

Prof. Valery Kukhar,

the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry and Petrochemistry,
the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)

“Ukrainian-Polish cooperation to enhance chemical safety and security at national, regional and international levels”

The active cooperation of the Delegations of Ukraine and Poland within the framework of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) was an important factor to develop the new agenda issues and priorities in the international efforts to prohibit chemical weapons. The Ukrainian and Polish Delegations led the efforts to develop the OPCW role as the global agency to decrease the chemical threat.

The exemplary cooperation of Poland and Ukraine was confirmed in the subsequent chairmanships of Poland and Ukraine the OPCW policy making organs. The effective Presidency of Ambassador Krzysztof Patulej of the OPCW Third Review Conference in 2013 resulted in the adoption of the Final Document which confirmed the political support of the world community to engage the OPCW in the efforts to enhance chemical safety and security globally. As the chair of the Executive Council of the OPCW in 2013-2014 Amb. Olexander Horin of Ukraine actively implemented these policy guidance into practice and operationalize the chemical security in the work of the OPCW.

The Ukrainian and Polish stakeholders have also created a unique partnership within the International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security, Warsaw, Poland (ICCSS). The ICCSS has become an influential actor in the international efforts to enhance global chemical security and to promote chemical security culture. The Ukrainian partners from the industry, science and academia and non-government sectors, have joined the ICCSS efforts in the areas of development, production, use, trade and transportation of toxic chemicals and energy carriers and safe disposal of toxic wastes.

The joint ICCSS-Ukrainian projects include:

- 1) Support for the work of the **Chemical Security Sub-Working Group of the G8 Global Partnership**, under the Ukrainian-Polish chairmanship;
- 2) Joint organization of the **NATO ATC course “Identification and Neutralization of Chemical Improvised Explosive Devices”** – advanced training course for NATO Partnership Countries, funded by NATO within frame of Science for Peace and security programme, to be held in May 2014 in Wroclaw, Poland;
- 3) **Development of the EU grant: „Network of universities and institutes in raising awareness against dual use concerns of chemical materials”**.

Promoting chemical safety and security in the countries of Eastern Partnership in the peaceful uses of chemistry, including transportation of chemicals and carriers of energy is a new and prospective area of Ukrainian-Polish leadership and cooperation. The cooperation with the Eastern Partners has been initiated during the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the Eastern Partnership and resulted in a series of consultations and project proposals.