

Overview of Task Forces  
Established in the Framework  
of a National Action Programme  
for Integrated Chemicals Management:  
Argentina, Ghana,  
Indonesia and Slovenia

June 1998

*Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes  
for Integrated Chemicals Management*

**IOMC**

INTER-ORGANIZATION PROGRAMME FOR THE SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS

A cooperative agreement among UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO, UNITAR and OECD



UNITAR

***UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management.***

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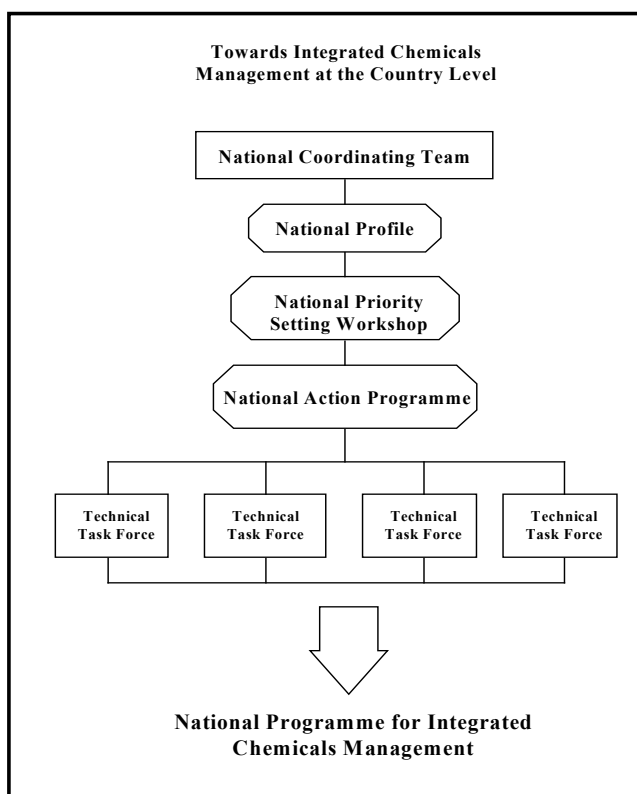
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## Introduction to the Pilot Capacity Building Programme

The *UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management* was initiated in 1996, with a seed grant from the Swiss Government. Through this 3-year programme, UNITAR and the other members of the IOMC, namely UNEP, ILO, FAO, WHO, UNIDO and OECD, are collaborating to assist pilot countries in implementing National Action Programmes for integrated chemicals management. Argentina, Ghana, Indonesia and Slovenia were selected through an application process from among the countries which participated in the UNITAR/IOMC National Profile programme.

At the country level, the focus of the programme is on planning and implementing a National Action Programme for integrated chemicals management with the involvement of all parties. As illustrated in the figure, which depicts the approach being tested through the pilot programme, each pilot country establishes a National Coordinating Team and, following the preparation of a comprehensive National Profile to assess the existing chemicals management infrastructure, organizes a National Priority Setting Workshop through which all interested parties participate in identifying priority areas of national chemicals management. Technical Task Forces are then formed under the auspices of the National Coordinating Team to address each of the identified priority areas in the context of the action programme. As a first activity, each task force develops a Plan of Action, using the suggested format provided through the pilot programme, outlining task force objectives, planned activities, working arrangements, division of responsibilities and resource needs. In some cases, task forces may be able to address key aspects of an issue in the near term and with relatively simple means, while in other cases task force objectives may only be achievable in the long-term. Towards the end of the pilot programme, a draft report on integrated chemicals management is prepared summarizing progress achieved by the task forces and further action needed. This draft report is then reviewed in the context of a National Review Workshop as a basis for defining follow-up actions.



At the international level, the pilot programme aims to identify ways for international organizations involved in chemicals management to provide assistance to countries in a

mutually supportive and integrated manner. A Project Task Force (PTF) comprised of representatives from the IOMC organizations and the Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation (SDC) has been established to serve as a steering committee for the pilot programme, with UNITAR providing the secretariat as the implementing organization. The PTF meets regularly to discuss issues of programme planning and implementation. Each organization provides guidance and assistance, resources permitting, within their respective areas of expertise and in light of pilot country interests and needs.

In order to better assist the pilot countries and to build upon the ongoing programmes and expertise of other entities active in the field, the Project Task Force decided in 1997 to initiate an Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals. The purpose of this informal network is to facilitate an active exchange of information and to draw upon experiences and available expertise of governments, international/regional organizations, industry, research/academia and other non-governmental groups in implementing pilot programme activities. A first meeting of the network was held in Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 November 1997.<sup>1</sup> Representatives of the pilot countries had the opportunity to present and discuss with other members of the Network their ongoing and planned activities in the context of their National Action Programmes, in particular the activities of the Technical Task Forces.

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<sup>1</sup> The report of this meeting, entitled *Partnerships and Networking for Chemicals Management Capacity Building: Observations and Conclusions of the First Meeting of the Informal Capacity Building Network for the Sound Management of Chemicals* is available upon request from UNITAR.

## **Introduction to the Document**

This document has been prepared to provide summary information to outside persons who may be interested in understanding how the initiation of a National Action Programme has unfolded in the four participating pilot countries, as well as what priority areas of national chemicals management have been identified and how these are being addressed. For each country, an introduction is provided which describes the overall National Action Programme and related activities, followed by summary fact sheets on each of the Technical Task Forces.

The summaries found in this document have been prepared based on information provided by the countries, in particular the Plans of Action prepared by the individual task forces. At the time that this information was collected, the task forces were at varying stages in their planning processes. Thus, the reader is asked to keep in mind that the information contained in this document is subject to change. For example, in some cases the activities listed in the task force summaries may already be underway while in other cases they may be options which are under consideration by the task force.

Throughout the document, specific ‘opportunities for external assistance’ are indicated which are intended to inform interested organizations of possible means for supporting the task forces in their efforts. For many of the task forces, however, such opportunities have not been listed. This should not be interpreted to mean that no external assistance would be considered useful. Rather, it simply may have not been feasible at the time of preparing their initial Plans of Action for the task forces to indicate their specific needs for information, resources or other types of support.

We hope that the information contained in this document is of interest, and that it may contribute to fruitful interactions between the pilot countries and interested organizations. Readers are invited and encouraged to consider possible sources of information or assistance which might be of interest to the country-based task forces and, if possible, to forward any relevant information to the National Coordinator. UNITAR would be grateful to receive a copy of such correspondence. If your organization is interested in initiating a partnership with one or several country-based task forces, UNITAR would be pleased to assist in facilitating the initial contacts.





# National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management

## ARGENTINA

### Technical Task Forces:

1. Development of Toxicological and Emergency Response Information Systems
2. Community Right to Know
3. Chemical Carcinogenic Substances and Worker Safety (including Sub-group on Asbestos)
4. Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)
5. Exposure of Rural Populations to Agro-Chemicals
6. Harmonization of National Legislation
7. Hormonal/Endocrine Disruptors

### National Coordinator:

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## **National Coordinating Team: Participating Institutions**

Ministry of Economy  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Labour  
Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development  
General Workers Union  
Chemical and Petrochemical Workers Union  
Rural Workers Union  
Energy Workers Union  
Argentine Industrial Union  
Argentine Chamber for Rural Sanitation  
Chamber of the National Industry of Agrochemicals  
Consumers in Action  
Greenpeace  
Argentine Toxicological Association  
Department of Toxicology- Pharmacy College, University of Buenos Aires

## **Overview of National Action Programme Planning and Implementation**

May 1998

In February 1997, Argentina was selected by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as one of the countries to participate in the UNITAR/IOMC *Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management*. The Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social (Ministry of Health) was selected as the National Coordinator for this project and the application was supported by the Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores, the Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Desarrollo Sostenible, the Superintendencia de Riesgos de Trabajo del Ministerio de Trabajo y Seguridad Social, the Cámara de Industrias de Procesos de la República Argentina, the Instituto Argentino de Petróleo y Gas, and the Asociación Interamericana de Ingeniería Sanitaria.

The Ministerio de Salud y Acción Social convened an Initial Planning Meeting on 13 May 1997 in Buenos Aires, which was attended by approximately 30 representatives from governmental and non-governmental groups as well as by representatives of the WHO/PAHO country office and UNITAR. Discussion items included awareness raising on the pilot programme concept and proposed activities, including the role of the National Coordinating Team (NCT); establishment of the NCT; and initial identification of priority issues and other preparations for the National Priority Setting Workshop.

As a follow-up to the meeting, participants submitted their institutions' nominees for the NCT and their respective draft list of priorities to the National Coordinator. Together with the conclusions of the first version of Argentina's National Profile, six broad areas of chemicals management were identified to serve as a basis for discussions during Argentina's National Priority Setting Workshop, which was held from 9-11 September 1997 in Buenos Aires. The event saw the participation of a large number of national stakeholders as well as representatives from WHO/PAHO, WHO and UNITAR and represented the first time that representatives of Argentina's provinces assembled around chemicals management issues. The workshop identified four general areas as of priority importance for building national chemicals management capacities in Argentina: legislation, regulations, international agreements and compliance; information collection, access, channels and dissemination; risk assessment and interpretation in decision-making including consideration of the precautionary principle; and pollution prevention, control and minimization.

Following the National Priority Setting Workshop, more specific topics were identified within these four broad areas, leading to the establishment of the following Technical Task Forces:

- (1) Development of Toxicological and Emergency Response Information Systems;
- (2) Right to Access to Information/Community Right to Know;
- (3) Chemical Carcinogenic Substances and Worker Safety (including a sub-group on asbestos);
- (4) Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs);
- (5) Exposure of Rural Populations to Agro-Chemicals;
- (6) Harmonization of National Legislation; and
- (7) Hormonal/Endocrine Disruptors.

During late 1997 and early 1998, the task forces have worked on developing their Plans of Action. While some of the task forces are still in the planning phase, in other cases implementation activities have begun, for example with the organization of a training seminar in collaboration with WHO on database management, chemical registers and access to electronic information on chemical substances, as well as a workshop on toxicological centers and laboratories.

**Technical Task Force 1:**  
**Development of Toxicological  
and Emergency Response Information Systems**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

Varying types of information and lack of common database among the 15 toxicological centers in Argentina.

Provinces need access to this toxicological information in order to respond effectively to emergencies.

Information for chemical accidents is widely scattered and needs to be compiled and made available to responsible persons for use in responding to emergencies.

**Objectives:**

**Overall:** To establish an integrated information system on toxicology and another system for responding to chemical accidents/emergencies.

- To assess the existing situation and identify problems.
- To organize the working arrangements for the task force and develop guidelines for implementing the project.

**Short-term:** To assess the existing situation and identify problems.  
To organize the working arrangements for the task force and develop guidelines for implementing the project.

**Medium-term:** To facilitate communication among the different information centers.  
To compile and integrate this information and disseminate it to appropriate focal points in the country.

### **Summary of Activities:**

Design of a survey and collection of information on Poison Control Centers in Argentina  
Information processing and development of a database  
Workshop for Poison Control Centers to define goals for a network  
Meeting with 5 representative laboratories in Buenos Aires and the provinces with the aim to design a survey and collect information on their characteristics  
workshops on the use of the INTOX database  
Obtaining and distributing the databases IPCS/INTOX and IPCS/INCHEM to 12 Poison Control Centres  
Design of a survey for the 12 centres on the usefulness of the INTOX system  
Capacity building on clinical toxicology for physicians in the provinces  
Request information from government and non-governmental organizations on information systems, databases and mechanisms to access the information.

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Secretaría de Seguridad Interior

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Health	General Workers Union
Secretaría de Seguridad Interior	Customs Services
Argentinean Toxicological Association	Federal Police (Policia Federal)
National Institute for Environment and Water	Local Police (Gendarmeria)
PNA	
Chemical and Petrochemical Workers Union	

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Contract a software consultant for the database design  
Acquire 15 personal computers  
Acquire a toxicology and chemical accidents database in CD-ROM format

## Technical Task Force 2:

### Right to Know

Summary: May 1998

#### Problem Description:

The community right-to-know is incorporated in the Constitution and in laws aimed at protecting consumers, but availability of and access to chemicals-related information remains weak.

Responsible authorities do not collect and manage relevant data in a systematic manner and no active dissemination of information to the community takes place.

The public does not enjoy free access to information with regard to chemical production, handling, use, final disposal and risks related to chemical substances.

#### Objectives:

- Overall:** To promote public access to chemical information by addressing four core aspects: (1) labeling; (2) a register of emissions, use and transfers of toxic and hazardous chemicals; (3) registers and databases on risk, toxicology, handling procedures, and emergency response; (4) training and outreach to the public, as appropriate, to achieve the objectives of the project.
- Short-term:** To evaluate existing legislation on labeling and identify weaknesses and gaps.  
To evaluate existing legislation with relevance for a register of emissions, use and transfers of toxic and hazardous chemicals.  
To elaborate the necessary proposals for the community to exercise its right to access to information.  
To analyze information generated by the other TTFs and propose mechanisms for public access.
- Medium-term:** To propose adequate regulations for labeling of products containing chemical substances.  
To establish a register of use, emissions and transfers of hazardous chemicals/pollutants (Registro de Uso, Emisiones y Transferencia de Contaminantes - RUETC).  
To develop and establish mechanisms which would provide for systematic collection and management of data, including provisions for active dissemination of information to the public.

## **Summary of Activities:**

The TTF has held regular meetings since December 1997. Through consultations with various governmental bodies the task force has collected information related to product labelling, and has produced a draft on current legislation on this subject.

It has also outlined a strategy regarding mechanisms for community access to information. It currently is holding consultations with experts on this subject.

Identification of national and international norms related to product labeling

Development of proposal for product labeling

Initiation of project to develop necessary law/regulations for product labeling

Collection of available information from various organizations on emissions registers

Identification of national and international norms related to use, emissions and transfers of chemicals

Organization of a international seminar on registers of emissions, use and transfers of pollutants (e.g. PRTRs) involving those with existing experience

Development of draft and final versions of design proposal for a national register of use, emissions and transfers of chemicals/pollutants (RUETC)

Implementation of RUETC, including mechanism for community access to information

Research and identification of mechanisms needed at community level for realization of the RUETC

Procurement of necessary hardware and software for the RUETC

Design and development of database, in collaboration with other TTFs, to facilitate access to general information on chemicals and chemical products

Establishment of information centers for public access to the chemical information database

Awareness-raising and presentation of the chemical information database and access mechanisms to the media and relevant organizations



## **Coordinating Institution:**

Consumers Action League (ADELCO)

## **Participating Institutions:**

Greenpeace

ADELCO

Ministry of Environment

Ministry of Health

National Institute of Industrial Technology

Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Chamber

Argentine Union of Rural and Agricultural Workers

National Institute of Industrial Technology (INTI)

Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development (SRNyDS)

Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry (CIQyP)

Union of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry Workers (STIQyP)

National Institute of Food (INAL)

Argentine Federation of Oil and Gas Private Unions (FASPyGP)

Rural Workers Union (UATRE)

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

According to the workplan presented, it is a necessary condition that external assistance be provided for the development of the project, in particular the Pollutant Release and Transfer Register of toxic or hazardous chemical compounds.

It would be useful to have access to information on the experience of other countries on right-to-know, the mechanisms for community access to information, and on the exercise of the right to know.

### Technical Task Force 3:

## Chemical Carcinogenic Substances and Worker Safety

Summary: May 1998

### Problem Description:

Chemical substances are in use in Argentina which are internationally recognized as human carcinogens.

Lack of information on which carcinogenic substances are being used, in what quantities and in which regions, as well as what segments of the population are potentially exposed.

Malignant tumors are primary cause of death in the economically active age groups of 15-49 and 50-65.

Lack of clear information impedes assessment of whether current preventive measures are adequate.

Existing asbestos legislation of 1991 has not been implemented nor enforced and is now outdated.

### Objectives:

- Overall:**
- To identify the geographic location of companies that use carcinogenic chemical substances and populations exposed.
  - To identify health protocols for early detection of cancer in personnel exposed to chemical substances.
  - To elaborate a training and information programme for exposed populations.
  - To update existing regulations related to asbestos and evaluate alternatives to asbestos use.

- Short-term:**
- To complete the design of the task force project
  - To select the list of carcinogenic chemical substances according to the most recent version of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) list
  - To establish an expert sub-group on asbestos and develop a plan of action

**Medium-term:** To develop a map indicating the geographic distribution of risks of carcinogenic chemical substances  
To develop medical/biochemical examination protocols for the early detection of cancer  
To develop a training and information programme for potentially exposed workers  
To evaluate cases of asbestos exposure, to develop proposals for updating existing legislation and present these to responsible authorities

### **Summary of Activities:**

regular meetings to consolidate the TTF  
complete the project design work  
petition the Secretary of Industry and Federal Administration of Public Income on information about their databases to produce a mapping of risks

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Labour and Social Security

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Labour  
Worker Union for Chemical and Petrochemical Industry  
Argentinean Association of Toxicology  
Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry  
Ministry of Health  
Argentine Industrial Union (UIA, industrial NGO)  
General Workers Confederation (CGT, unions NGO)

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Financial support for the presented budget  
IARC monograph series: the volumes corresponding to chemical substances on group 1  
Expert technician on the development of biological-medical protocols  
Expert on the training of workers  
Capacity building videos on the prevention of worker exposure to carcinogenic substances and/or other materials that the experts consider necessary

**Technical Task Force 4:  
Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

Although the use of some POPs have been banned in Argentina, there is currently no reliable information available as to production, use, human exposure and presence in the environment of POPs

No measures are in place for control, monitoring or elimination of POPs in the country

No inventory nor plan exists for destruction of possible stocks of POPs

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To establish the necessary actions for risk reduction and elimination of the 12 internationally-identified priority POPs: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex, toxaphene, hexachlorobenzene, PCBs, dioxins and furans.  
To determine through case studies levels of exposure and environmental contamination with regard to these POPs.
- Short-term:** To identify existing national and provincial regulations on dioxins, furans and other POPs, and to assess the extent to which they are implemented
- Medium-term:** To identify main locations where POPs are emitted and produced.  
To develop a plan for analysis of maternal milk and foodstuffs in order to identify concentrations of selected POPs.  
To develop a plan for eliminating sources of dioxins and furans.  
To identify main uses and quantities of POPs which have not been prohibited and develop alternatives to their use.  
To increase knowledge of POPs among national institutions, scientists, professionals, industrialists, etc.

## **Summary of Activities:**

Assessment of existing regulatory situation in the country with regard to the 12 POPs.  
Collection of information on impacts on health and environment associated with POPs.  
Organization of seminar on dioxins and furans to discuss the risks, causes and possible preventative measures/alternatives.  
Analysis of foodstuffs for concentrations of POPs.  
Development of plan for systematic analysis of maternal milk as means to monitor/detect exposure to POPs.  
Identification of POPs not currently prohibited and identification of alternatives to their use.  
Collection of available information on possible stocks of prohibited POPs and cases of inadequate disposal.  
Identification of emission sources of involuntarily produced POPs (dioxins and furans) and evaluation of possible approaches to address the problem.  
Development of plan for monitoring of the environment and workers for exposure to dioxins and furans.  
Gathering of field data in three geographic zones on amounts of PCBs and their dispersion in the environment.  
Training project for employees on handling and control of PCBs.  
Preparation of national report on status of POPs in Argentina.

## **Coordinating Institution:**

Greenpeace Argentina

## **Participating Institutions:**

Greenpeace	Argentinean Association of Toxicology
Ministry of Health	Federación Argentina de Trabajadores de Luz y Fuerza (FTLyF)
Worker Union for Chemical and Petrochemical Industry	Chamber of Chemical and Petrochemical Industry
National Service for Health and Quality for Agriculture and Livestock	Consumer Action League (ADELCO)
National Institute of Industrial Technology	Argentine Museum of Natural Sciences
Ministry of Foreign Affairs	National Police
	Federal Administration of Public Income, customs systems department

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Assistance or expertise on furans and dioxins (e.g. UNEP, UNIDO, USEPA, universities or technical institutions)

## **Technical Task Force 5:**

### **Exposure of Rural Populations to Agro-chemicals**

Summary: May 1998

#### **Problem Description:**

The rural population, which is potentially exposed to agro-chemicals, is characterized by low level of education and awareness and insufficient access to safety equipment and health facilities.

Existing laws and regulations for agro-chemicals are not applied.

Agro-chemicals are used without a proper assessment of potential risks to human health and the environment or an assessment of their economic benefits and costs.

There is practically no information available as to the actual exposure of humans and the environment to chemicals used in agriculture, and use patterns are changing due to a reduction in agricultural subsidies and assistance programmes.

#### **Objectives:**

- Overall:** To identify possible criteria for assessing the vulnerability of agricultural populations, for potential incorporation into a risk assessment methodology for agricultural chemicals.
- Short-term:** To conduct activities to raise awareness and initiate community action  
To select target areas and populations.  
To identify local actors to organise and conduct training.  
To identify criteria and factors of vulnerability to be considered in the evaluation.
- Medium-term:** To assess risk perception among rural population and other underlying factors.  
To evaluate human and environment exposure to agro-chemicals by conducting exposure assessments through biological survey (instead of monitoring) and by conducting a survey of environmental (soil and water) contamination with agro-chemicals (instead of monitoring).

## **Summary of Activities:**

Target areas and populations which have been selected include:

La Clotilde (Province of Chaco)

Bigand (Province of Santa Fe)

Colonia Aurora (Province of Misiones)

All of these are small cities with less than 5,000 inhabitants and monoculture production of cotton (Chaco), tobacco (Misiones) and soya (Santa Fe)

Those populations have been selected with the collaboration of a focal point previously selected in each province, belonging to the areas of Health (Chaco and Misiones) and Environment (Santa Fe)

Criteria for vulnerability factors have been decided.

Three subgroups have been formed, according to professional profiles and interest, to develop the three phases of activity: vulnerability assessment, evaluation of human exposure, and evaluation of environmental exposure

## **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Health

## **Participating Institutions:**

Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development

Ministry of Health

Chamber of Fertilizer and Agro-chemical Industry (CIAFA)

Rural Workers Union (UATRE)

Ministry of Agriculture

Argentine Toxicological Society (ATA)

University of Buenos Aires (UBA)

National Institute of Agropecuary Technology (INTA)

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Funds in accordance with budget presented on 30 December which will be a condition sine qua non to develop the project

It would be appreciated if we could access case studies or documentation on evaluation of vulnerability factors done in developing countries, which are presently unavailable

External expert who can help in this issue.

## Technical Task Force 6: Harmonization of National Legislation

Summary: May 1998

### Problem Description:

A unanimous conclusion of the Priority Setting Workshop was that legislation was a priority concern. The diagnosis of this area included: lack of legislative harmonization at the national level, difficulties with the enforcement and control of existing laws, and the existence of outdated or missing norms/regulations on specific topics.

### Objectives:

- Overall:** Harmonization of laws at the national and provincial levels.  
Strengthening of mechanisms for enforcement and control at the national level.  
Updating the existing legislation on specific topics.
- Short-term:** Collect information on current legislation in the 24 jurisdictions.  
Identification of the agencies with a mandate and jurisdiction of enforcement and control.  
Collect information on the institutional capacities of the identified institutions.
- Medium-term:** Comparative analysis of existing laws in the country on specific topics chosen previously in the first stage (e.g. transport of chemicals, agrochemicals, hazardous waste, workplace, etc.).  
Needs assessment and support of regulatory needs for the different entities of the National Executive Power.  
Diagnosis of the national situation on enforcement and control.  
General recommendations for the strengthening of enforcement and control.  
Final recommendations and petition for projects on the development, modifications, or updating of existing legislation on specific topics.



**Summary of Activities:**

**Coordinating Institution:**

Secretary of Natural Resources and Sustainable Development

**Participating Institutions:**

National Police

Argentine Naval Prefecture

Argentine Federal Police

Chamber of Representatives of the National Congress

Chamber of Senators of the National Congress

National University (Legal Department)

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

**Technical Task Force 7:  
Hormonal/Endocrine Disruptors**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

Even if this subject has been mentioned in the media and causes concern, the information available is scarce and apparently there have been no cases registered in the archives of the national toxicological associations.

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** Obtain a deeper understanding of the subject in relation to Argentine reality, establish a diagnosis of the situation and recommend corresponding measures
- Short-term:** Compilation of the existing information at the national and international level by the participants in the Task Force
- Medium-term:** Revision of the compiled material.  
Critical analysis of the compiled material.  
Examine the national situation in the light of the mentioned material.  
Establish the corresponding conclusions and recommendations.

**Summary of Activities:**

Monthly meetings on the progress of the programme

**Coordinating Institution:**

Cámara de la Industria Química y Petroquímica (Argentine Industrial Chamber)

**Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Agriculture, National Service of Animal and Vegetal Sanity (SENASA)

Greenpeace

Asociación Toxicológica Argentina

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

No financial support requested even though the international technical information that can be brought in is considered very valuable.

# National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management

## GHANA

### Technical Task Forces:

1. Technical Infrastructure and Legislation
  - 1a Sub-committee on Technical Infrastructure
  - 1b Sub-committee on Legislation
2. Public Education and Awareness-Raising
3. Data Management/Information Systems

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## **National Coordinating Team: Participating Institutions**

Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology

Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare (Factories Inspectorate Department)

Ministry of Health

Environmental Protection Agency

Customs Excise and Preventive Services

Association of Ghana Industries

Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

Ghana Standards Board

Friends of the Earth

## **Overview of National Action Programme Planning and Implementation**

May 1998

During the Second Meeting of the Project Task Force, 20-21 February 1997, Ghana was selected by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as one of the countries to participate in the UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Capacity Building Programme. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was selected as the National Coordinator for this project and the application was supported by the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology, the Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Friends of the Earth Ghana, the Association of Ghana Industry and the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission.

To raise awareness and present the framework and objectives of the pilot programme, EPA organized an Initial Planning Meeting on 7 May 1997 in Accra, Ghana, which was attended by approximately 45 participants from various governmental and non-governmental stakeholders as well as FAO and UNIDO country representatives and UNITAR. Taking into account preliminary results of Ghana's National Profile, participants discussed strengths and weaknesses of chemicals management in Ghana, based upon which a draft list of national chemicals management objectives was developed. Finally, a draft list of institutions to be represented on the National Coordinating Team (NCT) was discussed, which drew on the NCT set up for the preparation of Ghana's National Profile.

Following the finalization and dissemination of Ghana's first draft National Profile in July 1997, the National Priority Setting Workshop was organized on 26-29 August 1997 in Novotel, Accra, to discuss priorities to be addressed through Ghana's National Action Programme (NAP). The meeting saw the participation of about 30-40 participants from various governmental and non-governmental stakeholder groups as well as FAO and UNDP country representatives and UNITAR. Participants further discussed composition and responsibilities of the NCT and priorities to be addressed through Ghana's NAP. Taking into account results and conclusions of Ghana's National Profile and related discussions, participants selected three priority areas to be addressed through Technical Task Forces (TTFs), including a draft list of TTF objectives and activities:

- (1) Technical and Legal Infrastructure including a sub-committee on technical infrastructure (coordinated by the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission) and a sub-committee on legislation (coordinated by the EPA);
- (2) Public Education and Awareness-raising (coordinated by EPA); and

- (3) Data Management/Information Systems (coordinated by the Ministry of Interior, Customs Excise and Preventive Services).

Since the holding of the National Priority Setting Workshop, efforts have focused on formalizing membership and responsibilities of the NCT, and at streamlining activities and finalizing Plans of Action of the TTFs in the context of Ghana's NAP. The draft Plans of Action of the TTF as well as related needs were further discussed during the visit of an expert from the Government of the Netherlands to Ghana in March 1998 and are currently being finalized.

**Technical Task Force 1a:**

**Technical Infrastructure and Legislation  
Sub-committee on Technical Infrastructure**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

Weaknesses in laboratory infrastructure including equipment  
Lack of available (technical) expertise for regulatory enforcement  
Inadequate quality control of chemicals  
Difficulties in ensuring the safe disposal of chemical waste and obsolete chemicals

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To strengthen the technical infrastructure and enforcement capacities for the sound management of chemicals
- Short-term:** To review capabilities and mandates of existing laboratories relevant for the sound management of chemicals
- Medium-term:** To formulate a national programme/strategy for strengthening the existing laboratory infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals

**Summary of Activities:**

Inventory and analysis of existing laboratory capacities including legal mandates  
Development of national programme/strategy to strengthen laboratory capacities  
Needs assessment for the establishment of poison centers  
Inventory and analysis of capacities and problems relating to the disposal of chemical waste  
Development of strategy for upgrading country's facilities for disposal of obsolete chemicals  
Evaluation of storage facilities for chemicals management



**Coordinating Institution:**

Ghana Atomic Energy Commission

**Participating Institutions:**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Water Research Institute  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Factories Inspectorate  
Ghana Standards Board  
Ministry of Mines and Energy  
Customs Excise and Preventive Service  
University of Ghana, Legon  
Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Plant Protection and Regulatory Services  
Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Technical expertise for strengthening existing pesticides and other chemicals registration and control programmes  
External assistance for the rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and equipping of laboratories  
External aid to develop risk assessment procedure for chemical management  
Technical manpower training in chemicals management  
External expertise and assistance for evaluation of the country's capacity to undertake disposal of obsolete and chemical waste  
External assistance and expertise for the establishment of chemical poison centers

**Technical Task Force 1b:  
Technical Infrastructure and Legislation  
Sub-committee on Legislation**

**Summary: May 1998**

**Problem Description:**

Gaps and weaknesses in the existing legal and regulatory framework and enforcement  
Inadequate safety precautions/requirements for the handling, storage, transport and use of chemicals  
Lack of regulatory measures to ensure the safe disposal of chemical waste, including obsolete chemicals

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To strengthen the legal infrastructure for the sound management of chemicals including enforcement
- Short-term:** To review existing legislation on chemicals management
- Medium-term:** To raise awareness amongst ministries regarding relevant responsibilities for enforcement of existing legislation  
To develop legislative proposals for integrated chemicals management

**Summary of Activities:**

Collection and compilation of the existing legislation directly or indirectly related to chemicals management  
Review and identification of gaps and weaknesses in the existing legislation  
Development of recommendations and proposals for improving legislation  
Sensitization of schedule officers in each ministry on responsibilities for implementation of existing legislation

**Coordinating Institution:**

Environmental Protection Agency

**Participating Institutions:**

Environmental Protection Agency  
Ministry of Environment Science and Technology  
Attorney Generals Office

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Additional funding to organize regional and district workshops  
Funds for legislation precedents, books and related materials from other jurisdictions  
International consultants with expertise in the field

**Technical Task Force 2:  
Public Education and Awareness-Raising**

**Summary: May 1998**

**Problem Description:**

Insufficient awareness of potential risks associated with the use of chemicals amongst users and the general public, resulting in harm to human health and the environment  
Inadequate coverage of chemicals-related issues in the media  
Lack of educational materials for schools and colleges

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To have a sensitized public and well informed users with regard to the potential risks associated with chemicals management and use, and to contribute to overall environmental consciousness
- Short-term:** To develop a strategy for awareness-raising and public education for the sound management of chemicals
- Medium-term:** To identify human and other resource needs for effective implementation of the public awareness programme and to develop proposals to obtain necessary financial and other support

**Summary of Activities:**

Collection and analysis of cases/accidents related to chemical use  
Development of a national strategic document for a public awareness-raising and education campaign  
Identification of priority target groups  
Development educational materials  
Development of project proposal for implementation of national strategy  
Identification of human and other resource needs

**Coordinating Institution:**

Environmental Protection Agency

**Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Environment Science and Technology  
Ghana Broadcasting Company (GBC) Radio  
Ministry of Education  
Graphic Corporation  
Ghana Education Service  
Ghana Chambers of Mines  
Crops Research Institute  
Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development  
Ministry of Employment and Social Welfare, Factories Inspectorate  
Friends of the Earth  
Ministry of Health  
Ghana Association of Farmers and Fishermen  
Ghana Chemical Society

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Information Analyst  
Environmental Educationist  
Logistics and financial support from donor agencies  
Expert in Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) technique

**Technical Task Force 3:  
Data Management/Information Systems**

**Summary: May 1998**

**Problem Description:**

Insufficient knowledge on management and use of chemicals at the country level due to gaps and inadequacies in data collection on chemical production, import, export and use  
No data available on waste generation  
Lack of institutional coordination with regard to collection and exchange of chemical information

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To establish a reliable, up to date and easily accessible database for chemicals management
- Short-term:** To establish a committee, comprised of all stakeholders and based in EPA, to coordinate the collection, collation and analysis of data
- Medium-term:** To identify gaps and inadequacies of the present data management system and make recommendations for improvement  
To develop an national network among relevant parties  
To set up a centralized database for chemicals management at EPA  
To initiate the collection of data on waste generation and proper record keeping on chemical related accidents

**Summary of Activities:**

Establishment of committee on information management comprising all stakeholders, based at EPA  
Identification of national sources of relevant data/information  
Identification of gaps and inadequacies of the present data management system and development of recommendations for improvement

Analysis and evaluation of possible information systems which would meet country's needs on the basis of financial and technical viability

Initiation of systematic data collection of data on waste generation and chemical related accidents

Design of centralized database for chemicals management at EPA

Preparation of project proposal to obtain means necessary for implementation

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Customs Excise and Preventive Service

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority

Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Department of Plant Protection and Regulatory Services

Environmental Protection Agency

Minerals Commission

Association of Ghana Industries

University of Ghana, Remote Sensing and Application Unit

Ministry of Mines and Energy

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

Experts for establishing a local databank

Funds for establishing a local databank and conducting research on databanks available externally

Specialist/Consultant in information management systems

Equipment and accessories for information systems

Resources for technical manpower training and development

# National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management

## INDONESIA

### Technical Task Forces:

1. Strengthening Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation and Law Enforcement
2. Consolidating Coordination of National Chemicals Management Activities
3. Raising Awareness on Chemical Safety
4. Establishing Information System for Chemicals Management

### National Coordinator:

Director General of Drug and Food Control  
Ministry of Health  
Jl. Percetakan Negara No. 23  
Jakarta 10560, Indonesia  
TEL: +62 21 424 4688  
FAX: +62 21 425 0764

### Programme Coordinator:

Dr Fawrita Cadick  
Director of Narcotics and Hazardous Substances Control  
Ministry of Health  
Jl. Percetakan Negara No. 23  
Jakarta 10560, Indonesia  
TEL/FAX: +62 21 424 7683



## **National Coordinating Team: Participating Institutions**

Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Defense and Security  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Forestry  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Industry and Trade  
Ministry of Information  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Manpower  
Ministry of Mining and Energy  
Ministry of State Administration  
Ministry of Transportation  
Assessment and Application of Technology Agency  
Central Bureau of Statistics  
Environmental Impact Management Agency  
Indonesian Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
Indonesian Chemical Association for Jakarta  
Investment Coordination Agency  
National Atomic Energy Agency  
National Development Planning Agency  
National Research Council  
University of Indonesia  
World Environment Center Indonesia Office

## **Overview of National Action Programme Planning and Implementation**

May 1998

In February 1997, Indonesia was selected by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as one of the countries to participate in the *UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management*. The application was submitted by the Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Drug and Food Control, with the co-sponsorship of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Man Power, the Environmental Impact Management Agency (BAPEDAL), the Indonesian Chemical Club, the Association of Hygiene and Health Enterprises and Man Power, and the Association of Pesticide Industry Enterprises.

The Initial Planning Meeting, which took place on 14 July 1997 in Jakarta, was attended by approximately 45 participants from various ministries, other national institutions and industry, as well as representatives of the ILO country office and UNITAR. The meeting was an opportunity to clarify the goals and suggested approach of the pilot programme, including the linkages to the National Profile process. Taking into account the results of Indonesia's National Profile which had been completed in April, the discussions during the meeting centered around four clusters of priority needs: information, education and communication; legislation, enforcement and compliance; national information system/strategy; and cooperation/ coordination. Participants also discussed the composition of the NCT and proposed steps to be taken to ensure broad involvement, including participation of non-governmental organizations.

Indonesia's National Priority Setting Workshop took place from 14-16 October 1997, in Jakarta. The meeting was well attended, with approximately 150 participants from a broad range of government ministries/agencies, as well as industry, universities and other NGOs. The Minister of Health opened the meeting, and was followed by introductory presentations including papers on priority issues of chemicals management. During the second day, working groups were formed on four priority topics, which it was later agreed would form the provisional basis for four Technical Task Forces. The Technical Task Forces that were established are:

- (1) Strengthening integrated chemicals management legislation and law enforcement (coordinated by the Ministry of Man Power);

- (2) Consolidating coordination of national chemicals management activities (coordinated by the Ministry of Environment)
- (3) Raising awareness on chemical safety (coordinated by the Ministry of Health)
- (4) Establishing information system for chemicals management (coordinated by the Ministry of Industry and Trade).

Following the National Priority Setting Workshop, the four TTFs have further developed their Plans of Action and have initiated implementation of their planned activities.

## Technical Task Force 1:

### Strengthening Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation and Law Enforcement

Summary: May 1998

#### Problem Description:

Existing laws not fully implemented  
Insufficient coordination among concerned parties  
Regulations do not adequately cover all stages of chemical life cycle  
Enforcement capacities in various sectors need to be strengthened  
Insufficient awareness of legal instruments

#### Objectives:

- Overall:** To review, update, increase awareness, and strengthen implementation of existing legal instruments.
- Short-term:** To inventory and analyze existing legal instruments, enforcement capacities and related problems.
- Medium-term:** To increase awareness of and provide guidance on implementation of legal instruments.

#### Summary of Activities:

Inventory and analysis of existing legislation  
Inventory of inspectors in various ministries  
Preparation of control guidance for integrated chemicals management  
Dissemination of information on existing legal instruments and related responsibilities  
Monitoring of chemicals management/field visits

#### Coordinating Institution:

Ministry of Man Power, Hygiene Health Enterprise and Occupational Health

**Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Industrial and Trade  
Ministry of Information  
Ministry of Justice  
Ministry of Man Power  
Ministry of Mining and Energy  
Ministry of Tourism, Post and  
Telecommunications

Ministry of Transportation  
Armed Forces of the Republic of Indonesia  
Environment Impact Management Agency  
Investment Coordinating Board  
Joint Board on Chemical Industries  
National Atomic Energy Agency  
4 NGOs (not specified)  
Police Headquarters  
Regions of Government for Jakarta  
State Secretariat

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

International expert/consultant on legislation who could provide information on effective regulatory models.

**Technical Task Force 2:  
Consolidating Coordination of National  
Chemicals Management Activities**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

Lack of coordination among concerned parties with regard to development and implementation of legal instruments, utilization and procurement of resources (e.g. expertise, facilities, infrastructure) and implementation of activities.

**Objectives:**

- Overall:** To propose a system for effective coordination among concerned institutions in support of integrated chemicals management.
- Short-term:** To assess the tasks, functions and responsibilities of respective institutions
- Medium-term:** To propose an institution to serve as National Coordinator for integrated chemicals management  
To propose an effective and efficient coordinating mechanism.

**Summary of Activities:**

Preparation of profile of the tasks, functions and responsibilities related to chemicals management of various institutions  
Development of draft policy on national coordination for integrated chemicals management  
Selection of proposed institution to serve as National Coordinator for Integrated Chemicals Management  
Development of proposed mechanism for efficient and effective coordination

**Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Environment

**Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Agriculture  
Ministry of Environment  
Ministry of Finance  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Home Affairs  
Ministry of Industrial and Trade  
Ministry of Information  
Ministry of Manpower

Ministry of Mining and Energy  
Ministry of Transportation  
Environment Impact Management Agency  
Joint Board on Chemical Industries  
National Development Planning Agency  
6 NGOs  
Police Headquarters  
Technology Assessment and Application  
Agency  
UNIDO

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

International consultant

### **Technical Task Force 3:**

## **Raising Awareness on Chemical Safety**

Summary: May 1998

### **Problem Description:**

Widespread risks to human health related to hazardous chemicals (e.g. catching fish using cyanide, mercury in seafood, mercury water pollution, lead and pesticide residues in foods, use of formalin, borax and colorants in food, high level usage of chlorine in water treatment, accidents and poisonings involving household products, chemical/pesticide poisonings, lack of chemicals management in SMEs and household industries, proximity of communities to industrial areas, insufficient availability of MSDSs).

General lack of awareness of chemical safety among members of the public.

Limited knowledge of government officials, employers and workers on potential risks of chemicals to human health and the environment as well as lack of available scientific information.

Insufficient education and training programmes.

Inadequate information dissemination to the public.

### **Objectives:**

- Overall:** To raise awareness of chemical safety.
- Short-term:** To assess the incidence of chemical accidents and poisonings and identify causes/problems potentially to be addressed through awareness raising  
To gather existing materials for awareness raising and education.  
To create materials for use in training of trainers.  
To design and initiate specific education, awareness raising and training programmes for various target groups, including preparation of relevant materials.
- Medium-term:** To promote voluntary action programmes such as “Responsible Care”.  
To identify highly toxic chemicals distributed in Indonesia.



## **Summary of Activities:**

Collection and analysis of information on accident and poisoning cases  
Collection of existing educational and reference materials (e.g. videos, brochures, leaflets, modules)  
Development of module for training of trainers on chemicals in agriculture  
Development of module on risk assessment for government and enterprises  
Implementation of training on risk assessment for officials and staff involved in chemicals management  
Training of trainers for workers in the industrial and agricultural sectors  
Development of primary school curricula on hazardous chemicals and pesticides  
Preparation of educational materials on Cn, Hg, Pb, Formalin, chlorine, pesticides, Borax, colorants, household products, etc.  
Development of recommendations to promote implementation of “Responsible Care”  
Development of educational agenda and action programme for the following target groups: small and medium scale industries, communities in close proximity to industrial areas, housewives, fishermen, chemical shops, remote nurses, farmers.  
Preparation of list of highly toxic chemicals distributed in Indonesia

## **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Health, Directorate General of Drug and Food Control

## **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Agriculture	FAO
Ministry of Defense and Security	Fire Brigade Corps for Jakarta
Ministry of Education and Culture	Indonesian Consumers Organizations
Ministry of Environment	Indonesian Labour Federation
Ministry of Health	8 NGOs (not specified)
Ministry of Home Affairs	Provincial Office of Ministry of Health for Jakarta
Ministry of Information	Public Works Office for Jakarta
Ministry of Manpower	Technology Assessment and Application Agency
Ministry of Mining and Energy	University of Indonesia
Ministry of Transportation	
Agriculture Office for Jakarta	
Environment Impact Management Agency	

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

International expert on risk assessment  
International expert on raising awareness and communication

## Technical Task Force 4:

### Establishing a National Information System for Chemicals Management

Summary: May 1998

#### Problem Description:

Absence of integrated information system for management of chemicals

#### Objectives:

- Overall:** To develop a national information network for management of chemicals
- Short-term:** To develop an inventory of contact points and types of data/information available in each sector
- Medium-term:** To harmonize chemicals codification  
To establish data bank for each sector

#### Summary of Activities:

Preparation of list of contact person/point for each relevant institution  
Preparation of a matrix of types of data/information available and needed for each stage of the chemical life cycle, as well as types of information/data located within each relevant institution  
Development of harmonized codification for chemicals and preparation of related guidance  
Development of draft design for computerized information system  
Development of proposed mechanism for exchange of information

#### Coordinating Institution:

Ministry of Industry and Trade, Directorate for Chemical Industry

**Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Agriculture	Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Ministry of Environment	Eastern Polymer
Ministry of Health	FAO
Ministry of Industry and Trade	Milchem Ind
Ministry of Information	National Atomic Energy Agency
Ministry of Manpower	NGO
Ministry of Tourism, Post and Telecommunication	Pesticide Committee
Association of Protection and Work Safety	Technology Assessment and Application Agency
Branta Mulia	University of Indonesia
Central Bureau of Statistics	

**Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

# National Action Programme for Integrated Chemicals Management

## SLOVENIA

### Technical Task Forces:

1. Chemical Waste
  2. Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation
  3. Chemical Accidents
  4. Safety and Health at Work with Chemicals
  5. Monitoring
- Education/Training, Research and Raising Public Awareness (*cross-cutting*)
  - Information Systems for Chemicals (*cross-cutting*)

### National Coordinator:

Darja Bostjancic, B.Sc.  
National Coordinator of Intersectoral Committee on the Management of Dangerous  
Chemicals (ICMDC)  
Ministry of Health  
Stefanova 5  
1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia  
TEL: +386 61 178 6051  
FAX: +386 61 123 1781  
EMAIL: darja.bostjancic@mz.sigov.mail.si

## **National Coordinating Team: Participating Institutions**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food  
Ministry of Defense  
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning  
Ministry of Economic Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Internal Affairs  
Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Ministry of Transport and Communications  
Biotechnical Faculty  
Government Center for Informatics  
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia  
National Institute of Chemistry  
Zveza svobodnih sindikatov Slovenije (trade/work union)

## **Overview of National Action Programme Planning and Implementation**

May 1998

Slovenia was selected by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC) as one of four countries to participate in the *UNITAR/IOMC Pilot Programme to Assist Countries in Implementing National Action Programmes for Integrated Chemicals Management*. The Ministry of Health was selected as the National Coordinator for this project and the application was supported by the Intersectoral Committee on the Management of Dangerous Chemicals (ICMDC) as well as a number of organizations from the private and public sector. The project is thus formally linked to the national institutional mechanism to promote the sound management of chemicals in Slovenia. The initial planning for project implementation has taken place through the ICMDC, which also oversaw the preparation of a National Profile in Slovenia during the course of 1997.

Following the finalization of the first version of Slovenia's National Profile, a National Priority Setting Workshop was organized from 5-6 November 1997 to discuss priorities to be addressed through Slovenia's National Action Programme. The workshop brought together some 100 representatives of various sectors and organizations in Slovenia concerned with chemicals management. During the workshop, a number of Technical Task Forces were established which will work throughout 1997 and 1998 to address national priorities of national chemicals management, as identified through the National Profile and the National Priority Setting Workshop. The topics to be addressed include:

- (1) Chemical waste (coordinated by the Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning);
- (2) Integrated chemicals management legislation (coordinated by the Ministry of Health);
- (3) Chemical accidents (coordinated by the Ministry of Defense);
- (4) Safety and health at work with chemicals (coordinated by the Office for Safety and Health at Work, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs); and
- (5) Monitoring (coordinated by the Ministry of Health).

The areas of **education/training, research and raising public awareness** and the **gradual building of a coherent information system for chemicals with compatibility for all users** were identified as indispensable integral components of all priorities, and thus will be treated in parallel.

Joint work on the selected priorities will be added to the activities that are already proceeding under the aegis of the ICMDC. These fields are:

Preparation of the new umbrella Chemicals Act (currently in the parliamentary procedure);

Chemical Weapons Convention (convention ratified, implementing law currently in the parliamentary procedure);  
Asbestos (special national profile and programme in preparation);  
Banned and restricted chemicals and the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure (implementation of the European Union (EU) directives into the legislative system);  
Good laboratory practice (introduction of the GLP system with bilateral assistance of Switzerland);  
Classification, packaging and labeling (introduction of EU system into practice);  
Information exchange related to the provisions of the new Chemicals Act (intersectoral approach); and  
Monitoring of pesticides (preparation of a national programme).

The overall objective of all of these activities is to improve chemical safety in all parts of the life cycle of chemicals through development of practical and effective solutions. The priorities identified during the National Priority Setting Workshop will be dealt with by technical task forces consisting of experts from relevant governmental and non-governmental sectors. Other interested persons/organizations may be added to the groups according to need. The task forces operate as sub-committees of the ICMDC and in accordance with the ICMDC Standing Orders.

## **Technical Task Force 1:**

### **Chemical Waste**

Summary: May 1998

#### **Problem Description:**

- Chemical waste (e.g. polluted packages) represents a potential danger in Slovenia due to uncontrolled dumping, the existence of dispersed dumping sites, and an inadequate national inventory of disposal sites.
- national strategy for waste management is in preparation, but it addresses chemical waste insufficiently.

#### **Objectives:**

**Overall:** To prepare an inter-sectoral proposal for amending the national strategy for waste management, and/or to consider a specialized national programme for chemical waste management addressing the following:

- minimization of chemical waste generation during the production of chemicals and related to the use of chemicals in industry, trade, agriculture, and by the public;
- ensuring the appropriate handling of waste in accordance with international regulations and recommendations, including sorting of chemical waste at the source, recycling, incineration, etc;
- final disposal of remaining chemical wastes in sites which are carefully selected, using physical planning, risk assessment, etc; and
- elimination of the most severe existing chemical waste problems.



### **Summary of Activities:**

- Review of existing Slovene legislation and relevant national drafts/proposals related to chemicals waste management;
- Review of EU directives, OECD acts and other international recommendations which directly or indirectly address chemical waste management;
- review of legislation and successful strategies/programmes (including possible non-regulatory mechanisms, such as cleaner technology centers, responsible care, etc.) in other countries;
- identification of acute problems and possibilities for an inter-sectoral approach to address them;
- Preparation of a national proposal for action to address the above issues.

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food

Ministry of Economic Affairs

Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Working Group for Waste

Major producers of chemical waste

Environmental, Health and Agricultural Inspectorate

Office for Standardization and Metrology

Non-governmental organizations

Other experts (as appropriate)

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

- expert advice and practical or financial support for elimination of existing stocks of obsolete pesticides and related packaging waste (approximately 300 tons); advice on the development of a project for collection, sorting and management of pesticide waste;
- information on successful integrated systems of chemical waste management and in particular for pesticides waste management in other countries (short summaries of existing systems as a basis for possible follow-up consultations with relevant experts);

- visit of an expert in chemicals waste minimization and treatment at the source in one of the Slovenian chemical production plants that would like to voluntarily undergo a trial supervision;
- foreign experts interested in cooperating in a set of awareness raising workshops in industrial plants;
- assistance in the preparation and implementation of a programme for appropriate chemicals waste management in SMEs; and
- advice on relevance and key issues for public awareness-raising on consumer chemical waste.

**National Action Programme  
for Integrated Chemicals Management - Slovenia**

SLOVENIA  
TTF 2  
Legislation

**Technical Task Force 2:  
Integrated Chemicals Management Legislation**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

- There is a need in Slovenia to harmonize national chemicals legislation with the legislative framework of the European Union, the OECD, and other international recommendations, such as Agenda 21, Chapter 19, IFCS, UNECE, and various global conventions.
- Several elements of the existing national legislation overlap or are incomplete.
- Existing legislation is difficult to implement and enforce.
- Duplication of work exists in some cases, resulting in an inefficient use of human and financial resources.

**Objectives:**

**Overall:** To develop an integrated approach in Slovenia for the development and implementation of national legislation in line with international requirements/recommendations and the four identified national priority areas, i.e. chemical waste, chemical accidents, safety and health at work, and monitoring.

**Summary of Activities:**

*Related to the European Union Directives and Regulations*

- Detailed review of all directives;
- Identification/appointment of persons charged with the implementation of individual directives;
- Translation of relevant legislation into the national language, systematic collection of translated legislation, and development of harmonized translation terminology; and
- systemic supervision of the preparation of legal acts and implementing regulations.

***Related to OECD Decisions and Recommendations***

- preparation of summaries of the requirements of acts and recommendations according to priority of introduction;
- identification of the parts of existing national legislation where certain parts of the OECD acts and recommendations are already implemented;
- identification of the elements of acts/recommendations which will be observed as part of the implementation of EU directives in the new legislation;
- preparation of a proposal for implementation of those parts which are missing.

***Related to other International Recommendations***

- review of requirements and recommendations, including summaries;
- review of requirements and recommendations that overlap;
- identification of the parts of existing Slovene legislation in which certain recommendations are already implemented;
- evaluation of the importance of those parts which are missing; and
- preparation of a proposal for the implementation of those parts which are missing.

***Related to International Conventions***

- preparation of a list of conventions and treaties to which Slovenia is bound;
- accurate determination of the status of implementation of the conventions and treaties in Slovenia (signed, ratified);
- identification of the sectors in charge and persons responsible for a particular convention/treaty;
- preparation of summaries and a list of the requirements that bind the governmental sectors;
- review of the implementation of requirements into the practice by the sectors responsible for their implementation;
- review of 'forthcoming' conventions;
- preparation of summaries of the requirements of new conventions, and an evaluation of their importance;
- preparation of a proposal for the overall regulation of this area.

***Related to National and International Standards***

- review of already-introduced standards by sub-area within the main area of chemicals;
- review of needs and priorities for the introduction of additional standards in individual-sub-areas within the main area of chemicals, and EN/ISO standards which are available for this purpose;
- review of the work of the Technical Committees at the Office for Standardization and Metrology, and the establishment of closer co-operation.

### ***Other Activities***

- development of a proposal for a programme for practical implementation and basic conditions for effective supervision/enforcement of legislation (laboratories, inspection);
- setting-up of a national network of experts for individual legislative areas.

In the short term, all the activities mentioned should be taken first for the four identified priority areas, i.e chemicals waste, chemical accidents, safety and health at work, and monitoring.

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Health

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning,  
Ministry of Health,  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food,  
Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs,  
Ministry of Economic Affairs,  
Ministry of Defense,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Ministry of Internal Affairs,  
Ministry of Transport and Communications,  
Ministry of Science and Technology  
Office for Standardization and Metrology;  
Government Service for Legislation;  
Government Service for Translation.

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

- assistance by an expert for the implementation of new legislative provisions (e.g. assistance in the organization of a follow-up workshop on classification, packaging and labeling of different groups of dangerous chemicals, training of the persons responsible for putting dangerous chemicals on the market, etc...);
- financial support for education of users and the public on chemicals: issuing of plastified cards with symbols of danger;
- expert assistance and financial support for issuing of a short guide for the development of safety data sheets;

- assistance by a foreign accreditation authority in auditing, capacity building and accreditation of Slovene laboratories for chemicals control, including visits of foreign experts to Slovenia and Slovene experts to foreign accreditation authorities;
- expert assistance in providing a clear picture on the choice of recommendable set of EN/ISO standards to be used in the individual-sub-areas within the main area of chemicals;
- support for purchase of some pieces of new equipment necessary for effective operation of the laboratory for quality control of the packaging;
- information or expert advice on the technical requirements that must be fulfilled when producing, processing, storing chemicals for use in the context of preparing a new regulation.
- consultation with an expert for implementation of OECD Acts in comparison to EU directives from the field;
- training of inspectors for supervision in the chemicals field (at first complying with technical requirements for production, storing, processing, handling, use of chemicals, appropriate classification, packaging, labeling, safety data sheets);

## **Technical Task Force 3:**

### **Chemical Accidents**

Summary: May 1998

#### **Problem Description:**

- Data on import, production and intensive transport and transit of large quantities of chemicals on relatively dangerous roads point to the potential danger of major industrial disasters or accidents in the transport of chemicals in Slovenia.
- The fairly high population density, the hydrographic conditions and the high proportion of karstic underground connected water resources are additional factors which call for a review or upgrading of the existing system of prevention, preparedness and response and the preparation of a national programme.

#### **Objectives:**

**Overall:** To prepare a proposal for a national programme for better prevention, preparedness and more effective emergency response procedures related to chemicals.

To create a uniform system for monitoring of data on the locations and routes of the transport of large quantities of chemicals and extremely hazardous chemicals.

Implementation of the existing system and, at the same time, identification of deficiencies.

#### **Summary of Activities:**

- review of existing national legislation and non-regulatory mechanisms relating to prevention and response to chemical accidents, such as introduction of cleaner technologies, the 'responsible care' concept, standards, safer routes and modes of transport, suitable parking sites, etc.;

- review of EU directives, OECD acts, conventions/treaties and other international recommendations,
- review of non-regulatory mechanisms related to chemical accidents and comparative review of successful systems in other countries.
- development of methods for the application of risk assessments;
- development of suitable methods for physical planning (building of production facilities, transport routes, parking sites, warehouses, etc.);
- a uniform system for the monitoring of data on the location of facilities and transport routes (for large quantities of chemicals as well as for very dangerous chemicals); and
- steps to improve the system of accident prevention, preparedness and emergency response.

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Defense - Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Defense	Representatives of transport associations
Ministry of the Environment and Physical Planning	Inspectorate
Hydro-Meteorological Institute	Customs Offices
Ministry of Economic Affairs	Jožef Stefan Institute
Ministry of Internal Affairs	Maribor Health Insurance Institute
Ministry of Transport and Communications	Maribor Institute for Safety at Work
Ministry of Health	Non-governmental organizations
Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry	
Representatives of industries that produce dangerous substances	

### **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

- Special education of clinical toxicologists abroad;
- Provision of summary information on successful systems in other countries (e.g. Germany, Austria, Czech Republic) as a basis for possible follow-up consultations with relevant experts;
- Visit of a foreign expert on chemical accidents prevention, preparedness and response to Slovenia (e.g. on safe transport, industrial accidents with chemicals, etc...) Which could provide comments and feedback on the existing system and recommend possible steps for up-grading the system;
- Consultation with an expert for the implementation of the “Seveso Directive” in Slovenia;
- Expert support in awareness raising in SMEs.



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**National Action Programme  
for Integrated Chemicals Management - Slovenia**

SLOVENIA  
TTF 4  
Chemical  
Safety

**Technical Task Force 4:  
Chemical Safety and Health at Work**

Summary: May 1998

**Problem Description:**

- Increasingly large quantities of chemicals are in everyday use at the workplace, including production, processing, storage, re-loading, utilization, disposal of waste, etc.
- During the period of privatization and transition to a market economy, and as a consequence of the emergence of medium-sized and small companies in Slovenia, employers and employees are increasingly less familiar with the safe handling of chemicals and less prepared to implement safety measures.
- The assumption can be made that the health of workers who must deal with chemicals in their work is insufficiently protected in practice.
- Although the field of chemical safety at the workplace is covered to a large extent by the Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, there are various aspects of this area which are addressed by other governmental and non-governmental sectors.

**Objectives:**

**Overall:** To ensure a healthy environment for workers during and after their entire period of work;

To propose an overall intersectoral programme for a system of safety and health at work for chemicals, which would be effective not only in large companies but also in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and for the self-employed, such as farmers, painters and decorators, craftsmen, etc.; and

to propose steps for adjustment of the organization of health and safety at work to the market economy, along with increased levels of protection of the health of workers in practice.

### **Summary of Activities:**

- inter-sectoral review of those segments of national legislation (both existing and in preparation) which have any relation to safety and health at work with regard to chemicals (i.e. EU directives, OECD acts, ILO conventions and other international recommendations, standards or existing non-regulatory mechanisms) and to propose steps for improvement;
- accurate intersectoral evaluation of the operation of the existing system in practice, and the identification of deficiencies;
- assessment of the situation in the area of personal and collective safety equipment, and proposals for improvement;
- comparison with successful systems introduced in other countries.

To propose steps for:

- a system of concessions on the basis of criteria determined for work for different groups of hazardous chemicals;
- introduction of teaching programmes relating to safety and health at the workplace in relevant educational institutions;
- additional compulsory on-the-job training;
- investment in safety by employers;
- more effective inspection;
- creating an information system for providing information on the safe handling of chemicals; and
- implement differentiated insurance premiums;

### **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs - Office for Safety and Health at Work

### **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, Office for Health and Safety at Work	Representatives of industry and small business
Republic of Slovenia Labour Inspectorate	Trade unions
Ministry of Health	Maribor Institute for Safety at Work
Republic of Slovenia Health Inspectorate	Institute for Safety at Work
Health Protection Institute	Office for Standardization and Metrology
Slovene Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Health Insurance Institute

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

- Provision of summary information from other countries on successful, effective and economic systems for safety and health at work with regard to chemicals as a basis for possible follow-up consultations;
- Advice on the practical implementation of the Council Directive 80/1107/EEC in particular with regard to chemicals;
- Practical advice for the implementation of risk assessment methods for chemicals at work;
- A list of recommended standards for quality equipment for personal and collective protection with addresses of most reputable producers and their representatives nearby Slovenia;
- Expert assistance for awareness-raising in SMEs;
- Support for the purchase of some of the key CD-ROMs in this field.

## **Technical Task Force 5:**

### **Monitoring**

Summary: May 1998

#### **Problem Description:**

- Because of the dispersion of data across sectors, the questionable coverage of geographical density, low sampling frequency, the lack of data connectivity between sectors, the absence of monitoring of the parameters of certain mediums, and the non-uniformity of methods of work (i.e. data incompatibility), the current monitoring of the chemical pollution in the media of water, soil and air is without a sound basis and in most cases is unreliable as a basis for risk assessment and appropriate measures.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Objectives:**

**Overall:** To propose steps for creation of a comprehensive and rational national policy for monitoring (water, air, soil, waste, food products, agricultural produce, overall impact on the living environment), compatible between sectors and consisting of integrated and complementary parts;

To include the data in a uniform and universally accessible network information system.

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<sup>2</sup> In accordance with the Resolution adopted by the Government, an intersectoral committee has already been set up for preparing bases for the overall monitoring of pesticides in Slovenia and for carrying out risk assessments in relation to the health of people and the environment. A draft proposal for a national programme for the monitoring of pesticides has already been drawn up. After 'monitoring' had been selected as one of the priorities within the national action programme, both activities were merged and pesticides are the first to be addressed under this priority. In the second step, it is also necessary to define other chemicals which should be included in the national monitoring programme.

## **Summary of Activities:**

### ***Related to Pesticides***

- discussion of the proposed bases for the national monitoring of pesticides in Slovenia and abroad, and the presentation of the proposal to the Government, including financial implications;
- experimental practical implementation of the national monitoring of certain pesticides.

### ***Related to Other Chemicals:***

- identification of chemicals which, in addition to pesticides, should be included in the national monitoring programme, and comparison with international requirements (e.g. PRTR, IPPC, requirements relating to public access to data, etc.);
- review of data required for the preparation of risk assessment;
- determination of responsibility for the monitoring of the chemicals referred to in the first item of this point;
- review of locations and types of existing data on chemicals other than pesticides;
- assessment of the compatibility and quality of the existing data referred to in the preceding point, and a proposal for improvement;
- identification of problems in the implementation of operational/partial monitoring, and proposals for eliminating these problems;
- review of missing monitoring parameters;
- assessment of the suitability of the geographical coverage of the density of sampling sites, and of the suitability of sampling sites, and proposals for improvement;
- proposals for frequency of monitoring;
- list of laboratories and persons in charge of the implementation of the monitoring and their qualifications; and
- proposals for rationalization.

### ***Related to Pesticides and Other Chemicals:***

- accreditation or temporary authorizations for laboratories in charge of monitoring;
- unification of the output of the laboratories in charge of monitoring;
- setting-up of suitable intersectoral information links within the network system (including public access).

## **Coordinating Institution:**

Ministry of Health

## **Participating Institutions:**

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food	Biotechnological Faculty
Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning	Agronomy/Pedology and Environmental Protection Centre
Ministry of Health	Institute of Chemistry
Health Protection Institute	ZIRS
Maribor Health Insurance Institute	Agricultural and Environmental Inspectorate
Institute of Environmental Protection	Non-governmental organizations
other health insurance institutes	
Hydro-Meteorological Institute	
KIS	

## **Opportunities for External Information/Assistance**

- Provision of brief summary information from other countries on successful, effective and cost-effective systems for monitoring of pesticides as a basis for possible follow-up consultations;
- Information from countries on other chemicals that are subject to monitoring;
- Clarifications of commonalities among monitoring, PRTR and IPPC directive;
- Review and comments on the Slovene proposal for a national pesticide monitoring programme and pesticide risk assessment (proposal available in English);
- Visit of foreign expert to Slovene monitoring laboratories - preparation for accreditation, auditing;
- Support for purchase of new equipment for effective work in the monitoring laboratory/ies.