

ROADMAP TOWARDS SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOCIDES IN GEORGIA



ESTABLISHMENT OF KEY ELEMENTS OF SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN SELECTED COUNTRIES IN ESTERN EUROPE, CAUCASUS, AND CENTRAL ASIA (2018-2021)

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დაავადებათა კონტროლისა და
სამთავრობო ჯანდაცვის
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Introduction

The National Center for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia successfully implemented the Project „Development of Operational and Legislative System for Collection and Sharing of Information on Hazardous Chemicals in Georgia“ (2015-2017), funded through the Advisory Assistance Programme of the Federal Environmental Agency (UBA) and the World Health Organization European Center for Environment and Health in Bonn, Germany. In the framework of the Project WHO organised a meeting during March 28-29, 2017 in Tbilisi Georgia, where participating countries reported limited capacities (technical, human and financial), and lack of expertise at the national level needed for implementation of the existing legislation on chemicals and for development of new legal acts. The need for support from donors and international organisations was emphasised.

In response to the countries' request, the Project (2nd stage) “Establishment of National Systems for Sound Management of Chemicals in Selected Countries in Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia (Belarus, Georgia, and Kazakhstan)” has been developed. Implementation of the Project contributed to the European Environment and Health Process and to the implementation of commitments at regional (Ostrava Declaration) and global (SDGs, SAICM, MEAs) levels.

Within the context of the Project, Georgia established National Register and Registration System of Biocides and set up technical basis for on-line collection and sharing of information on biocides. Work is in progress for harmonization with the REGULATION (EU) No 528/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2012 concerning making available on the market and use of biocidal products.

Currently, according to the Law “On Health Protection of Georgia” the registration is mandatory only for substances for disinfection, deratization and disinsection. The registration is carried out by the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health of Georgia. The list of the registered disinfectants is available on the NCDC web-site: www.ncdc.ge.

Due to the upcoming obligations under the new technical regulation on Biocides and the number of suppliers subject to these obligations, increase number of obligations in the agenda is expected also for the NCDC. For this reason, it is more than necessary to strengthen the staff's capacity and knowledge, and ensure operational preparedness of analytical laboratories in the context of introduction of new obligations for Biocides Management, such as: classification of substances and mixtures, testing of their physical and chemical, toxicological and ecotoxicological properties for the purposes of authorization and subsequent management of risks to health and the environment.

This Roadmap “TOWARDS SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOCIDES IN GEORGIA” has been developed according to WHO recommendation and comprises sets of issues and actions contributing to the introduction and step by step implementation of EU biocidal regulation with the involvement of all stakeholders in Georgia.

Scope of the Roadmap

“The Roadmap towards Sound Management of Biocides in Georgia “(further – Roadmap) consists of actions, that need to be fulfilled by all stakeholders (state entities, policymakers, funding bodies, NGOs, chemical industry, academia and commercial entities) in order to achieve the overarching objectives of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) and prevent negative impact of production and use of chemicals on human health and the environment. This Roadmap particularly focuses on management of biocides (disinfectants).

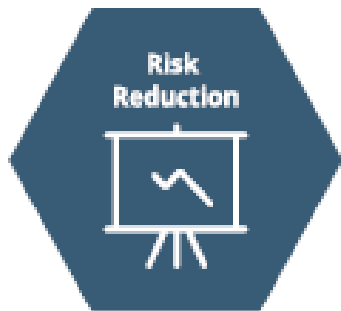
Methodology Used for Development of the Roadmap

The Roadmap towards Sound Chemicals Management was developed in consonance with WHO Chemical Roadmap and the Workbook.

The Roadmap considers key actions into four areas: risk reduction; knowledge and evidence; institutional capacity; and, leadership and coordination, as defined in the WHO Roadmap, which was adopted at Seventieth World Health Assembly to enhance health sector engagement in the strategic approach to international chemicals management towards the 2020 goal and beyond. To make the Roadmap as impactful and user-friendly as possible, it was distributed among experts from the government and industry. The feedback from all other stakeholders was positive.

Stakeholder’s views and comments have been incorporated into this roadmap and served as an important step to form the final version of the roadmap.

Actions needed to be taken were identified through the screening-review of management of chemicals and biocides in Georgia. The Review was prepared by a group of national experts representing stakeholders from different governmental agencies, industry and civil society. The Review is available at: www.ncdc.ge



Risk Reduction

Objective: To minimize and prevent risks for human health and the environment from production and use of biocides

- Adopt the Draft Law on Biocides Regulation, harmonized/approximated, as much as possible, with REGULATION (EU) No 528/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2012 concerning making available on the market and use of biocidal products including the following essential elements¹:
 - Definitions and classification of types of biocidal products;
 - Approval of active substances (in accordance with the EU list);
 - General principles concerning the authorization of biocidal products;
 - Data protection and data sharing;
 - Information and communication;
 - Classification, packaging and labelling of biocidal products and safety data sheets;
 - Poison control;
 - Competent authority;
 - Penalties;
 - Laboratory control.
- Set a system for authorization of biocidal products (locally produced and imported);
- Develop risk assessment guidance as a basis for decision-making on minimization/prevention of negative health impacts from biocidal products on human health and the environment;
- Conduct early assessment and reviewing of various sources of data to identify the impact of hazardous chemicals contained in biocidal products;
- Implement legislation, procedures, and programs to identify and eliminate or control workplace hazards and achieve health safety during working with biocidal products;
- Set a system for inspection of safety at workplaces in terms of production and use of biocidal products;
- Ensure that risk reduction measures are planned and implemented for all workplaces where biocidal products are produced and used, including availability of proper PPE;
- Develop recommendations on safe use of biocidal products by households;
- Develop requirements for safe management of wastes of biocidal products and their containers;
- Set a system for consultation with industry on topics related to biocides management including safety of biocidal products;
- Review toxic and physical properties of biocidal products on the national market, containing chemical substances according to SDS for any handling, storage, or disposal procedures, as well as

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32012R0528&from=EN>

for any dangerous interactions or incompatibilities with other chemicals and materials in the process;

- Ensure assessment of safer alternatives and their risks for human health and environment, taking into account the life cycle of active substances and biocidal products and promoting the use of these alternatives;
- Promote identification and adaptation of the best testing methods for assessment of safety and efficacy of biocides, early detection of non-communicable and occupational diseases potentially caused by biocides. Initiate legislative amendments requiring mandatory reporting of all non-communicable and occupational diseases including allergies, potentially related to exposure to biocides;
- Establish Register of Biocides and ensure its proper functioning;
- Develop guidelines for prevention and management of intoxications caused by biocidal products;
- Establish operations and surveillance system of poisoning, including by biocidal products (toxicoepidemiology);
- Consider revision of legislation and tax system to support use of safer alternatives.



Knowledge and Evidence

Objective: To ensure availability of information on biocidal products, their safety and efficacy, best practice and protective measures for all stakeholders' groups such as decision- and policy-makers, workers, employers, health-care and public health professional, and the public.

- Set a system for collection and sharing of information on biocidal products on the market;
- Ensure access to international and the EU databases on biocides and hazardous chemicals in biocidal products;
- Create a web-page to disseminate information on hazardous chemicals in biocidal products in national language;
- Make available the list of active substances registered in the EU;
- Post brochures and flayers for awareness-raising, conduct campaign to help the public recognize risks of biocides for human health and prevent it;
- Publicize good practices on safe use of biocides;
- Develop and implement awareness-raising campaigns for health care workers, employers and employees on risks of biocides & good practices for their safe use;
- Collect evidence on acute and chronic effects on health due to improper management of biocidal products;
- Develop and implement projects with the support of WHO, ECEH, UNEP;
- Share knowledge with industry and the public on biocides and their effects on human health and the environment including via training workshops & webinars for different stakeholders;
- Develop mechanisms to collect and manage health data and information necessary for reporting progress on production and use of biocides, their safety and efficacy;
- Create a platform for receiving information, interactive websites and/or discussion forums for specific issues related to the impact of biocidal products on health;
- Engage with Georgian consumers/producers to build their knowledge and skills to eliminate or reduce hazardous exposures to biocides;
- Disseminate & communicate health promotion materials about chemical risks, which may be developed while using biocidal products;
- Establish and use indicators for measuring progress.



Institutional Capacity

Objective: To ensure that institutional capacities are adequate and allow safe management of biocidal products through their life-cycle in terms of policy, expertise, human, technical, financial and other resources

- Identify national institution authorized for management of biocides and strengthen its capacities;
- Set a national register of biocidal products;
- Establish the poison control center according to the WHO guidance on poison control centers;
- Establish a help-desk for supporting of the industry and the public in biocides management and, in particular, in authorization of biocidal products;
- Ensure availability of expertise for classification and labelling of chemicals and their mixtures according to GHS, health and the environment risk assessment of biocides, assessment of safer alternatives;
- Identify gaps and elaborate national policy and regulatory frameworks to address the health impacts of biocidal products throughout the life cycle;
- Establish monitoring of production, transport, use and release of all types of biocidal products and waste, and promote regional and international cooperation with a view to enhancing compliance with the existing regulations and preventing illegal traffic;
- Develop and implement training programs on biocides for the industry, the public, workers and employers, as well as health professionals;
- Develop tools, guidance, technical regulations to support comprehensive implementation of biocides regulation;
- Disseminate educational materials for the targeted audiences (medical professionals and healthcare workers, the public) on specific topics of safe use of biocidal products (e.g. assessment and monitoring of health risks, gathering of evidence, diagnosing and treatment of health disorders, chemical safety awareness, and labelling);
- Introduce curricula in medical schools and other academic institutions to address the health impacts of biocidal chemicals, with an emphasis on toxicology and occupational and public health;
- Strengthen analytical capacities for assessment of safety and efficacy of biocides;
- Ensure continuity of financial support for sound management of biocides.



Leadership and Coordination

Objective: To create condition for the health sector to perform its leading role in sound management of biocides in cooperation and coordination with other governmental agencies, industry and the public.

- Consider creation of multi-stakeholder platform in the authorized governmental body or institution to ensure participation of all stakeholders in decision-making process on biocides management;
- Identify mandate of governmental agencies in biocides management;
- Appoint a contact person in the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia for the issues related to chemicals and health including implementation of this Roadmap, and establishment of national chemicals and health network, implementation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM);
- Organize briefing sessions on impact of hazardous chemicals, occurring in biocides, to human health for politicians and senior officials at the national, regional and international levels;
- Implement the strategy for strengthening of engagement of the health sector in implementation of the Strategic Approach;
- Ensure capacities of the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs for representation of Georgia on conferences and meetings on biocides and chemical management in general;
- Develop and strengthen, as appropriate, multi-sectoral cooperation at the national, regional and international levels in order to minimize and prevent significant adverse impacts of chemicals and waste on health, inter alia, within the health sector itself.