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I. INTRODUCTION

Many consumer products on the global and EU market, as well as on the market of Balkan countries, may contain harmful chemicals, like EDCs, CMRs, neurotoxins, allergens or heavy metals. Based on research studies in Serbia some of those harmful chemicals are also found in products on the Serbian market, and most of those products are imported from abroad¹. Policy makers, customs inspectors and the consumers are aware of public health and environmental impacts, but still there is a need to improve knowledge and capacities of all relevant stakeholders, especially consumers and NGO sector.

Most of the harmful chemicals are largely unregulated worldwide, therefore it is necessary to raise awareness among all stakeholders, to find solutions to phase out and replace them as much as possible, especially in products marketed for children and women. Children are much more sensitive to exposure to toxic chemicals, because they are constantly growing. Even the smallest amounts of those hazardous chemicals can trigger long term, and sometimes lifelong negative health effects. Studies show that exposure to hazardous chemicals can be connected to the increase of children's cancer and chronic diseases. For example, one group of these substances are endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), which interfere with the hormone system and can even cause intergenerational health effects. It is shown that EDCs are linked to cancer, diabetes, early puberty, reproductive problems, etc. EDCs have also been proposed as a priority action area in the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) process.

Legal and Policy Context

Republic of Serbia ratified the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade² in May 2009. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection is the only designated national authority (DNA) for the Rotterdam Convention in the Republic of Serbia.

In order to establish sound management of chemicals on national level, carry out preferential activities in the framework of globally set aims and strengthen intersectorial cooperation, Law on Chemicals³ and Law on Biocidal Products⁴, harmonized with relevant EU legislation, were adopted in May 2009. Those two laws provided legal base for 28 pieces of subsidiary legislations, adopted in the period from March 2010 to August 2014.

The Law on Chemicals was prepared in order to establish, maintain and develop chemicals management system on the territory of the Republic of Serbia, ensuring a high level of protection of human health and environment, as well as free circulation of chemicals, and stimulating the development of safer alternatives. The Law on Chemicals regulates integrated chemicals management; classification, packaging and labelling of chemicals; an Integrated Chemicals Registry as a Registry of chemicals placed on the Serbian market; restrictions and bans of production, placing on the market and use of chemicals; import and export of some hazardous chemicals; permits for placing on the market and permits for use of particularly hazardous

¹ See tests of the Serbian Institute of Public Health on e.g. toys, Ref: RCLE, WECF: "Toys Safety in Serbia", 2011

² Regulatory mechanisms of the Republic of Serbia for implementation of Rotterdam Convention are: The Law on Ratification of the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Official Gazette of the RS -International Agreements, No. 38/09); Law on Chemicals; and Rulebook on Import and Export of Certain Hazardous Chemicals.

³ Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09, 88/10, 92/11 and 93/12

⁴ Official Gazette of RS No. 36/09, 88/10 and 92/11

chemicals; placing detergents on the market; systematic monitoring of chemicals; data availability; supervision and other important issues for the chemicals management.

Provisions laying down bans and restrictions of manufacturing, placing on the market and use of chemicals and certain products from Annex XVII to REACH have been transposed in the Law on Chemicals and in the Rulebook on bans and restrictions for manufacturing⁵, placing on the market and use of chemicals that pose an unacceptable risk to human health and environment.

The Law on consumer protection⁶ regulate basic consumers rights, conditions and means of consumers protection, rights and obligations of associations and unions whose scope of work is realisation of objectives of consumers protection, establishment of the system of non-litigation settlements of consumers disputes, as well as rights and obligations of the state authorities in the field of consumers protection.

In order to enable implementation of this new national legislation related to chemicals management, it is necessary to build capacities and knowledge in this area of all stakeholders and interested parts including competent authorities, governmental bodies and institutions, industry, NGOs, trade and employee associations, civil society and media.

Law of Chemicals provides legal bases for establishment of the Joint Body for the integrated chemicals management in order to affirm the principles of strategic approach in chemicals management, to ensure appropriate chemicals management in all stages of the chemicals life cycle, as well as to contribute to the sustainable development of the Republic of Serbia. Joint Body will consist of representatives from the state authorities, industry, scientific and research organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MAEP) will provide the professional and administrative - technical assistance for the Joint Body. The task of the Joint Body will be to prepare the Integrated Chemicals Management Programme and action plans for the implementation of that programme, as well as to monitor the implementation of the programme and action plans and to coordinate tasks related to the sound chemical management.

In accordance with the priorities of the Serbian Government and its commitment to implementation the objectives of SAICM, this project supports those priorities in order to work with mutual respect and support, as well as intersectional work at the national level.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project aims to build capacity and strengthen cooperation between government agencies, NGOs, and other civil society sectors, on strengthening legislation, enforcement and partnerships for chemical safety, in particular harmful chemicals in products.

The project will support the aim of the MoAEP to implement policies and legislation on chemicals safety, by building the capacity of local stakeholders, such as NGOs, consumer organizations, media, science, health professionals. The related stakeholders are seen as key for a successful implementation of policies and legislation. Therefore it is necessary to inform and train them, as well as to support their networking activities.

The project will bring together representatives of government, media, civil society, health professionals to increase understanding of chemicals safety management, in particular on chemicals in products. In the future, these stakeholder groups should provide significant support to the newly established regulatory system and become an important partner in reaching the general

⁵ Official Gazette of the RS", No. 90/13

⁶ Official Gazette of the RS", number 73/10

public and spreading information regarding harmful chemicals in products placed on the Serbian market.

The project will identify strategic partners for MoAEP, build capacity of stakeholders, train experts in particular from NGOs, media and science, create an information sharing platform on chemicals safety in consumer products, and through a regional conference, with the aim to create commitment from key strategic partners for strengthening chemicals safety in Serbia. Regional conference will enable sharing of experience and good practices among the stakeholders at regional scale.

Project Objectives

Overall Objectives

1. Strengthening cooperation between civil society organizations and MoAEP, to generate support for the implementation of the new laws and regulation and establish sound and sustainable partnerships with identified NGOs on chemical safety, on national and international level.
2. Strengthening cooperation between civil society organizations, authorities, scientific community, healthcare specialists, trade unions, and other stakeholders in Serbia with the aim to improve consumer protection and product safety by providing knowledge about chemicals in products, such as toys.
3. Build capacity and strengthen existing capacity of local civil society organizations to promote participative democracy, contribute to national policy development and raise awareness with the general public on measures for consumer and environmental protection particularly regarding product and chemical safety.
4. Build capacities of healthcare specialists to deal with the issues of prevention of hazardous chemicals in products.
5. Build capacities of journalists to report and inform on chemicals in products, preventive actions, consumer rights and implementation of legislation in this field.
6. Promote knowledge transfer between civil society organizations on the issue of policies and legislation regarding consumer and environmental protection in particular chemicals in products such as toys.
7. Build sustainable networks of civil society organizations in Balkan countries, and cooperate with European-wide networks, to engage in constructive dialogue with producers, retailers and policy makers regarding consumer protection measures particularly regarding hazardous substances.
8. Empower women's organization to take active part in policy processes and community activities for consumer promotion, product and chemical safety and sustainable consumption and production, based on their views and specific needs

Specific Objectives

1. To develop training tools on product and chemical safety for local NGOs
2. To build the capacity of NGOs, local and state authorities, journalists, consumer associations, healthcare specialists, scientific community in Serbia to understand the domestic and international legal framework on product and chemical safety
3. To strengthen cooperation among Balkan, EU and international CSOs on product and chemical safety
4. To raise public awareness of product and chemical safety issues through the media and public information events
5. To improve product and chemical safety policies and practices throughout the Balkans through a regional conference and coordination meetings

Target groups

- Civil Society Organizations in the Republic of Serbia and Western Balkan CSOs
- Media representatives/journalists
- Scientists and healthcare specialists
- Business representatives, consumer associations, importers, retailers
- Citizens of the Republic of Serbia and neighboring Western Balkan countries

Project activities are grouped around three main groups of activities:

1. Capacity building
2. Awareness raising
3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

1. Capacity building

Activity 1. 1. Coordination and multi-stakeholder involvement

In order to secure consistency of all project activities and timely involvement of all project stakeholders, regular coordination meetings will be organized. Apart from main project partners (MoAEP, UNDP, WECF and ALHem), coordination meetings will also involve relevant CSOs, media representatives, scientific community and health professionals, as appropriate. In initial stage, organizations/society groups in Serbia will be identified to participate in the project activities. They will be selected in line with the criteria, developed in consultation with the MoAEP with the aim to form a pool of organizations that will be trained in the area of sound chemical management and will act as knowledge and information focal points at the local level.

A call for Proposal will be organized in order to ensure transparent procedure for selection of optimum number of civil society organizations dealing with customer protection, women's groups for protection of women's health, media and social enterprises in the area of environment and non-chemical alternatives. Selected organization will be trained by project partners and will be financially supported through the project to carry out advocacy and outreach activities at the local level.

Four coordination meetings will be held during project implementation period. Initial half-day multi-stakeholder expert group meeting will be held at the beginning of the project, including main project partners (governmental representatives, NGOs, governmental and international agencies, CSO, business representatives) to discuss project activities and implementation, regulatory system in this area, exchange useful information, build knowledge in this field and share information on new regulation in Serbia. Three additional coordination meetings will be held during the project implementation. These meetings will serve for the purpose of evaluation of progress, consideration of obstacles, stakeholder involvement, preliminary results and next steps for cooperation will be defined.

Activity 1. 2. Workshops

The aim of the expert workshops is to inform different types of stakeholders about chemical safety and the new law and regulation in the Republic of Serbia. Capacity building among stakeholders will lead to a better informed civil society and skilled partners in policy processes on chemical safety, and therefore a strengthened enforcement, implementation, and in the future invention, of the new laws and regulations. The workshops are designed and held with the support of national and international experts.

1.2.1. One media workshop

One-day workshop for at least 15 media representatives/journalists will be conducted with the focus on new legislation in the field of chemical safety, and in order to raise awareness on the issue of chemicals and health, as well as to disseminate information on chemicals safety policy recommendations and the roadmap. This activity is a continuation of similar raising awareness activities that former Serbian Chemicals Agency organized on certain dangerous chemicals and trainings in the field of chemicals control and surveillance and exchange of information within the part of RAPEX system related to chemicals in products.

1.2.2. Two expert workshops for consumer organizations and other interested NGOs and other stakeholders like business representatives

In order to inform and train NGOs in the field of chemical safety two workshops for representatives of consumer organizations and other interested NGOs on the issue of hazardous chemicals in products will be organized. The workshops will especially address EDCs and the exposure of women and discuss the ways to implement the policy recommendations and the roadmap. The aim is to enable the identified NGOs to educate consumers to take part in policy discussions about the respective issues and to implement awareness raising tool developed during the project. Business representatives will be informed on awareness raising campaign results.

1.2.3. One expert workshop with science and health professionals

One-day workshop with at least 30 scientists/healthcare specialists will be organized in order to inform all relevant stakeholders, scientists and healthcare professionals on the SAICM with particular focus on chemical hazards and risk assessment.

Activity 1.3. Regional conference

In the final stage of the project implementation (in second half of 2016) one regional conference will be organized in Belgrade for all relevant stakeholders, with at least 70 participants. The conference will invite SAICM focal points from all Western Balkan countries as well as one representative of outstanding CSO from each of the western Balkan countries. The aim of the conference is to engage all actors in the field of chemicals safety and management, including decision makers, producers, consumers, CSOs, scientists, healthcare specialists, and to present project activities and results as well as best practises in the area of implementation of chemicals safety. The conference will also address needs of the partner countries regarding consumer protection, substitution of hazardous chemicals, and compliance with international conventions. Experts will discuss ways towards increased safety in chemicals management and utilisation in the market.

A comprehensive report of the Conference will be online published and widely distributed.

Activity 1.4. Connecting national activities to SAICM

The project partners will communicate all important findings and information to all relevant stakeholders, including the SAICM secretariat, in order to interlink the findings of the project and upgrade the discussions on international level in the frame of SAICM.

The Republic of Serbia is contributing to SAICM and in the process of implementing the Global Plan of Action, while it is necessary to involve civil society representatives actively in the SAICM process. Representatives of the MoAEP will promote results of the project on related SAICM meetings (e.g. ICCM and related regional events), in order to connect Serbian CSOs dealing with CiP with other relevant CSOs from the region and Europe involved in the SAICM activities.

2. Awareness raising

Activity 2.1. Awareness raising tool

Project partners (MoAEP, UNDP, WECF and ALHem) will jointly develop awareness raising tool which will be utilized during the project for conducting awareness raising campaigns, in particular at local level in three larger cities (Novi Sad for the North Serbia, Belgrade for Central Serbia and Nis for South Serbia). This tool will contain a draft guidelines and instructions on how to ask for review and present the information on particular harmful chemicals in products. Usage of this tool will be practiced by 3 selected CSOs (larger regional consumer associations) at local level, while results will be presented to the wider audience on local awareness raising events including business representatives. These events will also be accompanied by lectures of scientific and policy making experts in the field of chemicals safety and management.

Activity 2.2. Information Platform

Development of an online information platform on chemical safety and CiP, that can be included in the online services of the project partners.

According to the Law on Chemicals competent authority for chemicals management in Serbia is responsible to carry out awareness raising activities on the effect of chemicals on human health and environment, risk reduction measures and sound use of chemicals. Former Serbian Chemicals Agency started to work on awareness raising activities and developed initial information for consumers on the official website. Further step would be development of a comprehensive information web platform on chemicals safety and CiP (Chemicals in Products), for consumers. The platform should disseminate the information to all relevant stakeholders and guarantee a wide outreach and the sustainability of the project.

Activity 2.3. Communication

2.3.1. The CSO partners would adapt existing materials from WECF (4 brochures on chemicals safety). Additionally, a toolkit for media and NGOs will be produced to be distributed during the targeted workshops.

2.3.2. The information materials will be widely disseminated via the internet, at workshops and will be presented to the press (at least three press releases) reaching an audience of at least 10.000 readers/viewers.

2.3.3. At least three public events on product and chemical safety will be conducted in selected regions/cities with the purpose to widely promote consumer information tools and concepts, using also the example of public toys testing. The public events will be tailored to the explicit needs of the region, targeting consumers and actively involving media.

3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Detailed monitoring, reporting and evaluation framework is presented in Chapter VII of the Project Document.

Expected results

- Strengthened capacities of the local partner NGOs (three consumer associations) and at least 15 other Serbian CSOs (journalist and environmental agencies, local media organisations, radio stations, women entrepreneurs, union of women's organisations, environmental NGOs, union of consumers) on understanding product and chemical safety, national laws, and international agreements and best practices including SAICM, in order to allow communication of both the challenges and benefits of chemical safety regulations to the general public. The CSO local partners will invite the other CSOs to work in an alliance for chemical safety and will co-organise the three local public events in cooperation with these Serbian CSOs.
- Strengthened capacities of local lead partner and CSO partners in Serbia for involvement in policy processes and decision making, monitoring of policy implementation and effective outreach to the public especially to consumers and producers/retailers.
- At least one CSO from Serbia have become a member in international networks of NGOs working on chemical safety and will continue participating in the consumer awareness raising campaigns for Safe Child Indoor Environments (www.projectnesting.org) and the international Safe Toys Coalition (www.safetoycoalition.org), or other international campaigns (lead-free, zero-mercury), working together on common policy monitoring and recommendations for improved product and chemical safety, based on locally defined needs and priorities.
- More than 50 local CSOs (women, consumer, and youth) will have taken part in local public events and project actions which will lead to sustainable cooperation and networks.
- Civil society organisations of the Western Balkans will have been informed on the topic of product and chemical safety, consumer and environment protection through the dissemination of project results via social and CSO networks.
- Representatives of consumer associations, as well as producers/retailers and consumers will have increased knowledge of international agreements, domestic legislation and the EU acquis in the area of product and chemical safety directives. Relevant institutions will continue improving the legislation in this area. This will result in development of more innovative and competitive local entrepreneurs and with better understanding of consumer concerns and needs.
- 10 Journalists will have been trained on specific issues and values in the area of product and chemical safety and will be able to effectively inform the public on this issue
- At least 10,000 consumers will be able to better protect their vulnerable family members, such as children
- More than 30 scientist/healthcare specialists will be better informed on harmful chemicals (in particular EDCS) and their effects on human health, which will increase prevention measures (in particular EDCS).
- Consumers will benefit in the longer term from an increased awareness of business and state authorities, journalists, scientists and healthcare specialists on the issue of consumer safety and corporate social responsibility leading to improved national legislation and its implementation.

Products

- 4 coordination multistakeholder meetings for at least 15 stakeholders from administration, civil society, health sector and media
- 1 media workshop on product and chemical safety and consumer and environmental protection for at least 10 Serbian journalists
- 2 expert workshops for representatives of NGOs and other CSO groups
- 1 expert workshops for at least 30 scientists/healthcare specialists on chemical safety
- 1 online platform on chemical safety and chemicals in products
- 1 regional conference in Belgrade with at least 70 participants

- 4 consumer guides on relevant issues will be translated into Serbian language from WECF existing materials
- 3 local events and 3 press releases, including a consumer information demonstration event (e.g. public product safety testing event)
- 1 training toolkit for NGOs
- 1 final project report

III. PROJECT COMPLIANCE WITH EXISTING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES

The “Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia” project is fully in line with the following strategies, programmes and projects:

National Environmental Approximation Strategy of the Republic of Serbia, adopted in 2011, contributes directly to the process of harmonization of national legislation in the field of chemicals management with EU Regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), and this project is in line with the given recommendations for the Chemicals Sector.

Besides compliance with the requirements of EU Acquis in the field of chemicals, the project is also aligned with the **Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Serbia** goals for reducing negative effects and risks of chemicals on human health and environment (the chapter on “Negative environmental factors”). According to the Strategy, the project is also aligned with the goals related to education and awareness raising on chemicals risks to human health and environment.

National Environmental Protection Programme of the Republic of Serbia, adopted in 2010, stipulates the need for further improvement of national legislation in the field of chemicals management, education and awareness raising of chemicals retailers and end users, improvement of professional knowledge and skills for adequate Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Surveillance/Restriction of Chemicals. The project “Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia” will directly contribute to fulfilment of the goals defined by the National Environmental Protection Programme, in particular in the field of strengthening national institutional capacities for safe chemicals management and implementation of legislation.

Additionally, this project is within the scope of the OEWG/ICCM 3 Chemicals in Products (CiP) recommendations⁷, therefore the project is funded from the SAICM Quick Start Programme Trust Fund, while the project partners are involved in the work of the CiP working group from the beginning and have close contact with the representatives of the civil society and the environment and health sector.

In accordance with the priorities of the Serbian Government and its commitment to implementation of the objectives of SAICM, this project supports those priorities in order to work with mutual respect and support, as well as intersectional work at the national level.

The QSP project in Serbia will obtain synergies from project funded by EuropeAid, implemented in 2011/2012, and will build on the lessons learned from the EU project, in particular the inventory of gaps in implementation of existing legislation. The EU-funded project “Product and Chemical Safety in the Balkans-civil society cooperation on EU acquis and values for consumer and corporate responsibility” – has been implemented in Serbia, Albania and Macedonia. Project partners were the EU network partner Baltic Environmental Forum (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany), WECF, and local partners Women’s Movement for Integral Development LGZHI (Albania), Journalists for Children’s and Women’s Rights and Environmental Protection (Macedonia), and Resource Center Leskovac (Serbia).

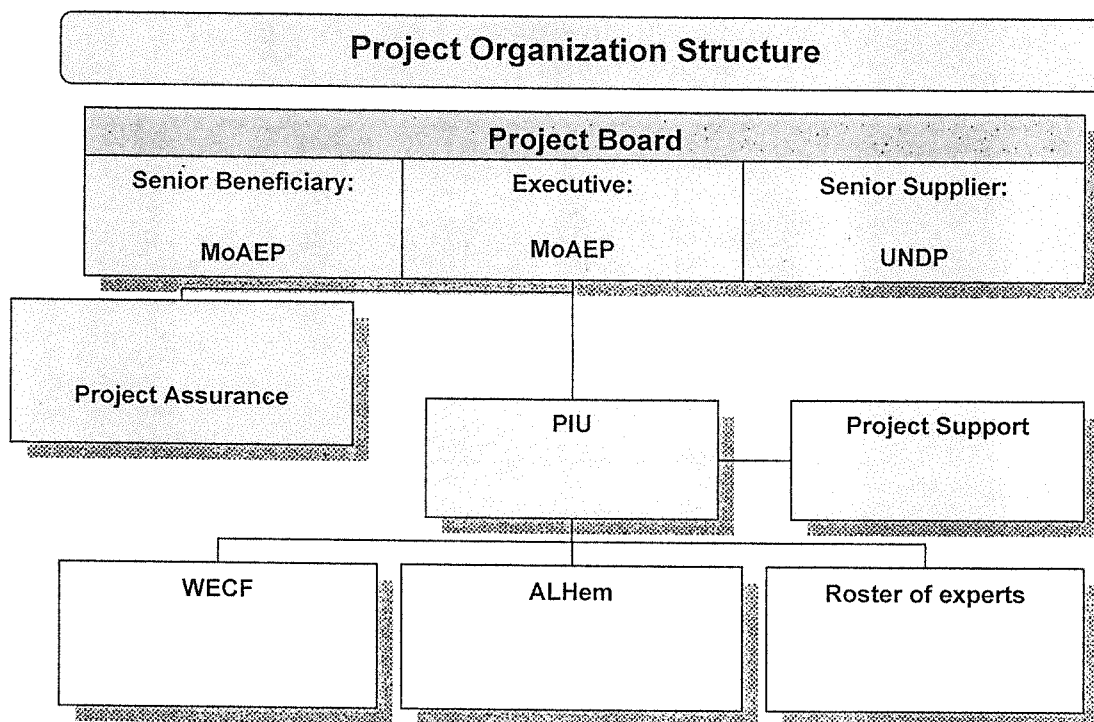
⁷ <http://www.saicm.org/documents/OEWG/Meeting%20documents/advance/K1280314%20-%20SAICM-OEWG-1-19%20%20%20-%20%20%20REPORT%20ADVANCE.pdf>

IV. PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK

<p>This project will contribute to achieving the following Country Programme Outcome as defined in CPD: By 2020, there are improved capacities to combat climate change and manage natural resources and communities are more resilient to the effects natural and man-made disasters</p>		
<p>Indicative Country Programme Output: Capacities for policy making and implementation of international agreements improved Country Programme Output Indicator: Number of laws, plans or policies aligned to conventions' implementation requirements</p>		
	EXPECTED RESULTS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY - UNDP
<p>1. Capacity building (coordination and multi-stakeholder involvement, workshops and regional conference)</p>	<p>1.1 Four coordination meetings among the project partners, including a kick-off meeting and a closing meeting; 1.2 One media workshop 1.3 Two expert workshops for consumer organizations and other interested NGOs and other stakeholders like business representatives on the issue of hazardous chemicals in products, 1.4 One expert workshop with science and health professionals 1.5 One regional conference will focus on participation of relevant stakeholders and will highlight best practices on implementation of chemical safety.</p>	<p>Grant recipient stipulated in prodoc: ALHem – organization of the meetings/workshops/conferences, identification and invitation of participants, prepare meeting/workshop/conference materials, securing experts to lead and facilitate the meetings/workshops/conferences, prepare reports, secure experts for realization of the workshops/conferences, secure expert speakers at the workshops/conferences, disseminate results of the meetings/workshops/conferences, maintain communication with participants before and after completion of meetings/workshops/conferences; Grant recipient stipulated in prodoc: WECF – secure expert support and assistance in preparation and running the meetings/workshops/conferences, participate in preparation of the meeting/workshops/conference materials and reports, participate in realization of the meetings/workshops/conferences and secure relevant expert support, contribute to presentation of project results at the meetings/workshops/conference;</p>

<p>2. Awareness raising (Awareness raising tool, Information platform and communication, connecting national activities to SAICM)</p>	<p>2.1 One awareness raising tool with the aim to brand the information activities and to interest and involve the target group sustainably. 2.2. Developed online information platform on chemical safety and CIP, 2.3. Media announcements, 2.4. Publications like a toolkit for NGOs and media developed before the respective workshops. 2.5. Information publications for the public developed on issues like cosmetics, toys, baby care etc. 2.6. Three regional public events, like public toys testing</p>	<p>Grant recipient stipulated in prodoc: ALHem – secure experts for development of the tool, prepare the scope and content of the tool, promote and disseminate the tool; secure experts for development of the content and appearance of the online information platform, secure communication of information to stakeholders and beneficiaries, secure regular update of the information during project period; provide experts for preparation of awareness raising materials (toolkit) – edit the existing WECF materials, produce awareness raising materials (toolkit) – for workshops, produce at least 5 media statements on the occasion of each of project events, organize 3 regional public events – invite participants, arrange venue, prepare materials for regional public events, provide experts to run and facilitate 3 regional events, provide experts/speakers for 3 regional public events, prepare reports from 3 regional public events;</p>
<p>3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection)</p>	<p>1. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of activities under the Capacity building component; 2. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of activities under the Awareness raising component;</p>	<p>Grant recipient stipulated in prodoc: WECF – secure expert assistance and supportive background documents for development of the tool; secure expert assistance and supportive background documents in preparation of the online information platform; provide experts and supportive background documents to contribute to preparation and editing of awareness raising materials (toolkits), participate in at least 5 media statements and promotion of the project; provide experts to participate at the 3 regional public events (as speakers and facilitators), contribute to preparation of the reports from 3 regional public events;</p>
<p>3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation (UNDP in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection)</p>	<p>1. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of activities under the Capacity building component; 2. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation of activities under the Awareness raising component;</p>	<p>UNDP – monitoring, evaluation and approval of meeting/workshop/conference reports; review and monitoring, approve content of the meeting/workshop/conference materials, approve meeting/workshop/conference reports; approve content of the online information platform, approving the awareness raising materials (toolkit), producing/printing materials for 3 regional public events, approve reports from 3 regional public events;</p>

VI. MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS



Implementation arrangements

UNDP is the executing agency for this project. The proposed project is consistent with the UNDP's mandate on promoting environmental protection, while recognizing the need to sustainably manage resources through capacity building and encouraging broader multi-sectoral participation of stakeholders. Given UNDP's recognized role in capacity development, the Government of Serbia has requested UNDP's assistance in the design and implementation of this project.

At the national level, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection (MoAEP) will act as Implementing Partner and coordinating body of the Project. The MoAEP will appoint a senior official to be the National Project Director (NPD). The NPD will ensure full government support of the project. The project will be implemented under the National Implementation Modality (NIM) with UNDP support.

The MoAEP is responsible for collaboration with the SAICM Secretariat and for coordination of all relevant stakeholders responsible for implementation of certain aspects of SAICM. Acceptance of SAICM recommendations is in accordance with the process of EU integrations, and achievement of SAICM goals at national level is mostly done through transposition of all relevant EU legislation and technical regulations, as well as implementation of various projects aimed at implementation of different aspects of SAICM.

A **Project Implementation Unit (PIU)** will be established by UNDP. The PIU will be responsible for overall project coordination and implementation, consolidation of work plans and project papers, preparation of quarterly progress reports, reporting to the project supervisory bodies, and supervising the work of the project experts and other project staff. The PIU will also closely coordinate project activities with relevant government institutions and hold regular consultations with other project stakeholders and partners, including UNDP's relevant projects.

Overall guidance will be provided by the **Project Board (PB)**. A Project Board will be formed with representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection and UNDP as illustrated in the diagram above. The Project Board will be responsible for making management

decisions for the project, in particular when guidance is required by the Project Manager. Project Board decisions should be made in accordance to standards that shall ensure best value in terms of money, fairness, integrity transparency and effective international competition. Project reviews by this group are made at designated decision points during the running of a project, or as necessary when raised by the Project Manager. It will play a critical role in project monitoring and evaluations by assuring the quality of these processes and associated products, and by using evaluations for improving performance, accountability and learning. The Project Board will ensure that required resources are committed. It will also arbitrate on any conflicts within the project and negotiate solutions to any problems with external bodies. In addition, it will approve the appointment and responsibilities of the Project Manager and any delegation of its Project Assurance responsibilities. Based on the approved Annual Work Plan, the Project Board can also consider and approve the quarterly plans and also approve any essential deviations from the original plans.

The **Project Manager** has the authority to run the project on a day-to-day basis on behalf of the Project Board within the constraints laid down by the Board. The Project Manager is responsible for day-to-day management and decision-making for the project. The Project Manager's prime responsibility is to ensure that the project produces the results specified in the project document, to the required standard of quality and within the specified constraints of time and cost.

The **Project Support** role provides project administration, management and technical support to the Project Manager as required by the needs of the individual project or Project Manager.

The project activities will be implemented in accordance with UNDP procedures, in accordance with the Law on Ratification of the Agreement between the Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia and United Nations Development Programme (Official Gazette – International Agreements – No 11/1988).

Project partner organizations - Grant recipients

Project partner organizations have been selected to assist National Partners and UNDP in project implementation. Selection of international CSO **Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF)**, as project partner organization, was done on the basis of WECF extensive experience in the field of safeguarding a healthy environment and sustainable development. WECF is an international network of over 150 women's, environmental and health organisations implementing projects in 50 countries and advocating globally for a healthy environment for all. In previous 15 years, WECF has been developing and implementing projects in the area of Safe Chemicals & Adequate Provision of Health Care for All. WECF has been working on consumer and chemical safety campaigns. The project "Capacity Building and Strategic Partnerships for Chemicals Safety in the Republic of Serbia" is building upon results of a previous successfully completed project of WECF. The project will benefit from WECF's ongoing programmes on safe chemicals and health. For instance, WECF "translates" REACH requirements regarding Substances of Very High Concern into easily understandable consumer guide brochures: Toys Guide, Clean Product Guide, Baby Care Product Guide. This is directly linked to the better implementation of the REACH regulation, which stipulates amongst others a number of consumer rights such as the obligation of retailers to inform consumers within 45 days if a products contains any substances listed or restricted under REACH.

WECF campaigns on Safe Indoor Environments for Babies, Toys Chemical Safety, Persistent Organic Pollutants, Obsolete pesticides, Breast cancer and environmental pollution, Children's vulnerability to hazardous chemicals, Cosmetics and chemicals, Asbestos and health, Nanotechnology, Women and chemicals, Household Chemicals, Waste and health have resulted in numerous publications and best practice examples that will be shared with the partner and participants of the project trainings, policy dialogues and the CSR conference.

WECF cooperates actively with several other networks working on product and chemical safety including BEUC (European Consumer organisation), EEB (European Environment Bureau), ECOS (European standardization NGO), HEAL (Health and Environment Network), PAN (Pesticide Action Network), and other EU and international networks of family organisations, women's organisations and chemical safety organisations like IPEN (International POPs Elimination

Network). WECF works with these organisations on common campaigns policy campaigns, publications and strategies, which will become available to the Serbian partners.

Local CSO **ALHem (Safer chemicals alternative)** has been nominated by National Partner (Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection) to participate in implementation of project activities. ALHem is a non-governmental organization that aims to promote sustainable development, especially the safe management of chemicals. The Organization is based in Belgrade and was founded by professionals with years of experience in the field of chemicals management. The main task of ALHem is to provide knowledge to the industry and those who are delivering chemicals or products that contain them and are responsible for the safe management of chemicals. Based on proven scientific information and the latest technical knowledge, ALHem influence the authorities to adopt and implement policies that will result that our children live and reside in areas that are not toxic or hazardous to their health. ALHem provides information also to every individual on hazardous chemicals and methods how risk can be eliminated or reduced.

ALHem is a non-governmental organization that seeks to gain and spread knowledge about hazardous chemicals at all levels, to reduce their risk.

Given the long experience, ALHem unites knowledge and power of decision-makers, researchers and industry representatives to sound chemicals management policy had visible results in improvement of quality/safety of our environment. ALHem brings the experience of European and international non-governmental organizations in the effort for safe management of chemicals, and the struggle for the protection of life and health. ALHem will follow the principles and strategies of global policy in this area, and Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management – SAICM. ALHem is a member of IPEN International POPs Elimination Network) most important international network that operates with the aim of “non-toxic future”.

Local CSO ALHem will be responsible for implementation of project activities, in particular: Coordination and multistakeholder involvement (including mapping of relevant civil society actors) - organization and coordination of stakeholder consultation meetings and events; developing awareness raising tool for conducting awareness raising campaigns, in particular at local level in three larger cities; organization of expert workshops for media representatives, CSOs and scientists/healthcare specialists; development of an online information platform on chemical safety; organization of one regional project related conference in Belgrade for all relevant stakeholders; communicating all important findings and information to all relevant stakeholders, including the SAICM secretariat; adapting and disseminating the existing materials from WECF (4 brochures on chemicals safety) on all related project events; widely promoting consumer information tools and concepts, using also the example of public toys testing (organizing at least three public events on product and chemical safety in selected regions/cities).

International CSO Women in Europe for a Common Future (WECF) will be responsible for implementation of project activities, in particular: adapting, promoting and disseminating the existing WECF materials (4 brochures on chemicals safety) on all related project events; providing expert assistance and support for the purpose of successful organization of project meetings, public awareness campaigns and workshops; contributing to development of awareness raising tool for conducting awareness raising campaigns, in particular at local level in three larger cities; participating at expert workshops for media representatives, CSOs and scientists/healthcare specialists; contributing to development of an online information platform on chemical safety; contributing to organization of one regional project related conference in Belgrade for all relevant stakeholders; communicating all important findings and information to all relevant stakeholders, including the SAICM secretariat.

Detailed plan of implementation and budgetary expenditures for all project activities will be presented under the Grant Agreement between UNDP and CSOs (ALHem and WECF). This Grant Agreement will be added as Annex to this Project Document and will be also used for the purpose of reporting by the respectful CSOs to UNDP as well as for monitoring of implementation.

Inclusion of stakeholders

The project will also collaborate closely with the other relevant on-going projects in the Republic of Serbia in order to enable an effective information exchange between the projects and full utilization of their results. During the project's implementation, links with relevant regional and international institutions will be created, and their experiences will be used when selecting methodologies and implementing specific activities.

The project implementation team will collaborate closely with all relevant on-going initiatives and projects.

VII. MONITORING FRAMEWORK AND EVALUATION

In accordance with the programming policies and procedures outlined in the UNDP Programme and Operation Policies and Procedures, the project will be monitored through the following:

Within the annual cycle

- On a quarterly basis, a quality assessment shall record progress towards the completion of key results, based on quality criteria and methods captured in the Quality Management table below.
- An Issue Log shall be updated by the Project Manager to facilitate tracking and resolution of potential problems or requests for change.
- Based on the above information recorded in Atlas, a Project Progress Reports (PPR) shall be submitted by the Project Manager to the UNDP and Project Board through Project Assurance semi-annually, using the standard report format.
- Monitoring Plan shall be prepared and updated to track key management actions/events
- Based on Letter of Agreement between UNEP and UNDP, Project Progress Reports shall be submitted by the by the UNDP CO, on a half-yearly basis, and reviewed and endorsed by the Montreal-Protocol-Chemicals Unit of UNDP.

Final report

- Final Project Report (narrative and financial) shall be prepared by the Project Manager and shared with the Project Board at the end of the project.

VIII. QUALITY MANAGEMENT FOR PROJECT ACTIVITY RESULTS

OUTPUT 1: Governance institutions address people's safety and security concerns effectively		
Output Result 1 (Atlas Activity ID)	<i>Capacities for policy making and implementation of international agreements improved</i>	Start Date: May 2015 End Date: December 2016
Purpose	<i>To support the MoAEP in implementing policies and legislation on chemicals safety, by building the capacity of local stakeholders, such as NGOs, consumer organizations, media, science, health professionals.</i>	
Description	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>To develop training tools on product and chemical safety for local NGOs</i> 2. <i>To build the capacity of NGOs, local and state authorities, journalists, consumer associations, healthcare specialists, scientific community in Serbia to understand the domestic and international legal framework on product and chemical safety</i> 3. <i>To strengthen cooperation among Balkan, EU and international CSOs on product and chemical safety</i> 4. <i>To raise public awareness of product and chemical safety issues through the media and public information events</i> 5. <i>To improve product and chemical safety policies and practices throughout the Balkans through a regional conference and coordination meetings</i> 	
Quality Criteria <i>how/with what indicators the quality of the activity result will be measured?</i>	Quality Method <i>Means of verification. What method will be used to determine if quality criteria has been met?</i>	Date of Assessment <i>When will the assessment of quality be performed?</i>
Coordination and multi-stakeholder involvement secured	Report of engaged CSO, media reports	Throughout the project
Awareness raising tool and online information platform on chemical safety and CiP developed	Report of engaged CSO, media reports	Throughout the project
Number of workshops and trainings successfully held	Report of engaged CSO, media reports	Throughout the project
Communication activities completed	Report of engaged CSO, media reports	Throughout the project
Awareness for chemicals in products improved	Report of engaged CSO, media reports	Throughout the project

IX. LEGAL CONTEXT

Consistent with the Article III of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement (SBAA), the responsibility for the safety and security of the Implementing Partner and its personnel and property, and of UNDP's property in the Implementing Partner's custody, rests with the Implementing Partner. To this end, the Implementing Partner shall:

- a) put in place an appropriate security plan and maintain the security plan, taking into account the security situation in the country where the project is being carried;
- b) assume all risks and liabilities related to the implementing partner's security, and the full implementation of the security plan.

UNDP reserves the right to verify whether such a plan is in place, and to suggest modifications to the plan when necessary. Failure to maintain and implement an appropriate security plan as required hereunder shall be deemed a breach of the Implementing Partner's obligations under this Project Document.

The Implementing Partner agrees to undertake all reasonable efforts to ensure that none of the UNDP funds received pursuant to the Project Document are used to provide support to individuals or entities associated with terrorism and that the recipients of any amounts provided by UNDP hereunder do not appear on the list maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). The list can be accessed via http://www.un.org/sc/committees/1267/aq_sanctions_list.shtml. This provision must be included in all sub-contracts or sub-agreements entered into under/further to this Project Document".

ANNEX 1 RISK LOG MATRIX

Description	Category	Impact & Probability	Countermeasures / Management response
<p>Local stakeholders involved in the project, such as consumer associations, NGOs, media representatives, healthcare professionals, may have low interest in the subject and can be reluctant to participate in awareness raising events</p>	<p>Organizational</p>	<p>Medium impact (2) Medium probability (2)</p>	<p>Careful planning, information dissemination, early involvement and permanent communication related to project activities and goals. In early stage to reach agreement with all stakeholders on their roles and benefits that project brings.</p>
<p>Initially planned project timeframe may not be sufficient to deliver all outputs which may result in no cost extension</p>	<p>Organizational</p>	<p>Medium impact (2) Low probability (3)</p>	<p>Careful planning and timely procurement and contracting</p>