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Concept Note

Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia Regional Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint

**Co-hosted by the Government of the Republic of Moldova
and the United Nations Environment Programme
19-20 May 2016, Chişinău, Republic of Moldova**



1. Background and Context

Lead is a cumulative toxicant particularly hazardous to young children and pregnant women. Currently there is no safe level of lead established. Lead in paint is a major route of lead exposure, especially for children. Lead paint is still widely available in developing countries and countries with economy in transition, and the estimated economic cost associated with childhood lead exposure in low- and middle-income countries amounts to 1.2 % of world GDP in 2011.¹

Although some restrictions on the use of lead in paints were enacted in many countries in the first third of the 20th century, it has become clear in recent years that paints containing high levels of lead are still widely available for purchase for residential purposes in many countries. Available data from paint testing studies in thirty-seven countries have revealed that new paints with high lead concentrations are widely available to consumers in many regions of the world.²

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have been engaged in action to address the environmental and health risks posed by lead, focusing to date on the phasing out lead in fuels and paints. UNEP and WHO support the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints (Lead Paint Alliance), a global partnership aiming at phasing out the use of lead in paint by 2020.

In response to the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolution 1/5 Chemicals and Waste VI on lead and cadmium (June 2014) which “*requests the United Nations Environment Programme, in coordination with the World Health Organization, to continue to build capacity on lead paint through possible regional workshops*”, UNEP and IPEN jointly organized back-to-back workshops in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on December 2-4: the East Africa Sub-regional Workshop on the Establishment of Legal Limits on Lead in Paint and the GEF UNEP/IPEN Regional Lead Paint Elimination Project in Africa Workshop. Government officials and stakeholders from 15 African countries agreed to adopt a lead limit

¹ Attina, Teresa M., and Leonardo Trasande. "Economic costs of childhood lead exposure in low-and middle-income countries." *Environmental Health Perspectives* (Online) 121.9 (2013): 1097.

² UNEP and IPEN (2013). *Lead in Decorative Enamel Paints: National paint testing results*

for all paints of 90 parts per million and to cooperate to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020.

In recent progress within the Lead Paint Alliance,³ fifty-nine governments reported that they have legally binding restrictions on the use of lead in paint. Sixty-five governments reported that they do not have legally-binding restrictions. As information was still lacking for a further 71 countries. This suggests that there is still a large gap to be filled where all countries will have such effective measures, including regulations, to phase out the use of lead in paint by 2020. Situation in 17 Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine) are provided in Annex I. Among the 17 countries, only 5 countries reported that they have legally-binding controls on lead in paints.

2. Goal and Objectives of the Workshop

The overall goal of the workshop is to advance understanding, commitment, and action towards the elimination of lead in paint by 2020.

Specific objectives of the workshop are the following:

- Share the understandings of the health and environmental risks of the lead in paint
- Exchange information on the government policies and stakeholder actions, and available tools and experiences towards the elimination of lead in paint
- Introduce available resources on InforMEA and ECOLEX as tools for building knowledge and understanding of environmental law, including legislation on lead in paint
- Develop strategies for establishing legal limits on lead in paint at national, regional, and/or sub-regional levels
- Foster commitment of governments and stakeholders and agree on future actions.

Follow-up actions after this workshop may include information sharing in national policy development, initiation of regional process, improvements in the toolkit, and reporting towards future meetings, including but not limited to UNEA 2.

3. Participants

The Workshop will bring together representatives of government ministries and/or any other government institutions, responsible for the policy development and implementation to phase out lead in paint, with a focus on participants from the Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries, and a small number of global experts. Invited participants include:

- Government officials and policy experts from Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Uzbekistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of

³ Status of the phasing out of lead paint by countries: 2015 global report (SAICM//ICCM.4/INF/25)

Macedonia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine (17 Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries), Germany, the United States of America, the European Union and European Chemicals Agency;

- Intergovernmental organizations: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), OSCE Aarhus Center, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and WHO;
- Non-governmental organizations: health and environmental non-governmental organizations (e.g. Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL), IPEN, and others);
- Industry: AkzoNobel, International Paint and Painting Ink Council (IPPIC) and local paint manufacturers in the Republic of Moldova;
- Experts on lead in paint and policy development; and
- UNEP/WHO Advisory Group Members of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paint

4. Methods

The Workshop will be highly interactive in nature and is organized around a series of presentations experts have prepared in advance, followed by focused discussions convened by UNEP. It is estimated that we will have approximately 30 to 40 participants. The discussion will be in a plenary round-table format.

5. Programme

The workshop consists of three sessions. During the Session I, a workshop document on the current situation of the lead in paint, including the Lead Paint Alliance regulatory toolkit, is presented and discussed. Each modules in the regulatory toolkit will be presented in the following session (Session II). Finally, in Session III, the potential national implementation strategies and the next steps will be discussed. The discussions will be summarized and the workshop will be evaluated in the final session. The draft programme of the Workshop is attached.

6. Partners

This Workshop is funded and organized by UNEP with cooperation among the following partners of the Global Alliance to Eliminate Lead Paints:

- Government of the Republic of Moldova
- Government of the United States of America
- UNEP Division of Technology, Industry and Economics/Chemicals and Waste Branch (CWB), UNEP Division of Environmental Law and Conventions and UNEP Regional Office for Europe (ROE)
- WHO
- IPEN

7. Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, a workshop evaluation will be conducted to assess the extent the workshop achieved its objectives, to identify lessons learned, and to obtain feedback that will help the organizers in designing future events.

8. Logistics

The workshop will start on 19 of May, 2016 at 8:00 am, at Raddison Blue Leograd Hotel Chisinau (<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/hotel-chisinau>) in Chişinău and will close the following day at 6:00 pm.

9. Language

The workshop will be given in English. Russian interpretation will be provided.

Annex I. Situation in Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia countries with regard to legally-binding controls on lead in paints – based on information received from governments by 31 August 2015.

Country	Existence of legally-binding legislation/ regulation/ standards for lead in paint (according to response to request for information)	Name of legislation	Verified by the government (Date)	Comments (including summarized information on the scope of legislation)
Albania	In process	Decision of Ministerial Council No. 824, 11.12.2003: “On classification, packaging, labelling and storage of hazardous substances and preparations “. Currently under revision.	02/10/2014	Precautionary information is required on labels and packaging about lead as follows: The label of the packages of paints and lacquers containing lead in concentrations higher than 0.155 g/g (155,000 ppm), expressed as weight of lead relative to the total weight of the preparation, should carry the text “Contains lead, keep out of reach of children”. For packages containing less than 125 ml of the preparation, the warning, is: “Caution! Contains lead” New legislation is planned that will be in line with EU control measures under REACH and CLP.
Armenia	No reply			
Azerbaijan	No reply			
Belarus	Yes	Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan: Uniform sanitary and epidemiological and hygienic requirements for goods subject to sanitary and epidemiological supervision (control). Technical regulations "On the safety of paints" are in the	02/10/2014	All paints are subject to compulsory state registration and testing. According to the uniform sanitary requirements, paints used for buildings lived in or used by people must not contain driers containing metals or other chemicals belonging to hazard class 1 in quantities greater than 0.5% (5,000 ppm) dry residue. Paints must not contain lead-containing pigments of chemical hazard class 1 in quantities greater than 15% (150,000 ppm) dry residue. The uniform sanitary requirements will be replaced by the Technical Regulations “On safety of paints” which will

Country	Existence of legally-binding legislation/ regulation/ standards for lead in paint (according to response to request for information)	Name of legislation	Verified by the government (Date)	Comments (including summarized information on the scope of legislation)
		process of adoption and will come into force on 1 January 2017.		prohibit the use of lead and lead compounds in paints intended for the interior surfaces in buildings.
Bosnia and Herzegovina	In process	Law on Chemicals	01/08/2014	<p>Chemicals management is organized at the entity level, i.e. the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Srpska are responsible for adoption and implementation of their own chemicals legislation.</p> <p>In the Republic of Srpska a Law on Chemicals is in place, which is in line with the EU REACH regulation. According to this law, the Rulebook on bans and restrictions of chemicals is adopted and it regulates lead in the same manner as Annex XVII of REACH regulation. Any amendments of Annex XVII of REACH regulation will be included in this Rulebook in due course.</p> <p>In the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Proposal of Law on Chemicals (which is also in line with REACH) is going through the parliamentary procedure of adoption (second reading). It provides the basis for regulation of lead in the same manner as in the Republic of Srpska.</p>
Georgia	No reply			
Kazakhstan	No reply	Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan: Uniform sanitary and epidemiological and	To be verified	Status of adoption of the technical regulations in Kazakhstan is awaiting confirmation.

Country	Existence of legally-binding legislation/ regulation/ standards for lead in paint (according to response to request for information)	Name of legislation	Verified by the government (Date)	Comments (including summarized information on the scope of legislation)
		hygienic requirements for goods subject to sanitary and epidemiological supervision (control). Technical regulations developed "On the security of paints".		
Kyrgyzstan	No reply	Technical Regulations on the safety of paint materials; No 136, adopted 18 March 2013.	To be verified	Forbids the use of lead in paint intended for interior use in buildings – this information is awaiting verification.
Montenegro	Yes	Rulebook on restriction of the use, distribution and production of chemicals that present an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment (Official Gazette of Montenegro, No. 18/12) Rulebook on criteria for the classification, packaging and labelling of chemicals and certain products in hazard classes (Official Gazette of Montenegro, no. 53/12 of 24.10.2012). List of classified substances (Official Gazette of	30/03/2015	The following lead compounds are restricted in paints: lead-hydrogen arsenate, lead hexafluorosilicate, lead-alkyls, lead-diazide, lead azide, lead chromate, lead diacetate, trilead bis(orthophosphate), lead acetate, basic, lead(II) methanesulphonate, lead sulfochromate yellow; lead chromate molybdate sulfate red; lead hydrogen arsenate, lead carbonate, lead sulphate, lead 2,4,6-trinitro-m-phenylene dioxide; lead 2,4,6-trinitroresorcinoxide; lead styphnate. Exceptions for: 1) artists' paint (all listed compounds except lead sulphate and lead carbonate), and 2) for the restoration and maintenance of works of art and historic buildings and their interiors, as well as the placing on the market for such use. No limitation values provided.

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		Montenegro, No. 58/12).		
Republic of Moldova	In process		01/05/2015	<p>The Republic of Moldova is not Party to the ILO Convention No 13. Lead carbonate and lead sulphate as well as paints, containing these substances, have never been made in the Republic of Moldova. These products have never been exported to other countries.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment has elaborated a draft Law on amendment and supplementing of certain legislative acts, which is currently being considered for approval. Based on this, lead carbonates and lead sulphates shall not be manufactured, imported, placed on the domestic market and used in technological processes, including in carrying out construction works, as substances or in mixtures, when such substances or mixtures are intended for use in paints. New legislation will be in force before the end of 2015.</p> <p>Seeking clarification of whether this legislation will apply to other lead compounds.</p>
Russian Federation	Yes	Customs Union between Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan: Technical regulations "On the safety of paints" apply.	01/10/2014	<p>Paints used for building interior surfaces must not contain lead or lead compounds.</p> <p>Most paints currently produced in the Russian Federation do not contain lead compounds, while maintaining the same range of colours, efficiency and commercial value.</p>
Serbia	Yes	Law on Chemicals (Official Gazette of RS, No. 36/09,	08/08/2014	ILO Convention 13 on the use of white lead and sulphates of lead in paint applies.

Country	Existence of legally-binding legislation/ regulation/ standards for lead in paint (according to response to request for information)	Name of legislation	Verified by the government (Date)	Comments (including summarized information on the scope of legislation)
		88/10, 92/11, 93/12 and 12/15) and Rulebook on Bans and Restrictions of Production, Placing on the Market and Use of Chemicals (Official Gazette of RS, No. 90/2013 and 25/15) – Annex 1, Chapter 1 – List of bans and restrictions.		<p>The Law on Chemicals establishes the legal ground for the implementation of REACH. The Law on Chemicals and the legislation promulgated thereof are harmonized with REACH to the maximum extent possible for a non-member country, including Annex XVII of REACH Regulation. REACH harmonised rules have been in place in national legislation since 2009.</p> <p>Industrial paints may contain lead and in this case precautionary labelling is required.</p>
Tajikistan	No		07/08/2014	
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Yes	<p>Law on chemicals - Official Gazette of RM No. 145/10, 53/11, 164/13) and List of substances of very high concern- Official Gazette of RM No. 156/11 (amendments in Official Gazette of RM No. 120/2012).</p> <p>List of bans and restrictions of Production, Placing on the Market and Use of Chemicals - Official Gazette of RM 31/2014.</p>	05/06/2015	Implementation of the ILO Convention No.13 applying to lead carbonates and lead sulfates. Other restricted lead compounds are lead sulfochromate yellow, lead chromate and Lead chromate molybdate sulphate red.
Turkmenistan	No reply			

Country	Existence of legally-binding legislation/ regulation/ standards for lead in paint (according to response to request for information)	Name of legislation	Verified by the government (Date)	Comments (including summarized information on the scope of legislation)
Ukraine	No		30/03/2015	
Uzbekistan	No reply			