ASBESTOS LABORATORY UPDATE

Presentation - Asbestos Detection Laboratory ECO LAB

January 2026

ECO LAB: Introduction

The asbestos laboratory project in Kryvyi Rih, initiated by the **Ukraine Resilience Charity**, aims to address asbestos contamination from war-damaged materials. **It will operate as a non-governmental, non-profit organization to ensure the accessibility of services.**
The project is being implemented in partnership with the **Scientific Research Mining Institute at KRYVYI RIH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY,** specializing in mineral extraction and environmental safety. The University will have access to the laboratory's equipment, enabling students and researchers to use it for academic and applied research. The University is the ultimate beneficiary of the asbestos laboratory.

The Ukraine Resilience Charity will lead and launch the project, overseeing all processes with donors, suppliers, and contractors, including procurement procedures. Operational implementation, documentation and licenses will be carried out by the dedicated charity **EcoLab.**
The project's mission is to ensure **safer asbestos management** in addition to contributing to **Ukraine's overall resilience and recovery by leveraging circular economy principles.**

- **The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has signed a financing agreement covering 49.7% of the total project cost, and additional funding efforts have commenced.**
- **The World Bank financed a short training course for laboratory staff in France.**



Achieved Goals:

- Reception of optical microscopy equipment and essential primary technical equipment for conducting asbestos detection analyses has been secured.

- Renovation works on the premises are being finalised.

- With financial support from the World Bank, a short training was conducted at the French laboratory AD-LAB, which has 30 years of experience in asbestos detection. The focus was on practical skills in asbestos detection.

Next Steps:

- ➢ Training of laboratory staff and the Ukrainian Laboratory of Quality and Safety of Agricultural Products specialists at the Kyiv Polytechnic Institute named after Igor Sikorsky.
- ➢ Training of laboratory staff at the Kryvyi Rih National University: Involvement of geology department experts for conducting trainings using Eco Lab laboratory equipment.
- ➢ Long-term in-depth training in France and Netherlands: Deepening expertise through extended programs in leading laboratories to enhance specialists' qualifications.
- ➢ Securing funding and procuring electron microscopy equipment (SEM)

Priorities:

1. **Primary emphasis on professional training and continuous improvement of laboratory staff qualifications to ensure the accuracy and reliability of results.**
2. **To achieve optimal results, the EcoLab laboratory follow Germany and Switzerland's experience, integrating SEM and relevant ISO standards.**

   *Across countries, the choice of analytical equipment for asbestos detection is driven by national regulations and standards. For example, France relies on electron microscopy, while the Netherlands combines PCM with SEM (Air: ISO 14966; Bulk: ISO 22262). Germany and Switzerland place particular emphasis on SEM coupled with *EDS, following VDI-based and ISO/VDI approaches, enabling higher confidence identification thanks to improved resolution and elemental analysis.*

   In parallel, we prioritise expanding collaboration networks and maintaining close cooperation with state institutes, laboratories, scientific organisations and other stakeholders. This is not a one-off initiative, but part of a continuous effort to strengthen the laboratory's long-term capacity and contribution to the field.

1. **The laboratory staff consists exclusively of women.**

   This reflects gender-balanced employment practices and the empowerment of women in technical and scientific roles (STEM).

** EDS stands for **Energy-Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy** (also called Energy-Dispersive Spectroscopy). It's an analytical technique used in conjunction with electron microscopy (like SEM - Scanning Electron Microscopy) to determine the elemental composition of materials.*

Advantages for Donors

- **Public health protection:** Reducing asbestos exposure risks for workers and communities through reliable testing and certification systems.
- **Advancement of EU integration and governance reforms:** Strengthening Ukraine's institutional capacity to implement EU-aligned environmental monitoring and risk management frameworks. Ensuring that recovery and rebuilding efforts across Ukraine are conducted safely and in full compliance with EU environmental and occupational standards.
- **Capacity building and technology transfer:** Developing national expertise in advanced material analysis through training and knowledge exchange with leading European laboratories.
- **Long-term sustainability:** The laboratory will operate on a cost-recovery model, providing accredited services that ensure its continued operation and financial independence beyond initial donor support.
- **Contribution to SDG Goals 3.9 and 11.6 :** By 2030, substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination and reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management
- **Visibility and international partnership recognition:** Contributors will be acknowledged as key partners in establishing a first-in-class facility that directly advances Ukraine's environmental resilience and public health infrastructure.

THANK YOU

Kate Le Moignic

Director of International Relations

klemoignic@neo-eco.com

+33 6 47 36 20 83

Natalia Redko

Project Developer

nredko@neo-eco.com

+380 672090783