



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **European Union CBRN Centres of Excellence Initiative**

### **Strengthening of Front Line Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures in SEEE Region Project 100 Kickoff Meeting 17 October 2023**

This pivotal project aimed at enhancing Biosafety and Biosecurity measures in the South East and Eastern European (SEEE) region officially commenced on October 17th, 2023, with a dynamic kickoff meeting at the Renaissance Hotel in Brussels, Belgium with the participation of the SEEE CBRN CoE Regional Secretariat and the national representatives of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, North Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, and Ukraine. The project, labeled "P100 Strengthening of Front Line Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures in the South East and Eastern European Region," is set to span 36 months and involves a consortium of stakeholders dedicated to advancing front line biosafety and biosecurity measures in the region.

This initiative is born out of the realization that effective management of front-line biosafety and biosecurity measures is of paramount importance. The project's primary goal is to bolster the existing capacities, practices, resources, and regulatory frameworks in the SEEE partner countries, and enhance the national, cross-border, sub-regional and regional cooperation between the participating countries through various technical workshops, exercises and trainings. This will be done with a specific focus on state borders, and customs clearance zones. The expected outcome is the identification of key agencies, assessment of regulations, evaluation of existing capacities, identification of national teams for future training initiatives and conduction of trainings and exercises on the national, sub-regional and regional levels. The project unfolds in two key phases:

#### **Phase I: Baseline Assessment**

Under Phase I, the project partners will conduct a comprehensive assessment of the existing state of biosafety and biosecurity measures. This included the identification of regulatory gaps and the assessment of capabilities in partner countries. The outcome of this phase provides a solid foundation for the subsequent actions.

#### **Phase II: Implementation**

Phase II comprises of the following distinct tasks:

1. **Development of Procedures and Methodologies:** This package focuses on elaborating guidelines

and procedures for front-line and supportive personnel of the participating countries involved with and responsible for the front line biosafety and biosecurity measures in their respective countries. It includes collaborating with national experts and trainers to develop comprehensive standard operating procedures for front-line and supportive personnel, covering areas such as hazard detection, personal safety, and more. International best practices are reviewed to ensure alignment.

2. **Enhancing National Inter-Agency Cooperation:** This phase aims to ensure the national capacity building through the provision of pilot Train the Trainers (TTT) courses, specialized country-specific training programs, and sustainable national training and exercises in Integrated Management of Front-Line Biosafety and Biosecurity measures.
3. **Enhancing Cross-Border Cooperation and Transfer of Best Practices:** this task is focused on establishing and enhancing cross-border, sub-regional, and regional cooperation. Key Activities within this task include the establishment of communication channels, sub-regional and cross-border field exercises, and regional table-top exercises. The emphasis is on the transfer of EU best practices on Integrated Border Security Management, with a specific focus on strengthening of the frontline Biosafety and Biosecurity measures. These activities foster cooperation and knowledge sharing among participating countries and promote the sustainability of CoE projects and the EU CBRN CoE risk mitigation initiative.

The kickoff meeting in Brussels marked the beginning of an ambitious journey towards enhancement of front line bio safety and bio security measures in the SEEE region. The project team is eager to collaborate, learn, and make a tangible difference.

For further information and updates on the "P100 Strengthening of Front Line Biosafety and Biosecurity Measures in SEEE Region" project, please visit <http://www.coe-project100.stcu.int> or contact Gunay Rzaeva, Project Tam Lader for Project 100 at [Gunay.Rzaeva@gmail.com](mailto:Gunay.Rzaeva@gmail.com).



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The European Union is made up of 28 countries and the people of those countries. It is a unique political and economic partnership founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, equality, the rule of law and human rights. Over more than fifty years we have created a zone of peace, democracy, stability and prosperity on our continent while maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The EU looks to share its values and achievements with neighboring countries and peoples and those farther afield



This project is implemented by the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine

The STCU is an intergovernmental organization that is funded by the European Union and the US Government and aims to advance global peace and prosperity through cooperative Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) risk mitigation by supporting civilian science and technology partnerships and collaboration that address global security threats and advance non-proliferation in Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and Azerbaijan.