



# FACT SHEET

## EU-CHEM-REACT

### 2017-2018

(EU project: ECHO/SUB/2016/746297)

#### What was EU-CHEM-REACT?

It was the project on full scale protection exercise - EU-CHEM-REACT implemented in Ukraine in 2018-2019. Based on EU ECHO grant, the project developed interoperability between EU countries and Ukraine and tested use of Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) .

The project concentrated on testing planning and preparedness to CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) related disasters including chemical warfare agents, toxic industrial chemicals, biological agents and toxins and radiological material, through a series of civil protection Table Top (TTX) and Field Exercise (FsX), conducted in Lviv, Ukraine.

#### Who?

The project was developed and has been be run by an international consortium composed of:

- The International Centre for Chemical Safety and Security (ICCSS) in Warsaw - as the international coordinator.
- Ukraine (Lviv State University of Life Safety)
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- Czech Republic (Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic)
- Latvia (State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia)
- Lithuania (Fire Safety Works and Services Association of Lithuania)
- The OSCE project Coordination Office in Kyiv

#### Why it was needed?

Ukraine recently introduced new organization of civil protection. That reorganization affects disaster prevention and response. New system was established as a result of latest experience and political conditions.

The performance of the new system, its efficiency and capacity to interoperate with the neighboring European Union countries within Union Civil Protection Mechanism, European institutions and with European Union standards and procedures needed to be fully tested.

#### Why it was unique?

The project **addresses all target groups** and is implemented basing on **the whole society approach**.

The project incorporates European Standards in the non-European country system, enabling great interoperability between EU and Ukraine operations on a procedural level, increasing cooperation and partnerships. It was designed taking into account the specific exercise needs, and the lessons learnt from previous deployment of EU Missions to Ukraine as well as from previous exercise(s) organized by project partners.

## Objectives

- verify current status of Ukraine preparedness for chemical and chemical related incidents of a CBRN nature and magnitude,
- create, within the UCPM and neighbouring countries, a common basis of understanding concerning the tasks, procedures and co-operation during international civil protection assistance interventions,
- build up a capacity to work in a multinational environment, with competent national authorities and under extreme conditions,
- checking different options of activation of EU Civil Protection Mechanism (e. g. third country where main emergency occurs or participating state threatened by expected situation development (toxic cloud moving towards country border)
- check international intervention teams' capabilities when they are working together in common staff to deal with a crisis and also cooperation in the field to deal with single threat

## The project consisted of:

- **Table Top Exercise (TTX)** Exercise enabled real activation of Union Civil Protection Mechanism for Ukraine which is not a member of the Mechanism, as well as testing existing procedures in case of emergency situations, especially in case of CBRN accidents, with focus on their operational and border crossing aspects.
- **Full Scale exercise (FSX) - main project event** - Focused on the field element of emergency response with the exercise participants' actual "feet on the ground" directly involved in the emergency incident itself. These exercises verified preparedness and availability of Ukraine to response to chem-bio and environmental emergencies, and combined with activation of UCPM.

## ACHIEVED RESULTS

- testing UCPM activation and use of relevant procedures in case of emergency situations
- development standard operation procedures in the areas identified during table top and full scale exercises as requiring special attention
- verification of existing country to country agreements (e.g. Ukraine-Poland and Ukraine-Lithuania) and testing its practical implementation in case of major emergencies,
- practice the process and its procedures of evaluation of full scale field exercises organised in the framework of UCPM,
- increasing the level of European conscience among Ukraine Citizens, introduction of quantifiable benefits and capacities of UCPM and promotion of joint activities,
- share knowledge about UCPM with strategic partner for European Union – Ukraine, especially through dissemination of minimum required standards and procedures in the framework of civil protection valid for EU Participating States.

## Contact and further information:

For more details, please visit dedicated website: <http://www.ecr.iccss.eu>

For further information please contact:

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