

25 June, 2015

Tajik IPEN Participating Organization Foundation in Support of Civil Initiatives (FSCI) recently successfully completed a Quick Start Programme-funded project titled "Supporting SAICM and GHS (Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals) implementation in the Republic of Tajikistan." The final workshop was held on 16 June, 2015 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. It was attended by 33 representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, Customs Service, Ministry of Agriculture, Tajik Standard, Committee on Emergency Situations, Environmental Committee under the President of Tajik Republic, related agencies, scientific and research institutes, consulting companies, administration of Tajik Economic Free Zone "SUGD", National Committee on Sustainable Development, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and FSCI.

During project implementation, FSCI, in partnership with the Tajik Ministry of Health and UNITAR, led the work on the development of a National GHS Implementation Strategy and Action Plan. The Coordination Committee formed in the frame of the project conducted many trainings and awareness-raising meetings where GHS requirements, pictograms, classification and labeling were presented and discussed in detail with stakeholders. Experts of the Committee visited far distant regions of Tajikistan to assure that all stakeholders become well aware of the GHS benefits for the country. A training module on GHS implementation was presented at the workshop in Dushanbe and could further serve as a training module for other countries in Central Asia wishing to start the development of their national GHS implementation strategies.

FSCI initiated the development of recommendations on the GHS implementation for the inclusion into the National Sustainable Development Strategy of Tajikistan (NSDS). NSDS will be approved in November 2015 for the period until 2030. It will be signed as a law and will include many global sustainable development goals (SDGs) and related targets and indicators, including those on sound chemicals management. Adding recommendations on the implementation of the GHS requirements into NSDS will facilitate the inclusion of the National GHS Implementation Strategy into national legislation and help implement the GHS classification and labeling in the relevant economic sectors. The recommendations on the GHS implementation were presented at the workshop and were delivered to the National Committee on Sustainable Development for consideration and further inclusion into NSDS.

At the workshop in Dushanbe many interesting presentations were made that highlighted the importance of the GHS for Tajikistan. A representative of Tajik Customs Service specifically mentioned that they had released a magazine for the customs control officers that described GHS pictograms and information signs in the Tajik language. Based on this information an illegal import of a huge lot of experimental medication from India was identified and banned from entering the country. The Tajik Customs Service expressed their support to fully implement the GHS requirements as they help a lot in their daily work.