



LIFE Platform Meeting on Chemicals

27 & 28 November 2019

Vilnius, Lithuania

Event guide



October 2019 (version 8 – DRAFT)

1. Background

Chemicals are very important and an integral part of our daily lives. There is no doubt that they provide many benefits without which modern societies would not be able to exist. Unfortunately, a large number of these substances also causes problems when it comes to the health and the environment. The EU policies on chemicals aim to reduce levels of chemicals in the environment to a target, low-risk level where only negligible harmful effects occur to both the human population and the environment.

In 2006, the new regulatory framework for the control of chemical substances in Europe was adopted. Its initial provisions were implemented in a long-term period (over 11 years, until 2018). On 31 May 2018 after the 10-year period for registering existing chemicals under REACH, 13 620 European companies have submitted information to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) on 21 551 chemicals manufactured or imported in the EU and EEA at quantities above one tonne a year¹.

In 2018 the Commission has published the second review of REACH defining a set of actions for further improvement, simplification and burden reduction, including:

- Better knowledge and management of chemicals throughout the supply chain;
- Enhancement of risk assessment and better implementation of risk management;
- Coherence of REACH and other pieces of EU legislation, strengthening the enforcement of the obligations and support compliance by SMEs;
- Review of registration requirements for low tonnage substances and polymers.

Besides REACH the comprehensive chemicals legislation exists in the EU, including CLP, regulations on specific groups of chemicals, such as biocides, pesticides, pharmaceuticals or cosmetics, as well as endocrine disruptors. However, it is more and more visible that reaching a high level of chemical safety depends on multi-sectoral approaches and synergies between different policies, including such sectors as water, marine, waste, industrial emissions etc.

To reduce risks from chemicals in the environment we have to build our actions considering the overall principle that hazardous substances of particular concern should as far as possible be phased out in uses which are not sufficiently well contained /controlled during their life cycle². There is a clear need for updating European chemicals policy and major political choices have to be made in the nearest future regarding various issues, including the non-toxic environment, product policy framework, endocrine disruptors, nanomaterials and circular economy.

The LIFE Platform meeting on Chemicals, which is scheduled for 27 & 28 November 2019, aims to:

¹ REACH registration results. Retrieved from <https://echa.europa.eu/reach-registrations-since-2008>

² Study for the strategy for a non-toxic environment of the 7th EAP, Final report – April 2017

1. Convey strategic feedback and provide input to **policy makers** in order to advance the planning, implementation and update of relevant EU policies;
2. Promote **networking** including exchanges of **best practices** and lessons learnt among ongoing and closed LIFE (as well as other EU-funded) projects, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders (e.g. SMEs, industry, academia, policy makers); and
3. Promote the **added value of the LIFE Programme in the field of Chemicals**.

2. Focus of the Platform Meeting

The main aim of the LIFE programme is the implementation of EU environmental legislation, through the hands-on development and pilot implementation of innovative technologies, best practices, tools and communication activities and the provision of feedback for the further development of policies accordingly.

In this context, the event is structured in such a way as to allow for networking, capitalisation of results (incl. sharing of best practices) and policy feedback from LIFE projects. The sessions of the platform meeting should provide an appropriate balance between policy contributions and experiences “from the field”.

The approach taken covers the wider scope of the LIFE projects instead of focusing strictly on the projects falling under the chemicals policy area. This approach showcases the interaction with other policy areas, like waste, agriculture, resource efficiency and environment and health, which very often address issues highly relevant to the chemicals policy, like the reduction of chemicals use and/or release in the environment, the substitution and/or removal of hazardous substances and the achievement of a non-toxic environment.

The main objectives of the LIFE Platform meeting on Chemicals are:

1. To promote **networking** including exchanges of best practices and lessons learnt among on-going and closed LIFE & H2020 projects, NGOs, and relevant stakeholders (e.g. cities, SMEs, industry, academia, policy makers);
2. To convey strategic **feedback** and provide **input to policy makers** in order to advance the planning, implementation and update of relevant policies; and
3. To promote the added value of the LIFE Programme in the field of Chemicals.

The expected outcomes are: policy feedback (including the identification of policy gaps), recommendations/proposals towards a non-toxic environment strategy, showcasing innovations and best practices, identification of emerging issues and gaps (areas of interest not covered by the LIFE programme), sharing experiences and networking, identifying synergies and ideas for new projects, demonstration of the LIFE programme’s added value for the implementation and development of EU chemicals policy.

During the Platform meeting in-depth discussions (workshops) will be organized. Each workshop will start with a presentation overview of the field (key policy/technical

issues, projects participating, solutions tested/proposed). Then participants will be facilitated to respond to certain questions and to raise their own issues.

Project mapping and analysis, has revealed that the boundaries between the different workshops are not always clear. The same project could be relevant and, therefore, involved in several workshops, which may appear confusing, at first, but it actually shows the complexity of and interconnections between the different issues addressed. In these cases the participation of more than one project representative will be advisable.

Currently we have identified approximately 35 open projects and 50 closed projects that could be relevant to the platform meeting.

Workshop 1: Substitution of chemicals

Aim: Discuss how substitution of substances of concern in the EU could be boosted by increasing the availability and adoption of safer alternative substances and technologies as well as raising awareness in and creating incentives for supply chain chains. According to the ECHA strategy, this would take place through, among others, further improved access to ECHA data, increased capacity of Member States and stakeholders to carry out analysis of alternatives and through support to innovation including the development of (inherently) safe new substances, as well as networking. This workshop will also address the issue of assessing the environmental impact of the substitutes (LCA) and the issue of regrettable substitution.

Workshop 2: Eco-innovation for reduced production and use of hazardous chemicals

Aim: Identify how the use and emissions of hazardous chemicals can be reduced in different areas thus contributing to a non-toxic environment and circular economy (e.g. industrial processes, agriculture, waste and waste water management, resource efficiency). In this workshop, the implementation of the “principles of green chemistry” in industrial production will be covered, as well as approaches to improve emission and exposure reduction in manufacturing and the application of hazardous chemicals, including pesticides and biocides. It also could include new business models like chemical leasing.

Workshop 3: Reducing environmental impact and improving consumers and workers health

Aim: Discussion and identification of achievements towards understanding the complexity of environmental and health effects from exposures to hazardous substances, including accumulation of exposures, mixture effects, determination of safe exposure thresholds and relevant knowledge related to it. This includes approaches to convey this information to consumers and workers via communication/awareness raising as well as changing behaviour and consumption patterns, especially with regard to the use/purchase of articles.

This workshop would include other relevant projects such as H2020 project HBP4EU, INTERREG NonHazCity.

Workshop 4: The LIFE Toolbox

Aim: This plenary session or smaller workshops will focus on governance and information tools and risk assessment or other standardised tools produced by various projects. The session might be divided in smaller workshops based on identified projects' grouping. It would look into (1) tools supporting hazard assessment and/or exposure models, (2) tools for companies that support management of chemicals (e.g. inventory tools, procurement criteria, environmental management standards) and (3) tools that support awareness raising (e.g. consumer apps, information materials, training).

The Platform agenda is shown in Annex I.

3. Timing and Host

The LIFE Platform meeting will be held on 27 & 28 November 2019 in Vilnius, Lithuania. Host of the LIFE Platform Meeting is the LIFE project "LIFE Fit for REACH" (LIFE14ENV/LV000174, <http://fitreach.eu/article/welcome-lifefit-reach>).



To the benefit of all LIFE Platform Meeting participants, a back-to-back event is organised on 28 & 29 November 2019 (in the same venue by the same project ("LIFE Fit for REACH")). This event the expert seminar on "Indicators to measure improvements in chemicals management" (Agenda in Annex II). Participants of the LIFE Platform meeting on Chemicals are welcome to attend the project seminar if they wish.

4. Location/Venue

The LIFE Platform meeting venue is the Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva which stands on the banks of the River Neris in Vilnius. The hotel is in the heart of Lithuania's capital, near rich historic sites such as the Old Town and Vilnius Cathedral.



For more information please click on:

https://www.radissonblu.com/en/lietuvahotel-vilnius?facilitatorId=CSOSEO&csref=org_gmb_sk_en_sn_ho_VNOZL

How to get to the venue?

Vilnius International Airport (VNO) is located 9 kilometres south of the city.

From the airport, you can easily reach the railway stop via the pedestrian walkway from the airport terminal. In only 8 minutes, the train takes you from the airport to the train station in downtown Vilnius. Once you arrive at the train station, grab a taxi or jump on a bus that brings you north to Radisson Blu Hotel Lietuva on Konstitucijos pr. 20. From the airport, you can also go by bus to the city center.

Venue nearby attractions?

Please click on:

<https://www.radissonblu.com/en/lietuvahotel-vilnius/location/nearby>

5. Targeted Audience of the LIF Platform Meeting

- Project teams (estimated 40 projects possibly 80 attendees) including industry professionals, academics/researchers, consultants, policy specialists, etc.;
- European Policy makers (EASME, DG ENV, DG SANTE, ECHA);
- Member States (administration, public bodies, local decision makers);
- H2020 projects and possibly other EU funded projects (INTERREG ...);
- NGOs;

6. Structure

The LIFE Platform Meeting is an 1,5-day event (starts in the morning of the 27th November and ends in the noon of the 28th November 2019).

Day 1: starting at 9am (focus on policy, overview of LIFE Programme on themes, policy suggestions through interactive workshop sessions, networking)

In the morning session we would mostly review the policy landscape.

In the afternoon participants will split into three parallel thematic workshops based on the selected themes to discuss a key of topics/questions and suggest potential solutions/ideas. Workshops outcomes could be enhanced with the use of stakeholder interaction software (e.g. Mentimeter).

A poster session and possible networking cocktail.

Day 2: (Workshop on LIFE Toolbox & Conclusions)

A fourth thematic workshop or plenary session will be held in the morning of Day 2.

Finally, a plenary session to present the conclusions on the four workshops and main platform conclusions.

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Annex I: PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF THE LIFE PLATFORM MEETING ON CHEMICALS

Day 1: 27 November 2019

8:30 – 9:00	Registration of participants
9:00 – 12:30	Plenary session (draft, some speakers confirmation pending): Welcome statements (09.10 – 09.30) (10 min buffer) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment Minister of Lithuania Mr Kęstutis Mažeika (10 min) tbc• European Commission DG ENV Director Mr Kęstutis Sadauskas (10 min) confirmed Setting the Policy scene (09.30 – 10.30) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• EC DG ENV (20 min) tbc• ECHA (20 min) tbc• EASME Mr Angelo Salsi (The LIFE programme as a driver of the environmental policy implementation & its future) (15 min) confirmed• EASME Mr Arnoldas Milukas (H2020 & Chemicals) (15 min)• Q&A (10 min) confirmed• OSHA Mr Lothar Lieck (20 min) confirmed• City of Stockholm Mr Arne Jamtrot (20 min) confirmed• EEB Mrs Tatiana Santos (20 min) confirmed• Q&A (15 min)• EASME Mr Manuel Montero-Ramirez (The LIFE Programme and Chemicals – An overview) (20 min) Overview on the LIFE Programme and its contribution to the implementation of chemicals policy through the implementation of relevant projects (innovation, demonstration, communication). confirmed
13:30 – 16:30	Parallel thematic workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workshop 1: Substitution of chemicals• Workshop 2: Eco-innovation for reduced production and use of hazardous chemicals• Workshop 3: Reducing environmental impact and improving consumers and workers health
17:00 – 19:30	Networking session with poster presentations, communication to users (e.g. project videos) & catering

28 November 2019

9:00-11:00	Workshop 4: The LIFE Toolbox (Plenary or parallel sessions – TBC)
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary session: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conclusions on the four workshops• Presentation of the main conclusions of the platform meeting and bridge to the project seminar.
12:00	End of the meeting

Annex II: PRELIMINARY AGENDA OF THE SEMINAR ON INDICATORS TO MEASURE IMPROVEMENT IN CHEMICALS MANAGEMENT

This event (seminar) is organised by the “LIFE Fit for REACH” project. The event is focused on “Indicators to measure improvements in chemicals management”. Participants of the LIFE Platform meeting on Chemicals are welcome to attend the project seminar if they wish.

Aim of the Seminar

- Overarching goal of the event is to contribute to the further development of guidance for (LIFE) projects to optimise their performance indicators.
- Furthermore, the workshop shall initiate discussions on how member states could expand and/or harmonise their data collection to support monitoring the implementation of chemicals-related policies at national and EU level
- Specific objectives of the workshop are to present ideas and exchange experience on measuring success of chemicals risk management in terms of changes in:
 - Behaviour and awareness;
 - The implementation of environmental emission reduction measures;
 - The application and design of governance tools;
 - The socio-economic aspects affected by the use and emission of hazardous chemicals.
- The workshop shall identify and discuss potential indicators for the four areas as well as types of “change initiators” (e.g. (LIFE) projects, NGO campaigns, chemical action plans etc.)
- It also is expected to come up with a set of conclusions and development of recommendation on the learnings from discussion (as well as potentially other outputs, such as scientific articles, discussion papers etc.).

Day 1: 28 November 2019

14:00 – 14:30	Opening, Workshop Aims Introduction to the topic - what could be measured and how; i.e. four measurement areas (c.f. above) and potential sub-areas as well as measurement points along a substance’s lifecycle
14:30 – 15:30	Presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Policy success indicators REACH (EUROSTAT indicators, Indicators used by ECHA)• Changes in Awareness and Behaviour of consumers and companies• Emission reduction measures: Substitution / use reduction• Governance tools: Chemicals in EMAS, Public Procurement Chemicals Action Plans• Socio-economic indicators: Impact assessment guidelines
15:30 – 16:00	Discussions

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee break
16:30 – 17:30	Working groups on following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour changes and awareness raising (general public, companies, potentially associations) • Emission reduction measures (substitution, use reduction/process optimisation, end-of-pipe solutions) • Governance tools (Environmental Management Systems, (Public) Procurement Guidelines, use of labels etc.) • Socio-Economic changes (e.g. market shares, product design, supply chain structure, health and environmental effects etc.)
17:30 – 18:30	Reporting from working groups and conclusions

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9:00-9:30	Summary and input for day 2
9:30 – 11:00	Continuation of discussion in working groups focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Optimum indicators (for different purposes) • Limitations and opportunities of indicators as well as challenges, including data availability • Synergies in data collection & interlinks, how do the indicators verify each other? • Developing member state data collection and monitoring systems to support measuring chemicals policy and management successes at national and EU level
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 12:00	Reporting from second work session
12:00 – 13:00	Feedback by stakeholders Summary and conclusions