



PRESS RELEASE

19 July 2011

Signing of the Memorandum of Implementation between the Ministry of Health of Ukraine and the Science and Technology Center in Ukraine concerning the project “Bio-safety and bio-security Improvement at the Ukrainian Anti-Plague Station in Simferopol”

On 19 July 2011, Minister of Health of Ukraine Mr. O. Anischenko and Science and Technology Center in Ukraine (STCU) Executive Director, Mr. A. Hood, signed a Memorandum of Implementation for cooperation and coordination of activities in the framework of the project “**Bio-safety and bio-security Improvement at the Ukrainian Anti-Plague Station in Simferopol**”. This action is aimed at facilities’ reconstruction in accordance with modern international bio-safety and bio-security standards. The project funded by European Union (EU) through the STCU will last for a 36 months period.

Intensive preparative work preceded project start from January 2006 when during a Troika meeting on Non-proliferation and Global Disarmament, Ukraine requested support from EU to enhance bio-safety to prevent contamination and spread of dangerous infections pathogens and improve physical protection of stored pathogen agents handled at the UAPS.

Project tasks include (1) securing existing UAPS facility in Simferopol, (2) building, within the available budget of the STCU-EU Contribution Agreement, a new facility according to Ministry of Health of Ukraine’s mission for Simferopol UAPS and to ensure safety according to modern standards and (3) providing adequate UAPS staff training.

This project is very timely given the cholera outbreak that took place in the south of Ukraine (22 sickness cases registered by MoH on 11.07.2011). Project implementation at UAPS, on improving biosecurity and biosafety systems, will allow reducing significantly the risks in Crimea region and increasing the safety level for the population and tourists by offering a new monitoring platform.

ABOUT STCU: The Science and Technology Center in Ukraine is an intergovernmental, non-profit organization created with the goal of aiding scientists previously working on the development of weapons of mass destruction. The STCU was created and is governed by the “Agreement to Establish a Science and Technology Center in Ukraine” originally signed by Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, and the United States of America in 1993. Subsequently, Sweden was replaced by the European Union in 1998 and Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova and Uzbekistan have also become signatories to the agreement. The STCU finances projects which convert the military know-how of the scientists of our recipient states into peaceful civilian applications. Other than regular projects, the STCU also works in a number of other spheres of activity, which include: Matchmaking, Promotional Missions, Seminars and Workshops, Partnership Projects, and Patenting Support.

For more information on the Center’s activities please visit our website at <http://www.stcu.int>