

Main policy options

Finding common ground on solutions

Policy Implementation Dialogue on Reducing Hazardous
Substances in Construction

Interreg
Baltic Sea Region



Co-funded by
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Strengthening Information Transparency on chemical content

Key Issues

Lack of full disclosure: Current legal obligations (e.g. REACH Article 33) cover only SVHCs >0.1% and are poorly enforced.

Existing database systems (e.g. SCIP) lack usability and practical integration with procurement and assessment workflows.

Digital Product Passport (DPP-CPR) and Building Logbook hold promise, but **timeline and interoperability remain uncertain.**

Non-harmonised formats and different ecolabel criteria challenge data comparability.

Data gaps especially for imported or online-purchased products; SMEs face disproportionate burdens.

Strengthening Information Transparency on chemical content

What minimum chemical information should be included in a future Digital Product Passport under the CPR?

How can suppliers be supported or required to declare product content and emissions in the meantime?

What mechanisms (EU or national level) support municipalities in receiving declarations from suppliers about i) eco-labelling-criteria, ii) HS content of products, iii) emission behaviour of products? How could these develop in the next 10 years (including policy support)?

How do municipalities currently assess if products are chemically safe? Would a traffic light system (like BVB) that would include confidential assessment through experts be feasible EU-wide?

Is it realistic to expect mandatory full transparency for all chemicals, or should efforts focus on key SoC lists by product group?

Discussion

Setting Stringent Requirements for Non-Toxic Construction Materials – Enhancing GPP

Key Issues

Voluntary nature of GPP limits its effectiveness; uptake across MS is inconsistent.

No harmonised mandatory chemical criteria in CPR or GPP—yet GPP may be critical to bridge gaps in REACH/CPR timelines.

Lack of **standard tools/templates** for municipalities to include chemical safety in procurement.

Eco-labels and rating systems (e.g. BVB, Baubook, Nordic Swan) provide guidance but are not uniformly available or accepted.



Setting Stringent Requirements for Non-Toxic Construction Materials – Enhancing GPP

Should key chemical safety criteria in GPP be made mandatory via the revised CPR? What are the obstacles?

Would an EU-wide chemical safety standard for building materials (like the existing ones for food contact materials or drinking water pipes) be a game changing tool to support procurement?

How can we balance flexibility at municipal level with the need for harmonised minimum requirements across the EU?

Would municipalities benefit from an EU-wide “traffic light” product classification? How can we support development of such a tool?

What should the EU provide to support public buyers: ecolabel expansion, ready-to-use templates, digital tools?

Which national GPP practices should be scaled up EU-wide—and what can we learn from them (e.g. Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Denmark)?

Discussion

Advancing Circular Economy and Sustainable Material Reuse

Key Issues

Hazardous substances hinder material reuse—risk of reintroducing pollutants into new products.

Uncertainty on end-of-waste criteria delays secondary material uptake.

No harmonised system to assess chemical safety of recycled content; testing is time-consuming and costly.

Pre-demolition audits and traceable product content rarely practiced.

Lack of DPP / data for legacy materials is a key bottleneck.



Advancing Circular Economy and Sustainable Material Reuse

How can we ensure that circular economy targets do not conflict with chemical safety goals?

How can we manage hazardous legacy substances when aiming for circularity? Is testing realistic for all reused materials?

What interim documentation practices (before DPP becomes widespread) could be promoted to trace chemical content in reused materials?

Would you support pre-demolition audits as a legal requirement in renovation/demolition permits?

What kind of economic incentives would help promote safe material reuse (e.g. tax shifts, green bonuses)? How can existing innovative business models be promoted?

Discussion



Enhancing Training, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Exchange

Key Issues

Widespread lack of expertise among municipal staff, architects, planners regarding hazardous substances.

No consistent training on chemicals in public procurement or circular construction.

Lack of access to easy-to-use guidance, especially for SMEs and small municipalities.

Few platforms exist for peer exchange and experience-sharing across Member States.

Enhancing Training, Capacity Building, and Knowledge Exchange

Discussion

What kind of training formats are most needed for municipalities and procurement staff? Should they be mandatory?

Would you benefit from EU-level model templates (tick-boxes, tender language) to screen for hazardous substances?

How can we build capacity without overburdening small municipalities and SMEs?

Should a common platform be created to exchange best practices and tools for chemical-safe construction? What could it look like?



Thank you!

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