve the environmental situation, to reinforce environmental management capacities and increase the level of awareness of the workers of the energy system, a few years ago, with consultancy from abroad, there was established a structure for environmental management in all the objects of the system. Central environmental staff inspects regularly accordingly to an Annual Inspection Plan, verifies environmental situations and let the concrete tasks to improve the situation. Constantly prepare awareness materials on environmental protection, provide information on Albanian environmental legislation, and organize various training courses for employees.

The National Centre for Training of the Civil Protection is designed in order to increase the number and the qualification of the workers of the service of civil emergencies at different levels, aiming at the preparation of effective reserves and volunteers. The establishment of 3 responsible units and 3 logistic centres for civil protection from emergencies and disasters is the main measure that will make possible the closure of the emergencies management cycle to a certain extent, considering that existing structures are non-professional and the reaction often is delayed.

Media: The information exchange on chemicals related issues is very important for raising awareness and knowledge. The media has an important role to play in raising awareness of all levels of society. A free media is often the only way by which the population can be mobilized to implement changes. Two training sessions conducted for journalists in investigative journalism were organized, in Tirana. The training sessions were organized in cooperation with the One UN media development project "Raising professional skills of Albanian journalists in a globalised world", it targeted journalists from UN press club and some others with specific interest in environment and it was delivered by Inter Press Service company. Intersectoral and interdisciplinary meetings, meetings between representatives from different generations, the use of different networks, the right to information on the state of environment in community and in the country based on the third pillar of Aarhus Convention, are tools used for this purpose. These meetings are organized by different organizations, (private sector), interested on these issues. Media has been the appropriate mean for information dissemination as widely. Other very important tools for information exchange are websites, such as <http://chemicals.al>, www.un.org.al/, <http://pesticide-al.com>, <http://albania.rec.org>, www.mjedisisot.info, etc, different bulletins and written media, such as

the bi-weekly Journal “Ekolëvizja” and the website (www.ekolevizja.org) and the bulletin on MoEFWA, awareness raising materials, posters, leaflets, etc.

In spite of the disseminated information and increase of the interest for the environment, the Albanian citizens are not yet informed adequately on the relationships between the environment and public health, and on the benefits of a clean environment for the economy and for the society. We still talk about a lack of waste management. Albanian citizens still do not recycle their products yet. Frequently, stores continue to sell products without appropriate labelling. Customers do not have interest on environmental friendly products, and pay little attention to the product content they consume. The level of active citizens participating on environmental issues remains low. There is still a need to improve the environmental awareness in all society levels.

There are measures needed to facilitate and foster the right of the public to ask for environmental information. The interest and concern of the public on environmental issues has been increased lately.

The establishment of the Centre of Environmental Information has increased the public interest on environmental information. Before establishment of this Centre, interested Albanian citizens, on different environmental issues, not always know where to direct their requests. On the other hand, requests to the Ministry of Environmental not always end with an answer. Establishment of this centre, with the main goal, public information about environmental issues and encouraging public participation in environmental decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters.

UNDP: Through the programme for Democratic Governance, UNDP- Albania has supported the reform in public administration and training of civil service, economic management and transparency, reinforcement of the management of foreign assistance and increase of the confidence. UNDP-Albania has assisted in establishment of the first and unique institute for training of the public administration in the country. UNDP has helped the Government on environmental protection through addressing global environmental issues and sustainable management of resources. UNDP has given an important contribution regarding cleanup of Albania from unexploded mines and munitions. In this frame, there was supported the adoption of International Standards of Actions for Mines for Albania, development of national capacities for coordination and monitoring of the activities against mines, their cleanup, education on their hazard and victims assistance. UNDP aims to address the lack of information on Albania in the international plan, improving the quality and quantity of national information, in order to increase positive reactions and to establish a positive programme which would reflect the Albanian context. UNDP is also assisting strengthening capacities of media in the country, in order to foster the responsible reporting on human development.

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Sciences, MoEFWA and three environmental organizations in Albania, the “Ekolëvizja” Group, the EDEN Centre and the Institute for Nature Conservation continue since 2008 the implementation in national scale for environmental education and the change of behaviour of the children of middle schools. The project is called Cleen. One of the subprojects of the big project is focused on information, awareness and actions of children regarding plastics, which is implemented by “Ekolëvizja” Group.

10.2 Education and training on sound management of chemicals and waste

Different public and non-public institutions have carried out qualification and training activities on the sound management of chemicals and waste. Some of these activities are mentioned below:

Specialists of MoEFWA have participated in trainings on chemicals management, such as a “Workshop on POPs and National Action Plans in frame of Stockholm Convention”, carried out in June 2011 in Brno, Czech Republic, 5-days training on “Integrated waste management”, organized by Horizon 2020 in Cairo, Egypt in March 2011.

The Chemicals Agency of Sweden (KEMI) has organized some multi-year training programmes on “Strategies on Chemicals Management”. 8 persons from different institutions, including MoEFWA have participated in two of these trainings in the period 2009-2011.

Institute of Public Health, in cooperation with WHO has carried out trainings of the staff of the Directorates of Public Health (DPHs) in districts and sanitary inspectors on occupational health issues, including hazardous chemicals.

MoH and IPH, in cooperation with the companies Arli International, PelGar and Quark have organized with epidemiologists and sanitary inspectors of DPHs and of the municipalities two trainings on biocidal products, the training with theme “Pest control: Biocidal products and application methods safe for the public health”, January 2011, and the training “Methodologies implemented on the hygieno-sanitary inspection of the public structures for the assessment of the infestation level from biological vectors (insects and rodents)” in June 2011. During October 2011 it is organized from IPH training seminar on biocides in the stomatology with stomatologists, where there were treated not only areas of use of biocides in infections prevention, but also rules of use, health and environment protection from these products. These trainings were accredited by the National Center for Continuous Education.

During the implementation of the project “Identification and prioritization of the environmental hot-spots in Albania”, also there are trained local actors to ensure the implementation of the integrated measures for the implementation of the new policies of management for the cleanups, and it is prepared and disseminated a brochure on management of environmental hot-spots.

Different national and international activities, such as conferences and congresses have been seen as opportunities for knowledge dissemination and training. So, during the 3rd International Congress of Rural Health for Mediterranean and Balkan Countries, carried out in Tirana in 2010, a special session was about a training on health risk assessment.

IPH, in cooperation with the Health Service of the South Limburg Municipality, Netherlands, and with the National Institute of Public Health and Environment of Netherlands (RIVM) organized in 2011 a training on “Environmental medicine and risk assessment”. In the training participated specialists of IPH and of the Directorates of Public Health of the districts.

The European Association of Toxicologists (EUROTOX) organized in 2009 a one-week training on Basic Toxicology. In the activity participated specialists from Europe and Albania.

Regional Environmental Centre (REC) has developed and distributed the first complete curriculum on environmental education in Albania, named “Green Pack”. It is distributed to all public schools (up to 9-th grade) through the Regional Education Directorates. REC contributes not only in the introduction of the subject of environmental education at school,

but also in the teachers qualification practising this subject. REC organizes training sessions for the teachers of environmental education on environmental activities serving the community and improvement of the quality of environment. Parts of the activities of REC are also seminars organized with different universities on environmental education and environmental law. In frame of a grant-giving programme, REC supports different NPO on awareness activities such as Institute of Biotechnology Research on organizing workshops on improvement of the legislation on collecting and handling waste oil and other products. Different awareness materials are prepared and distributed such as posters, leaflets and awareness raising materials.

EDEN centre develops educational programmes, publishes materials and organizes public activities, aiming at the public awareness-raising with respect to the environment. The organization leads the Centre for Environmental Resources and has a group of trainers and programmes for capacity-building for the public and private stakeholders. In the framework of capacity building related to information on hazardous chemicals, EDEN Centre has organized two training activities. The aim of first one, was on “Ways of composting and using compost and its benefits”. Parts of this activity were employments of Divjaka city hall and the farmers of this area. The second activity has had as target group the youth generation, with the aim of increasing the knowledge of young people for chemicals found in food, their harmful properties, how can they control the daily food. This activity is developed under the project "How Safe are our Food Products".

10.3 Assessment

There exists yet a weak perception on matters related to chemicals safety and how exposure towards chemicals and toxic waste can damage irreversibly the health and can lead to the degradation of the environment, what affects the wellbeing and economic development. There are some information dissemination activities, but practical application of this information remains low. Possibilities for alternatives of products remain limited. There are no regular training and programs for issues related to chemicals. Some population groups might be in higher risk to hazardous chemicals, so education can help them to reduce the exposure.

The awareness about the chemicals hazards at all age-groups and all levels is low. Action is needed at university level for the development of a curriculum on chemicals safety. Along with the Green Package, a separate subject should be introduced at the high schools of Bachelor system the Occupational Hygiene and Safety at Work, especially for the medical schools and other professional branches. It will contribute to increase of knowledge level of the new generation related to factors affecting the health, including the chemicals.

Awareness raising and training on the safety of chemicals use of different professional groups, such as farmers, transporters, industry workers, technical staffs, as well as of the consumers, is an important action for risk reduction. There are no regular training programmes such as for agricultural and industrial workers, customs workers, chemical emergency response professionals. MoH is preparing new draft- acts deriving from the Law on health and safety at work. The purpose of these draft-acts is to cope between others with this gap.

It is needed the organization of information/training courses with specialists of public health in districts, on risk assessment, risk management, definition of algorithms for industrial subjects of objects, in order to protect the health of employees.

There is a lack of cooperation among institutions and organizations on increasing the awareness on chemicals.

The role of media should be more active and opened and other means for communication, such as social networks, can be used for knowledge and awareness purposes as well.

Table 10.B: Priorities and possible actions ranked from highest to lowest: Awareness/ understanding of workers and the public, and training and education of target groups and professionals

Priority issues	Level of existing capacity	Summary of capacities: strengths, gaps and needs	Possible action	Concerned actors
Pesticides	Medium	Lack of adequate information on the risks of their use on the health and environment, on the proper use of the label as a very important risk communication tool.	Trainings for agricultural pharmacists, farmers, TV programmes, TV spots, leaflets, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter	MoAFCP, Agricultural University, MoLSAEO, MoH, IPH (Promotion Dept.), importing companies, spraying and handling workers, etc.
Oil and its products	Low	Lack of information	TV programmes, TV spots, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter	MoPWT, MoH, REC, Municipalities, REAs (Regional Environmental Agencies)
Detergents	Low	-No information	Trainings, particularly with woman organizations, TV programmes and spots, leaflets, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter	MoETE, MoH, Producing companies, NPOs, population (women)
Expired drugs	Low	Not enough information regarding risks of improper disposal of expired pharmaceuticals.	Trainings for pharmacists and TV programme on disposal ways of expired drugs and on the hazards of improper disposal. TV spots, leaflets, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter	MoH, NCDC (National Center for Drugs Control), pharmacists
Coloured textiles	-	-	TV programme on the care towards coloured textiles, TV spots, leaflets, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter	MoETE, MoH, Commerce Chambers, environmental and health NPOs, consumers
Chemical residues in	Low		Preparation of a new guidance on laboratory	All institutions comprising

Priority issues	Level of existing capacity	Summary of capacities: strengths, gaps and needs	Possible action	Concerned actors
laboratories ⁸			waste management, training for laboratory staffs, leaflets, papers in written media, posters.	laboratories, research institutes, universities
Batteries	Low		Information and awareness raising on hazards of batteries for the health and environment when not disposed properly, TV spots, leaflets, papers in written media, posters, pages in social networks, Facebook and Twitter.	Environmental NPOs

⁸ Awareness raising and training should be proceeded or go in parallel with proper infrastructure

CHAPTER 11: CO-OPERATION AND INVOLVEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, BODIES AND AGREEMENTS

A summary of country's involvement in international activities and agreements and contacts to the relevant international organizations is given in this chapter. The main ministries involved in the activities of international agreements are MoEFWA, MoETE, MoH, MoLSAEO, MoPWT, where each international organisation has a National Focal Point nominated from the relevant institution. In this section are also shown projects recently implemented or under implementation with technical and financial assistance from international organizations.

The level of coordination at national level regarding implementation of the requirements of international agreements in the field of chemicals currently remains relatively low.

11.1 Cooperation and involvement with international organizations, bodies and agreements

Table 11.A summarizes contacts in relevant international organizations, relevant actions or programmes undertaken and other ministries or agencies involved.

Table 11.A: Membership in international organizations, programmes and bodies

International Organization	National Focal Point	Other ministries/agencies involved	National activities
UNEP	Mr. Sejdi Qerimaj , Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Permanent Representative of Albania to the UN Geneva Address: Rue du Môle 32, 1201 Geneva Tel: +41 22 731 11 43 Fax: +41 22 738 81 56 mission.geneve@mfa.gov.al	MoEFWA	National Cleaner Production Programme for Albania (NCP- Albania)
UNEP/UNIDO National Cleaner Production Centres	Ms. Marieta Mima , ECAT Tirana (Environmental Center for Administration and Technology) Address: Str. "A. Frashëri", Pall.16, Shk.6, Ap.53, Tirana, Albania Phone/ Fax: +355 4 2223930 Mob: 00355-682085689 ecat@ecat-tirana.org www.ecat-tirana.org	MoEFWA, MoETE	National Cleaner Production Programme for Albania (NCP- Albania)

IPCS International Programme of Chemical Safety	WHO Country Office, Albania <i>Address:</i> Str. "Themistokli Gërmenji", Ap. 10, Tirana office@who-albania.org http://www.euro.who.int	MoH	Strengthening capacities in the Balkan countries to improve engagement in Codex Alimentarius activities, Durrës, Albania, 6-8 shtator 2011
WHO	Ms. Ehad Mersini WHO Country Office, Albania <i>Address:</i> Street "Themistokli Gërmenji", Ap 10, Tirana MersiniE@euro.who.int office@who-albania.org http://www.euro.who.int	MoH	
FAO	Mr. Zef Gjeta Telephone: +3554228355 Fax: +355 (0) 4228355 Zef.Gjeta@fao.org NC-FAO-ALB@fao.org		
UNIDO	Council of Ministers; One UN Programme in Albania Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination <i>Address:</i> Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit", Tirana, Albania <i>Tel:</i> +355 4 2 277 357 <i>Fax:</i> +355 4 2 226 354 koordinimi@km.gov.al www.dsdc.gov.al	MoEFWA, MoETE	(NCPP-Albania), National Plan on ODS Management
ILO	Mr. Alfred Topi UN Offices, "Gurten" Building <i>Address:</i> Rr. Kavajës, Tirana <i>Mobile:</i> +355 692434916 topi@ilo.org	MoLSAEO	-
UNDP	Ms. Fioralba Shkodra Team Leader/ UN Coordination Analyst fioralba.shkodra@one.un.org Ms. Elvita Kabashi Programme Analyst for Environment Sector Elvita.kabashi@undp.org UNDP in Albania <i>Address:</i> Str. "Papa Gjon Pali II", ABA Business Center, 6th Floor, Tirana, Albania <i>Tel:</i> +355 (4) 2400 721; 2400 722; 2400 723; 2400 724 <i>Fax:</i> +355 (4) 2400 725; 2400 726	MoEFWA and line ministries	UNDP's project "Identification and prioritization of environmental hotspots in Albania" Support the Albanian government in achieving its midterm objective to rehabilitate polluted areas to meet basic safety standards through intervention in "hot spot" areas and elimination of toxic materials.

World Bank	Ms. Ana Gjokutaj Communications Officer; The World Bank Office, <i>Address:</i> Str. "Dëshmorët e 4 Shkurtit", Tirana, Albania <i>Tel.</i> (355 4) 2280 650/1 <i>Fax.</i> (355 4) 2240 590 agjokutaj@worldbank.org	MoI, (IEWE), MoPWT, MoF	
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)	<i>Address:</i> Torre Drini Building, 4th Floor, Str. "Abdi Toptani", Tirana, Albania <i>Tel:</i> +355 4 2232 898 <i>Fax:</i> +355 4 2230 580	MoEFWA, MoETE, MoF	The Bank is currently working on setting priorities for environmental improvement of the critical points that Patos oil field Marinza as part of a Ministerial Working Group
OECD	No representative Project LEED		Evaluation of capacity development at local level in the candidate countries and potential EU candidate
UN Regional Economic Commissions	Ms. Laureta Dibra NFP, Head of Sector, UNECE/CLRTAP, UNECE/Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes MoEFWA <i>Address:</i> Str. "Durrësit", No.27, Tirana Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al Mr. Fatos Bundo, Aarhus Convention MoEFWA Str. "Durrësit", No.27, Tirana Fatos.Bundo@moe.gov.al	MoEFWA and line ministries	It is compiled the NAP on ratification and implementation of the three Protocols too CLRTAP: Heavy Metals, POPs, Gothenborg.
European Agency for Occupational Health and Safety at Work	Ms. Frosina Gjino State Labour Inspectorate <i>Address:</i> Rr. "Dervish Hima", <i>Tel:</i> +355 4 251348 fgjino@hotmail.com	MoLSAEO	European Agency for Occupational Health and Safety at Work has no developed any activity related to the chemicals in Albania
UNICEF	Ms. Mariana Bukli <i>Address:</i> "Skënderbej" Square, Volkswagen Bld., 3rd floor, Tirana, Albania mbukli@unicef.org	MoES, MoEFWA, NGO "Ekolëvizja", "Eden", INC	UNICEF, CLEEN project has started in 2008 in national level on environmental education and changing child behavior.

Table 11.B provides a summary of participation in international agreements or procedures related to lyfe-cycle of chemicals management, primary agencies related to the respective agreement, contact points and relevant national implementation activities. The ministries mostly involved in the activities of international agreements are MoEFWA, MoETE, MoH, MoLSAEO, MoPWT; each international organisation has a National Focal Point appointed from the relevant institution.

Table 11.B: Participation in international agreements/ procedures related to life cycle chemicals management

International agreements	Primary responsible agency, contact person	Relevant national implementation activities
SAICM	Ms. Lindita Tafaj (Hajri) SAICM NFP, www.saicm.org Institute of Public Health <i>Address:</i> Rr. “Aleksandër Moisiu”, Nr.80, Tirana, Albania ltafaj@chemicals.al linda_tafaj@yahoo.com www.chemicals.al	SAICM QSPTF project “Strengthening capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania”
Stockholm Convention	Ms. Rovena Agalliu , NFP, MoEFWA; <i>Address:</i> Rr. “Durrësit”, Nr. 27, Tirana, Albania Rovena.Agalliu@moe.gov.al	The National Implementation Plan for Reduction and Disposal of POPs, prepared in 2006
Rotterdam Convention	Ms. Rovena Agalliu , NFP, MoEFWA <i>Address:</i> Rr. “Durrësit”, Nr. 27, Tirana, Albania Rovena.Agalliu@moe.gov.al	
Basel Convention	Mr. Redi Baduni Director of Environment Protection Directorate, MoEFWA <i>Address:</i> Rr. “Durrësit”, Nr. 27, Tirana, Albania Redi.Baduni@moe.gov.al	
Montreal Protocol	Ms. Laureta Dibra NFP, Head of Sector, MoEFWA <i>Address:</i> Rr. “Durrësit”, No.27, Tirana Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al	
ILO Convention No.170 Concerning Safety in the Use of Chemicals at Work (1990)	MoLSAEO	ILO Convention 170 is not ratified
ILO Convention No. 174 Concerning the prevention of major Industrial Accidents (1993)	MoLSAEO	Ratified in 2003
Chemical Weapons Convention	Mr. Fadil Vucaj Ministry of Defence <i>Address:</i> Bulevardi “Dëshmorët e Kombit”, Tirana fadilvucaj@mod.gov.al	
UN Recommendations for	MoPWT,	European Agreement of

International agreements	Primary responsible agency, contact person	Relevant national implementation activities
the Transport of Dangerous Goods	Transportation Directorate	International Road Transport of Dangerous Goods (ADR), of September 30, 1957, ratified by Law no. 9272, dated 16.9.2004; Protocol amending article 1 (A) and 14 (1), (3) B of ADR, of October 28, 1993, ratified by Parliament law Nr. 9378 of 28.4.2005, entered into force on 9.3.2006.
Agenda 21 - Commission for Sustainable Development	<p>Ms. Valbona Kuko, Director of DEBASKON (Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination) <i>Address:</i> Council of Ministers, Blv. “Dëshmorët e Kombit”, Tirana, Albania koordinimi@km.gov.al www.dsdc.gov.al</p>	MoEFWA and line ministries
UNEP London Guidelines (voluntary procedure)	MoEFWA	There is no data
<p>Regional/Subregional Agreements, Convention “For protection of the Mediterranean Sea from Pollution” (Barcelona Convention).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protocol “On prevention and elimination of pollution of the Mediterranean sea from dumping of waste from ship vessels and air crafts and burning on the sea” (Dumping Protocol) - Protocol “On cooperation to combat pollution of the Mediterranean caused by oil and other harmful substances spills in the case of accidents” (Mediterranean Emergency Protocol) - Protocol “On protection of the Mediterranean sea from land sources and activities” - Protocol “On areas of special protection” - Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the 	<p>Mr. Redi Baduni Director of Environment Protection Directorate MoEFWA <i>Address:</i> Str. “Durrësi”, No. 27, Tirana, Albania Redi.Baduni@moe.gov.al</p>	

International agreements	Primary responsible agency, contact person	Relevant national implementation activities
Seabed and its Subsoil - Protocol “On prevention of the pollution of the Mediterranean sea from cross border transportation of hazardous waste and its depositing” Procedures are underway for Albania being party to the seventh protocol of this convention called: “Coastal Zone Integrated Management”.		
CP/RAC	Ms. Laureta Dibra National Focal point MoEFWA Address: Str. “Durrësi”, No. 27, Tirana Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al	
REMPEC	Mr. Shkelqim Xhaxhiu Focal Point, Director of Maritime Transport Policy, Prevention and International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, OPRC MoPWT Address: Str. “Durrësi”, No. 27, Tirana, Albania Tel: +355 (4) 23 80 744 Fax: +355 (4) 22 25 106	
Bilateral agreements	MoEFWA, MoFA, Line ministries	

11.2 Participation in relevant technical assistance projects

Table 11.C provides a summary of projects that are being implemented in the country that relate directly or indirectly to the management of chemicals. These projects are supported by different international organizations.

Rehabilitation of environmental hotspots continues to be a priority that requires quick action in order to protect the environment and health, and to avoid transboundary environmental implications.

Supported by UNDP environmental programs, the Dutch Government and CARDS 2000 and 2005, the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Water Administration and the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy have taken a series of measures and there is a growing progress regarding some of most problematic hotspots.

Under the assistance of EC through the SELEA (Strengthening Environmental Legislation and Enforcement in Albania) IPA 2010 project, it is foreseen that within 2013 will be prepared the new draft law on chemicals that will transpose the Regulation No. 1907/2006 of

the Council of Europe, of 18 December 2006 on the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restrictions of Chemicals (REACH).

Among these activities can be included:

- The project "Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkans for the rehabilitation of environmental hotspots -Bajza project";
- Project "Identification and prioritization of hot spots in Albania";
- Rehabilitation of the hot spot of Porto Romano in Durres;
- Reducing pollution hot spot on the oil refinery in Ballsh;
- The elimination of arsenic in Fier Phase II;
- Rehabilitation of the hotspot in the copper Rubic's;
- Rehabilitation of hotspot to PVC in Vlora.

Regarding the inventory of activities and the equipments that use ozone layer depletion substances (ODS), this inventory has been conducted successfully by the Ozone Project, and meets one of the obligations that our country has to Montreal Protocol requirements. During 2009 our country has fully fulfilled its obligations to the Montreal Protocol.

The National Plan to Reduce and Eliminate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) is planed to be updated with the new entries to the convention.

Table 11.C: Participation as recipient in relevant technical assistance projects

Name of project	International/ bilateral donor agency involved	National contact point	Relevant activities
Project "On PCB removal"	Financed by GEF-UNDP, 2005-2006	Mr. Pellumb Abeshi General Director of Environmental Policies MoEFWA, Address: Rr. Duresi, Nr. 20, Tirana, Albania Pellumb.Abeshi@moe.gov.al	Preparation of a National Action Plan to Reduce and Eliminate Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs).
National Programme on phasing out the use of ODS.	UNIDO and UNEP	Mr. Gazmend Gjyli Ozone project unit, MoEFWA, ggjyli@yahoo.com	Planning for 2009 was to reduce the amount of CFCs from 4.08 tons to 2.2 tons. Measures to remove from production and the use of all Ozone Depleting Substances (CFCs), controlled by the Protocol in accordance with the annual import quota of consumption, was fully realized, reducing this amount by 4.08 tons to 0 tons. NAP designed to phase out the consumption of HCFC is approved by UNIDO. Given that the obligation to abolish the use and production of CFCs was implemented, then the period 2010-2013 will be introduced to another indicator monitoring and keeping HCFC quota 120 tonnes unchanged until 2013 (due under the Montreal Protocol). Intended that the amount of 120 tonnes be reduced by 10% from 2013 to 2015, reducing the amount at 108 tonnes. Long-term objective is to achieve 29 tons by the year 2040.
UNDP's project "Identification and prioritization of environmental hotspots in Albania", January 2008 — August 2011	UNDP	MoETE, MoEFWA Ms. Klodiana Marika Project Manager Mob: +355692092872 klodiana.marika@undp.org	Inventory of 35 identified hotspots. EIA reports and 9 rehabilitation plans of the priority hotspots. http://hotspotsproject.org/index.php?hs=news_details&id=2

Name of project	International/ bilateral donor agency involved	National contact point	Relevant activities
Project: "Strengthening capacities in the Western Balkan countries to reduce environmental problems through remediation of hot spots with high priority. The Bajza hotspot "October 2007 – June 2011	UNDP, Dutch government	MoETE, MoEFWA Ms. Klodiana Marika Project Manager Tel: +35542242738 Mob: +355692092872 klodiana.marika@undp.org	In the framework of this project it is implemented the environmental rehabilitation and enabling health treatment, repackaging and disposal of chemicals from Bajza Railway Station. -A Local Environmental Action Plan for Bajza municipality has been completed and it's expected final approval. -Were identified and were rehabilitated environmental hotspots NFIM Balez in Elbasan, Mines and Rreshen, Repts. -Also within this project were carried out activities aimed at capacity building on chemicals management, water quality, air quality, mining and risk. http://www.undp.org/me/rep/Reg%20Env%20HS%20ProDoc.pdf
National Cleaner Production Programme (NCPP) in Albania. Programme 2010-2013	UNIDO and UNEP are jointly implementing a NCPP in Albania.	Ms. Marieta Mima , ECAT Tirana (Environmental Center for Administration and Technology) <i>Address:</i> Rr. A. Frasheri, Pall.16, Shk.6, Ap.53, Tirana, Albania <i>Phone/Fax:</i> +35542223930 <i>Mob:</i> 00355682085689 ecat@ecat-tirana.org www.ecat-tirana.org	NCPP in Albania supports the achievement related to legal and regulatory mechanics and financial incentives in place to: -reduce environmental degradation and -promote energy efficiency and sustainable natural resource utilization. Capacity development, promotion and professional training, and establishment of a network of Albanians who deliver RECP assessment services to Albanian enterprises and other organizations, in particular in the priority industry sectors. Industry demonstrations developing a collection of success stories on implementation of RECP concepts, methods and techniques by Albanian businesses with verified environment, resource use and economic benefits. Support policy mechanisms for mainstreaming RECP concepts and policy instruments in relevant Albanian policies and strategies, including institutional arrangements.
In frame of CLRTAP, based in the Balcan project is designed the National Action Plan (NAP) "On the	Dutch Government, CLRTAP secretariat	Ms. Laureta Dibra , Head of air, climate change and chemicals sector, MoEFWA	National Action Plan approved. It is compiled the National Emmission Inventory for 1990-2008. http://www.ceip.at/review-process/review-2011/review-results-2011/

Name of project	International/ bilateral donor agency involved	National contact point	Relevant activities
ratification and implementation of the relevant protocols, Heavy metals Protocol, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Gothenburg Protocol, to the Convention of Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution".		<i>Address:</i> Rr. Durrresi, Nr. 20, Tirana, Albania Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al	

11.3 Assessment

In the MoEFWA there is a directorate that manages projects in the environmental area, coordinates the work of technical departments in the ministry to identify needs and priorities for the identification of various projects related to air quality management, waste water, waste, chemicals, climate change, and industrial pollution, in accordance with the requirements of signed international agreements.

Currently there is no coordination at national level regarding implementation of the requirements of international agreements in the field of chemicals, integrated into a national program. There is a lack of procedures to ensure coordination between agencies responsible for development assistance activities and those responsible for protecting health, safety and environment. In this context, it is important that the country, with the support of international agencies, improves mechanisms of coordination between institutions to ensure better communication. Practical adaptation to the requirements of the relevant adopted agreements to local conditions is also a key issue that needs to be addressed.

Difficulties in implementing the requirements of international agreements are related to the lack of capacity in number of employees and technical capacities in the responsible institutions. There is no national agency for chemicals management to carry out tasks in accordance with the requirements of international conventions and relevant EU regulations in the field of chemicals. There is a lack of technical assistance projects for the development of technical capacities at national and local levels.

Also enforcement of legislation regarding the identification of industrial operators that produce, maintain, use, import or export chemicals is low. Strengthening capacities for sanitary inspectors, environmental, occupational safety and customs employees remains a priority. Developing and implementing the procedures related to import and export of chemicals and disposal of their waste according to the requirements of the Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Basel Conventions should be considered as high priority.

In December 2005 the Council of Ministers of Albania (CoM) formally established the Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination (DSDC) as an integral part of its organisational structure. DSDC's Aid Co-ordination Unit provides a 'one stop shop' for donors with respect to strategic matters related to external assistance. As such, it is responsible for organizing major co-ordination activities such as the Government donor roundtables and the IPS Support Group, which is a policy-level advisory board. The Department, in cooperation with the Donor Technical Secretariat, has already established a donor database, which comprises data about all active donors that have been working since 1994; including information on foreign assistance disbursements. Together with the Ministry of Finance DSDC co-leads negotiations with donors on policy-based conditions for loans/credits and participates in negotiations led by the Ministry of European Integration on IPA programming. In co-operation with donors and line ministries, the Department established ten Sectoral Working Groups, which aim to ensure that external assistance is effectively coordinated and supports sector strategy aims.

Table 11.D: Priorities and possible actions: international linkages

Priority issues (Ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacity	Summary of capacity strengths, gaps, and needs	Possible action	Concerned actors
Increase the coordination at national level regarding implementation of the requirements of international agreements in the field of chemicals	Low	Lack of procedures and institutions to ensure coordination	Establishment of a bureau of chemicals Establishment of interministerial coordinating mechanism.	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH, MoPWT
Establishing the procedure of import and export of chemicals	Low	Lack of procedures relating to import and export of chemicals	Compile a legal act on import export procedures	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH, MoPWT
Developing chemical safety policies	Low	Lack of technical assistance projects for the development of chemical safety policies	Prepare project fiche under IPA projects	MoEFWA

CHAPTER 12: EXISTING RESOURCES AND NEEDS FOR CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

In this chapter data on available human resources in Albania are summarized: specific responsibilities of specialists engaged in chemicals management, number of staff and type of the relevant expertise in governmental institutions. Available human resources of some NGOs regarding chemicals management are also shown. Although most of the relevant information is available, the data, particularly those on NGOs, are not comprehensive.

A summary of the capacity needs of governmental institutions is prepared and resources available in Albania from activities of development assistance and technical cooperation are also presented. Following the analysis conducted, problems and lacks are identified and ways for coping with them are suggested.

In this chapter there are reflected comments and remarks of specialists involved in different institutions, levels and ways in chemicals management in the country.

12.1 Resources available in ministries/institutions for chemicals management

Table 12.A: Resources available in government ministries/institutions

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
Environmental sector			
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA)	Compilation of policies and legislation on chemicals and waste	1 head of section for air, climate changes and chemicals 1 specialist for chemicals, 1 specialist for waste	1 chemist 1 biochemist, trained on chemicals management 1 specialist
Agency of Environment and Forestry	Technical support to MoEFWA on the environmental state and environmental protection, as well as during the preparation and completion of legislation frame on chemicals and waste; Data collection and elaboration for identification and inventory on chemicals in the country, Elaboration of environmental monitoring data on chemicals; Monitoring of environmental indicators	2 specialists for waste and chemicals; 1 specialist for water; 4 analysts: (2 for heavy metals and waste, 1 for water, 1 for air)	4 chemists, MSc 3 chemists, trained
Inspectorate of Environment	Inspection of industrial activities	About 200 inspectors all over the country	None specialized for chemicals
Health system			

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
Ministry of Health (MoH), Directorate of Public Health	Competent authority which compiles policies for the pest control service in public health and biocide products, as well as organizes and follows the practical and scientific application of this service; Issuance of import authorization of DDD products, including management of disinfectants for drinking water.	2 employees: 1 head of section 1 specialist	1MD, graduated in public health, MPH, PhD student, partly trained on biocides; 1 hydrotechnic engeneer .
Institute of Public Health (IPH)	Department of Control of Transmittable Diseases (DCTD) Common responsibilities for the three specialists: -Members of the commission established in Ministry of Health for the technical assessment of biocide products as part of the procedure of import authorisation; -Preparation and update of the list of biocides allowed to be used in Albania (based on the directive 98/8 of CE); -Assessment of effectiveness and resistance to biocide products. DCTD- Programme for Vector Control: responsibilities as above for insecticides and rodenticides; DCTD- Unit of Hospital Infections Control and The Laboratory of Hospital Infections Control Above mentioned responsibilities, for disinfectants; also: - Control of disinfectants used in hospital facilities, particularly in operating rooms, for the control of nosocomial infections; -Control and assessment of hospital waste management;	3 specialists	1 entomologist PhD, trained, 1 rodentologist, MSc and PhD student, trained on chemicals management; 1 MD microbiologist MSc and PhD student, trained
	IPH- Department of Health and Environment (DHE), Section of Water and Sanitation: Control of physico-chemical parameters of water according to standards requirements, hygienic-sanitary assessment; Assessment of products for	1 specialist, head of the section 1 specialist	1 MD, in PhD preparation process 1 agroenvironment engeneer

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
	disinfection of drinking water.		
	DHE – Section of Food Safety and Nutrition: -Assessment of data on food-borne diseases; - Research on application of new analytical methods in cooperation with analytic staff; - Compilation and implementation of projects and studies on safe food and nutrition; - Trainings for specialists of public health and students	1 specialist of food safety 2 specialists on nutrition	1 MD, PhD 1 MD, MSc, PhD preparation process 1 zootechnic Trained
	DHE – Laboratory of Water Physico-chemical Analysis	2 analysts	1 chemist, researcher 1 chemist MSc, in PhD preparation process
	DHE – Laboratory of Food Physico-chemical Analysis: Analysis of physico-chemical parameters of food, iodine in salt and urine	2 analysts	1 chemist MSc. 1 chemist in PhD preparation process, trained
	DHE – Laboratory of Instrumental Analytic Chemistry: Analysis of heavy metals and organic pollutants (PAH and pesticides) in water, soil, sediments, food	1 head of Laboratories Section and analyst 3 analysts	1 chemist, Prof. Asoc. Dr, 1 chemist, Dr. 2 chemist, MSc. trained
	DHE – Laboratory of Preclinical Toxicology: Respiratory tests at metalurgic workers	2 specialists	1 chemist. 1 chemist, researcher
	DHE – Occupational Hygiene: Control of occupational health	2 specialists	1 MD, researcher 1 MD, epidemiologist
	DHE – Air Quality Section: Air quality assessment and monitoring of pollution in some cities. Physico-chemical analysis of air, PM ₁₀ , PM _{2,5} , NO _x , CO, H ₂ S, soot; Health impact assessment	1 specialist 2 analysts	1 MD, PhD 2 chemists, researchers
Directorates of Public Health (DPHs) in districts	DDD service (disinfection, disinsection, deratisation)	2 DPHs 4 treatment employees each 13 DPHs 2 employees each 12 DPHs 1 employees	High need for training

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
		each 5 DPHs 3 employees each 4 DPHs no info	
	Sanitary inspectors (including 36 DPHs in districts, Regional Health Authority and IPH): Food hygiene, school and pre-school hygiene, communal hygiene, occupational hygiene.	167 inspektors 239 assistent-inspektors	Doctors, veterinarians, Trained in public health or hygiene
	Laboratories of DPHs		
Hospital University Center "Mother Theresa"	Toxicology service: Management of intentional and unintentional exposure to chemicals; Training in university and post-graduate level, ongoing education and third level study themes (PhD); Information through line and direct interaction with other centers for acute cases and overdoses; Statistic epidemiologic studies on the incidence and prevalence of poisonings from chemicals, including acute poisonings and overdoses; Definition of risk factors for intentional and unintentional poisonings; Information of the public through media for the causes, treatment and prevention of poisonings	3 toxicologists 1 psychologist 1 social worker	Note: 12 toxicologists are trained, including trainings for alcohol related problems and drugs; 9 toxicologists are currently in a post-graduate 1 year training; Every year are trained 4-5 toxicologists
	Clinic for Occupational Diseases, Toxicologic Laboratory: Chemical analysis in function of occupational diseases	1 chemist toxicologist; 1 MD, Assoc. Prof. 3 assistants;	
National Center for Drugs Control	Analysis Sector: Assessment of the quality of drugs	11 analysts	3 Msc 1 MD 3 pharmacists 4 chemists
	Inspection Sector: Inspection of pharmaceutical subjects, also for expired drugs	18 inspectors	1 MSc.
	Authority of Vaccines Control: Assessment of vaccines quality	2 chemists	1 chemist, Dr. 1 chemist
Economy sector			
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (MoETE)	Directorate for Mineral and Industrial Policies: Collection of data on chemicals in	1 specialist, part time	1 chemist, knowledge on chemicals

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
	economy sector, including obsolete chemicals; finding solutions and sources for their management		management
	General Regulatory Directorate, Directorate of Interior Market: Drafting of Legislation on certain chemicals- detergents	1 specialist	1 chemist
Enterprise for Supply of Industry and Mines (ESIM)	Inventory of chemicals collected in ESIM, procedures for disposal	1 specialist, part time	1 chemist
	Loading, unloading, repackaging	2 workers	Packaging, labelling, storage of chemicals
Operator of Transmission System	The workshop of oil regeneration; treatment/regeneration of electric devices for the whole country	1 chemist; 1 technologist; 2 technicians	
Defence sector			
Ministry of Defence (MM) – Authority of State Control of Exports (ASCE)	Control of implementation of obligations in frame of the Convention of Chemical Weapons; Relevant legal aspects	2 specialists	1 chemist (lieutenant-colonel) Trained on chemical conventions 1 lawyer
Central Laboratory of Armed Force	Control of food quality for armed forces; Analysis of fuels; Control of quality of explosives for military or civil use; Monitoring of environment from military activities and from military industry	15 chemists	
Ministry of Education and Science (MES), University of Tirana, Faculty of Natural Sciences	Engaged full time in chemicals use in didactic and scientific laboratories; Analiza kimike klasike dhe instrumentale; Environmental analysis	20 laboratory technicians	Graduated in Chemistry and Industrial Chemistry Mainly not trained, but with experience on chemicals
	Engaged part- time in chemicals use in scientific laboratories; Instrumental chemical analysis; Environmental analysis; Analysis for third parties	40 researchers	Pedagogues, scientific researchers, PhD in Chemistry, most trained abroad, with experience in instrumental chemical analysis and environmental analysis

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
MoES, Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT), Faculty of Agriculture and Environment	Department of Agroenvironment and Ecology, Department of Plant Protection: Physico-chemical analysis for environmental assessments; Awareness raising on use of pesticides and application of IPM in order to reduce chemicals use		2 chemists; 1 chemist (Prof.Assoc.Dr) 12 qualified agronomists (Prof.Assoc.Dr, Prof.Dr.)
MoES, UBT, Faculty of Biotechnology and Food	Department of Biology-Chemistry: Education in disciplines of chemistry, biology, zoology, etc.	12 academic staff	1 Prof. Dr; 3 Prof.Assoc.Dr; 4 Dr; 4 lecturers
	Center for Food Research Scientific research and development on agro-food technology, biotechnology and food	3 specialists;	1 docent, 1 Dr 1 lektor
Agriculture and Food System			
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoAFCP)	Directorate of Plant Protection: Compilation of policies on plant protection; Procedures for registration of plant protection products	1 specialist	Senior agronomist, trained
Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV)	Laboratory of Histamine: Analysis of histamine in fresh and processed fish	1 analyst	Biologist, MSc; trained
	Laboratory of Biotoxins: Analysis of biotoxins ASP, PSP, DSP in fresh mussels with and without shell/fish products	2 analysts	1 chemist, MSc; 1 biologist, MSc; trained
	Laboratory of veterinary drugs residues: Analysis of residues of veterinary drugs (antibiotics, hormones, etc.) in products of animal origin and feedstuff according to the National Plan of Residues	5 analysts	1 chemist, MSc; 3 chemists; 1 biologist; Not trained
	Laboratory of heavy metals analysis: Analysis of heavy metals, e.g. Pb, Cd, Cr, Hg, etc. In sea water, in products of animal origin and feedstuff according to the National Plan of Residues	2 analysts	1 chemist, MSc; 1 chemist; Partly trained on method validation and accreditation

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
	Laboratory of pesticide residues in animal products: Analysis of organochlorine pesticide residues and PCBs in products of animal origin and feedstuff according to the National Plan of Residues	2 analysts	1 chemist, MSc; 1 chemist; Not trained
	Laboratory of analysis of plant protection products (PPPs): Analysis of quality of PPPs, e.g. pesticides, insecticides, etc.	2 specialists MSc; 1 specialist	1 chemist, MSc; 1 biologist, MSc; 1 biologist; Partly trained (on instruments software)
National Food Authority	Inspection of PPPs and other agricultural inputs	43 inspectors	Agronomists
Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (MoLSAEO) – State Labor Inspectorate (SLI)	Ensures the implementation of legal provisions on labour conditions and protection of employees in exercising their profession, on hygiene and welfare, etc.		
	Sector of Hazardous Substances and Occupational Diseases	1 head of sector 2 inspectors	
	Sector of Accidents Prevention	1 head of sector 2 inspectors	
	Regional Directorates of State Labor Inspectorate (12 directorates)	18 heads of sectors 92 inspectors	
Ministry of Interior (MoI), General Directorate of Civil Emergencies	Implementation of national plan of civil emergencies. National focal point for all civil emergencies related issues	No specialists related to chemicals management, nor specialized on chemicals	
Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MoPWT)	Develops policies on transport of hazardous goods, on vehicles and packaging, on control bodies for the activity of road transport of dangerous goods	No specialists related to chemicals management, nor specialized on chemicals	
Ministry of Finance, General Directorate of Customs	Implementation of legislation, in function of improvement of the performance of customs service for the protection of national security, including the prevention of illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals	Director of Antitrafic Directorate; 2 specialists	1 lawyer; 2 chemists
Municipalities	DDD (disinfection, disinsection, deratisation) treatments	2 municipalities 7 employees each; 2 municipalities 4 employees each; 3 municipalities 2 employees each;	Employees for treatments, high need for training

Ministry/agency	Specific responsibilities of staff (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of available expertise
		7 municipalities 1 employee each; 18 municipalities have no employee For 4 unicipalities no informacion	
Municipality Berat ⁹	Inspection of businesses using and discharging chemicals; Control and collection of information on industrial discharges; Notification of community, local and central structures on encountered problematic	1 specialist	1 chemist, trained on chemicals management

12.2 Sources needed from governmental institutions to fulfil responsibilities related to chemicals management

In table 12.B are summarized the needs of institutions, different agencies, universities for trainings related to chemicals management.

Table 12.B: Sources needed from governmental institutions to fulfil responsibilities related to chemicals management

Ministry/agency	Responsibilities (on chemicals management) for which resources are needed	Number and type of professional staff needed	Needs for trainings
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration	Drafting of policy and legislation on chemicals	2 chemists	Training on EU directives on chemicals, hazardous chemicals import-export procedures
Agency of Environment and Forests	Collection and processing of data on inventory and identification of chemicals in the country;	1 chemist	Training on preparation of questionnaires on data collection; Training on methods of data on chemicals
Environment inspectorate	Inspection of industrial activities that produce or generate chemicals	To be reorganized within the existing staff	Training on control and inspection of industrial activities that produce, generate or store chemicals; Training on control of import-export of

⁹ As example from local government

Ministry/agency	Responsibilities (on chemicals management) for which resources are needed	Number and type of professional staff needed	Needs for trainings
			chemicals
Institute of Public Health	DHE: Assessment of hazardous chemicals in products, such as toys, cosmetic products, plastic materials, etc. Monitoring of endocrine disrupters; Expertise on chemicals health risk assessment; Unification of methodologies and organisation of programmed trainings; Surveillance of poisonings from chemicals; Promotion of chemical safety	2 specialists	Trainings, preparation of manuals on toxicology, risk assessment
	DCTD: Building capacities of DPHs, municipalities and private applicators on application of biocide products for public health; Resistance tests for biocides and disinfectants. Assessment of effectiveness of biocides and disinfectants in laboratory and in field	1 entomologist, 1 rodentologist, 1 MD microbiologist, 1 chemist; 1 MD toxicologist; 1 epidemiologist	Compilation of guidance documents; Preparation of curricula on pest control and on biocides, for inspectors, treatment specialists, etc.; Training of staff; Organisation of trainings with inspectors and other specialists
	Promotion Department: Promotion of chemicals safety; Improvement or completion of school curricula on chemicals aspects and toxicology		Training, preparation of promoting and didactic materials
Directorates of Public Health in districts	DDD service	Completion of DDD service structure with staff	There is need for training of personnel
Hospital University Centre "Mother Theresa"- Toxicology Department	Establishment of a Poison Information Centre	3 specialists	Trainings
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection	Policies on plant protection products (PPPs) (legislation)	1 agronomist	Training
	Registration of PPPs	1 chemist or agronomist	Training
Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary	Laboratory of Residues of Veterinary Drugs	2 specialists, MSc;	Training on sample treatment for analysis of

Ministry/agency	Responsibilities (on chemicals management) for which resources are needed	Number and type of professional staff needed	Needs for trainings
		2 graduated specialists; 2 laboratory technicians (chemists)	residues of veterinary drugs; Advanced training on use of instruments: HPLC UV/VIS and Fluorescence, LC/MS, LC/MS/MS, GC-FID/ECD/NPD, GC/MS, GC/MS/MS; Training on validation of screening methods for groups of prohibited substances; Training on statistic elaboration of data; Training on method validation
	Laboratory of Heavy Metals	1 graduated specialist; 1 laboratory technician (chemist)	Training on sample treatment for analysis of heavy metals; Advanced training on use of furnace AAS; Training on method validation; Training on statistic elaboration of data
	Laboratory for Pesticide Residues in Animal Products	1 graduated specialist; 1 laboratory technician (chemist)	Training on sample treatment for pesticide residues analysis; Advanced training on the use of instruments: GC-FID/ECD/NPD, GC/MS, GC/MS/MS; Training on method validation; Training on statistic elaboration of data; Training on validation of confirmatory methods for group A (prohibited substances and substances with anabolic action) and B (veterinary drugs and pollutants) in frame of National Plan of

Ministry/agency	Responsibilities (on chemicals management) for which resources are needed	Number and type of professional staff needed	Needs for trainings
			Residues
	Laboratory of Analysis of Plant Protection Products (PPPs)		Training on the use of instruments: HPLC UV/VIS&Fluorescence, LC/MS, GC-FID/ECD/NPD, GC/MS; Training on method validation for PPPs; Training on statistic elaboration of data
	Laboratory of Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Fruits and Vegetables (proposal for establishment of a new laboratory)	2 graduated specialists, MSc or PhD; 2 laboratory technicians (chemists)	Training on the sample treatment for pesticide residues analysis; Training on the use of instruments: HPLC UV/VIS&Fluorescence, LC/MS, GC-FID/ECD/NPD, GC/MS; Training on method validation for pesticide residues analysis; Training on statistic elaboration of data
National Food Authority	Monitoring of pesticide residues	13 chemists or agronomists	Training
Ministry of Education and Science (MoES) University of Tirana Faculty of Natural Sciences	Laboratory technicians or engineers, without engagement in teaching process	8 chemists with university profile	Experience with chromatographic and spectrophotometric methods
MoES, Agriculture University of Tirana	Management of chemicals, techniques in authorized use of PPPs		Training on environmental practices and rehabilitation of polluted sites; Training on application on Good Agricultural Practices, application of PPPs in environmentally friendly ways
Municipalities	DDD Treatments:	All municipalities should have the structure for	The staff should be trained respectively

Ministry/agency	Responsibilities (on chemicals management) for which resources are needed	Number and type of professional staff needed	Needs for trainings
		DDD service	
Municipality Berat ¹⁰	Establishment of database for chemicals used in industry; Establishment of the register of industrial discharges to the environment; Information of business on hazards of chemicals (classification, labeling, packaging, storage conditions, occupational safety, influence to the ecosystem, etc.); Compilation of eco-social-health studies in areas near industrial establishments	3 employees	Chemicals management from local government in support of legislation (not only obligations, but also meant to achieve proper chemicals management); Publicly available methods on use of chemicals in cities, the associated hazards and the care needed; Strengthening of cooperation between local government-business- central government to improve management of chemicals and polluted sites; Information of youth on chemicals (not only as part of curricula, but also through awareness campaigns on chemicals and their uses and risks)
National Center of Drugs Control	Analysis Sector: Assessment of quality of drugs		Training
	Inspection Sector: Inspection of drugs, including for expired drugs		Training on management of expired drugs

12.3 Existing resources on chemicals management in non-governmental organizations

Table 12.C: Existing resources on chemicals management in non-governmental organizations

Organisation	Specific responsibilities of persons (related to chemicals management)	Number of professional staff	Type of existing expertise

¹⁰ As example of local government

Ekolëvizja (Eco-movement) Group	Information, awareness, training	4 specialists	Awareness and information of the public
Milieukontakt Albania	Studies, planning, monitoring, networking	3 specialists	Obsolete pesticides, POPs, waste management
Institute of Biotechnological Research	Environmental assessments; Monitoring in soil, air, water; Projects of technological implementation	7 specialists	Chemists and biochemists, trained on hydrocarbons treatment, hazardous waste and chemicals, monitoring, etc.
Women Movement for Integral Development	Information, awareness, training	3 specialists	Awareness and public
Albanian Coalition for Toys Safety	Information, awareness, training		
Ekompjedi Durrës	Information, awareness training, environmental expertise, etc	7	Training, awareness and public information
Regional Environmental Center (REC), Albania	Support for institutions on strengthening of environmental legal framework; Information, awareness, training	3 specialists	Support for institutions on strengthening of environmental legal framework; Information, awareness, training

12.4 Resources from activities of development assistance

In table 12.B most important projects related to chemicals or environment for the period 2006-to date are given, listed from the recent ones backwards.

Table 12.D: Resources from activities of development assistance

Financing institutions and supporting institutions	Title of the project, starting and completion date	Type of expertise offered	Financial resources of the project (from donors and local sources)
IPA 2010	Strengthening capacities for drafting and enforcement of national environmental legislation, Sep. 2011- June 2014	Improvement of environmental management from environmental agencies in national and regional level; Full approximation of primary legislation on air and chemicals; Preparation of secondary legislation on waste, waters and industrial pollution.	4'400'000 EUR Co-financing by Albanian Government 400'000 EUR
UNDP	EU Environment Requirements Programme, Support to respond to the forthcoming EU accession related environment requirements, Jan. 2011- Dec. 2013	Support to Albanian Government to fulfil requirements of environmental legislation of EU; Laying the foundation of a mechanism for financial sustainability of environmental activities; Improvement of public participation in decision making; Improvement of waste management systems in rural areas; Support of mainstreaming of environmental problems in other sectoral policies	6'120'200 USD
UNEP and UNIDO	National programme for cleaner production in Albania as part of One UN Programme in Albania, 2010-2013	Training of auditors/experts on national resource efficiency and cleaner production (RECP) ; - RECP demonstrations - RECP Awareness and Promotion - Policy component	787'423 USD
European Commission under reference number EUROPA-AID 2010- 251 517	Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans – civil society cooperation on EU <i>acquis</i> and values for consumer and corporate responsibility February 2011- February 2013	Strengthening cooperation between civil society organizations, authorities, trade unions, social responsible business and other stakeholders in 3 countries of the Balkans and the EU with the aim to improve consumer protection and product safety by providing knowledge about EU <i>acquis</i> ; Building and strengthening capacities of local civil society organizations to promote participative democracy, contribution to policy development and raise awareness with the general public on measures for consumer and environmental protection particularly regarding products and chemicals;	

Financing institutions and supporting institutions	Title of the project, starting and completion date	Type of expertise offered	Financial resources of the project (from donors and local sources)
		Promotion of knowledge transfer between the Balkan and EU civil society organizations on the issue of EU policies and legislation regarding consumer and environmental protection in particular product safety, chemicals, toys, cosmetics, eco-label, lead, mercury; Building sustainable networks of civil society organizations in Balkan countries and cooperate with European-wide networks, to engage in constructive dialogue with producers, retailers and policy makers regarding consumer protection measures particularly regarding hazardous substances	
IPA 2008, MoEFWA	Consolidation of the environment monitoring system in Albania, July 2010-Dec. 2012	Implementation of measurements for air and water; Additional training for staff on air and water monitoring and equipment; Renewal of national database and delivery of respective reports; Implementation of National Pollutant Release and Transfer Register (PRTR)	2'000'000 EUR Co-financing by Albanian Government 200'000 Euro
UNIDO and UNEP	National ozone depleting substances (ODS) phase out plan (fourth and fifth tranches), Feb. 2011- July 2012		109'400 USD
Government of Netherlands CLRTAP Secretariat Italian Government	National Action Plan on ratification and implementation of Heavy Metals Protocol, POPs Protocol and Gothenburg Protocol of CLRTAP", 2011	Final draft revised by experts of Government of Netherlands is approved in April 2011.	40'000 USD
CARDS 2006	Strengthening capacities for drafting and enforcement of	Support for implementation of National Plan for Approximation of Environmental Legislation (drafting of	2'500'000 USD

Financing institutions and supporting institutions	Title of the project, starting and completion date	Type of expertise offered	Financial resources of the project (from donors and local sources)
	national environmental legislation, May 2008-May 2011	primary legislation on air and on chemicals and of secondary legislation on waste and on water, respective obligations for the implementation); Capacity building for strengthening and adoption of legislation according to <i>Acquis</i>	
Government of Netherlands	Identification and prioritization of environmental hotspots in Albania, Jan. 2008-Aug. 2011	Preparation of a list of hotspots and a list of those with priority for cleanup	1'299'686 USD
World Bank, Government of Netherlands	Component C of the project "Integrated management of coastal area and cleanup: cleanup of hotspot in Porto-Romano",2005- June 2011	Introducing a long-term monitoring system; Performing necessary repair works and cleanup; Introducing a model for performing cleanup in hotspot areas, which, if successful, may be repeated in other hotspots along the coast	3'113'333 USD
Global Environment Fund (GEF), UNDP, Government of Netherlands, Albanian Government	Strengthening Capacities in West Balkans Countries to Address Environmental Hotspots through an integrated approach, component for Albania Oct. 2007-June 2011	Preliminary environmental assessment; Risk assessment and action plan for polluted site of Bajza; Cleanup of polluted site of Bajza	2'118'840 USD Co-financing by Albanian Government 600'000 Euro
UNEP	Ozone project, institutional strengthening, 2003-2011	Coordination of all actions specified in National Programme; Develop a system of initiatives and barriers for ozone depleting substances; Awareness campaign; Reporting to ozone secretariat	369'600 USD Co-financing by Albanian Government 21'200 USD
Government of Netherlands, Albanian	2010	Cleanup of storage place of NFIM, Balëz-Elbasan	476'000 USD

Financing institutions and supporting institutions	Title of the project, starting and completion date	Type of expertise offered	Financial resources of the project (from donors and local sources)
Government and OSBE			
Government of Austria in cooperation with UNDP	Building capacities to accept carbon financing in Albania, 2007-2010	Creating legal and institutional framework in Albania to accept carbon financing and building capacities to identify and implement projects on clean development mechanism and carbon market mechanism	317'951 USD The contribution of Albanian Government throughout the project implementation was 10'000 USD
Ministry of Education and Science, REC, Financed by the Government of Netherlands	Programme for Environmental Education, 2004-2010	Increase of capacities of schools and universities staff to improve and prepare comprehensive environmental programs; The establishment of specific educational tools for the promotion of values of sustainable development by a comprehensive and interdisciplinary approach; Raising public awareness by developing tools and campaigns for knowledge and awareness growth on sustainable development issues	470'000 EUR
World Bank, Government of Netherland	2006	Repackage of chemicals in Bishti i Palles storage place	1'000'000 USD
GEF, UNDP	Preparation of national implementation plan for reduction and disposal of POPs, 2005-2006		GEF contribution 347'000 USD, contribution of Albanian Government 31'400 USD

12.5 Assessment

As shown in table 12.A, in the country do exist basic capacities for chemicals management. The staff is in part trained, especially in central institutions. Specialists in ministries level are generally well prepared, but they face a very heavy workload, due to the lack of sufficient staff, considering numerous legal obligations related to chemicals management. Problems encountered in central level can be summarized as follows:

- Responsibilities and rights of different actors are not always clear and defined in legal normative acts; e.g. one of the requirements of law 9108 on chemicals is the establishment of an office for registration of chemicals; yet, since 2003 there is no by-law on its establishment. According to the same Law, MoEFWA is responsible for chemical substances with impact on the environment, but there is no list of chemicals which have impact only on environment. Most of substances have simultaneously impact on environment and health, and it is not clear how the responsibilities of each body will work ;
- Line ministries that manage legal mechanisms do not have sufficient budget to follow problem solving;
- Directorates and specialists often follow chemicals related problems between other issues of multidisciplinary sectors;
- Reduction of administrative personnel;
- Lacks in infrastructure (online data, fax, phone lines).

As a positive phenomenon in this level it is noticed a relative stability of the staff during last years, what has made possible improvement and completions of legislation on chemicals and timely response to requirements and pressure towards central institutions, such as obligations for reporting and action in frame of efforts for the European integration of the country. However, despite the fact that the existing staff is devoted and prepared, it is an immediate need to increase the number of staff at the central level, to qualify the new staff and to establish **an agency or office for chemicals management**.

Despite efforts made for training of the personnel involved in various levels of chemicals management and numerous sources used for this purpose in recent years, as shown in table 12.D, still remains a lot to be done in this regard. This need is consequence of several reasons and pressures, such as:

- Requirements related to the new legislation;
- New requirements related to efforts of Albania to assess EU;
- New legal requirements as result of ratification of chemicals conventions and protocols;
- Establishment of new institutions and services, such as National Food Authority;
- Continuous changes of professional staff, particularly in local level.

As shown in table 12.B, trainings are needed on implementation of tasks on respective aspects of chemicals management, such as:

- Procedures for health and environment risk assessment;
- Strengthening of analytical capacities; improvement of the performance and increase of number of analysed indexes;
- Need for establishment of an information centre for poisonings and the training of relevant staff;
- Chemicals management from local government in support of legislation (not only obligations, but also ways and means to improve the management);

- Assessment of safety reports of industrial activities which pose a risk for industrial accidents due to hazardous substances (capacity strengthening in national, regional and local level);
- Prevention, readiness and response to chemical emergencies (for competent authorities and industrial operators, training in local level); efforts for the implementation of International Health Regulations (2005) could be coordinated with those of other institutions for this purpose;
- Strengthening of the cooperation government- local government-business for managing the use of chemicals and polluted sites;
- Definition of conditions at environmental permit (National Licensing Centre).

In district level the problem of existence of several inspectorates (sanitary inspectorate, environment inspectorate, labour inspectorate and inspectorate of the National Food Authority) is faced; their competencies regarding chemicals are not always clearly defined.

In this context it is necessary to clarify and/or coordinate respective competencies, what will be assisted by the recent establishment of Central Inspectorate. At the same time, it is needed the completion of the legal basis to institutionalize the cooperation between them.

Problem is also the lack of adequate training of specialists and inspectors in districts, also due to the lack of organized training programmes, particularly on chemicals. Proper training programmes, sustainable methodologically consolidated are needed. There are needed complete training programmes for the new staff, as well as refreshment training courses. In the health system, the functioning of training programmes could be supported by the National Center of Continuous Education, which applies a credit system for the health staff.

Other lacks and needs related to increase of competence of chemicals management bodies are:

- Need for completion of secondary legislation and compilation of relevant guidance documents;
- Need for the establishment of databases, e.g. for chemicals used in industry, for hazardous chemicals as biocides, plant protection products, for emergencies plans, etc.;
- Lack of the registers of industrial discharges to the environment;
- Control of business on classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals, storage conditions, occupational health care, prevention of impact on surrounding ecosystem, etc.;
- Conducting eco-social-health studies in inhabited areas near industrial establishments.

Last years initiatives to encourage the public-private partnership have developed; examples of this partnership are joint training activities undertaken by Institute of Public Health and biocides trading companies. These activities have been effective in qualification of specialists in districts, as well as in creation of a new culture of partnership of public system with industry.

Table 12.E: Priorities and possible actions: available and needed resources for chemicals management

Priority issues (ranked from highest to lowest)	Level of existing capacities (low, medium, high)	Summary of strengths, lacks and capacity needs	Possible actions	Potential stakeholders
Establishment of an agency or office for chemicals management	Low	Generally good level of expertise of specialists, particularly at central level; Lack of sufficient staff in central level to cover chemicals problematic	Establishment of an agency or office for chemicals management; Addition of necessary staff	MoEFWA, MoH MoAFCP
Capacity building/strengthening	Medium	Lack of adequate, unified, reviewed and approved training programmes Lack of periodic trainings; Lack of didactic materials and guidance documents	Preparation of unified curricula for the specialisation and refreshment of knowledge, particularly for specialists of districts; Compilation of guidance documents; Conducting training courses	MoH, MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoLSAEO, National Food Authority, relevant institutes, inspectors and other specialists
Establishment of an information poisonings center	Low	There is a considerable number of trained toxicologists; It doesn't exist an information center for poisonings cases	Establishment of an information poisonings center 24/7, training of staff	University Hospital Center of Tirana, Toxicology Center, MoH
Improvement and coordination of the work of inspectorates on chemicals management	Medium	Big number of inspectors of health, environment, food; Low coordination between different inspectorates;	Completion of legal basis; improvement of coordination through Central Inspectorate	Central Inspectorate, MpH, MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoLSAEO, relevant inspectorates

CHAPTER 13: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The purpose of this chapter is to give general conclusions on the situation of chemicals management in the country and the most important priorities and recommendations.

This updated National Profile of Chemicals Management constitutes an important document for the Albanian Government, as it gives an assessment of the legal, institutional, infrastructural, technical aspects of chemicals management in Albania.

Guiding principles taken into account during the process of developing these recommendations are precautionary approach and participatory approach, according to which all the parties involved in chemicals management in the country have had the opportunity to contribute and have their voice heard by participating in the process of updating the profile.

A careful analysis of the situation of chemicals management in the country has been the basis for drawing these recommendations. This process was based on criteria such as the urgency of the matter at hand, feasibility of actions to be taken, etc.

Following the thorough analysis of the the legal, institutional, infrastructural, technical aspects of chemicals in Albania, the following conclusions and recommendations are proposed for further action:

– The legal framework on chemicals and hazardous substances in Albania is partially in line with EU legislation (REACH regulation and Regulation on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of Substances and their Mixtures (CLP)). The control of hazardous substances is covered primarily by international conventions; further approximation of EU legislation is needed. Since Directives 76/769/EEC and 67/548/EEC, transposed in the current national legislation, have been outlawed and other gaps have been identified in the national legislation of chemicals, the need for drafting a **new legislation on chemicals** has come up and more specifically on the approximation of national legislation with Regulation (EC)1272/2008, “On the classification, labelling, and packaging of substances and mixtures” and of REACH Regulation (EC)1907/2006. With the proposal and contribution of SAICM-QSP Project “Strengthening of Capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania”, Ministry of Health has recently prepared a draft-law on biocides and aims to fully approximate the EU directive 98/8 with the relevant secondary legislation. Technical assistance will be highly needed for this process. MoEFWA is currently working for the preparation of secondary legislation on hazardous chemicals and will have substantial assistance during 2013 from the project SELEA (see chapter 3).

– Legal framework and procedures for managing plant protection products, including registration and control are complete and functional; there is still a lot of work to be done on filling in the gaps in legislation and its implementation for other chemicals such as **industrial chemicals, biocides, chemicals of consumption**.

– Following the completion and update of the legal bases, respective **guidance documents** are to be prepared.

– A “**Chemicals Law/Act**” should be prepared, in which all legal and normative acts, precautions for health protection, steps to be taken for chemicals management etc. will be included.

- Approximation of EU legislation by continuously following and reflecting changes and new developments for the improvement of the existing national legal framework, requires a higher commitment from the government, involvement of nongovernmental organizations and workers' unions since the beginning of legal initiatives and especially when dealing with hazardous substances.
- Chemicals management on national level becomes more complex by the fact that different ministries take part in control of different groups of chemicals in different stages of their lifecycle. In addition to this, to some extent there is overlapping of responsibilities for specific problems. It is necessary the establishment of a coordinating institution for chemicals management, such as the **office of chemicals management** and registration in accordance with the tasks of Law No. 9108, of 17.7.2003 "On chemicals substances and mixtures". In the National Plan of Implementation of Stabilisation and Association Agreement with EU it is foreseen the foundation of this office within 2015. This office will serve also as secretariat of a intersectorial (sub)committee of chemicals management, which is very much needed as well.
- The central institutions face gaps and problems, such as the urgent need of adequate staff, insufficient budget for the pursuing of problems as well as lack of infrastructure. The lack of **human resources** constitutes a serious problem which could affect to a great extent the ability of the country to effectively absorb EU pre-accession support and to fulfil the requirements for accessing EU. It is crucial to increase the number of staff members who will be involved in chemicals management and so prepare the necessary human resources for the establishment of a Chemical's Bureau. This process ought to occur during the implementation of projects and other intensive activities which are held currently and which are expected to further intensify in the near future. It is of equal importance the recruitment of **qualitative staff**, capable of absorbing and coping with highly demanding requirements related to chemicals management.
- There is lack of adequate capacities in institutions which collect and disseminate information. In order to improve the present situation on data management, it is necessary an increase in the budget, organization of trainings and strengthening capacities of the responsible structures. In the framework of project "Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania" a webpage is created www.chemicals.al as a tool for information exchange related to chemicals management.
- In the Republic of Albania there is still no **chemicals register** to fulfil the requirements of EU legislation. It is needed the creation of **databases** for example: database for industrial chemicals, for hazardous chemicals, for emergency plans etc. In frame of SAICM-QSP project, a database on biocides is developed, which can further host other chemicals classes or issues.
- There are no mechanisms and approved methodologies for the assessment of chemicals properties, their classification according to their hazard as well as risk assessment of chemicals on human health and environment. The procedure of risk assessment for hazardous substances on human health should be defined by the Minister of Health, while risk assessment of chemicals on environment should be defined by Minister of Environment. Presently the Ministry of Health has no mechanism for risk assessment and impact of chemical substances on human health.
- There is no **information centre on poisonings (poison centre)** from chemicals. There are enough toxicologists which have adequate qualification and would need only short term training in order to assist the "poison centre". For certain types of chemicals there is a

lack of necessary information and there are no guidebooks for safety measures from these chemicals.

– Despite the relative progress achieved in chemicals management in general, one of the main hindrances towards a better management of chemicals has been on one hand, the limited **financial support** to ease the present situation created by the presence of great amounts of stock chemicals in industries privatized after the '90s or simply abandoned, which are not sufficiently protected from access, and on the other hand, the low level of awareness of the community and politicians in strengthening the legislation and measures for safekeeping of chemicals in general and the hazardous chemicals in particular.

– Until now governmental policies have been relatively favourable in receiving information from the national **non-profit organisations** (NPOs); they are more favourable in the usage of expertise from international NGOs. NPOs often play an active role by lobbying in different decision-making bodies related with environmental legislation and recently even for chemicals, especially hazardous chemicals. The role of NPO-s in informing the public on the hazards from chemicals is considerable but it needs improving. Strengthening the role of NPOs particularly on matters related to consumer's protection should be achieved through cooperation with governmental bodies on central and local level as well. Strengthening of their capacities, financial management, institutional development, partnership in different projects with the local government and the private sector, public communication remain still the most problematic issues which require assessment and development.

– Voluntary initiatives of **industry** do not have yet a visible role on the activities of chemicals management in Albania. However, as positive examples in this matter should be mentioned the self-monitoring of the release of pollutants, activities enforced by law, which in recent times have been practiced more particularly in cases of industries emitting pollutants. A new practice of public-private partnership has recently started in the area of trainings of public and private structures; as examples of such practices we can mention trainings on pest control and biocides in public health organized by Ministry of Health and Institute of Public Health with the contribution of trading companies of biocide products. SAICM-QSP Project "Strengthening of Capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania" has contributed in increasing the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders such as NPOs and industry. Mechanisms and ways to increase industry and business involvement in chemicals management need to be further developed.

– The existing mechanisms work separately according to their area of expertise and interest. They do not cover all important aspects of chemicals, which require a better inter-sectorial cooperation and coordination. There is a lack of coordination on the national level regarding the implementation of requirements from international agreements in the field of chemicals. It is an urgent necessity the creation of an inter-sectorial committee for a better coordination. Terms of reference for the functioning of this committee have been prepared in the framework of project "Strengthening of capacities for SAICM implementation in Albania" and are available on the internet website www.chemicals.al.

– There is no guidance document regarding the incidents from hazardous chemicals, management of incidents, toxicology in general, methods of decontamination, use of antidotes or helping tools during a state of chemical emergency. Strengthening of capacities on national, regional and local level of the designated authorities for the identification and assessment of security reports for industrial activities which constitute a risk for an industrial accident due to hazardous substances is highly needed. Existing capacities in practical terms are quite limited, particularly for the transportation of victims of accidents which involve

hazardous chemicals. The National Centre of Training should organize trainings on the local level for **chemicals emergency preparedness, response and follow-up** for the designated authorities and industrial operators. One of problems identified is the lack of a database for industrial activities which constitute a risk for accidents of a chemical nature.

– There is no **national register for the registration of incidents** that may occur due to the chemical substances and there is no specialized technical institution that conducts the investigation of the causes and responsibilities of the occurrence of an incident. There are no standard forms for collecting information about the incidents and to follow the consequences in health or environment. There is yet no system for the collection and dissemination of data on quantities and types of new industrial wastes generated from the activity of industrial subjects licensed after 1992.

– As a result of the contribution given by **research institutes** in the area of environment, supported by foreign donors and other sources in the country, data has been gathered and has served as base of facts and argumentation in various political and strategic national documents in the area of environment, in the drafting of different environmental plans and programs, in monitoring projects for the status of environment etc. However, more funds for research are needed, as well as a “fair” distribution of financial support among research institutes.

– In the framework of **strengthening of capacities** for chemicals management in the country it is needed the establishment of proper **training programs**, sustainable and methodologically consolidated, for inspectors and professional staff, both as programs for the qualification of new staff as well as short refreshing programs. In the healthcare system the functioning of training programs could be supported from the National Centre for Continuous Education, which applies a system of credits for medical staff. Training programs should also be organized for business on safe storage of chemicals, occupational health and safety, GHS, etc. The surveillance for events caused by chemical substances is extremely weak because of lack of coordination despite the existing documentation and legislation. There is an urgent need for training on risk assessment and management as well as in terms of concepts of applied epidemiology and surveillance for all specialists working in the area of chemicals management. There is still a need for interventions in the university level for the development of curricula on chemical safety. Besides the Green Package, occupational health and safety should be included as a separate subject in higher schools of the Bachelor system, especially in schools of medicine and other types of higher schools with medical profile.

– **Laboratory infrastructure** is in most cases not upgraded with up-to-date analytical technology. The methodology used is not always based on standard methods and has many gaps, such as problems in delivery of equipments’ service, supply with reagents and standards of calibration etc. An internal quality system is not yet established in all the laboratories and only a limited number of laboratories are accredited. **There are needed procedures for chemicals and hazardous materials management as well as for disposal of their wastes.**

– There is no safe system for the **administration of hazardous waste** (industrial wastes and home-made waste). It is still an issue the lack of separation of waste at source. Individual collectors and companies are faced with problems in collection of cleared and separated waste. There is no central industrial landfill in the country for wastes defined and classified according to the instructions in the Basel convention. There is no facility for treatment of hazardous chemical wastes. In the framework of fulfilling the objectives for a better administration of wastes, MoEFWA has drafted the National Plan of Waste Management

2010-2015, in cooperation with project “Implementation of the National Plan for the Approximation of Environmental Legislation (INPAEL)”. There are still cases when **storage of hazardous chemicals** is done in inadequate environments thus constituting a risk for human health. There is a need for detailed consideration of the conditions in which chemicals for public health uses are stored, which should be accompanied by recommendations and appropriate measures. Improvement of the conditions for use of chemicals used in public health is needed as well as more funds for the provision of protective outfits for workers etc. The training of staff for handling biocides is also of high importance.

– It is needed a common project between MoH, IPH and Municipalities on a program for **integrated pest control** in public health. Likewise, the **integrated management of agricultural pests** should be promoted. Also natural and less harmful alternatives to household chemicals need to be promoted.

– **Awareness** on chemicals risks is still low. Awareness and training of different groups of professionals, such as farmers, transporters, industry workers, technical staff as well as consumers on safe use of chemicals is an important step for reducing the related risk. There is no cooperation between different institutions and organizations on awareness raising and responsibilities. The role of the media should be increased and structured and new communication means such as social networks can be used.

– MoEFWA has worked substantially in identifying, prioritising, studying and cleanup of polluted sites. The most problematic site of Porto-Romano and other contaminated sites have been cleared with the help of UNDP and with a contribution from the government of Netherlands. In line with MoEFWA efforts for the identification and cleaning of other problematic sites, a preliminary study of 35 **environmental hotspots** has been carried out in Albania and a short list of 14 priority polluted sites has been defined for rehabilitating intervention.

– The **responsibility for pollution** is an important issue in cases of cleanup of polluted sites and for their privatization. There is no specific legislation regarding responsibilities for the previous industrial pollution and it is not clear who should pay for such damage.

– It is required the drafting and implementation of a **national plan of action** for chemicals management which will make possible filling in the various gaps identified during the revision of the National Profile.

Annex 1: Available national reports and papers addressing various aspects of chemicals management

1. Council of the European Union: Stabilization and Association Agreement Between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Albania, of the other part, Brussels, 22 May 2006.
http://ec.europa.eu/enlargement/pdf/albania/st08164.06_en.pdf
2. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration: National Profile for Chemical Management and SAICM Implementation Albania, April 2006.
http://www.chemicals.al/doc/profil_i_shqip.pdf
3. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration: Report on State of Environment 1999-2002, January 2005.
<http://aefalbania.org/Env%20Report%201999-2002.pdf>
4. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration: Report on State of Environment 2009, Tirana 2010.
<http://www.moe.gov.al/upload/publikimet/raporte%20te%20gjendjes%20mjedisit/Raporti%202009.pdf>
5. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration: National implementation Plan for Reduction and Disposal of Persistent Organic Pollutants, Tirana, 2006
<http://www.pops.int/documents/implementation/nips/submissions/Albania.pdf>
6. UN/Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Environmental Policy: Environmental Performance Review- Albania, New York and Geneva, 2002
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/epr/epr_studies/albania.pdf
7. UN/ Economic Commission for Europe, Committee on Environmental Policy: Second Environmental Performance Review of Albania, Recommendations, Information paper, April 2012
http://www.unece.org/fileadmin/DAM/env/cep/CEP-18/CEP-18_EPRAlbania_IP.9.e.pdf
8. Council of Ministers, Republic of Albania: The National Plan for the Implementation of the Stabilization and Association Agreement 2007 – 2012, Tirana, 2007.
<http://www.kshm.gov.al/msaanglisht.pdf>
9. Institute of Public Health and National Institute of Statistics: Albania, Demographic and Health Survey (ADHS 2008-2009)
<http://www.measuredhs.com/>
http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADS749.pdf
10. Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration: Action plan for implementation of POPs, heavy metals and Gothenburg Protocols to CLRTAP, Tirana, 2010.
11. National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT): <http://www.instat.gov.al/>
General Directorate of Customs: <http://www.dogana.gov.al/>

Annex 2: Inter-sectorial SAICM working group

SAICM-QSP PROJECT STAFF:

Ms. Lindita Tafaj (Hajri) Project coordinator and manager	ltafaj@chemicals.al , linda_tafaj@yahoo.com Tel. +35542363066 Address: Institute of Public Health, Rr.Aleksander Moisiu, Nr. 80, Tirana, Albania
Mr. Leandro Xhama Project lawyer	lxhama@chemicals.al , xhama_leandro@yahoo.com Tel: +355693669900 Address: Institute of Public Health, Rr.Aleksander Moisiu, Nr. 80, Tirana, Albania
Ms. Eniana Xhanari Project assistant manager	exhanari@chemicals.al , enianaxhanari@yahoo.com Tel: +355692197943 Address: Institute of Public Health, Rr.Aleksander Moisiu, Nr. 80, Tirana, Albania

Institution	Contact persons and address
Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration (MoEFWA)	Ms. Laureta Dibra: Laureta.Dibra@moe.gov.al Ms. Rovena Agalliu: Rovena.Agalliu@moe.gov.al Address: Str. Duresit, Nr 27, Tirana, Albania Tel: +355 4 2224537 Fax: +355 4 2270627 http://www.moe.gov.al
Ministry of Health (MoH)	Mr. Albert Gajo: Albert.Gajo@moh.gov.al Mr. Gazmend Bejtja: Gazmend.Bejtja@moh.gov.al Ms. Zhaneta Miska: Zhaneta.Miska@moh.gov.al Mr. Arjan Bregu: Arjan.Bregu@moh.gov.al Address: Blv. "Bajram Curri", Nr.1, Tirana Tel:+355 2364663 Fax: +355 2362937 http://www.moh.gov.al
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Consumer Protection (MoAFCP)	Mr. Ismet Bici: bici.ismet@yahoo.com Mr. Kristaq Nicaj: kristaqnica@yahoo.com Address : "Skëndërbej Square, nr. 2, Tirana 1001 E-mail: info@mbumk.gov.al Telephone: +355 222 6551 Fax: +355 222 6551 http://www.mbumk.gov.al
Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy (MoETE)	Mr. Zef Lleshi: zef.lleshi@mete.gov.al Ms. Erinda Prifti: erinda.prifti@mete.gov.al Address: Blv. "Dëshmorët e Kombit" , 1001 Tirana Tel: +355 4 222245 http://www.mete.gov.al/
Ministry of Defence	Mr. Ilir Zeneli: ilir.zeneli@aaf.mil.al Mr. Ferdinand Ziu: ziu.ferdinand@yahoo.com Tel: +355 694160396 http://www.mod.gov.al/
Ministry of Public Works,	Ms. Xhiliola Jaçe: Xhiliola.Jace@mppt.gov.al

Transport and Telecommunication (MoPWTT)	Ms. Ljutvilda Gugushka: Ljutvilda.Gugushka@mppt.gov.al Address: “Skënderbej” Square, Nr. 5, Tirana Tel: (+355) 42 380 833; (+355) 4 223 23 89 http://www.mppt.gov.al
Ministry of Interior (MoI)	Ms. Manjola Ademi: manjola.ademi@moi.gov.al Address: “Skënderbej” Square, Nr. 3, Tirana
Ministry of Justice (MoJ), Integration Sector	Ms. Orjola Shurdha: orjola.shurdha@justice.gov.al Ms. Florida Baci: florida.baci@hotmail.com Address: Boulevard “Zog I”, Tirana
Institute of Public Health (IPH)	Dr. Enver Roshi: roshienvi@yahoo.com Ms. Lindita Molla: lindimolla2002@yahoo.com Ms. Donika Bocari: donikabocari@yahoo.com Ms. Enkelejda Dikolli: keladikolli@yahoo.com Mr. Elton Rogozi: eltonrogozi@yahoo.com Ms. Jeta Lakrori: jetalakrori@yahoo.com Ms. Fatbardha Sina: bardha.lila@yahoo.com Ms. Zahide Sulejmani: zsulejmani1@hotmail.com Mr. Agim Shehi: agimshehi@hotmail.com Mr. Artan Simaku: artan.simaku@gmail.com Address: Str. “Aleksandër Moisiu”, Nr. 80, Tirana
Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary (IFSV)	Ms. Elmira Mehmeti elmira_mehmeti@hotmail.com Address: Str. “Aleksandër Moisiu”, Nr. 82, Tirana
Faculty of Natural Sciences	Ms. Elda Marku: eldamarku@hotmail.com Ms. Kozeta Vaso: kozeta_v@yahoo.it Address: Blv. “Zogu I”, Tirana Tel: 00355-4-227669
Ekolevizja Group	Mr. Xhemal Mato: xh.mato@icc-al.org Address: Str. “Abdyl Frashëri”, Tirana Tel: +355 672049160/ +355 684053164 http://www.ekolevizja.org/
Ekomjedisi Durres	Ms. Magdalena Cara: magdacara@gmail.com Ms. Neriona Vorpsi: neriona.vorpsi@hotmail.com Address : “Ekolëvizja” Center- Tirana, the Paris Commune, the University of New York, Tirana Phone / Fax: +355 (4) 481 5271 E-Mail: ekolevizja@yahoo.com http://www.ekolevizja.wordpress.com http://www.tirane.gjelber-gcs.al
General Directorate of Customs	Ms. Ana Gorenca: a_gorenca@dogana.gov.al Ms. Miranda Sharkaj: m_sharkaj@dogana.gov.al Ms. Alma Tola: a_tola@dogana.gov.al Address : Directorate General of Customs, Str. “Durrësi”, Laprakë, Tirana
Agricultural University of Tirana (AUT)	Ms. Zamira Dana: radazamira@yahoo.com Address: Agricultural University of Tirana, Kamëz, Tirana Tel/Fax: +355 4 227804

	http://www.ubt.edu.al
State Labor Inspectorate	Ms. Migena Elezi: migenaelezi@yahoo.com Address: Str. "Kavajës", Nr. 1001, kati 4 Tel/Fax: 04 2368466 http://sli.gov.al
State Export Control Authority (SECA)	Ms. Eriola Karagjozi: eriola_karagjozi@yahoo.com Mr. Fadil Vucaj: fadilvucaj@yahoo.com Address: Embassy Block, "Skënderbej" Square, Tirana Tel : +355 42 416 096 Fax : +355 42 235 975 Email: info_akshe@mod.gov.al
National Center for Drug Control (NCDC)	Ms. Merita Kucuku: emkoni@hotmail.com Address: Faculty of Medicine, Str."Dibra", Tirana Tel / Fax: +355 4 2372892 www.qkqb.gov.alb
National Licensing Center (NLC)	Ms. Katerina Muka: katerina.muka@qkl.gov.al Ms. Enhela Shehu: enhela.shehu@qkl.gov.al Address: "Pope John Paul II" Street Nr. 3, III Floor, Tirana, Tel: +355 4 22 29 416, +355 4 22 74 499 Fax: +355 4 22 39 957 www.qkl.gov.al
Transmission System Operator (TSO)	Ms. Zhuljeta Hoxha: xh.hoxha@ost.al Tel: +355 682027888
Municipality of Berat	Ms. Mirela Buhuri: mbuhuri@yahoo.it Address: Berat Tel. + 355 32 234453 http://www.bashkia-berat.net/
EDEN Center	Ms. Albana Bregaj: albana.bregaj@eden-al.org Ms. Jonida Mamaj: jonida.mamaj@eden-al.org Address: Str. "Luigj Gurakuqi", Nd.33, H.2, Ap.13 Postal Code 1017 Tirana - Albania E-mail: eden@eden-al.org Tel / Fax: +355 4 223 9619 http://www.eden-al.org
Q-Plan	Ms. Anni Koci: a_koci@hotmail.com Address: QPLAN-INE Str."Hamid Shijaku", P.6/3, Tirana, Albania http://www.qplan-ine.com/
REC Albania	Mr. Mihallaq Qirjo: miha@albania.rec.org Ms. Jula Selmani: jselmani@rec.org Address: Str. "Ismail Qemali", Nr.27, Tirana Postal box 127, Tiranë Tel/Fax: 04 223 29 28 E-mail: rec.albania@rec.org
UNDP	Ms. Elvita Kabashi: elvita.kabashi@undp.org Address: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Albania, "Skenderbej" Square, Gurten

	Building, 2nd Floor, Tirana, Albania Tel.: +355 (4) 2250 205, 2250 224, 2250 234 Fax: +355 (4) 2250 286, 2250 289
WHO	Ms. Ehadu Mersini, WHO Country Office “Themistokli Gërmenji” Str., Pall I Ri
Agro Input	Mr. Engjell Jazxhi: engjell_jazxhi@yahoo.com

Annex 3: National key actors for the work areas listed in Table A of the SAICM Global Plan of Action

Work areas	Agency/main actor	Agency/ other actors
1. Assessment of national chemicals management to identify gaps and prioritize actions	SAICM project	Ministries and agencies involved in chemicals management; NGOs ¹ , universities, industry, international intergovernmental agencies
2. Human health protection	MoH	IPH, Directorates of Public Health (DPHs) in districts, State Sanitary Inspectorate, local government, NGOs, WHO, media, consumer organizations
3. Children and chemical safety	MoH	MoES, IPH – Promotion Department, UNICEF, NGOs, Media, IED (Institute for Educational Development), consumer organizations
4. Occupational health and safety	MoH MoLSAEO	Inspectorates (Sanitary and Labour), MoLSAEO (for accidents), MoH, IPH, trade unions, ILO (International Labour Organization), private sector, industries
5. Implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS)	MoEFWA (Chemicals Agency ²)	MoH, MoAFCP, Customs, industrial organizations, chambers of commerce
6. Highly toxic pesticides risk management and reduction	MoEFWA	IFSV, MoH, National Licensing Center, Inspectors, WHO, importers, Customs, the State commission for the registration of PPP, farmer's associations
7. Pesticide programmes	MoEFWA	IFSV, Universities (AUT), IPH, DPHs of the districts, NGOs
8. Reduced health and environmental risks of pesticides	MoEFWA	MoH, MoEFWA, IFSV, universities (AUT), IPH, DPHs of the districts, NGOs
9. Cleaner production	MoEFWA	MoETE, UNIDO, ECAT, AEF, MoAFCP, industry
10. Remediation of contaminated sites	MoEFWA	MoETE, donors, AEF
11. Lead in gasoline	MoEFWA	Central Technical Inspectorate
12. Sound agricultural practices	MoAFCP	AUT, farmers associations
13. Persistent, bio-accumulative and toxic substances (PBTs); very persistent and very bio-accumulative substances; chemicals that are carcinogens or mutagens or that adversely affect, inter alia, the reproductive, endocrine, immune or	MoEFWA	MoH, IPH, universities, NGOs, IPH

¹ With NGOs are understood primarily those oriented towards sound chemicals management and environment.

² Or the respective institution that will be established for chemicals management based on Law 9108, of 17.07.2003 "On the chemical substances and preparations"

Work areas	Agency/main actor	Agency/ other actors
nervous systems; persistent organic pollutants (POPs)		
14. Mercury and other chemicals of global concern; chemicals produced or used in high volumes; chemicals subject to wide dispersive uses; and other chemicals of concern at the national level	MoEFWA	MoH, MoETE, IPH
15. Risk assessment, management and communication	MoH, MoEFWA	AEF, IPH, IHR, Media , NGO
16. Waste management (and minimization)	MoEFWA	MoPWT, AEF, REAs, private sector
17. Formulation of prevention and response measures to mitigate environmental and health impacts of emergencies involving chemicals	MoH, MoEFWA	IPH-IHR (International Health Regulations) , AEF, Red Cross, MoI-NOCCE (National Operational Center of Civil Emergencies)
18. Research, monitoring and data	MoEFWA	IFSV, AEF, IPH, MoH, other institutes, universities, customs
19. Data production and availability of data about risks	Chemicals office ¹	Industry, AEF, REAs, MoH
20. Promotion of industry participation and responsibility	Commerce Chamber	METE, AIDA (Albanian Investment Development Agency)
21. Information management and dissemination	Chemicals office ¹	General Customs Directorate, INSTAT, Line ministries
22. Life cycle	Chemicals office	MoH, MoEFWA, MoETE, MoAFCP, Customs, MoPWT, Chambers of Commerce, Consumers Protection Associations
23. Pollutant release and transfer register (PRTRs) ,_establishment of national registers	MoEFWA	AEF, Environmental Inspectorate, REAs, Industry
24. Education and training (public awareness)	IPH-Promotion Department	MoEFWA, MoES, NGOs, media, Faculty of Medicine –Department of Public Health
25. Stakeholder participation	Inter-sectorial Committee	Line ministries, NGOs, universities, industry, etc.
26. Implementation of integrated national programmes for the sound management of chemicals at the national level in a flexible way	Chemicals office	Line ministries, UNDP, WHO, UNIDO, OSCE
27. International agreements	MoEFWA	MoFA, line ministries
28. Social and economic considerations	Ministry of Finance	Line ministries, private sector (industry)
29. Legal, policy and institutional aspects	MoEFWA	Chemicals office Error! Bookmark not defined. , projects of approximation of EU legislation
30. Liability and compensation	Environmental Inspectorate	AEF, MoF, MoEFWA, MoH, MoAFCP, MoLSAEO
31. Inventory and monitoring of progress	MoH	MoEFWA, IPH, AEF

¹ Or the respective institution that will be established for chemicals management based on Law 9108, of 17.07.2003 “On the chemical substances and preparations”

Work areas	Agency/main actor	Agency/ other actors
(Development of objective indicators for chemicals effects on human health and environment)		
32. Protected areas	MoEFWA	AEF, REAs, local government
33. Prevention of illegal traffic in toxic and dangerous goods	Customs	Customs Inspectorates
34. Trade and environment	MoETE	MoEFWA, MoAFCP, MoH, Inspectorates, customs
35. Civil society and public interest non-governmental organization (NGO) participation	MoEFWA, Chemicals office	Inter-sectorial Committee of Chemicals Management, NGOs, consumer organizations
36. Capacity-building to support national actions	MoEFWA	MoH, AEF, IPH, universities, NGOs, consumer groups, other institutes

Annex 4: Abbreviations

ACPR	Agency Commission of Protection from Radiations
ACREDIA	Italian Accreditation Body
ADR	European Agreement on the International Road Transport of Hazardous Goods
AEC	Albania Electro-energetic Corporation
AEF	Agency of Environment and Forestry
AFDFPR	Armed Forces Directorate of Fire Protection and Rescue
AGS	Albanian Geological Service
AIC	Aarhus Information Centers
AIDA	Albania Investment Develop Agency
ARTI	Agency for Research Technology and Innovation
ASA	Academy of Sciences of Albania
ATD	Agency for Tourism Development
AUT	Agricultural University of Tirana
BAT	Best Available Technologies
BREF-s	Best Reference
CAP	Common Agricultural Policy
CCI	Chambers of Commerce and Industry
CDF	Confined Disposal Facility
CEE	Central and East Europe
CEI	Center of Environmental Information
CER	Center of Environmental Resources
CGN	Combined Goods Nomenclature
CIA	Confederation of the Industries of Albania
CLP	EC and EP Directive No 1272/2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures
CML	Central Military Laboratory
CNP	Centre for Nuclear Physics
CoM	Council of Ministers of Albania
COMAH	Control of Major Accident Hazards
CPR	Commission of Protection from Radiations
CRS	Centre for Radiologic Studies
CTI	Central Technical Inspectorate

CTUA	Confederation of the Trade Unions of Albania
CWM	Committee of Waste Management
DAHPP	Directorate of Animal Health and Plant Protection
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DCCL	Department of the Central Control Laboratory
DCM	Decision of the Council of Ministers
DDD	Disinfection, disinsection, deratting
DIEE	Directorate of Inspection of Electrical Equipments
DIEP	Directorate of Inspection of Equipments under Pressure
DIOG	Directorate of Inspection of Oil and Gas
DM	Deputy Minister
DNC	Drug Nomenclature Commission
DP	Dumping Protocol
DPFCE	Department of Planning and Facing Civil Emergencies
DPFR	Defense Police and Fire Rescue
DPH	Directorate of Public Health
DPP	Department of Plant Protection
DSDC	Department of Strategy and Donor Coordination
DWD	Drinking Water Directive
DWQG	Drinking Water Quality Guidelines
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
EC	European Council
ECAT	Emergency Committee for Administration and Technology
EHC	Environmental Health Criteria
EI	Environment Inspectorate
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Event Information Site
ELV	Emmission Limit Value
EMEP	Evaluation of the Long-range Transmission of Air Pollutants
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPE	Environmental Protection Engineering
EUROTOX	European Association of Toxicologists
FAO	<u>Food and Agriculture Organization</u>
GDA	General Directorate of Accreditation

GDS	General Directorate of Standards
GEF	Global Environment Fund
GHS	Globally Harmonized System for classification, labeling and packaging of chemicals
GINC	Global Information Network on Chemicals
GLP	Good Laboratory Practice
GVA	Gross Value Added
HES	HydroElectric Station
IED	Institute for Education Development
IEWE	Institute for Energy, Water and Environment
IFC	<i>International Finance Centre</i>
IFSV	Institute of Food Safety and Veterinary
IGS	Institute of Geosciences
IHCA	Institute of Health Care Assurance
IHR	International Health Regulations
ILO	International Labour Organization
ILOCIS	International Occupational Safety and Health Information Center
INC	Institute of Nature Conservation
INPAEL	Implementation of the National Plan to Approximate Environmental Legislation project
INSTAT	Institute of Statistics
IOH	Inspectorate of Occupational Health
IOMC	Inter Organization Program for the Sound Management of Chemicals
IPCS	International Programme of Chemical Safety
IPH	Institute of Public Health
IPPC	Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control
IRMU	Inspection Rescue Mines Unit
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISS	Institute for Soil Studies
IUCAS	Inter University Center of Abanological Studies
KEMI	Chemicals Agency of Sweden
LCP	Large Combustion Plants
LEED	Local Economic and Employment Development Projects
MEP	Mediterranean Emergency Protocol
MGI	Military Geographic Institute

MoAFCP	Ministry of Agriculture, Foods and Consumer Protection
MoCYTS	Ministry of Culture, Youth, Tourism and Sports
MoD	Ministry of Defense
MoEFWA	Ministry of Environment Forestry and Water Administration
MoES	Ministry of Education and Sciences
MoETE	Ministry of Economy, Trade and Energy
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoH	Ministry of Health
MoI	Ministry of Interior
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoLSAEO	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities
MoPWT	Ministry of Public Works and Transports
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSDS	Material Safety Data Sheets
NACE	Classification of Economic Activities in the European Community
NANR	National Agency of Natural Resources
NAP	National Action Plan
NCBD	National Committee for Big Dams
NCDC	National Centre for Drugs Control
NCEP	National Civil Emergency Plan
NCI	National Central Inspectorate
NCP	National Contact Point
NCPPA	National Cleaner Production Programme for Albania
NCTA	National Council of Territorial Adjustment
NCW / NWC	National Council of Waters
NEA	National Environmental Agency
NEI	National Emissions Inventory
NFA	National Food Authority
NFIM	Enterprise for Mines Industry Supply
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NICCM	National Intersectional Committee on Chemicals Management
NLC	National Licensing Center
NOCCE	National Operations Centre for Civil Emergencies

NPISAA	National Plan for Implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement
NPO	Non-Profit Organization
NRP	National Residues Plan
NSI	National Sanitary Inspectorate
ODS	Ozone Depleting Substances
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PAAHE	Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education
PBB	Polybrominated biphenyles
PCB	Polychlorinated biphenyls
PD	Promotion Department
PNUD	United Nations Development Programme
POP	Persistent Organic Pollutants
PPP	Plant Protection Products
PRTR	Pollution Releases and Transfer Register
PTC	Polychlorinated triphenyls
PUT	Polytechnic University of Tirana
QAO	Quality Assurance Office
REA	Regional Environmental Agencies
REACH	EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restrictions of Chemicals
REC	Regional Environment Center
REMPEC/OPRC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center/ Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation
RPSD	Regional Primary Health Service Directories
RSCP	Structure Responsible for Consumer Protection
RUCEWE	Research University Center on Energy, Water and Environment
SECA	State Export Control Authority
SELEA	Strengthening Environmental Legislation and Enforcement in Albania, project
SHI	Sanitary Health Inspectorate
SLI	State Labour Inspectorate
SPIIT	Sector for Public Information and Information Technology
SRCP	Structure Responsible for Consumer Protection

TUHC	Tirana University Hospital Center
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP	United Nations Environmental Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nation Industrial Development Organization
UXO	Unexploded mines and munitions (Albania)
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WHO	World Health Organization