



FACT SHEET

EU-CHEM-REACT 2

2019-2020

(EU project: project number 828788)

What is EU-CHEM-REACT?

Financed from EU grant, EU-CHEM-REACT-2 is program aims to enhance national and regional capacity building, civil protection and cooperation in reducing chemical threats, while promoting and extending use of EU Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM), through series of civil protection exercises and trainings in Belarus, Moldova and 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 (ICCS) in Warsaw - as the international coordinator.
- Ukraine (Lviv State University of Life Safety)
- General Directorate of the Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic
- General Inspectorate for Emergency Situations of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Moldova
- The State Educational Establishment "University of Civil Protection of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus"
- Fire Safety Works and Services Association in Lithuania
- State Fire and Rescue Service, Ministry of Interior of Latvia

Why it is needed?

Since chem-bio and environmental threats and emergencies do not recognize borders, an active cross-border cooperation is needed to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters. There is significant national potential and capacities within the EU countries, but also within the EU neighbours, which has to be integrated and implemented.

EU-CHEM-REACT 2 further develops outcomes of EU-CHEM-REACT project (2018-2019) necessitated in an increased local and national focus on prevention, preparedness and response to growing chem-bio and environmental threats.

Why is it unique?

The project establishes unprecedented cooperation among regional and international partnership of stakeholders, united under the UCPM, and led by ICCS, from governments, industry, civil society, voluntary fire services, and academia, including institutions and agencies from Easter Europe and international agencies, including EU, UN OCHA, OPCW, NATO, INTERPOL. The project addresses all target groups and is implemented basing on the whole society approach.

Objectives

verify current status of the neighbouring EU countries preparedness for chemical and chemical related incidents of a CBRN nature and magnitude, test effectiveness of national CBRN disaster response procedures and verify its interoperability with ERCC transport and logistics procedures, with an emphasis on:

- verifying interoperability of EU - the neighbouring European Union countries operations on a procedural level,
- the neighbouring European Union countries shall identify any areas requiring improvement, taking into consideration rapidly changing societal situation in the EU and Eastern Neighbourhood;
- creating, within the UCPM and neighbouring countries, a common basis of understanding concerning the tasks, procedures and co-operation during international civil protection assistance interventions.

The project consists of:

Table Top Exercise (TTX), held in Minsk, Belarus, 29-30 October 2019, focused on development of national capacities of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine to test chemical safety and security actions, and use of international assistance within UCPM **ACHIEVED RESULTS**

Project was a good opportunity for all actors taking part in project to verify and improve (if necessary) their operational procedures in case of CBRN incidents, and to use UCPM.

The practical exercises rehearsing common response, with use of UCPM, to chem-bio and environmental emergency happening simultaneously in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, to enable:

- testing UCPM activation and use of relevant procedures in case of emergency situations, especially in case of CBRN accidents,
- 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,
- 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.

Command Post Exercise (CPX), held in Chisinau (Republic of Moldova) on 03-04.03.2020, CPX focused on the decision making process, relations between the national (local, regional and national), and international partners, including governments and organizations aimed to simulate field response and deployment during a real response. CPX.

Full Scale exercise (FX) - the main event, Lviv, Ukraine, 15-16 September, 2020, focused on emergency response to major chem-bio and environmental disaster, under the UCPM. FX will verify preparedness and availability of participating countries in the field response to the main accidents and disasters. Participants will be challenged with many injects creating necessity of extensive cooperation both on the operational and planning level.

Contact and further information:

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

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