

INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Closing date
for applications:
> **December 31
2025**

National Chemicals Management – from Knowledge to Action

Dear Reader

The safe management of chemicals is a global priority with significant implications for human health and the environment. While chemicals contribute to improved health, productivity, and quality of life, the improper handling of hazardous substances can lead to serious harm, especially in the absence of sufficient knowledge or preventive measures. Effective chemicals management is therefore essential.

A preventive system, including accurate classification and labelling of chemical products, is key to ensuring that users have access to reliable information and can make informed decisions. These are critical steps toward a non-toxic environment.

The foundation for safe chemicals management must be established at the national level. This International Capacity Development Programme is specifically designed for professionals working in institutions responsible for national chemicals control, primarily ministries and authorities. It targets individuals with the qualifications, mandate, and motivation to participate in and lead reform processes within their institutions and countries.

With guidance from experienced Swedish experts, the programme offers tailored support to help institutions grow stronger and more sustainable over time. Participants will discover the latest developments in chemicals management, exchange knowledge with peers from around the world, and gain practical skills to apply new and effective working methods. They will also have the chance to build valuable national and international collaborations and networks that support long-term efforts in preventive chemicals control.

The programme is founded on the belief that meaningful change requires committed institutions willing to allocate their own resources. A particular focus is placed on the upstream responsibilities in the chemical supply chain, ensuring that users receive reliable information from suppliers.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) coordinates the programme. As Sweden's government authority for chemicals, KEMI uses its expertise in legislation, supervision, risk reduction, and international cooperation to share both Swedish and global best practices.

This brochure outlines the programme's objectives, structure, content, and application process. We warmly invite your institution to nominate suitable candidates for this important initiative.

Sofia Östmark
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL
AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR
GLOBAL OPERATIONS
Sida

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DIRECTOR GENERAL
Swedish Chemicals Agency

Programme objectives

The **overall objective** of the programme is to contribute to the protection of human health and the environment from chemical-related risks. In doing so, the programme also contributes to reducing societal costs, promoting sustainable development, supporting human rights, and contributing to poverty reduction.

The **ultimate objective** of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of relevant stakeholders in participating countries to implement effective and preventive national chemicals control.

The **intermediate objective** is to build and enhance the capacity for preventive chemicals control within the participating institutions.

The **immediate output** is that participating institutions receive training in preventive chemicals control and use what they learn to develop and carry out change projects that help strengthen national chemicals control.

Programme Content

The programme offers an overview of the key elements of national chemicals control, including the benefits and drawbacks of various legislative approaches to defining roles and responsibilities, and the importance of cooperation among actors and stakeholders. It places particular emphasis on developing and implementing effective preventive chemicals control at the national level.

The overview of national chemicals control is addressed in two steps: a general introduction to the core elements of chemicals control, followed by a more detailed exploration of selected core elements.

Beyond technical aspects of chemicals control, the programme incorporates critical cross-cutting issues such as human rights, gender equality, communication, change management, environment and climate, and poverty reduction.

A cornerstone of the programme is the change project, designed and carried out by each participant as part of their regular work. These projects strengthen national chemicals control by tackling real challenges with the tools and skills gained from the programme. With strong support from their home institution and alignment with strategic priorities, participants can achieve lasting impact – especially when they collaborate on joint or coordinated projects.

Programme structure

PHASES

The programme is structured around two mandatory phases: a training phase and an application phase. During the training phase, participants build foundational knowledge and share experiences. In the subsequent application phase, they actively apply what they have learned to real-world challenges through specific change projects. Participants are expected to engage continuously with their projects throughout the entire programme.

Training Phase

The training phase takes place over three weeks at KEMI in Stockholm, Sweden. It includes lectures, group discussions, workshops and study visits to relevant authorities, industries, and organisations, giving participants a broad view of national chemicals control. Participants also choose a specialised focus area when applying to the programme. In addition, the training phase integrates key cross-cutting themes such as human rights, gender equality, communication, change management, environmental sustainability, climate action, and poverty reduction.

During this phase, the participants begin designing their change project. Before leaving Sweden, each participant presents a project plan to lay the groundwork for implementation.

The training phase is scheduled for **13-30 April 2026**.

Application Phase

The application phase begins as the participants design and plan their change projects, a process initiated during the training phase. Throughout this phase, mentors provide continuous support to guide the participants in developing and implementing their projects.

In addition to mentoring, the participants have access to experts on subject matters who offer specialised knowledge to assist with project execution.

The participants are given approximately one year to carry out their change projects, starting from the initial design and planning done during the training in Sweden.

This phase concludes with dedicated project seminars held in the participants' home countries. KEMI will organise one seminar per country, where the participants present their project results. These seminars bring together representatives from the participants' institutions, project stakeholders, and other relevant parties.

LEARNING METHODS

Active participation from both the participants and their institutions is expected throughout the entire duration of the programme. A variety of learning methods are used to support knowledge-building and practical application, including lectures and guest talks, discussions, case studies, interactive exercises and workshops, group work, and study visits to relevant authorities, industries, and other organisations.

Small-group workshops, guided by mentors, provide targeted support for developing and implementing the change projects.

To ensure close interaction and a supportive learning environment, the number of participants is limited to 30, allowing for strong engagement with lecturers, mentors, and fellow participants.

MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

The programme is led by Swedish experts with extensive experience in national and international chemicals management. These experts deliver lectures covering key strategies, frameworks, and best practices in the field.

A dedicated team of experienced mentors support the participants throughout the change project process, offering strategic and technical guidance.

FOLLOW-UP AND EVALUATION

KEMI conducts follow-up and evaluation of the change project outcomes in cooperation with the participating institutions. This ensures that project results are applied effectively and contribute to enhanced national capacity for chemicals management.

KEMI also monitors the overall programme performance to ensure it delivers on the stated objectives and generates a lasting impact.

Admission requirements

INVITED COUNTRIES

Preliminary focus countries for the programme include Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Ukraine, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

TARGET GROUP

The programme is designed to support ministries and authorities in strengthening their capacity for national chemicals control, by working with the professionals who carry out this work. It is aimed at mid- to senior-level individuals involved in chemicals management, helping them gain skills and insights that benefit their institutions. Candidates should hold a university degree in natural or technical sciences, or equivalent education. Institutions are encouraged to nominate at least two candidates.

PRE-KNOWLEDGE REQUIREMENTS

In order to be eligible for consideration, applicants should demonstrate a basic understanding of chemicals and waste management. As part of this requirement, the successful completion of the following two online courses is mandatory:

- Legislation for Chemicals Placed on the Market
- Sustainable Financing of Institutional Capacity for Chemicals Control

The courses are accessible at the following websites:

- <https://event.unitar.org/full-catalog/legislation-chemicals-placed-market>
- <https://event.unitar.org/full-catalog/sustainable-financing-institutional-capacity-chemicals-control>

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The programme is organised and conducted in English, without any translation. Candidates from countries where English is not an official language should take a language test with an official body in their home country, if documentation supporting his/her proficiency in English cannot be provided. KEMI may conduct interviews as part of the selection process.

HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

It is recommended that candidates undergo a medical examination as the programme includes travel and work away from home in a new environment.

INSURANCE

Participants are covered by a group insurance for emergency medical care in case of an accident or severe acute illness during their stay in Sweden.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Participants should be able to participate in all phases of the programme and all activities, including social activities. Basic computer skills and an email address are necessary for participation in the programme. Access to a stable Internet connection to be able to participate in the digital sessions and meetings during the programme is required. Participants are recommended to bring own computer for the training phase in Sweden. Family members are not permitted to accompany programme participants.

COSTS

International travel to and from Sweden, board and lodging, in-country travel within Sweden, programme fees, and literature are covered by Sida. Airline tickets will be booked by KEMI and issued by a travel agency with which KEMI has an agreement. Tickets will be arranged according to the dates of the training phase. Any changes to this booking due to personal preferences are the responsibility of the participant.

Participants and their institutions are responsible for covering the costs of implementing the change project, personal expenses, travel within their home country, visa fees, local airport taxes, and departure fees.

VISA

Participants and their institutions are responsible for securing all necessary visas and ensuring passport validity. Visa-related inquiries should be made to the respective Embassy/Consulate of Sweden or other Schengen representation entities promptly after admission. More information is available on the Sweden Migration Board website <http://www.migrationsverket.se>

ACCOMMODATION

During the training phase, participants are accommodated at the same apartment hotel to facilitate networking and collaboration.

CERTIFICATE

Participants who complete all programme requirements, including implementation, reporting and presenting of the change project, will receive a Certificate of Completion.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

The application for the programme is submitted through KEMI online training portal at <https://training.kemi.se/> by selecting Course catalogue and then selecting the programme in the catalogue.

As part of the application, each participant must include a short description of their proposed change project. When selecting candidates, special emphasis will be placed on joint or coordinated projects. Applicants may request a list of identified national challenges to inspire their project ideas by contacting KEMI at ITP@training.se before submitting their application in the portal.

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If the applicant already has a user account in the portal, they must use the same account to log in. Selected candidates are notified within three weeks of the application deadline and must confirm participation within another two weeks. Notifications are sent via email with practical details about the programme.

As part of Sida's work with capacity and institutional development Sida offers international capacity development programmes for participants from low- and middle-income countries in prioritized areas. The programmes cover areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development of co-operating countries and are based on identified priorities and needs. In the long-term perspective, the programmes will contribute to institutional strengthening and capacity development in the co-operating countries.

ORGANISER AND PARTNERS

KEMI

Kemikalieinspektionen
Swedish Chemicals Agency

All queries and requests should be addressed to:

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Box 2, SE-172 13 Sundbyberg, Sweden
Phone: +46 8 519 41 100
E-mail: itp@kemi.se
Web: www.kemi.se

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) offers, as part of its bilateral development assistance, capacity development activities in areas of strategic importance to the social, environmental and economic development in the countries participating. The purpose of the International Capacity Development Programmes is to provide resources and develop knowledge, skills and expertise to organisations with strong legitimacy in relation to target groups, democracy practices etc. in areas given priority in Swedish development cooperation. The programme is based on identified priorities and needs in which Swedish expertise is in demand.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency (KEMI) is a central supervisory authority under the Ministry of Climate and Enterprise. KEMI has a very broad remit in the field of chemicals, encompassing everything from involvement in the development of rules to their enforcement. The main task is to ensure that chemicals available on the market can be used without causing harm to human health or to the environment.

The Swedish Chemicals Agency

- works on the regulatory development in the area of chemicals
- inspects chemicals manufacturers and importers and provide guidance to regional and local authorities in their inspection of chemicals control
- maintains a national products register to which all manufacturers and importers of chemical products annually report data concerning their products
- produces official statistics on the use of chemicals
- assesses and decides upon applications for approval of pesticides (plants protection products and biocides)
- participates in the development of international conventions and their implementation
- contributes with knowledge to promote research and development that is of particular importance for achieving the environmental quality objective "a non-toxic environment"
- provides general information and support to companies, authorities and other concerned stakeholders on issues related to chemical safety, chemicals legislation and other related issues, e.g. by developing tools (e.g. IT-based tools) to make it easier for operators to take responsibility for safe chemical choices and management
- monitors the development on health and environmental risks from chemicals and biotechnical products, keep the government informed on such issues and, when necessary, propose measures.

SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

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