Lead Partner

Health Protection Agency, Centre for Radiation, Chemical and Environmental Hazards (CRCE), Oxfordshire, UK

Associate Partners

Universitaetsmedizin Goettingen, Georg-August-Universitaet, GIZ-Nord Poisons Centre, Goettingen, Germany
Centre Hospitalier Régional Universitaire de Lille, Poisons Information Centre, Lille, France
Health Emergency Situations Centre, Poisons Control and Information Bureau, Vilnius, Lithuania
Norwegian Poisons Information Centre, Norwegian Directorate of Health, Oslo, Norway
National Institute of Health (Instituto Superiore di Sanità), NHI (ISS), Rome, Italy
General University Hospital (GUH), Toxicological Information Centre (TIS), Department of Occupational Medicine, Prague, Czech Republic

Subcontracting Partners

Milano Poison Control Centre, Italy
UK National Poisons Information Service (NPIS)

Collaborating Partners

Institut de Veille Sanitaire (INVS), France
Bundesterinstitut fuer Risikobewertung (BfR), Germany
Medical Dictionary for Medical Regulatory Authorities (MedDRA)
European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPPCT)
World Health Organization (WHO)
European Chemical Industry Council, EU (CEFIC)
Department of Health, UK
Ministry of Health, Czech Republic
Ministry of Health, Germany
American Association of Poisons Control Centres, USA (AAPCC)
Swiss Toxicological Information Centre, Switzerland
National Poisons Information Centre, Ireland
National Poison Control Centre, Ljubljana, Slovenia

For further information, or if you would like to become a collaborating partner, please contact ASHT@HPA.org.uk or for more information visit www.ASHT.EU

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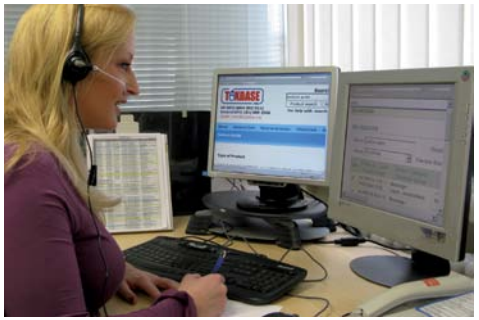

ASHT!

Alerting, Reporting and Surveillance System for Chemical Health Threats Phase III

ASHTIII Project Overview

The Alerting, Reporting and Surveillance System for Chemical Health Threats Phase III (ASHTIII) is a part EU-funded project aimed at improving health security from cross-border chemical health threats. ASHTIII seeks to further develop the functionality and sustainability of the Rapid Alerting System for Chemical Health Threats (RAS-CHEM) and promote the use and implementation of the project amongst EU Member States. This project seeks to understand and address the gaps in the risk communication, assessment and management of chemical incidents that were identified in past EU-funded health security projects.

Expected Outcomes

The project will enhance risk communication, hazard identification and risk management for chemical health threats. The project outputs will aid the European Commission and Member States to better coordinate the response to major cross-border chemical health threats. The project may also enable EU Member States to meet reporting requirements for EU biocide and pesticide directives.

For the successful implementation and uptake of RAS-CHEM, it is important that EU Member State Authorities have access to appropriate tools to aid in the risk communication, risk assessment and risk management of chemical incidents in a harmonised manner. The project also aims to foster closer collaboration between competent authorities in EU Member States, such as poisons centres, national public health institutions, regulatory authorities, health ministries and the European Commission. To facilitate the wider engagement of European poisons centres, project members will link with existing networks and scientific meetings, such as the European Association of Poisons Centres and Clinical Toxicologists (EAPCCT), to consult with stakeholders and disseminate information on the project to aid the implementation of RAS-CHEM.

By the end of the project EU Member States should have access to RAS-CHEM and be familiar with the 'Risk Management' and 'Risk Assessment' components of the alerting system. The 'Risk Management' tier is designed for national public health authorities and health ministries to aid in the implementation of risk management measures; the 'Risk Assessment' tier is for poisons centres and public health professionals involved in the provision of chemical incident management advice during the acute phase of an incident to aid in the hazard identification and risk assessment process.

The benefits of implementing RAS-CHEM throughout the 27 EU Member States include having improved surveillance and reporting of chemical incidents and exposures throughout Europe and ensuring that RAS-CHEM and the 'network of experts' are a sustainable and viable tool after the cessation of the project and for the long-term future.

Specific Objectives

- Develop and test a Toxidrome Matrix IT Tool for the RAS-CHEM platform to improve the sensitivity of the system for the early detection and identification of chemical health threats.
- Produce Chemical Emergency Medical Management (CEMM) sheets for the treatment and management of chemical casualties; incorporate these into the RAS-CHEM platform.
- Determine if further development of RAS-CHEM can support Member States to comply with EU biocide and pesticides directives
- Develop a robust mechanism to monitor toxicological data to increase global health awareness. This will include evaluating the feasibility of establishing a 'network of experts' to monitor toxicological data reported to RAS-CHEM and produce CEMM sheets to emerging health threats.
- Further develop, test and evaluate mining EU poisons centre case data to better understand the technical and political obstacles to using this information to improve global heath awareness of toxic exposures.