

CASE STUDY

Development of the National Road Map for enhancing health sector engagement/contribution to sound management of chemicals in Serbia till 2030

Serbia

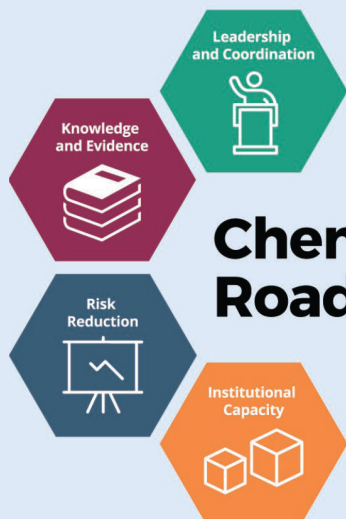
The Road Map has been developed within the framework of the World Health Organization (WHO) project “Development of a National Road Map for enhancing health sector engagement/contribution to sound management of chemicals in Serbia till 2030”, in cooperation with the WHO European Centre for Environment and Health.

Goals and Objectives

The goal of this project was to identify priority actions for strengthening sound chemicals management in Serbia till 2030, through multisectoral cooperation.

Specific objectives were to:

- undertake gap analysis, developing action plans and feeding into national chemicals planning processes;
- identify areas for health sector leadership and collaboration with other sectors;
- communicate the health sector’s role in chemicals management with other sectors and within the health sector itself; and
- ensure all relevant stakeholders agree on the health sector’s role and responsibilities in chemicals management.



Project Overview

Context

The health sector and health facilities in Serbia play a central role in the management of harmful chemicals and provision of protection from exposures to these chemicals. However, at the same time, the health sector itself uses a large number of chemical compounds on a daily basis and health facilities generate significant amounts of hazardous chemical waste, posing potential risks to health and the environment. Therefore, there should be significant health sector involvement in the development of inter-agency policies, plans and programmes for national chemicals management. This is needed so that the health sector can perform its important role in risk assessment, health impact assessment, human biomonitoring, control and surveillance. These issues were actually the key topics addressed in producing the National Road Map.

The implementing organization – the Institute of Public Health of Serbia – together with the partners in the project, has initiated national activities related to joint coordination in the field of chemicals and health. Development of a National Road Map on chemicals management within and by the health sector based on critical gap analysis is needed to plan activities in this area, taking both short- and long-term perspectives.

Approach

The National Road Map consists of actions which contribute to achieving the overarching objective of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) when fulfilled.

It was developed following the WHO Chemicals Road Map and the corresponding Workbook, considering key actions of its four thematic areas risk reduction, knowledge and evidence, institutional capacity, and leadership and coordination. The WHO Road Map was approved at the Seventieth World Health Assembly to enhance health sector engagement in the SAICM towards the 2020 goal and beyond.



World Health Organization

Results

The outcomes of the project resulted in:

- an overview of the current status of chemicals management by and within the health sector;
- identified gaps that need to be bridged in order to strengthen the health sector's involvement in the sound management of chemicals;
- defined targets and completed list of actions that, when implemented, would lead to strengthening of the health sector involvement in chemicals management;
- prioritized actions to ensure the health sector contribution to sound chemicals management in Serbia;
- a Road Map agreed with the stakeholders to be submitted to the Ministry of Health for approval; and
- establishment of stronger inter-institutional and intersectoral cooperation of stakeholders, of crucial interest for further steps listed in the Road Map document.

Lessons Learned

Use of the WHO Workbook for development of the National Road Map allowed its development within a short timeframe and for it to be focused on all aspects of the health sector's role in sound chemicals management.

Involvement of all stakeholders since the very beginning of the project planning and implementation was critical for identification of the health sector's role and responsibilities in agreement with other partners in chemicals management; this allowed the avoidance of misunderstanding, competition and replication of the mandates of the relevant governmental bodies.

Development of a supplement to the roadmap plan of actions was useful for quick initiation of roadmap development and assessment of the cost-benefits of roadmap implementation.

The case study was authored by the Institute of Public Health of Serbia. The named authors alone are responsible for the views expressed in this publication.

Recommendations

The WHO Chemicals Road Map and Workbook are recommended as a methodological support for the development of national road maps. All actions – starting from identification of gaps and needs to acceptance of the road map to enhance health sector engagement/contribution to chemicals management – should be conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders, but with the health sector taking a leading role.

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