

ROAD MAP TOWARDS SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS IN BELARUS



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ABBREVIATIONS

EEU	Eurasian Economic Union
EEU TR	Technical Regulations of the Eurasian Economic Union
GHS	Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals
IHR	International Health Regulations
NSSSED-2030	National Strategy of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development in the Republic of Belarus until 2030
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
POPs	Persistent Organic Pollutants
SAICM	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
WHO	World Health Organization

INTRODUCTION



The key areas of the Road Map have been determined to contribute and to be in-line with the NSSSED-2030¹, which outlines the main developmental goals and benchmarks, including in the area of chemical safety.

When working at this Road Map, the authors were guided by the recommendations provided in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, Road Map to Enhance Health Sector Engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond² and other policies in the area of chemical safety and chemicals management.



The Road Map was developed in consultation with relevant national governmental agencies, representatives of the leading institutions in the area of chemicals management and with participation of nongovernmental organisations. The Road Map identifies actions towards sound chemical management system including those where the health sector has a lead role to play according to the national legislation.

Actions aimed at ensuring sound management of chemicals³ are interlinked and organized into five main areas: strengthening of legislation, leadership and coordination, knowledge and information, development and strengthening of the institutional capacity, risk reduction.

The Road Map is developed for the authorised agencies responsible for decision-making in the area of chemical safety, local executive bodies, specialists from industry, public health professionals, representatives of public associations, and other stakeholders.

Implementation of the Road Map will result in reduction of the adverse impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment, will lead to increasing of synergies in implementation of the requirements of the Stockholm, Basel, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions, will create conditions for the development of chemical and other sectors of the national economy, and, as a result, will contribute to achieving country's SDGs by 2030.

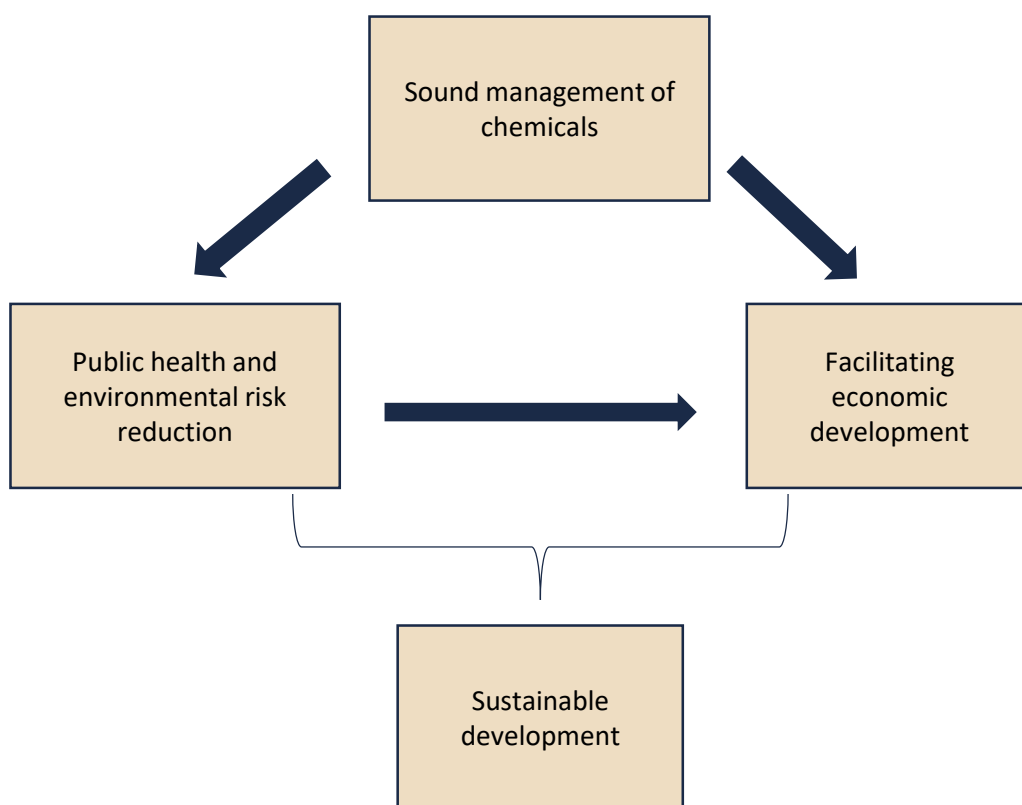
¹National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development until 2030, appointed a National Coordinator for the Sustainable Development Goals (2 May 2017) № 10. <http://www.economy.gov.by> (RU)

²Road Map to Enhance Health Sector Engagement in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management towards the 2020 goal and beyond. World Health Organization, 2017.

³For the purpose of this document the term “chemicals” is used to refer to individual chemical substances, their mixtures, hazardous chemical products used at production facilities and in households.

1 NATIONAL PRIORITIES & APPROACHES

BELARUS IS COMMITTED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND BELIEVES THAT THE SDGs CAN BE ACHIEVED THROUGH CONCERTED ACTIONS OF ALL NATIONAL PARTNERS IN THE CONTEXT OF POLITICAL STABILITY AND SUSTAINED ECONOMIC GROWTH.



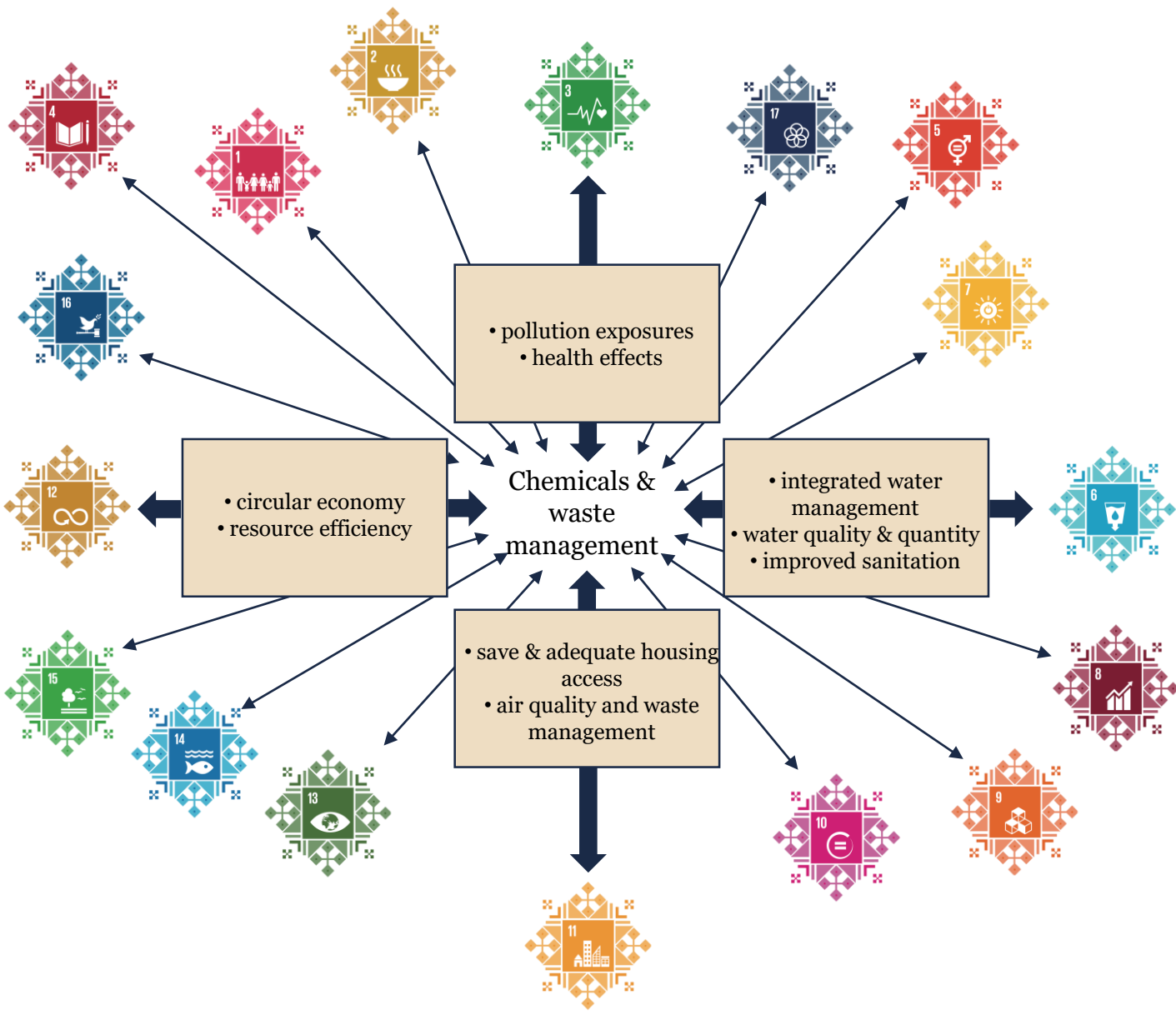
Ensuring sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle is an important area of the national policy of Belarus and is considered to be one of the cross-cutting issues that will contribute to achieving SDGs.

The level of well-being and social security of the population depends not only on the level of the country's economic development, but also on the high-level of care of the state for its citizens.

Out of 17 SDGs, 14 have targets related to the management of chemicals and waste. Without the system of sound management of chemicals and waste many SDGs can be hardly achieved including: SDG 1 – no poverty; SDG 2 – zero hunger; SDG 3 – good health and well-being

SDG 4 – quality education; SDG 5 – gender equality; SDGs 6 – clean water and sanitation; 13 – climate action; 14 – life below water; 15 – life on land; SDG 7 – affordable and clean energy; SDG 8 – decent work and economic growth; SDG 12 – responsible consumption and production; SDG 9 – industry, innovation and infrastructure.

It is critical to ensure social security and provide safe work places, introduce safe innovation technologies and transit to the “green” economy for the sustainable development. Some examples of how sound management of chemicals can contribute to the achievement of SDGs are provided below.



EXAMPLES OF HOW SOUND MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SDGS

SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER

To reach this goal, it is necessary to ensure food security, the rights of all people to sufficient and quality food, improved living standards of rural population. To this end, controlled and safe agricultural use of chemical crop protection products, agrochemicals, various food and veterinary additives, which is part of the system of sound management of pesticides is required, including the elimination of hazardous pesticide formulations, development of agroecological approaches, use of non-chemical alternatives and other best agricultural practices.

SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

A sound chemicals management system is essential to significantly reduce the number of deaths and diseases caused by the hazardous chemicals exposure from polluted air, water and soil, and the use of unsafe consumer products.

SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

One of the main elements of the programme of comprehensive and quality education is expanding the understanding of the importance of environmental protection, environmental and chemical safety. Creating a pool of highly qualified professionals in all related economic areas in the time of globalisation is not feasible without basic knowledge on chemicals, their hazards throughout their life-cycle, availability of safe alternatives, structural and functional organisation and implementation of a system of sound management of chemicals and waste. Creating safe environments for children in places where they learn is essential for education and development.

SDG 17 PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

is a cornerstone of development, including establishing national, regional and global partnerships in the area of chemical safety.



GENDER EQUALITY

5

S
D
G

The gender policy in Belarus is based, among other pillars, on the protection of reproductive health. Chemicals can act differently on men and women due to their physiological and sociocultural characteristics. This has to be taken into consideration when planning prevention measures to reduce exposure and impact from chemicals. Health protection of the most vulnerable populations shall be one of the targets to be achieved through the implementation of sound chemicals management system.

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

7

S
D
G

Environmentally sustainable energy production means using resource-saving, environmentally-friendly processes and technologies including phasing out fossil fuels.

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

11

S
D
G

Environmentally sustainable energy production means using resource-saving, environmentally-friendly processes and technologies including phasing out fossil fuels.

CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

6

S
D
G

CLIMATE ACTION

13

S
D
G

LIFE BELOW WATER

14

S
D
G

LIFE ON LAND

15

S
D
G

Achieving these goals depends largely on the reduction in harmful impacts of chemicals and waste on the environment and ecosystems.



IN BELARUS THE PRIORITY ACTIONS IN THE AREA OF CHEMICAL SAFETY ARE SET BY THE NATIONAL STRATEGY OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS BY 2030 (NSSD-2030) AND THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:



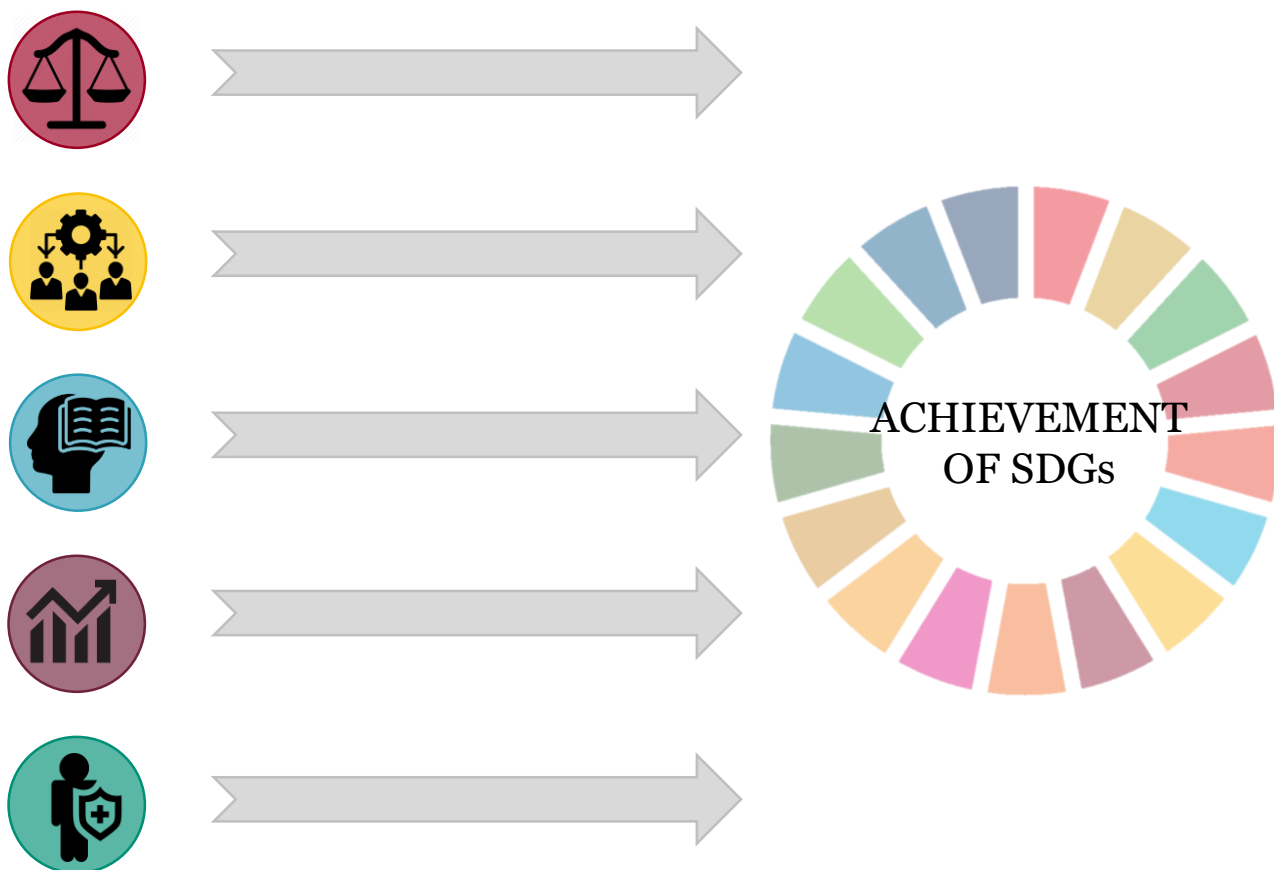
- ❖ to ensure environmentally sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in accordance with agreed international principles and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil to minimise their adverse impacts on human health and the environment;
- ❖ to improve legislation on regulation of chemicals which should be based on the precautionary principle, as well as on the synergistic approach to implementation of the international agreements related to the management of hazardous chemicals;
- ❖ to ensure a healthy environment as an essential condition for maintaining and promoting public health;
- ❖ to significantly reduce the number of deaths and diseases caused by exposure to hazardous chemicals in air, water and soil;
- ❖ to improve the safety and quality of food, drinking water and consumer goods;
- ❖ to improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating waste dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater, and significantly increasing recycling and safe reuse of wastewater;
- ❖ to create friendly environments for society and citizens through the widespread implementation of “green” economy principles and the reduction in harmful environmental impacts to the extent possible;
- ❖ to increase safety and environmental sustainability of cities and rural settlements, including through introduction of a Smart City concept;
- ❖ to introduce principles of inclusive sustainable “green” growth in every area of life with transition to circular economy, reduction in toxic emissions and carbon footprint.

SETTING UP A SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BELARUS IS A COMPLEX, MULTISECTORAL GOAL, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH IS BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF PARTNERSHIP WITH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENTAL BODIES THAT PERFORM THEIR ROLES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR MANDATE, INDUSTRY, ACADEMIC AND BUSINESS COMMUNITIES, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR.



TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE NATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES AND RESULTS OF THE SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT IN THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS⁴ THE FOLLOWING KEY AREAS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BELARUS WERE IDENTIFIED AND THE ROAD MAP FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION WAS DEVELOPED.

⁴Report "Chemicals Management in the Republic of Belarus: overview of the situation". <http://rspch.by/ncdc/>



The present Road Map is considered as an important step towards improving the chemicals management system, a meaningful in protecting public health, vulnerable populations and the environment from potential adverse impacts of hazardous chemicals and, ultimately, in achieving SDGs.

Key areas and measures leading to the sound chemicals management are interlinked. Some of them are directly aimed at risk reduction, while others create a basis for moving forward.

For instance, targets of the “Leadership and Coordination” area are aimed at aligning the Road Map with the strategic directions of the State development, engaging all stakeholders, and advancing political interests at the national and international levels.

Actions in the «Knowledge and Evidence” area will allow creating a platform for the data collection including data on chemicals, evidence of their health impact and information on safer alternatives. This is crucial for decision-making and for performing other priority tasks.

The “Institutional Capacity” area includes measures to improve regulatory frameworks and tighten enforcement of legislation, measures to develop policies and guidelines, strengthen laboratory and expert capacities, establish poison centers and set up an emergency preparedness system, all of which underlie the progress in other areas.

Advisory and technical support from the UN system and from WHO specifically will facilitate the implementation of the Road Map and the achievement of its goals.

PRIORITY AREAS OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF SOUND CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BELARUS

Outcome: sustainable national infrastructure, including regulatory, information and institutional frameworks allowing sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that to minimise adverse effects on human health and the environment				
Key areas				
Legislation	Leadership and coordination	Knowledge and information	Institutional capacity	Protection of public health and risk reduction
Outputs				
Improving legal framework for chemicals management, taking into account best international practices	Establishing an information and coordination platform to ensure engagement of stakeholders and sectors at all levels of management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle	Filling gaps in knowledge and developing skills to improve data collection and analysis and to provide information on hazardous chemicals needed informed decision-making on chemicals management	Strengthening of national institutional capacities to identify, take and enforce measures aimed at prevention and minimisation of adverse effects of chemicals throughout their life-cycle	Improving management of health risks from exposure to hazardous chemicals
Outcomes				
National legislation and regulatory frameworks enable managing chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that to minimise adverse effects on human health and the environment	Sound management of chemicals is implemented with participation of all stakeholders, including the public, and is coordinated by the health sector	Efficient system to collect and share information on hazardous chemicals has been established to inform decision-making on their sound management	National, institutional, human and technical capacities of all stakeholders, including industry, have been strengthened and respond to the needs to ensure sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle	Increasing living standards and improving health of the population and the vulnerable by minimizing/preventing exposure to hazardous chemicals throughout their life-cycle

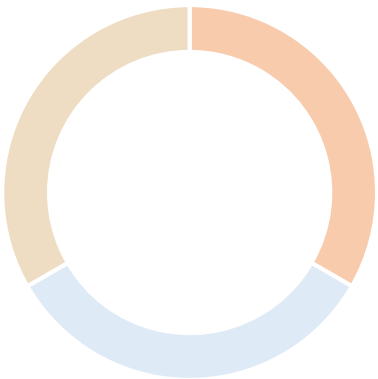
2 ADVANTAGES

Belarus has made a political commitment to set up a system of management of chemicals enabling to protect public health and the environment as one of priorities of the country's sustainable development.

The EEU TR 041/2017 on Safety of Chemical Products aiming at the chemical safety, removing trade barriers and creating a favourable investment climate in the EEU has been adopted by the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC).

The implementation of EEU TR-041/2017 provisions at the national level dictates the need to build an effective system of control over the safe circulation of chemicals in accordance with the best international standards, considering it as an essential element of the national security.

Setting up a system of sound management of chemicals will provide a number of advantages for Belarus:



- Political
- Economic
- Social and ecological



- implementation of the relevant constitutional rights of citizens to health and a healthy environment
- meeting political commitments within the EEU on setting up an efficient system of sound management of chemicals to protect public health and the environment
- complying with EEU TR-041/2017 on Safety of Chemical Products, in particular, creating a favourable investment climate in the EEU
- coordinating actions related to management of hazardous chemicals within the EEU
- enhancing the country's image in the protection of civil rights and contribution to the international system of chemical safety
- integration of Belarus into the international community and raising the international recognition of the country

POLITICAL

ECONOMIC

- removing existing barriers in chemicals trade with the EEU member states
- gaining access to best practices, professional training, advisory and information support
- reducing the cost of prevention and treatment of diseases related to chemical exposure as a result of improved control of hazardous chemicals and risk reduction
- enhancing competitiveness of Belarus-made products at the international market as a result of phasing out the use of hazardous chemicals and their replacement with less harmful and safer ones
- reduction in costs associated with the management and disposal of restricted and prohibited chemicals in the EEU member states
- cutting costs associated with expensive studies and informed decision-making both in industry and the government due to availability of data on hazardous properties of chemicals and their health and environment risks

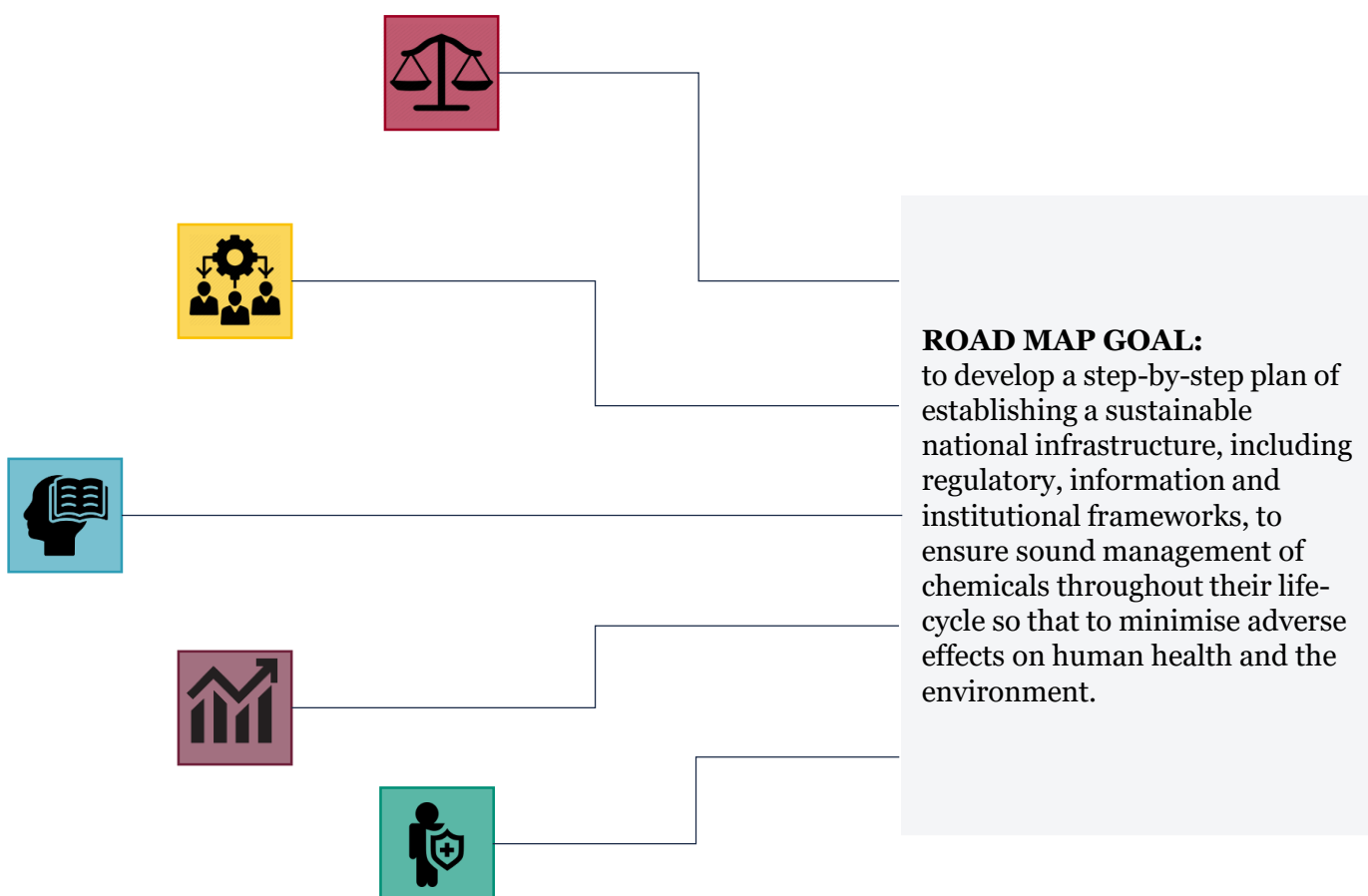
- enhancing national safety and increasing living standards by reducing the burden of diseases potentially linked to chemical exposure
- raising public awareness and fostering informed choices given the precautionary principle by providing access to information on hazardous properties of chemicals
- preservation of natural heritage of Belarus
- enhancing credibility of governmental bodies in the context of taking measures to protect health and environment
- strengthening of cooperation and coordination in implementing Stockholm, Basel and Minamata Conventions with a common goal to protect human health and the environment from hazardous chemicals and waste for the sustainable future
- ratification by the Republic of Belarus of the Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions

SOCIAL & ECOLOGICAL

3 PRIORITY AREAS OF DEVELOPING

Barriers to improving management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in Belarus include imperfection of regulatory mechanisms of chemicals management and national infrastructure of regulation and control over the chemicals turnover, inadequate human resources with advanced knowledge and skills, lack of a structured information collection system and, in particular, lack of the national register of chemicals, insufficient development of health risk assessment and its use for decision-making.

Risks associated with organisational, legal, information and human resources can undermine the implementation of measures aiming at the development of the sound chemicals management system in Belarus. Setting up a sound chemicals management system is one of the priorities of the sustainable socioeconomic development of Belarus by 2030.



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



Goal 3, target 3.9

By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination.



Goal 6, target 6.3

By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.



Goal 12, target 12.4

By 2030, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment.

To date, Belarus has implemented measures to pave the foundations for improving the system of chemicals management. In general, a basic framework for the protection of public health and the environment from environmental hazards, including chemicals, has been established; the main aspects of chemicals management have been taken into account; and a set of regulatory acts complementing each other has been adopted.

Nonetheless, the national legislation does not fully cover several significant elements of the management of chemicals, including:

- ❑ globally harmonised approach to classification and labelling of chemicals;
- ❑ health and environmental hazard and risk assessment;
- ❑ safe use of chemicals;
- ❑ raising awareness in industry and agricultural workers;
- ❑ regulating manufacturer responsibility for chemical safety;
- ❑ specific requirements to individual groups of chemicals and waste (highly hazardous pesticides, chemical waste, biocides, industrial and household chemicals, endocrine-disrupting chemicals, nanomaterials, etc.);
- ❑ availability of information for stakeholders on issues related to the chemicals management.

A significant gap in the existing chemicals management system is the lack of post-registration monitoring system for hazardous chemicals, which significantly reduces the effectiveness of the state control and increases the country's vulnerability in the area of chemical safety.

Individual aspects of chemicals management are regulated by sectoral legal acts which does not fully correspond to the scope of the regulated issues; there is no legislative basis for compensation for health losses due to exposure to hazardous chemicals; no methodology has been developed to assess socioeconomic outcomes of the unsound management of chemicals.



OUTCOME:
NATIONAL LEGISLATION AND
REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS
ENABLE MANAGING OF
CHEMICALS THROUGHOUT
THEIR LIFE-CYCLE SO THAT TO
MINIMISE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON
HUMAN HEALTH AND THE
ENVIRONMENT.

In Belarus, there is no register of information on types and volumes of chemicals used, transported and stored, though some information on production, export and import is available from statistical data; no priorities for the prohibition and restriction of hazardous chemicals are identified; the lists of prohibited chemicals have not been fully compiled; the lists of restricted chemicals indicating permitted scope of application and production are not available. There are gaps in the data collection and sharing related to the hazardous chemical properties. For instance, the National Register of Chemicals and Mixtures has not been established and as a result the access to information on chemicals in Belarus is limited. Based on the current situation assessment, the priority actions to develop legislation meeting the needs of the sound management of chemicals have been identified.

Implementation of the planned actions will ensure establishing legal and regulatory frameworks for sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle so that to minimise their adverse effects on human health and the environment, contribute to the achievement of the SDG by 2030, and enhance chemical safety in the country. All stakeholders such as governmental agencies, industry, private sector and public organisations should be engaged in the development and implementation of the legal framework. Actions are aimed at improving legal framework for chemicals management, taking into account best international practices.

Improve legislative mechanisms of chemicals management (drafting new by-laws and/or amending and supplementing the existing regulatory framework), given the precautionary, “polluter pays”, “no data, no market”, “the right to know” principles as well as taking into account provisions of international agreements, including the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and Sustainable Development Goals of the country by 2030

Develop regulatory framework for implementing EEU Technical Regulations (EEU TR-041/2017 on Safety of Chemical Products) including development of by-laws on collection and dissemination of information on hazardous properties of chemicals, chemicals registration and notification, maintaining National Register of Chemicals and Mixtures

Develop provisions on post-registration monitoring of chemical substances and products and on information support of producers and importers of chemicals and mixtures (HelpDesk) and implement them in the state sanitary control practice

Establish legislative requirements for the prohibition and restriction of potentially hazardous chemicals; compile lists of prohibited and restricted chemicals indicating scope permitted application

Develop legislative framework for the ratification of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and by-laws to ensure sustainable implementation of the Convention at the national level

Develop regulatory frameworks for chemical exposure monitoring, including human biomonitoring, and risk assessment

Develop legal framework for implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)

Develop regulations of chemical products containing nanomaterials and endocrine disruptors

Ensure, at the legislative level, information collection and sharing between responsible government entities and stakeholders

3.2 LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION

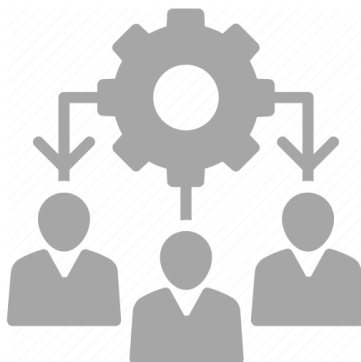
Presently, in belarus there are over 20 ministries, governmental agencies, committees and associations are involved in the management of chemicals. The main agencies responsible for supervision and identification of measures to ensure safety of chemicals for people and the environment throughout their life-cycle are the ministry of health, ministry of natural resources and environmental protection, ministry of emergencies, ministry of labour and social security, and the committee for standardization, metrology and certification. Commissions and councils functioning in belarus are responsible for coordination of management of specific groups of chemicals (pesticides, fertilisers, persistent organic pollutants, waste) or specific (emergency) situations. They do not coordinate activities on the overall management of chemicals (including industrial and household chemicals) throughout their life-cycle. Mechanism of engagement of nongovernmental organisations in decision-making on health and environmental protection from chemical exposure isn't established.

Thus, there is a need to create an intersectoral body responsible for coordination of actions of ministries, agencies, organisations and institutions in safe management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle.

Establishment of a coordination mechanism will facilitate engagement of all stakeholders in chemical safety, ensure leadership and coordination of sound chemicals management activities with participation of competent agencies and the public with leading role of the health sector.

Actions are aimed at establishing an information and coordination platform to ensure engagement of stakeholders and sectors at all levels of management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle.

OUTCOME:
SOUND MANAGEMENT OF
CHEMICALS IS IMPLEMENTED
WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL
STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING
THE PUBLIC, AND IS
COORDINATED BY THE
HEALTH SECTOR.



Set up an interdepartmental/intersectoral coordination mechanism for involvement of authorised agencies and other stakeholders in the management of chemicals and waste

Strengthen cooperation with the national focal points for international agreements, including the Stockholm and Basel Conventions, the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the International Health Regulations

Designate a national authority empowered to act on behalf of the State in the performance of administrative functions for the chemicals registration and notification, and maintenance of the National Register of Chemicals and Mixtures

Extend the scope of control over chemicals to cover their full life-cycle from producers of raw materials and suppliers to downstream users and waste treatment

Facilitate use of regional cooperation mechanisms, including information sharing, in the area of illegal international trafficking of hazardous, restricted and prohibited chemicals

Justify an appointment of a focal point within key ministries for issues related to the management of chemicals

Consider the sound management of chemicals throughout their life-cycle in the national, regional, sectoral developmental plans and programmes

3.3 KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION

Information collection and sharing is an integral part of chemicals management. As agreed at the international level, the information on chemicals shall include data on their physical and toxicological properties, production and use, health and environmental impacts, exposure levels and health risks, standards, laws and rules, emergency measures.

In Belarus, information sharing and stakeholder access to data sources is stipulated by laws. The ratification of the Aarhus Convention demonstrates the intention of the governing bodies to provide access to environmental information. The Law On Information, Informatization and Data Protection of the Republic of Belarus guarantees equal access to information to governmental bodies and the public. Article 74 of the Law On Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus defines a list of data classified as environmental.

All ministries and agencies with different responsibility on management of chemicals have open-access web-pages. However, the information provided is insufficient to assess the risks of chemicals to human health and the environment.

Other gaps in information provision include inadequacy of existing databases to the needs, low operability of existing databases, unavailability of sufficient information online.

OUTCOME:
SOUND MANAGEMENT OF
CHEMICALS IS
IMPLEMENTED WITH
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HEALTH SECTOR.



So far, there is no National Register of Chemicals and Mixtures, no database on hazardous properties of chemicals, their classification and labelling.

The two-way communication between users and producers of chemical products is insufficient. The tracking of chemicals throughout their life-cycle from raw material suppliers, producers, downstream users to recycling or waste treatment is not organized.

The poison center does not fully recommendations of the World Health Organization. The cases of poisoning in Belarus are being recorded without classification by individual chemicals that limits the possibility of reliable identification of causes of poisoning and assessment of risk of individual chemicals. The same situation is observed with registration of cases of occupational poisoning and chronic diseases resulting from exposure to chemicals: they are classified by groups of chemicals such as acids, alkalis, metals, etc. Therefore, collecting and increasing availability of necessary information to inform decision-making and ensure safe management of chemicals remains relevant.

meet

Develop a system for collection of data on hazardous chemicals in Belarus aligned with EEU TR-041/2017 on Safety of Chemical Products

Collect information on produced, used and stored chemicals in the country (including data on their volumes, suppliers, producers and users)

Develop knowledge resource containing information on hazardous properties, classification and labelling of chemicals enabling assessment of health and environmental risks

Provide adequate access to knowledge recourse for all stakeholders, including the public

Set up a database containing information on ecologically friendly and safe technologies and alternative chemicals, and grant access to all stakeholders

Develop training modules on best international practices of chemicals management under SAICM, including management of endocrine-disrupting chemicals, lead-based paint, nanomaterials and gender aspects with focusing on filling the gaps in scientific knowledge

Draft provisions on reporting on poisoning cases, improving poisonings classification by individual chemicals allowing assessment of risks and identification of causes of poisonings

Develop training modules on prevention of chemical poisonings for the private, industry and agricultural sectors

Improve the quality of the system of environment management and formation of environmental thinking of the population

Develop criteria of priorities setting in terms of prohibition and restriction of hazardous chemicals; to compile lists of prohibited and restricted substances indicating the scopes of permitted application, and quantitative limits of hazardous chemicals in mixed chemical products

Develop and ensure sustainable functioning of the single-knowledge base of findings of monitoring studies on chemicals in the environment, consumer goods and foodstuffs

Set up a national register of potentially hazardous chemicals and to ensure information exchange with international registers

Improve the system of identification, evaluation and reporting on diseases caused by exposure to chemicals

3.4 INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

At present, belarusian governmental agencies involved in chemicals management have a multidepartmental and quite developed structure. Therefore, measures to improve the chemical safety system should be intensive rather than extensive, i.e. The main focus should be placed on the mobilization and increasing capacity of available resources.

In particular, strengthening of human capacity, training highly qualified professionals, raising awareness about issues on sound management of chemicals require special professional training of experts at various levels (decision-makers, laboratory personnel, public servants, industry workers, etc.) and in various areas, such as environmental and health protection (including occupational health), prevention of illegal trafficking of hazardous chemicals, information collection and sharing, clean production, application of safe alternatives, etc.

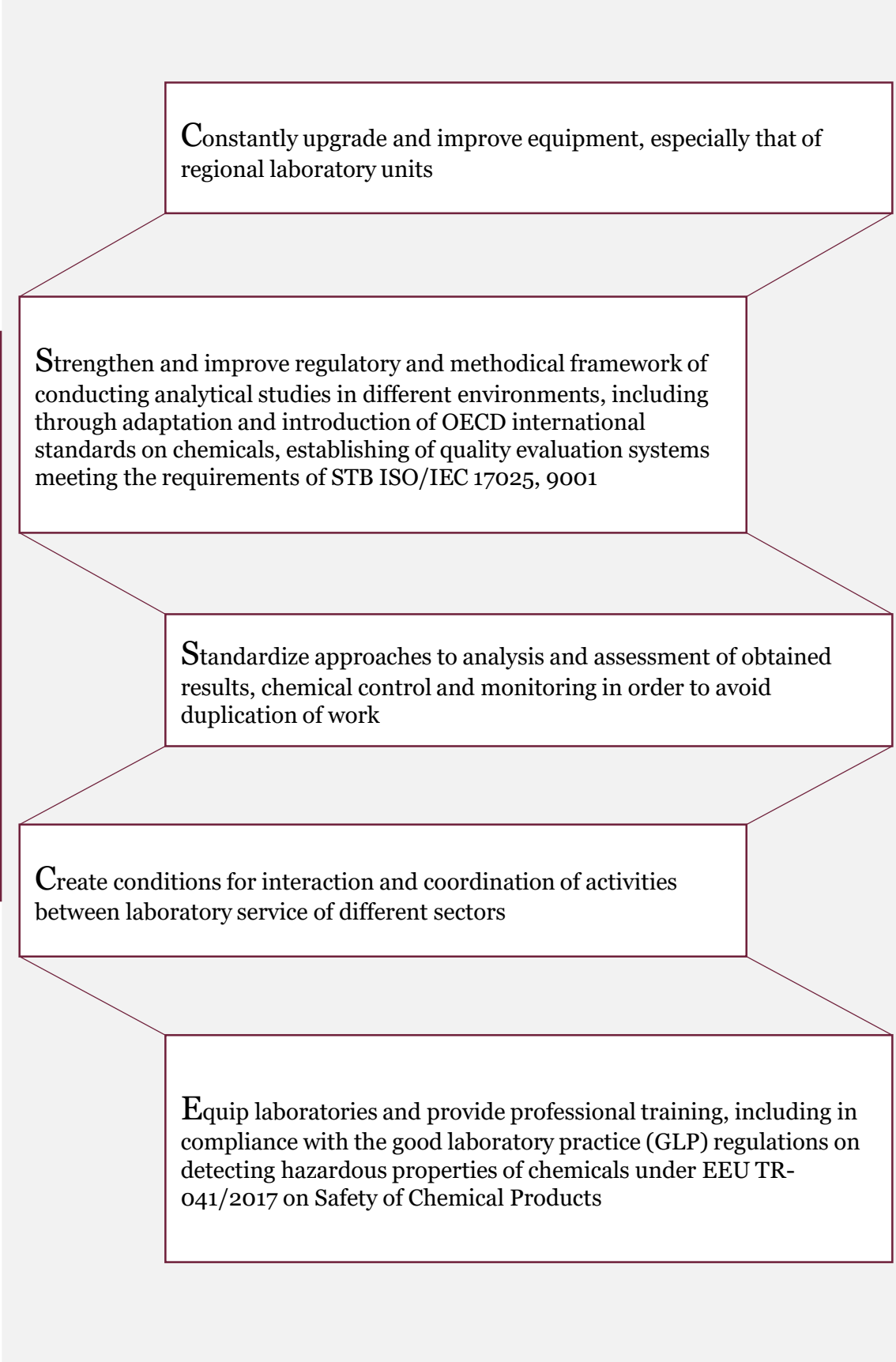
OUTCOME:
NATIONAL, INSTITUTIONAL,
HUMAN AND TECHNICAL
CAPACITIES OF ALL
STAKEHOLDERS, INCLUDING
INDUSTRY, HAVE BEEN
STRENGTHENED AND RESPOND TO
THE NEEDS TO ENSURE SOUND
MANAGEMENT OF CHEMICALS
THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE-CYCLE.



A number of issues related to the country's technical infrastructure affecting efficiency of implementation of the state chemicals management policy need to be addressed: there is a need to modernise and upgrade equipment, especially that of regional laboratory units; the regulatory and methodical framework of conducting analytical studies of chemicals in various environments requires strengthening and improvement including through adaptation and introduction of OECD international standards;

It is necessary to establish quality evaluation systems meeting the requirements of STB ISO/IEC 17025, 9001, to standardize approaches to analysis and assessment of research findings, as well as to chemical control and monitoring; it is needed to avoid duplication of work, to strengthen cooperation and coordination between laboratory service of different sectors. Actions are aimed at strengthening national institutional capacities to identify, take and enforce measures aimed at prevention and minimisation of adverse effects of chemicals throughout their life-cycle.

In the area of regulatory and methodical framework and technical infrastructure



Set up a national GLP system, adapt OECD methodical framework and introduce it into the domestic toxicology practice, to join the system of acceptance of nonclinical research findings to ensure mutual acceptance of data (MAD) by the EEU member states

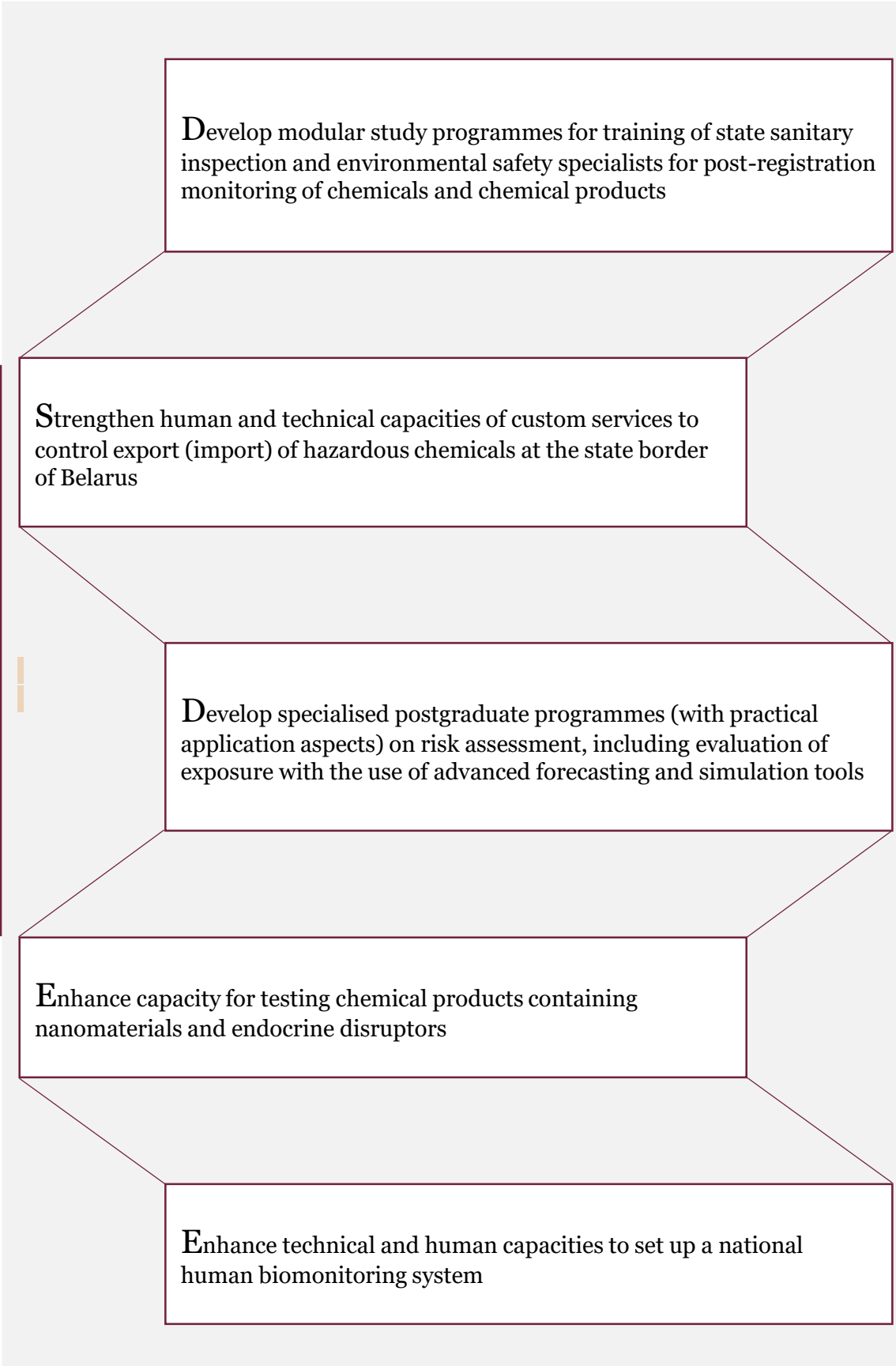
Improve methodology and procedures of health risk assessment, including assessment of exposure of populations in contaminated sites

Develop a methodical framework for identification, quantity and quality control of chemicals listed in the National Register

Develop standard operation procedures for evaluation of exposure to priority chemicals, including via biomonitoring

Introduce a methodology for assessing the burden of environment-related diseases into the domestic practice

In the area of personnel training and education



Train specialists in chemical safety with the introduction of a special course on management of chemicals in higher school and postgraduate education

Develop and launch a course to train specialists of industry and private sectors in management of chemicals, including classification and labelling

Develop and conduct trainings for healthcare professionals on safe disposal of mercury-containing devices to promote the ratification and the implementation of the Minamata Convention

Raise awareness, develop and conduct trainings on priority public health considerations associated with chemicals throughout their life-cycle (highly hazardous pesticides, lead, mercury, chemicals of major concern).

3.5 PROTECTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND RISK REDUCTION



Transition to “green” and circular economy is one of the priority goals of the development of country’s economy. Improving the chemicals management will contribute to this transition in many ways.



Thus, introduction of clean technologies is based on the replacement of hazardous chemicals with safe or less hazardous ones. A circular economy calls for saving resources through their sound management and waste recycling.



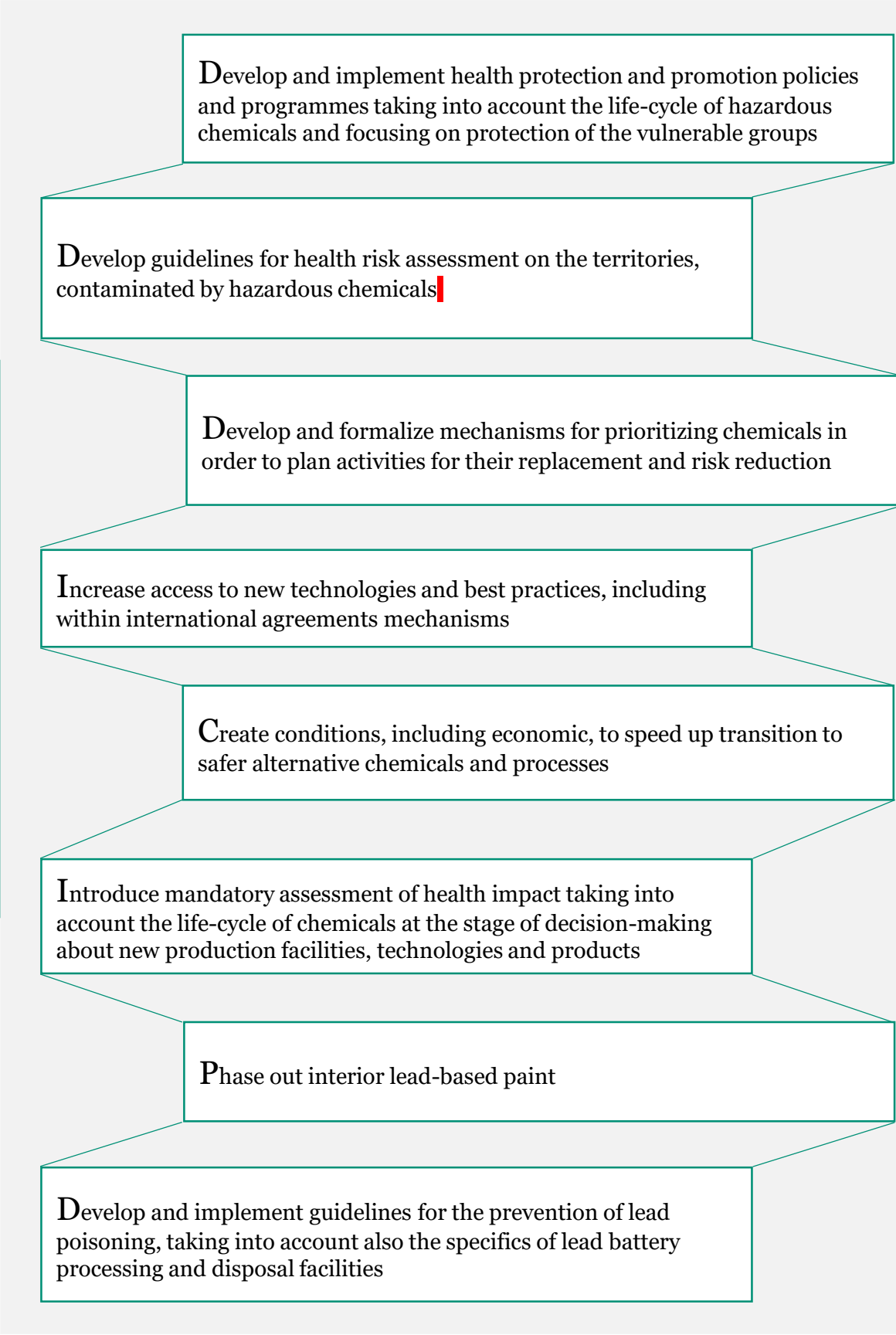
However, toxic waste and waste containing hazardous substances should not be recycled as it increases risks to human health and the environment. Shifting to “green” and circular economy requires regulatory support of industry initiatives and creation of other necessary conditions for implementation of advanced technologies.



The ultimate goal of all the measures included in the Road Map is to reduce risks to human health and the environment. The present section covers the measures related to the transition to cleaner technologies, prevention of risks caused by exposure to hazardous chemicals at the stage of decision-making about placing them on the market in the industry and agricultural sectors.

OUTCOME:
INCREASING LIVING
STANDARDS AND IMPROVING
HEALTH OF THE POPULATION
AND THE VULNERABLE BY
MINIMIZING EXPOSURE TO
HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS
THROUGHOUT THEIR LIFE-
CYCLE.





Develop handling/limitation requirements to chemical products containing nanomaterials and endocrine disruptors in accordance with international recommendations

Analyse hazardous chemicals application in the industry and agricultural sectors, including highly hazardous pesticides, to create and publish a list of safer alternatives

Develop methods and models of socioeconomic assessment of benefits and losses in the transition to new technologies, processes, production and replacement of hazardous substances

Increase responsibility of producers for provision of information to users and consumers about hazardous properties of their products, improving labelling standards

Develop certification marks to support manufacturing of “clean” products

Tighten requirements on the reduction in emissions and dumping to promote introduction of low- and zero-waste processes and production facilities

Develop an indoor environment quality monitoring system, analysis of construction and finishing materials focusing on replacing them with safer alternatives, including the development of the Smart Home programme



Ministry of Health of
the Republic of Belarus



SCIENTIFIC AND
PRACTICAL CENTRE
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Umwelt
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