

**Report on the workshop with international participation "Review of national capacity and follow-up to the introduction of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) in the Republic of Belarus", September 14, 2022, Minsk, Republic of Belarus**

September 14, 2022, in accordance with the order of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus dated September 12, 2022 No. 1209, on the basis of the Republican Unitary Enterprise "Scientific and Practical Center for Hygiene" (hereinafter referred to as the SPC Hygiene) at Minsk, st. Akademicheskaya, 8, a seminar with international participation "Review of the national potential and follow-up measures for the introduction of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemical Products (GHS) in the Republic of Belarus" (hereinafter - the seminar) was held.

The meeting of experts was organized within the framework of the United Nations Special Environment Program (UNEP) project "National capacity strengthening for the sound management of chemicals by sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals in the Republic of Belarus (GHS)".

The seminar was attended by 112 people, including employees of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection of the Republic of Belarus, representatives of institutions exercising state sanitary and epidemiological supervision and representatives of industry, non-governmental organizations, UNEP, UNITAR.

The seminar was opened with an introductory speech by the **Deputy Director for Practical Sanitary and Epidemiological Surveillance Support and Work with the EEC of the SPC Hygiene, Ms. Ekaterina Fedorenko**. In the opening remarks, the importance of interdepartmental cooperation for addressing chemical safety issues and the formation of a system for the sound management of chemicals at the national level was noted. **Ms. Ekaterina Fedorenko** expressed her gratitude to the Special Program for the support of the project, wished the participants of the seminar fruitful work.

**Ms. Iryna Ilyukova, Project Manager, Head of the Laboratory of Preventive and Environmental Toxicology of the SPC Hygiene, Belarus**, in her opening remarks noted that this seminar is a continuation of a series of trainings and seminars to strengthen national capacity in the field of sound management of chemicals. Irina Ilyukova expressed her gratitude to all those present, technical support and experts. In the opening speech, the goals, objectives and structure of the seminar, the rules of work and the expected results were presented. The importance



of ongoing seminars for obtaining knowledge on classification and labeling, as well as the need for intersectoral cooperation to solve the tasks.

**Ms. Nicole Caesar, Programme Management Officer Chemicals and Health Branch Economy Division (UNEP), project curator,** presented a information on the UNEP Special Program, its goals, objectives, conditions for formation and support, and funding. Information was provided on other UNEP chemical safety programs, conditions for participation in them.

**Ms. Nicole Caesar** noted the importance of the Special Program for the implementation of the sound management of chemicals due to the growth of the chemicals industry in the world and the increase in deaths from poisoning and use of chemicals, especially for vulnerable populations. Thus, in recent years, the Special Program has actively supported projects devoted to the problems of waste disposal, the introduction of the principles of a circular economy, the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, Minamata conventions. Thus, the main objectives of the Special Program are to promote the implementation of the principles of chemical safety management at the national level, strengthening the capacity of countries to implement these principles. Funded projects are aimed at strengthening the capacity of national institutions, that is, institutional capacity is increased, weaknesses, gaps are identified, country specifics of chemicals management are taken into account.

**Ms. Nicole Caesar** congratulated the Republic of Belarus on the launch of the project and expressed her readiness to support the implementation of the project tasks.

**Ms. Iryna Ilyukova, project leader,** in her report presented the goals, objectives, expected results of the project “Strengthening the national capacity for the sound management of chemicals through the sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals in the Republic of Belarus (GHS)”, noted the importance of training in classification and labeling, the sound management of chemicals in order to create a “common language” for the classification of chemicals in the country, regardless of agency, and the importance of conducting a situation analysis under the project to develop a national action plan for the implementation of the GHS. The report lists the relevant roles and tasks of each agency in the sound management of chemicals.

**The representative of the Association of Coordination and information center of the CIS member states on convergence of regulatory practices Natalya Druzhinina** presented a report on the GHS as a tool to facilitate trade in chemicals within the EAEU, on problematic issues and achievements in the implementation of the GHS in the EAEU.

The benefits of implementing the GHS are increased confidence in chemicals for export, minimization of testing, reduced resources for classification, improved measures to protect health and the environment, improved protection of workers and the public from hazardous chemicals, increased reputation and level of trust in companies producing chemical products, ensuring safety when using chemical products, exercising the right to information.



The key elements of the GHS are 17 hazards associated with physical and chemical properties, 10 hazards for the human body, 2 hazards for the environment.

The results of classification according to the GHS are taken into account in the information system in the form of a safety data sheet, warning labeling. The obligations of the EAEU countries to implement the GHS are currently implemented in GOST 30333-2007, GOST 32419-2013, GOST 32423-2013, GOST 32425-2013, GOST 32424-2013, GOST 31340-2013. These GOSTs have been introduced and applied on the territory of the Republic of Belarus, but now only on a voluntary and initiative basis for suppliers and manufacturers. And only with the entry into force of TR EAEU 041/2017 "On the safety of chemical products" these procedures will become mandatory. Within the framework of this technical regulation, identification of chemical products, notification of new chemicals, hazard classification of chemical products, preparation of a safety data sheet for chemical products and labeling, assessment of the conformity of chemical products (state registration) will be carried out. Phased implementation of requirements is envisaged.

**Mr. Oliver Wootton, UNITAR**, presented a presentation on chemicals management tools for the National System for the Sound Management of Chemicals, the role of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) for the sound management of chemicals. Key points of the IOMC GHS 2010 Implementation Guide were presented.

The report noted that the implementation of the GHS is an indicator of achieving the goals of the sound management of chemicals. The main goal of the GHS is the unification of the principles of hazard classification, reaching consensus on threshold values and setting hazard classes. At the same time, in the GHS, all types of hazards, classes, are presented as separate blocks, and each country individually decides which of these blocks to implement.

Information resources for the preparation of GHS implementation strategies in countries, guidance documents and lectures on the GHS were presented.

The speaker received questions about whether there are plans to single out separate hazard classes for endocrine disruptors and respiratory sensitizers. A proposal was made to raise these issues when discussing changes to the GHS.

**Ms. Iryna Ilyukova** presented a report on the key components of the national system for the sound management of chemicals, the Roadmap "Towards sound management of chemicals in the Republic of Belarus" for the period up to 2030.

**Ms. Svetlana Petrova, Senior Researcher, Laboratory of Preventive and Environmental Toxicology, SPC Hygiene, Belarus**, presented a report on the need for a Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) in the Republic of Belarus, the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders parties for sustainable GHS implementation.

**Ms. Viktoria Rubin, representative of "Frandsa" LLC, Belarus**, presented a report on problematic issues of classification of chemicals in production. It was noted that now industry representatives are forced to classify chemicals and mixed chemical products produced by three types of classifications, which requires a lot of resources and creates certain inconveniences.

Further, the proposals of stakeholders on the sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS) and the development of the National Roadmap were discussed. Defining the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in project management.

As a result of the discussions, the following proposals were made:

1. Conduct a situational analysis of the existing infrastructure in the country for sustainable implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

2. Strengthening the capacity of all relevant stakeholders to ensure the implementation of the GHS, in particular the provision of training workshops and trainings for stakeholders.

3. Organization of inter-agency activities for the implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS).

4. Strengthening the capacity of institutions authorized in the field of chemical safety, in particular strengthening the laboratory base and increasing the number of accredited laboratories in the country.

Participants were given a questionnaire to assess understanding of chemical labeling, completed by participants on the spot.

The results of the seminar were summed up by **Ms. Iryna Ilyukova**, who determined the deadlines for the implementation of the stages of the international project, thanked all the participants of the seminar and expressed gratitude for their active participation in making proposals.

Iryna Ilyukova,  
Head of the Laboratory of Preventive  
and Environmental Toxicology, SPC  
Hygiene

Maryna A nisovich,  
Senior Researcher, Laboratory of  
Preventive and Environmental  
Toxicology, SPC Hygiene