

### **3. BCH Project**

The Project Building Capacity for Effective Participation in the Biosafety Clearing-House (BCH Project) was an add-on project to the Project Support for the Implementation of the Draft National Biosafety Framework for the Czech Republic. It started in 2006 and ended in December 2008. The main aim of the project was to develop national system and mechanisms enabling participation of the Czech Republic in the global Biosafety Clearing-House and fulfil its commitments as a Party to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. Ministry of the Environment was appointed as the National Executing Agency (NEA). As to National BCH System, among 4 possibilities the option 1 was chosen – using the BCH Central Portal.

The Project has been developed on the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding concluded between UNEP and the Ministry of the Environment of the Czech Republic. The BCH Task Force was established to assist in the implementation of the Project, which consisted of representatives of the Ministry of the Environment (NEA), Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Health, universities, the NBF Implementation Project coordinator and originally also of the Czech Environmental Information Agency (CENIA). The last organization was charged at the beginning by BCH data processing and webpage management. During the last year of the Project implementation, the Environmental Risks Department of the Ministry of the Environment – Biosafety Unit took charge of these important activities and succeeded in establishment of the new BCH website ([www.mzp.cz/biosafety](http://www.mzp.cz/biosafety)). The Biosafety Unit continues in the BCH website operating and updating. All required data are provided using respective national sources in cooperation with other sectors and responsible organizations, on the basis of national legislation and concluded agreements.

The Project was closed by the final joint meeting with the Slovak Republic, with participation of the UNEP expert team representative, on December 9, 2008. The results are summarized in the Proceedings of the Final Workshop (Ministry of the Environment, Prague, December 2008).