Introduction

The third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG3) requested the secretariat to develop a simple Strategic Approach progress report for the period 2017–2019 that, using existing data, would provide an overview of the Strategic Approach activities, accomplishments, and challenges for consideration by the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session (ICCM5).

A fourth Progress in Strategic Approach Implementation 2017–2019, in its revised version, was presented at the seventeenth meeting (online) of the Bureau of the International Conference on Chemicals Management for its fifth session on 21 July 2021[1].

The Strategic Approach secretariat invites all the stakeholder groups to respond to this survey. That will provide the secretariat time to analyze and review all submissions and include relevant information in the overall Strategic Approach simple progress report for the extended period between 2017-2022 (reflecting the postponement of ICCM5) to be provided to ICCM5. It would also address progress in the implementation of the SAICM overall orientation and guidance.

Your participation in this process is important to ensure that the SAICM report on progress can provide a complete and accurate picture of SAICM implementation and provide useful information to assist in setting future priorities for the global sound management of chemicals and waste.

You are kindly invited to provide a single consolidated response to this survey for your country or organization by Friday, 30 June 2023. The survey tool is aligned with the 20 indicators agreed to at the second session of ICCM (ICCM2) in May 2009 listed in Annex 1. In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration these indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach.


CONTACT INFORMATION

Contact information is requested to be provided so that in the case of any ambiguous answers or errors, the SAICM secretariat can make direct contact with the respondent.

1. Your title *

Prof Dr
2. Your Given Name *

Ancilka

3. Your Family Name *

Mihejlov

4. Name of Government/Organization *

Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development

5. Your position within your Government/Organization *

Honorable President

6. Your telephone number, including country code and area code (e.g. 44 22 123-4567) Telephone extension, if applicable *

381 63316355

7. Email *

office@ambassadors-env.com

8. Would you be willing to be contacted to answer a few questions on your experience with this survey? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

INFORMATION ON PROGRESS

Please specify activity(ies) that your Government/Organization took during the period of 2020-2022* in relation to:

*Note: In providing your answer you might wish to take into consideration indicators for reporting by stakeholders on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach, listed in the Annex of SAIMC/ICCM2/3 - Proposal on modalities for reporting by stakeholders on progress in implementation. To access the file, please click on: https://jasicum.org/Portals/12/documents/meetings/ICCM2/doc/ICCM2%203%20Reporting%20E.pdf
9. Enhance the responsibility of stakeholders: promoting and reinforcing commitment and multisectoral engagement.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

In the period 2020-2022, the Department for Chemicals of the Ministry of Environmental Protection launched an initiative to improve cooperation with the health sector. A road map of chemicals in the health sector was prepared, and a draft of the National Program on the Impact of the Substances of Very High Concern to Human Health was prepared in accordance with the Ostrava Declaration.

CSO activities are limited to a few organizations. EASD as NGO SAICM National Focal point participated at some related international meetings - subject of financial support and further promoted activities and process at national level (like Global Meeting & Forum on Chemicals and Waste, 2020, Criteria for Substances of International Concern Beyond 2020, SAICM WG on Governance and Mechanisms to support Implementation - from October 2020, lead to IP4 in 2021, in September 2021 participated at SAICM CEE regional meeting / briefing, 2022 SAICM Regional Meeting, Central and Eastern Europe, Prague, Czech Republic, 12 to 13 May, 2022, participated at 4th Meeting of the Intersessional Process for Considering SAICM and the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste Beyond 2020, Bucharest 2022, following process towards ICCMS).

10. Establish and strengthen national legislative and regulatory frameworks for chemicals and waste: improving capacity to address the basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste and encouraging regional cooperation.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

In order to improve capacity to address basic elements of the sound management of chemicals and waste, EASD - NGO SAICM National Focal point developed new EASD/IPEN online course in English and Serbian – FOSTERING FEMALE LEADERSHIP: TRAINING WOMEN TO ADDRESS CHEMICALS AND WASTE IN THE PUBLIC SETTING. Also in July 2022 – EASD join the Initiative: Urgent call for a strong SAICM-Beyond-2020-Framework ensuring sound chemicals and waste management. In addition, EASD promote initiative through our networks and social media.

At the final conference of the project “Strengthening the Synergy in the Implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata conventions in the Republic of Serbia”, the exchange of experience with the countries of the Western Balkan was organized.

Also, two study visits were organized for the competent authorities for the chemical management of the Republic of Moldova and the Republic of Albania, where the national legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia was presented. Series of presentations were held with our experience in the harmonization and implementation of the EU aquis.

11. Mainstream the sound management of chemicals and waste in the sustainable development agenda: advancing risk reduction and enhancing the link between the sound management of chemicals and waste and health, labour, and social and economic development planning, processes, and budgets.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Throughout the process of preparation of the National Strategy within the Green Agenda for the Western Balkan, the sound management of chemicals were addressed through the Circular Economy pillar and the Pollution Prevention pillar with respect of SDG 12.

12. Increase risk reduction and information sharing efforts on emerging policy issues: continuing to promote actions on issues not currently addressed in existing agreements, complementing initiatives taken by other bodies.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Active participation was achieved in establishing the SPP-CWP panel as well as cooperation with the academic sector. Education on the topic of intentionally added microplastics in detergents and cosmetic products has already been conducted in cooperation with Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Serbia. EASD - NGO SAICM National focal point performed action: Call to action for a tomorrow without toxics, and support a Call on governments related transparency requirements on chemicals in plastics to support the effectiveness of the (future) Plastic Treaty
13. Promote information access: increasing the accessibility of relevant information and making it understandable for all levels of society.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

Special attention was paid to the education of marginalized groups (Roma population), collectors of secondary raw materials, on hazardous properties of chemicals and the handling of hazardous waste.
Example of Information for all levels of society is EASD e-awareness raising campaign: attention to environmentally and health friendly waste management in corona virus pandemic related situation,
All information about the legislative framework is available on the website of the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Update of the section for consumers has started.

14. Assess progress toward the 2020 goal of minimizing the adverse effects of chemicals on human health and the environment: identifying achievements, understanding the gaps in implementation, and prioritizing actions moving forward.

If your answer is too long, please consider sending us any additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc). More detail is in the next section.

In line with available information, Ministry of Environmental Protection will soon begin with the implementation of the project “Further Strengthening of National Capacity and Risk Management of Hazardous Substances throughout their Life Cycle”, which will cover the topics of microplastics, nanomaterials, substances of global concern, and the education and raising the awareness of young people, school children as well as consumers and teachers on chemicals labels and safer handling of hazardous chemicals for general use and recycling, reuse and reduce of plastic waste.
CSOs are committed to further activities. However, in reality these are projects related and subject of financial support.

Additional supporting information

Additional supporting information (reports, publications, etc) should be provided to saicm.chemicals@un.org (cc: juan.caicedo@un.org and can.zhui@un.org)