



FACT SHEET

ICCSS - Ukraine Cooperation

In chemical safety and security and volunteer fire service

What is Ukraine cooperation about?

The core objective is to enhance chemical and environmental safety and security in the areas of development, production, use, trade and transportation of toxic chemicals and energy carriers and safe disposal of toxic wastes through development of the integrated approaches in the peaceful uses of chemistry, including the security of chemical plants, transportation of chemicals and energy carriers, and promote chemical security culture.

During the Ukrainian Chemical Safety Forum, which took place in April 2016 in Kielce, during the World Chemistry Summit CHEMSS2016, the Ukrainian partners indicated that the Polish volunteer fire system should serve as a model solution in Ukraine. Ukrainian and Polish partners have cooperated to prepare a joint project for the creation of volunteer fire brigades in Ukraine based on Polish experience. The Warsaw-Kiev Forum on Chemical Safety (24 April, 2017) and Kiev-Warsaw Forum (17 August, 2018), in Kiev, both attended by representatives of the Ukrainian authorities, industry and NGOs, were a tangible confirmation of the ICCSS-Ukrainian partnership. The adopted Warsaw-Kiev 2017 Forum Declaration and Kiev-Warsaw 2018 Forum Declarations, which laid down principles of introducing volunteer fire service in Ukraine and support modern chemical and environmental safety and security.

Why Ukraine cooperation is needed?

The unstable security situation in Ukraine, due to the conflict in the East of Ukraine, increases significantly threats of misuse of toxic chemicals and attacks against chemical plants, transportation of dangerous goods and energy carriers. Risks of major accidents, threats of terrorism in chemical industry and in transportation of chemicals in Ukraine and at the regional level, call for cooperation among the neighbours and the strengthening of chemical security in all areas of chemical activities. At the same time the democratic reforms in Ukraine led to moving many of the central governments competences to regional and local authorities, including in civil protection environmental and chemical safety. This resulted in a need to provide local stakeholders with modern solutions and approaches in chemical and environmental safety and security and civil protection.

Why this cooperation is unique?

For the first time international partners joined efforts to develop national program on chemical safety and security. Program has introduced a collaborative framework between the Ukrainian partners, the OSCE, the international partners, for an effective and coordinated action to ensure chemical safety and security, under ICCSS coordination, and based on ICCSS integrated approach. The partners applied a multi-stakeholder approach and offered an active participation and support of chemical industries, science, academia and civil society, engagement of the financial institutions, as well as an active collaboration with the regional and international organisations to involve relevant expertise and potential. The following stakeholders were targeted and/or involved: Ukrainian institutions including civil society and scientific community, interested Governments; chemical industry, oil and gas industries, chemical associations.

Integrated Program on Chemical Safety and Security in Ukraine (Integrated program)

The Integrated program was developed by the ICCSS and initiated under the umbrella of the OSCE in December 2014, during the National Round Table in Kiev, chaired by the ICCSS.

The development of Ukraine Voluntary Fire Service has been the continuation of the Integrated Program ICCSS organized, via Ukraine Round Table Meeting and Warsaw and Kiev Forums, a broad platform for the engagement of all the relevant Ukraine and international stakeholders. They included stakeholders from government agencies, industry, academia, international organizations, media and independent experts.

Program Objectives

The core objective of the Integrated Program was to improve Ukraine's capabilities in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to the misuse of toxic chemicals. It is reached through:

- supporting Ukraine and Ukrainian chemical industry, users of chemicals and administration in raising awareness and responsibility in handling toxic chemicals and dangerous goods;
- improving chemical security and safety by examining existing national capacity building;
- introducing modern solution and coordinated approaches to enhance critical infrastructure protection;
- enhancing the introduction of national measures to introduce the relevant national measures on chemical security, with an emphasis on the development of the administrative measures to implement UNSCR 1540 in the chemical domain;
- fostering cooperation among international and national partners, chemical industry and academia.

Integrated Program ongoing activities

Integrated Program aims to improve the chemical safety of chemical activities and increase the chemical protection of critical infrastructure in line with EU requirements. The program supports the implementation of the Association Agreement of Ukraine with the EU. The USA and the EU have confirmed their readiness to finance the first projects under this program, amounting to approximately € 2 million. This is the first joint US-EU chemical safety program in Ukraine. The program was proposed by ICCSS and the leading partners are the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, OSCE Project Coordinator in Ukraine, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), Ukrainian Chemists Union (UCU). The willingness to participate in the program has been confirmed by USA and important international organizations, EU, UN, INTERPOL and OPCW, Global G7 Partnership. The first 3 agreed and implemented projects under the program, funded by the US and EU, include:

- Strengthen the transit control of chemicals
- Identification and management of chemicals, including proper use and disposal
- Improvement of the national crisis response system in Ukraine

The Program on the Development of Ukraine System of Voluntary Fire Service

The program, to be introduced in accordance with the EU rules and regulations on civil protection and emergency response, provides for development of system of voluntary fire service, as an important element of supporting local communities self-governance, and civil society, increasing local capacities to prevent, prepare for and respond to CBRN accidents and environmental protection. Being implemented in Ukraine the proposed approach should be offered to other countries. ICCSS and Ukraine partners continue the program development in bilateral contacts and in the implementation of EU-CHEM-REACT program. They set-up a Task Force with the ICCSS co-Chair to develop drafts of relevant regulatory measures to introduce voluntary fire service in Ukraine.

Contact and further information:

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