

CHEMICALS

- **Assessment of chemical risks, including:**

- *Mechanisms for systematic evaluation, classification, and labeling of chemicals, including initiatives towards a harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals*

In Hungary the EU regulation known as REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemical substances, 1907/2006/EK) is applied on this specific field. According to its rules the producers and importers of chemicals are responsible for evaluation of the intrinsic properties and the associated hazards of the chemicals they place on the market.

The EU adopted the harmonized system of classification and labeling of chemicals (GHS) in its regulation 1272/2008/EK (CLP regulation). This legislation is also effective in Hungary.

- *Initiatives for assessment of toxic chemicals, hazard and risk assessment, and participation in various international and regional initiatives*

Hungary participates in the Chemicals Program of the OECD and its initiative for assessment of high production volume (HPV) chemicals.

- *Strategies for exposure assessment and environmental monitoring and improvement in procedures for using toxicological and epidemiological data to predict and estimate the effects of chemicals on human health and the environment*

Exposure assessment is used as one of the key elements of risk assessment. Such assessments are however limited to chemicals of EU-wide concern, like heavy metals, POPs or substances of very high concern (SVHC).

Environmental monitoring is carried out for key pollutants to comply with the national legal rules. There are also inter-sectoral initiatives for environmental monitoring. For example the presence of pesticides in agricultural fields are regularly monitored.

- *Information exchange and cooperation, data-quality assurance, application of assessment criteria, and linkages to risk management activities*

Information exchange and cooperation is well established in Hungary. An inter-sectoral Chemical Safety Committee is in operation, which is composed of experts from relevant Ministries, industry, Academia and NGOs. The EU rules on information exchange and data-quality assurance are implemented in Hungary, as stipulated in the REACH regulation. There are many laboratories which apply the GLP (Good Laboratory Practice) principles and Hungary also participates in the relevant activities of the OECD.

- **Sound management of toxic chemicals**

- *Progress within the larger framework of Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM)*

A working group for SAICM was established under the Inter-ministerial Committee on Chemical Safety in May 2007. Hungary granted a financial support of EUR 10000 to the Quick Start Program Executive Board in 2008. Legislation on chemicals was significantly improved as an effect of the European Regulations REACH and CLP (see above). Hungary ratified the relevant international agreements, including Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions.

SAICM implementation priorities are to be selected from priorities listed in the National Profile of the Hungarian Chemical Safety (http://web.kvvm.hu/vegyi/documents/2/Profil_2006_sszegez_s.pdf - in Hungarian only).

- ***Initiatives and innovations for risk reduction, particularly taking in to account the life cycle of the chemicals***

The Hungarian initiatives for risk reduction are considered together with those of other Member states of the European Union. Initiatives may be transformed into legislation of the Community, typically into REACH regulation.

- ***Precautionary measures derived from broad-based life cycle analysis***

Precautionary measures elaborated in the European Community is applicable in Hungary. This refers to legislation and policies for example on mercury and endocrine disruptors.

- ***Policy measures to phase out chemicals that pose unreasonable and unmanageable risk to human health and human environment, such as, for example, ozone-depleting substances***

The relevant instrument in Hungary to phase out chemicals that pose unreasonable and unmanageable risk to human health and the environment is the set of legal rules of the EU. REACH regulation is designed specifically for these tasks. By implementing EU rules, the policy measures prescribed in the international conventions are also met and even overtaken. The European Community issued legislation aiming at implementation of the conventions on the fields of LRTAP, POPs, HMs, ozone-depleting substances, etc. Hungary elaborated the implementation plans accordingly. Policy measures to this end are also elaborated in the National Environmental Program (http://www.ff3.hu/upload/NEP2_Hungary.pdf).

- ***Policies and frameworks for prevention of accidents, preparedness and response***

Hungary maintains a framework for prevention of accidents, preparedness and response according to the law transposing Council Directive 96/82/EC on the control of major-accident hazards involving dangerous substances (Seveso II). This involves identification of establishment carrying dangerous activity, and the corresponding internal and external emergency planning; informing the public and ensuring publicity; evaluation of the harmful consequences of major-accidents; and control of the safety management system in view of prevention of damage and protection of citizens. Exercises of external emergency plans are carried out regularly by the head of the regional disaster management body and is led by the competent mayor, according to the annual plan approved by the general director of the National Chief Inspectorate of Disasters (http://www.katasztrofavedelem.hu/letoltes/civil_pr_in_hun.doc).

Hungary is also a Party to the UNECE Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents (<http://www.unece.org/env/teia/>).

- ***Policies aimed at reducing the risks posed by lead, mercury and cadmium and other harmful heavy metals, including through a review of relevant studies, such as, for example, the United Nations Environment Program global assessment of mercury and its compounds***

The frameworks to reduce the risks posed by lead, mercury and cadmium and other harmful heavy metals are provided by the Community's legislation, which roots both in international conventions and European policies. Policy measures to this end are also elaborated in the National Environmental Program.

- ***Initiatives to reduce overdependence on the use of agricultural chemicals***

There are mid-term frameworks in Hungary aiming at reducing the overdependence on the use of agricultural chemicals. One of them is the National Agro-Environmental Program, which is of a multi-sector character and targeted to the protection of the rural areas, the environment and natural habitats. Another one is the National Environmental Program, which relates to several fields relevant to the decreased use of pesticides. Those fields are food safety; protection of soils; environmentally sound farming practices; chemical safety.