

# The current status, experiences gained and lessons learned in the implementation of risk assessment and risk management provisions of the Biosafety Protocol in the West Balkans

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#### Biosafety Clearing House







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#### Welcome to the BCH Central Portal

The Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH) is a mechanism set up by the <u>Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety</u> to facilitate the exchange of information on Living Modified Organisms (LMOs) and assist the Parties to better comply with their obligations under the Protocol. Global access to a variety of scientific, technical, environmental, legal and capacity building information is provided in all 6 of the UN languages. BCH account holders can create and manage records in the BCH through the Management Centre.

#### Latest news

2007-11-01 November 2007 Release of the BCH...
2007-03-27 March release of the Biosafety Clearing-House...
2007-03-07 Costa Rica - "Convención Interinstitucional para el Desarrollo de Capacidad Nacional" sobre el Centro de Intercambio de Información sobre Seguridad de la Biotecnología para Costa Rica...

More news...

#### Latest Additions

2007-11-9 Capacity Building Opportunity...

2007-11-8 New Zealand - Risk Assessment...

2007-11-8 Biosafety Course...

2007-11-8 Finland - Risk Assessment...

2007-11-8 Finland - Risk Assessment... 2007-11-8 Finland - Risk Assessment...

2007-11-8 Finland - Risk Assessment...

More additions...





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#### Convention on **Biological Diversity**

#### **CEE Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building and Exchange of Experiences** on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, 26-28.11. 2007.



Reprizno emitovanje ponedeljkom u 6:45 -RT82.

Poslednjih 30-tak godina, mogućnosti izmene oblika: života su doživele pravu revoluciju primenom tehnika moderne biotehnologije. Nučnici su naučili kako mogu da izdvoje i prenesu deo dezoksiribonukljelnske kiseline (DNK) li čitave gene iz jedne vrste u drugu. Na ovaj način dobijeni organizmi poznati su kao "živi modifikovani organizmi (LMO)" ili "genetički modifikovani organizmi (GMO)" ili "transgeni organizmi"

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Najcitaniji tekst:

Aktivnosti ministarstva:

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#### SCOPE

- Based on Cartagena Protocol on biosafety articles 15 and 16 covering Risk assessment and Risk management
- Contained use not fully covered since it is exempted from AIA procedure of Cartagena Protocol and it is covered by various laboratory safety manuals and good laboratory practice
- With emphasis on deliberate release (including field trials) environmental impact assessments since they are more likely to be specific for a region



#### **TOPICS ADRESSED**

- •The current status, including examples from countries in the sub-region;
- The experiences gained and lessons learned
- •The difficulties/challenges encountered;
- Risk assessment capacity-building needs and priorities;
- Previous and ongoing risk assessment capacity-building efforts, including training activities;
- •Recommendations for improving risk assessment and risk management in the sub-region region and for enhancing local capacities.









#### **REGULATORY REGIMES**

Country	CPB Parties	CNA/NFP
*	In force since 09.05. 2005	Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Water Administration Ministry of Agriculture and Food Ministry of Health
TXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations
***	In force since 11.09.2003	Nature Protection Directorate, Ministry of Culture
<b>*</b>	In force since 09.12.2005	Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning
	In force since 03. 06.2006	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management
	In force since 03. 06.2006	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



#### **REGULATORY REGIMES**

Country	Laws and Regulations	Pending changes in legislation	
*	Various laws and international treaties have relevance, including Law on Environmental Impact Assessment	Draft Law on Biosafety	
AKA KA	Only Law on food have some relevance	Government made decision to put draft <i>Law on GMO</i> in parliamentary procedure (Nov 07)	
	Law on GMO		
$\Rightarrow \in$	Various laws and international treaties have relevance	Draft Law on GMO	
<b>W</b>	Law on GMO on federal FRY level until 2002	Drafting national law	
	Law on GMO	Amending Law on GMO	



#### **ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEMS**

Country	Actual <u>Advisory</u> and Decision making bodies	Proposed <u>Advisory</u> and Decision making bodies
*	Relevant ministries	Biosafety Council National Biosafety Committee
**************************************		GMO Council Directorate for plant health (federal) Ministry for environment (on level on entity), Direcorate for veterine (federal)
	Council on GMO with Board on contained use and Board on environmetal release Relevant ministries	
<b>*</b>	Relevant ministries	Comission on GMO management Scientific Committees Relevant Ministries
*	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management?	National Biosafety Committee  Ministry of Environment Protection
	National Biosafety Committee Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management	National Biosafety Committee Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management



#### **DECISIONS**

Country	Decisions and risk assessments	
TAX AXX		
	Field trials (Maize 1997-1999)	
	Field trials (Maize 2001-2006, Arabidopsis 2007)	





#### PUBLID TRIALS ON GM ARABIDOPSIS

GM Arabidopsis designed for landmine detection (Aresa, Copenhagen)

Application with new modification events and constructs

Result of biotechnology but not agrobiotechnology



#### RISK MANAGEMENT AND ILLEGAL PLANTINGS: CASE OF GM SOYBEAN

In Serbia illegal plantings in 2005 of RR Soybean were detected on 425 ha. 7800 t were collected from much larger area

In 2006 only 5% of those fields were positive for GM



## Previous and ongoing risk assessment capacity-building efforts, including training activities



CEE Regional Workshop on Capacity-Building and Exchange of Experiences on Risk Assessment and Risk Management of Living Modified Organisms

Chisinau, Republic of Moldova,

**26-28.11. 2007.** 



Country	UNEP GEF Development of NBF Project	UNEP GEF BCHProject	UNEP GEF Implementation Project
	Yes	Yes	
**************************************			
	Yes		
<b>&gt;</b>	Yes		
	Started as part of FRY/Not covered in final report		
<b>A</b>	Yes		



#### OTHER PROJECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES IN RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITY BUILDING

Other activities in West
Balkan Region directly
connected with risk
assessment

Other activities connected with risk assessment with participants from West Balkan region

**USDA/FAS** 

•MATRA

• .....

- FAO/ Comenius
- ICGEB
- BSBA
- Genok
- EIGMO

• .....



## Experiences, lessons, difficulties and chalenges



#### THE EXPIRIENCES GAINED AND LESSONS LEARNED

- •All countries in the region oriented towards membership in EU/importance of EU approaches toward risk assessment and reporting of risk assessments;
- Countries in transition;
- Regulatory and administrative systems under development or reconstruction
- Evaluation of risk assessment presented by applicant;
- External experts in advisory bodies;



#### THE DIFFICULTIES/CHALLENGES ENCAUNTERED

#### Unstable regulatory and administrative systems

Changes in agencies responsibilities Changes in agencies structure

#### Problems in implementing existing systems;

Request handling Monitoring Enforcement

Lack of harmonization and synergism between regulatory systems in different countries

#### Open issues related to risk assessment and risk management

Crosses with conventional varieties, stacked genes... Reporting risk assessments



#### THE DIFFICULTIES/CHALLENGES ENCAUNTERED

Lack of efficient information sharing

Information sharing and BCH
Information sharing among countries in the region

Risk assessment and Bisafety issues mostly limited to agrobiotechnology;

Lack of regional approaches on capacity building in biosafety



#### Needs, Priorities and Recommendations



#### RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Risk assessment and other scientific and technical expertise;

Access to reference materials / databases on risk assessment National risk assessment frameworks, principles, procedures and mechanisms

Risk assessment methodologies;

#### Risk management:

Detection, management and prevention of unintentional transfer of LMO

Emergency measures for unintentional LMO releases Risk management frameworks, strategies and mechanisms Tools for monitoring the handling and use of LMOs



#### RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

#### Mechanisms for follow-up, monitoring and assessment:

Training in Inspection procedures and control measures
Scientific and technical cooperation in Long-term LMO monitoring and
surveillance

Training in Mechanisms for detecting unintentional or illegal LMO movement;

#### Scientific and technical expertise:

Scientific and technical cooperation in Scientific methods and protocols relevant to risk assessment and management
Training in Detection, testing and quantitative analysis of LMOs



#### RISK ASSESSMENT CAPACITY BUILDING NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

#### Legislative and regulatory framework:

Development of legal frameworks
Implementation of legal frameworks
Regulatory training (legal, policy, enforcement, inspection etc.);

#### Administrative framework:

Decision-making system and administrative procedures Inter-agency communication and coordination

#### Technical, scientific and telecommunications infrastructures:

Decision-making system and administrative procedures
Inter-agency communication and coordination
Establishment of mechanisms for regional and international cooperation
and sharing of experiences



#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING RISK ASSESMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN WEST BALKANS AND FOR ENHANCING LOCAL CAPACITIES

#### To serve as starting point for discussion

- •Developing of projects and activities for *implementation* of existing or planned regulatory and administrative systems needed for risk assessment/risk assessment evaluation and risk management
- Establishment of mechanisms for regional and international cooperation and sharing of experiences in risk assessment and risk management;
- Involvement of relevant specialists from different fields of expertise needed for successful environmental risk assessment
- •Training in detection and sampling methods for different GMOs;



#### RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING RISK ASSESMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN WEST BALKANS AND FOR ENHANCING LOCAL CAPACITIES

#### To serve as starting point for discussion

- Including biosafety, risk assessment and risk management topics in university curriculum of various profiles of needed specialists
- Training in biosafety, risk assessment and risk management topics for various profiles of needed specialists
- Solving funding issues;

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### Thank you!



## Questions, comments, additions...