

**Establishment of a Central and  
Eastern European Regional  
Network of Laboratories for  
Detection of LMOs and Centers of  
Excellence  
BBI request  
Belarus&Moldova**

# Overall objective

- The *overall objective* of the project is to establish regional collaboration and develop institutional capacities within participating countries to facilitate the detection and identification of LMOs with the view to ensure conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and supporting the implementation of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety.

# Scope

- The increased collaboration that will result from activities held through the establishment of the network will contribute to improved communication on biosafety related issues as well as harmonisation of the regulative and administrative fields. It will also provide a means for the continuous professional development of relevant laboratory personnel through the facilitation of knowledge sharing and networking.

# CEE regional countries

- The project will promote collaboration between Belarus and Moldova and facilitate technical expertise and technological transfer to a number of the countries in the region: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan etc.

## *Specific objectives:*

- Development of national legal and procedural frameworks to support detection and identification of LMOs;
- Training of administrative and laboratory personnel on the methods and protocols for the detection and identification of LMOs;
- Establish Centres of Excellence to ensure sustainable training and consultative activity within the participating countries in the field of laboratory detection and identification, public information, BCH and long-term regional collaboration.

# Belarus

The Institute of Genetics and Cytology has consistent capacities to serve as a Center of Excellence, to ensure continued national and regional training of laboratory personnel in order to ensure that they are staffed with qualified laboratory staff. In 2017 the National Coordination Biosafety Centre was re-equipped with the new equipment for quantitative and digital PCR.

# Moldova

- The Moldovan Biosafety Office of the MADRM in collaboration with the Laboratory of Biosafety of the State University of Moldova also has the capacity to serve as a Center of Excellence in the fields of Biosafety training, communication and BCH, risk assessment and LMO detection. A number of regional initiatives has been promoted to ensure CEE regional communication and networking.

# *Proposed project activities*

- The project will include 3 components:
- Harmonization of national and regional legal, normative and methodological frameworks in selected CEE countries.
- Trainings of laboratory personnel and specialists on LMO detection and identification using the model of the draft training manual suggested by the Cartagena Protocol. The trainings will be organized by the Institute of Genetics and Cytology, NAS of Belarus and the Biosafety Office of the Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment of Moldova. International experts from JRC and BCH advisers will be invited to provide training assistance and share international and regional experience in this matter.
- Development of the Regional Network of detection laboratories and Centers of excellences. The CEE regional BCH Networks would be a part of activity of the Centers of Excellence.

# The main outcomes of the project:

- - Draft amendments to the main national laws, of the participating countries with respect to laboratory detection and identification of LMOs, and draft Regulations on detection and identification will be prepared;
- - 3 training workshops on detection and identification methods, validation of methods, and accreditation of laboratories will be organized;
- - Regional CEE Network of detection laboratories and the Centers of Excellence (CE) are established and registered to the BCH portal. One workshop on the program of work of the CE will be organized.