



Development of Ukraine system of voluntary fire service; introducing model voluntary fire service stations and training system

PROPOSAL SUMMARY:

The introduction of fire protection including civil protection and chemical and environmental safety and security at the local level in Ukraine had been identified not only as a priority within the implementation of **Ukraine Integrated Program on Chemical Safety and Security**, but also as part of the Ukrainian decentralization efforts and the development of civil society. The initiative to create the nation-wide program “**Ukraine system of voluntary fire service**” will support local governments and actors in providing legal, administrative and technical means to develop local fire and civil protection system, and to meeting the challenges posed by the increasing use of chemicals and easing access to hazardous substances at the local level. In the first stage of the program (training the trainers), Ukrainian participants will be offered coaching at the Polish training facilities, followed by the development of Ukrainian national capacity in the form of centers of excellence for local authorities, first responders, environmental inspectors, law enforcement officers and others, followed by the development of **3 model voluntary fire service stations and training system, to train fire and civil protection service to respond to emergencies at industry plant, transportation hub and nuclear power plant**. The important objective of the proposed priority is to assist Ukraine to implement the provisions of the Association Agreement with the EU in the civil protection and protection of critical infrastructure.

BACKGROUND/DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY: The threats and risks of misuse of chemicals or attacks against chemical installations pose a serious challenge to security, economy, health and environment in Ukraine.

The main assumption of the initiative is that traditional methods of emergency response are no longer adequate to meet the new challenges posed by the decentralization in Ukraine, as well as growing threats of chemical failures and disasters, whether they be from natural causes or human activity. Meeting the potential risks associated with activities in the field of hazardous substances requires the community involvement of all stakeholders, including the government, private sector, industry, civil society organizations and media. Local communities should be knowledgeable about all activities related to hazardous substances in their environs and participate in dialogue on the requirements and resources needed to counter potential threats and minimize potential losses. Today's challenges require the active whole-society approach and the active involvement in civil and fire protection of the local stakeholders.

The establishment of a voluntary fire service through the creation of national system, model fire service stations and training scheme should enhance the co-operation between the international and Ukraine partners and coordinate efforts to develop prevention measures against chemical failures and disasters, whether they be from natural causes or human activity. It would promote venues for best practices-exchanges, co-operation and technical assistance. Being implemented in Ukraine the proposed approach will be offered to other countries of the Eastern Partnership.

The priority concentrates on creating continued international training and awareness scheme for Ukrainian participants/trainers who are responsible for managing the fire and civil protection..

PROPOSAL AIMS, SCOPE and EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

THE PROGRAM INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING AIMS:

- **To create local frameworks for dialogue and coordination of efforts** with the cooperation of all local stakeholders, including: local authorities, institutions responsible for law and order and security, private sector and industry, civil society organizations and the media;
- **To facilitate exchange of information and dissemination of knowledge** about activities involving hazardous substances at the local level;
- **To activate and involve all local structures and communities**, especially the private sector and civil society, in the processes of risk prevention and emergency planning;
- **To support local protection against hazards** by strengthening institutions, improving emergency response and deepening social ties within local communities.

THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: The initiative is intended to

- 1) Train up to 100 Ukrainian trainers from the local level including administration, law enforcement, first responders, chemical industry, civil society.** The program will provide the participants with necessary know-how on procedures and practices in fire and civil protection and crisis management. Training on the proper techniques and practices in these areas will be offered followed by discussions, table-top exercises and practical demonstrations. The program will improve participant's knowledge and experience in the prevention of, preparedness for and response to a misuse of toxic chemicals, and knowledge of international obligations, especially EU requirements.
- 2) Develop and build in Ukraine up to 3 model voluntary fire service stations and training system, to train fire and civil protection service to respond to emergencies at industry plant, transportation hub and nuclear power plant.**

THE EXPECTED OUTCOMES: The implemented activities should bring together a range of governmental, industry, private and civil society actors at the local and national level that have responsibilities for introducing chemical security measures and preventing, preparing for or responding to a terrorist threat involving toxic chemicals. These activities should help these different agencies and authorities to exchange information about their capacities and legal authority, and to initiate discussions to introduce information exchanges and operational coordination, and clarify such issues as agency lead roles and command and control procedures. The scope of the expected outcomes include:

- Introducing of core elements of **Ukraine system of voluntary fire service composed of** legal, administrative and technical means to develop local fire and civil protection system
- Increased awareness of best practices in chemical safety and security and in environmental and emergency response;
- Enriched knowledge about possible hazards related to chemicals and the reduction of risks associated with their use and misuse;
- Development of concepts of the training and education scheme for rising awareness, teaching principles, required training skills and know-how and best practices transfer in areas of chemical safety and security, and will trigger training curricula preparation for specialized courses.

- Dissemination of best practices and lessons learned in chemical and environmental safety and security within local communities and among those working with chemicals and dangerous goods;
- Activation and integration of all local structures and communities, especially in the private sector and civil society in the process of risk prevention, emergency planning and preparation for crisis response and post-crisis activities.
- Strengthening local institutions, improving emergency response assets, and deepening social ties through regular training, exercises, exchange of experiences and cooperation with specialists.

Impact of the proposed initiative: The direct impact of the conducted activities will lead directly to the establishment of the Ukraine voluntary fire service supported by a system of local fire service stations and trained personnel. The impact of the project will go well beyond the introduction of the voluntary fire service and cover inter alia, security, economy and environment. Since a broad participation of the relevant Ukraine agencies and their international partners is expected, the proposed activity will cover the terrorism threats (CBRN spectrum), as well as risks associated with industrial and environmental accidents, and other such incidents that may potentially threaten the lives of people.

The results of the project and its lessons-learned should make an impact within Ukraine on a range of capacities and procedures/systems to enhance chemical safety and security and that are necessary to mitigate such threats.

The project activities should highlight a need to develop and put into place the necessary bilateral, regional and international frameworks to enable effective cooperation and coordination to control chemicals in transit or trans boundary chemical threats (which may include formal agreements and informal arrangements, agreed or common operating procedures, access points to specialised expertise, communications procedures and means, other networking tools).

TYPE / SCOPE OF REQUESTED CONTRIBUTION:

Direct financial contributions requested for the implementation of the proposed activity is up to 4 mln Euro. The requested amount would allow to develop, build and equip up to 3 model voluntary fire service stations and training system, what will include training up to 100 Ukrainian participants/trainer.

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