

The European Union's REACH Regulation places high responsibility for chemicals management on industries. However, many emitters downstream of the supply chain are small companies using substances and mixtures in their production who are often unaware of what they contain. They lack the knowledge, skills and funds to find alternative substances.

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH **aims**

at preparing small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) to face the future challenges for chemicals management. It means for them, to understand the restrictions of tomorrow already today. The project offers them a full "chemicals management package" including: capacity building on CLP/MSDS literacy, information about an inventory of chemicals and general management practices, proposals on how to implement substitution as a core action to reduce environmental impacts.

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH **will:**

- Test and implement a set of complex measures in six companies which shall substitute some of the identified hazardous substances or increase the efficiency of the resource use and lead to reduction of emissions of these substances.
- Implement "low effort – low costs" measures to substitute the target hazardous substances or to introduce good chemicals management practices in additional 50-80 SMEs.
- Develop the online tools to assist in proper management of chemicals in SMEs.
- Disseminate the information about the implementation of REACH regulation and its optimum implementation to all interested SMEs in the Baltic States and contribute to greening of the industry with regards to better chemicals management.

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH **team**

Experts

Baltic Environmental Forum Latvia
Ecodesign Competence Centre, Latvia
Baltic Environmental Forum Estonia
Hendrikson&Ko Ltd, Estonia
Baltic Environmental Forum Lithuania
Institute of Environmental Engineering, Kaunas
University of Technology, Lithuania
Centre of Environmental Policy, Lithuania
REACH help desks of Estonia, Latvia,
and Lithuania (associated)

Partner companies

Construction chemicals - Tenachem, Ltd.,
JSC Henkel Makroflex, Epokate, Ltd.
Consumer chemicals - JSC Mayeri Industries
Ship construction and repair - JSC Vakarų Metalgama
Food production – JSC Marijampolės Pieno Konservai

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH **duration**

10/2015 – 03/2020

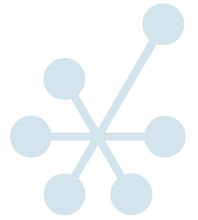
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Latvijas
vides
aizsardzības
fonds

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Baltic pilot cases on reduction of emissions by substitution of hazardous chemicals and resource efficiency

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substitution activities

Food industry

Substance to be substituted: **Bisphenol A**
Current use: preservative in epoxy resins for lining metal food containers
Concerns: hazardous for human health, suspected of damaging fertility and disrupting endocrine system; restricted in use for food contact materials in some EU Member States

Consumer chemicals industry

Substance to be substituted: **Sodium perborate**
Current use: oxidizing agent in whitening washing powders and bleaches
Concerns: may damage fertility or the unborn child, toxic if inhaled; included in the Candidate List of substances of very high concern

Substance to be substituted: **Sodium percarbonate**
Current use: oxidizing agent in whitening washing powders and bleaches
Concerns: harmful if swallowed and causes serious eye damage

Substance to be substituted: **Monoethylene glycol**
Current use: component in engine coolants
Concerns: harmful if swallowed, may cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure

Ship building and repair industry

Substance to be substituted: **Xylene**
Current use: solvent in metal covering materials
Concerns: is harmful in contact with skin and if inhaled

Substance to be substituted: **2-methoxypropanol**
Current use: solvent in metal covering materials
Concerns: may cause drowsiness or dizziness

Construction chemicals industry

Substance to be substituted: **Diisononylphthalate**
Current use: plasticizer in construction sealants
Concerns: suspected to be reprotoxic

Substance to be substituted: **Dibutyltin dilaurate**
Current use: catalyst in production of construction chemicals
Concerns: causes damage to organs, may damage fertility or the unborn child, suspected of causing genetic defects, very toxic to aquatic life

Substance to be substituted: **Methylene chloride**
Current use: degreasing and surface cleaning agent for production site
Concerns: suspected of causing cancer; causes serious eye and skin irritation

Substance to be substituted: **Nonylphenol**
Current use: component in epoxy floor coverings
Concerns: very toxic to aquatic life, suspected of damaging fertility and the unborn child; included in the Candidate list of substances of very high concern and also into priority substances list of Water Framework Directive

Substance to be substituted: **Benzyl alcohol**
Current use: component (solvent) in epoxy floor coverings
Concerns: harmful if swallowed or inhaled; causes serious eye damage

