Building Biosafety/Biosecurity Capacity - Essential Part of Supporting the BWC’s Response to Advances in S&T

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The Soviet Anti – Plague System

- The Former Soviet Union operated a large and unique network of facilities, called the "anti-plague system," whose main mission was to control deadly endemic diseases and to prevent the importation of exotic pathogens from other countries.

- Throughout the Soviet era, the Anti-Plague (AP) system appears to have worked effectively, preventing major epidemics from claiming the lives of Soviet citizens in regions where diseases such as anthrax, brucellosis, bubonic plague, Crimean-Congo Hemorrhagic Fever, and tularemia were endemic.

- In the 1960s, however, the AP system was directed to undertake tasks under the Soviet biological warfare (BW) program.
All specialists at Soviet Anti-Plague System were prepared at specialized institutions

- Kazakh Anti-Plague Institute
- Stavropol Anti-Plague Institute
- Irkust Anti-Plague Institute. etc.
Not Only Researchers who deal with EDPs Face Dual – Use Dilemma…

- There is only one institution preparing specialists in life sciences that had introduced the course of biosafety/biosecurity – Agricultural University of Georgia
- In most of educational institutions, when they speak about “biosafety” and “biosecurity” they mainly consider GMOs
Survey on Awareness

We had carried out survey on awareness on biosafety, biosecurity and misuse in biotechnology

- Students/staff of life sciences faculties in different institutions
- Staff of research institutions
- Public health facilities
None of educational institutions had the course on biosafety/biosecurity in their curricula, there were some topics on bioethics in some disciplines included.

No courses or even lectures on bioterrorism prevention, dual – use of life sciences.

Tbilisi State University had used Bradford National Series in their Epidemiology and Public Health course.
Regional Secretariat for Central Asia

Partner countries:

Afghanistan

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Uzbekistan

Pakistan

Mongolia
EU CBRN CoE Project 56 –
On-site Technical Assistance to the CBRN CoE Secretariats in Algiers and Tashkent
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- In Uzbekistan the situation is similar to Georgia

Vozrozhdeniya Island
Trainings

September 18, 2018 - Training in Biorisk Management and CBRN Risks at the Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT)
Trainings

September 19, 2018 - Biorisk Management and biosafety/biosecurity during the works with GMOs and genetic engineering at the Institute of Genetics and Plant Experimental Biology
Awareness Raising among Children on CBRN Issues
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BACAC – Bridging the Gaps

EU CBRN CoE/Biosafety Association for Central Asia and the Caucasus (BACAC) Conference – March 13 – 14, 2019, Tashkent, Uzbekistan