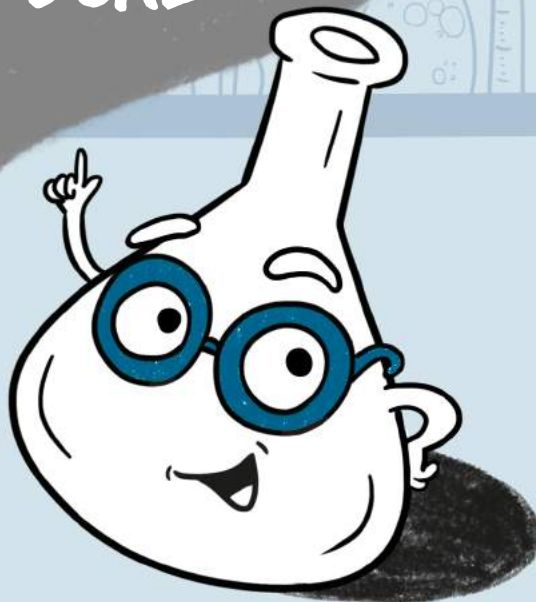


HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES
MANAGEMENT

NO BIG DEAL



HAZARDOUS
SUBSTANCES
MANAGEMENT.
NO BIG DEAL

INTRODUCTION

The LIFE Fit for REACH project aimed at reducing emissions through the substitution of hazardous chemicals and resource efficiency. We helped more than 80 companies in the Baltic States to find a better way of managing hazardous substances in their everyday work. We provided them with necessary guidance and helped to find safer alternatives or technological solutions.

During the project, we elaborated various informational material about chemicals management. Most of it is devoted to solve complicated technical issues or answer specific questions at the engineering level.

This comic booklet called *“Hazardous substances management. No big deal”*, has a slightly different approach: with these funny, but accurate drawings, we want to motivate companies to start changing towards better safeguarding the health of workers and clients, as well as a cleaner environment. The booklet showcases various ways to use less or no hazardous substances at all. In some cases it can be achieved just with minimal effort and at little cost. Managing hazardous substances can be “no big deal” if you know all the necessary steps. We want to tell you that it is not as difficult as you think.

The LIFE Fit for REACH addressed mainly SMEs of the manufacturing sector, but this publication aims to reach all kinds and sizes of businesses - from one-man companies to a multi-thousand corporation, from a service provider to a manufacturer of goods.

Our team hopes that our experience expressed in the form of these nice comic strips will become an inspiration for you to make the first steps towards change in your company.

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INVENTORY



Oh, gosh! I definitely had
this information somewhere
in these files... Or maybe
on my computer?

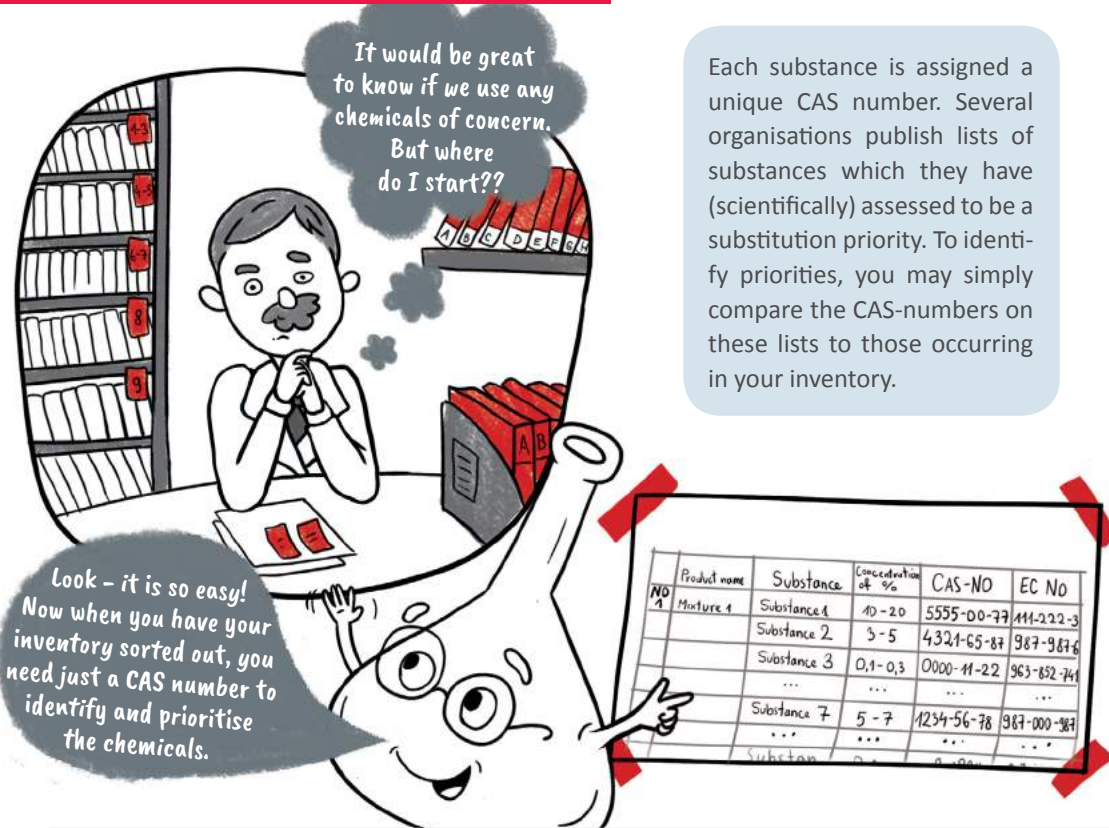


Chemical inventories help companies to keep an overview on what they use, for which products, and at which workplaces. They should include information on the composition of mixtures so the occurrence of substances of (very high) concern can be tracked.



Chemical inventories support the internal materials management, communication with suppliers and customers, as well as the implementation of legislation for the protection of workers and the environment. In some countries, it is legally required to have a chemicals inventory in place.

IDENTIFYING CANDIDATES FOR SUBSTITUTION



Each substance is assigned a unique CAS number. Several organisations publish lists of substances which they have (scientifically) assessed to be a substitution priority. To identify priorities, you may simply compare the CAS-numbers on these lists to those occurring in your inventory.

Check the databases:

- The REACH candidate list for authorisation contains all substances which are prioritised by the national authorities for substitution at EU-level, as they are very hazardous (SVHC).



- The SinList contains substances which the organisation ChemSec assessed as fulfilling the same criteria that underlie the REACH candidate list, but which have not been officially prioritised for substitution (but may be in the future).

LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES

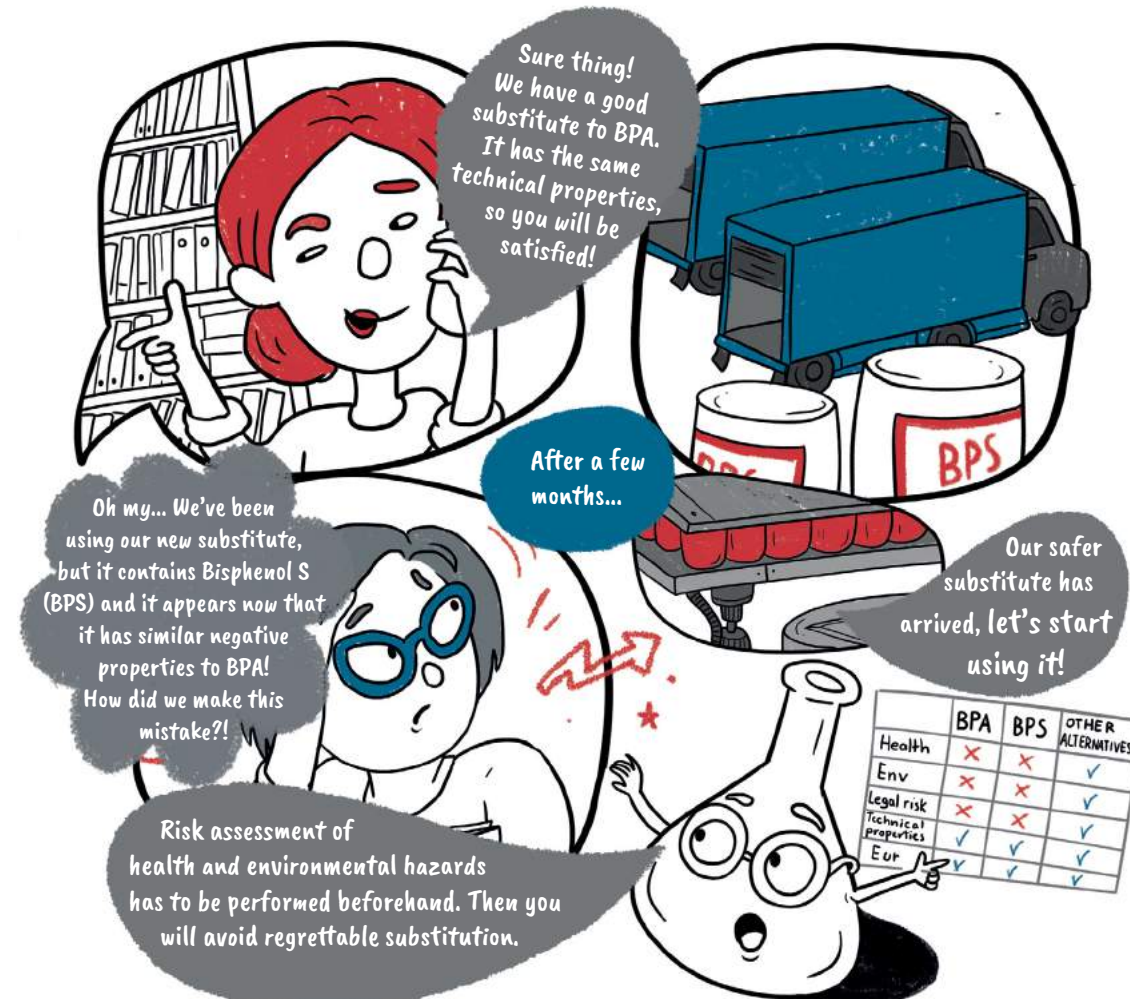


Look to your supplier as a partner in product innovation. He may also be happy to get feedback on his products from you and learn about the demand for new/alternative products. Only when you communicate your needs can others react to them.

SUBSTITUTION WITH NO REGRETS



Take a good look and assess the properties of the alternatives and related risks before starting to use them. Only if the alternative has less hazardous properties, the substitution will not be regrettable. Note that often less information is available for alternatives and that you may not know all the properties to make a decision!



There are several approaches to assess the safety of alternatives. One of these is **SubSelect** - SME-friendly free tool helping to roughly compare alternatives. It may be good to seek expert advice if you are unsure about the hazards and risks from alternatives.

CHANGE TECHNOLOGIES AND REDUCE RISKS



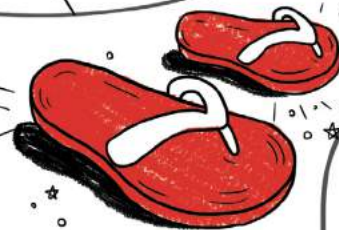
Sometimes reducing the use of hazardous substances can be done by shifting to other technologies that provide the same function. There is a fear of large investments, but all options should be thoroughly checked before deciding.



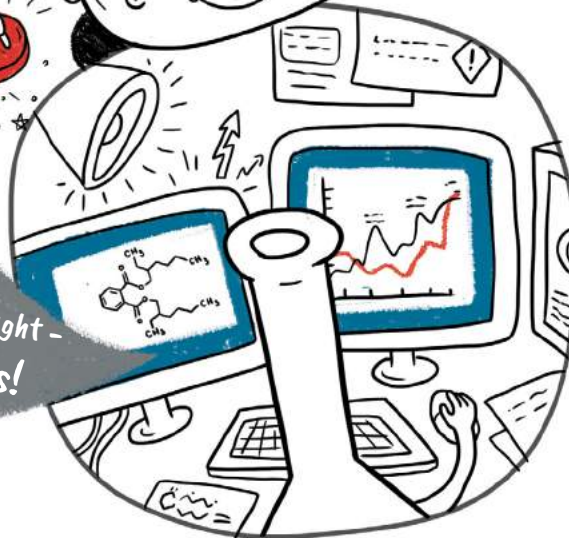
Modern technologies are not always super-expensive. Often, not only the use of hazardous substances can be avoided or reduced by a new technology but also efficiency and effectiveness of the process can be increased.



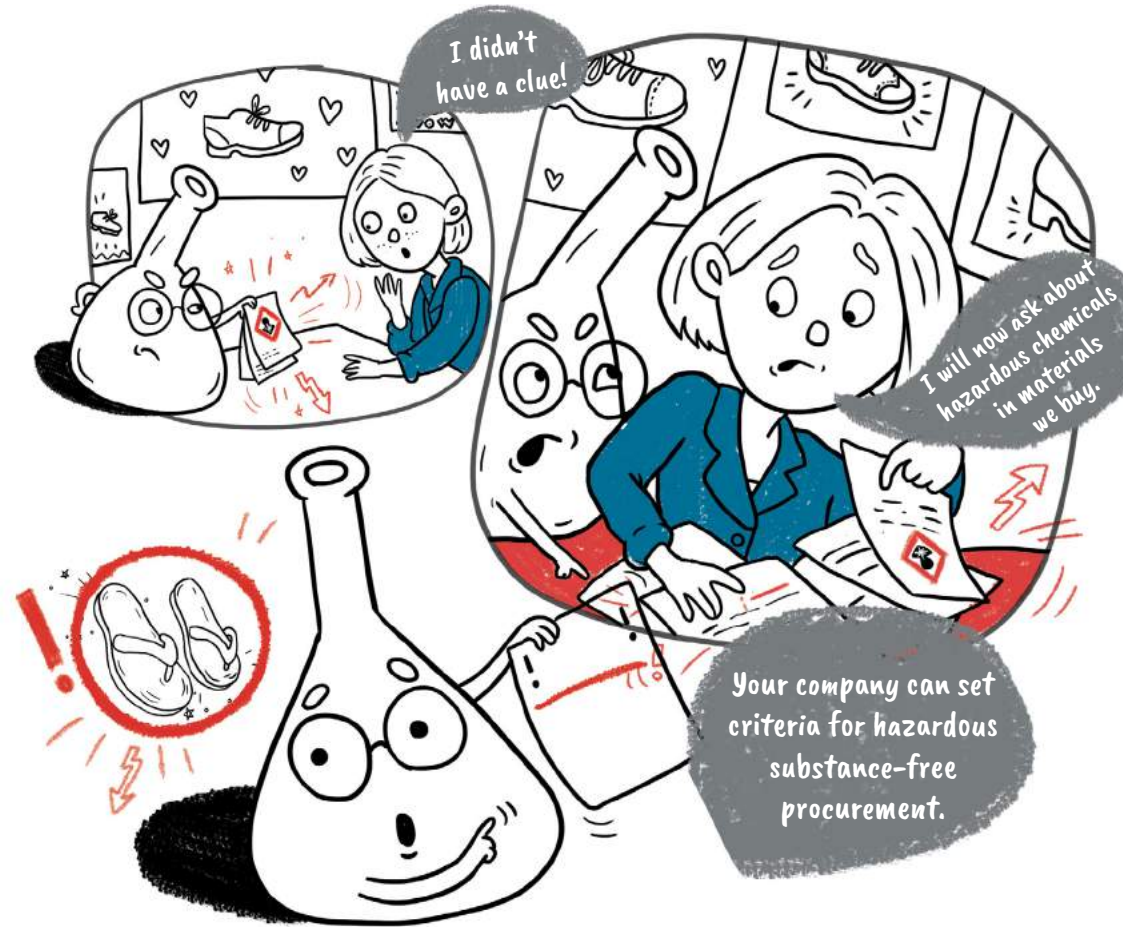
Hmm...
These look suspicious...
Let's test them
in the lab.



Just as I thought -
phthalates!



SUPPLY CHAIN



Ask your supplier if raw materials or products you use contain **Substances of Very High Concern** (SVHC). If they do, try to find other alternatives to prevent these chemicals entering the market. It will earn the trust of your customers.

WORKERS PROTECTION



Even if you do not feel any direct health disturbance when using a chemical, it may still cause harm to your health in the mid- or long-term.

If the use of hazardous chemicals cannot be avoided and it is not possible to avoid exposure to them by technical means, such as local exhaust ventilation, personal protective equipment (PPE) should be worn to protect your health. Check the pyramid of hierarchy of hazard controls:

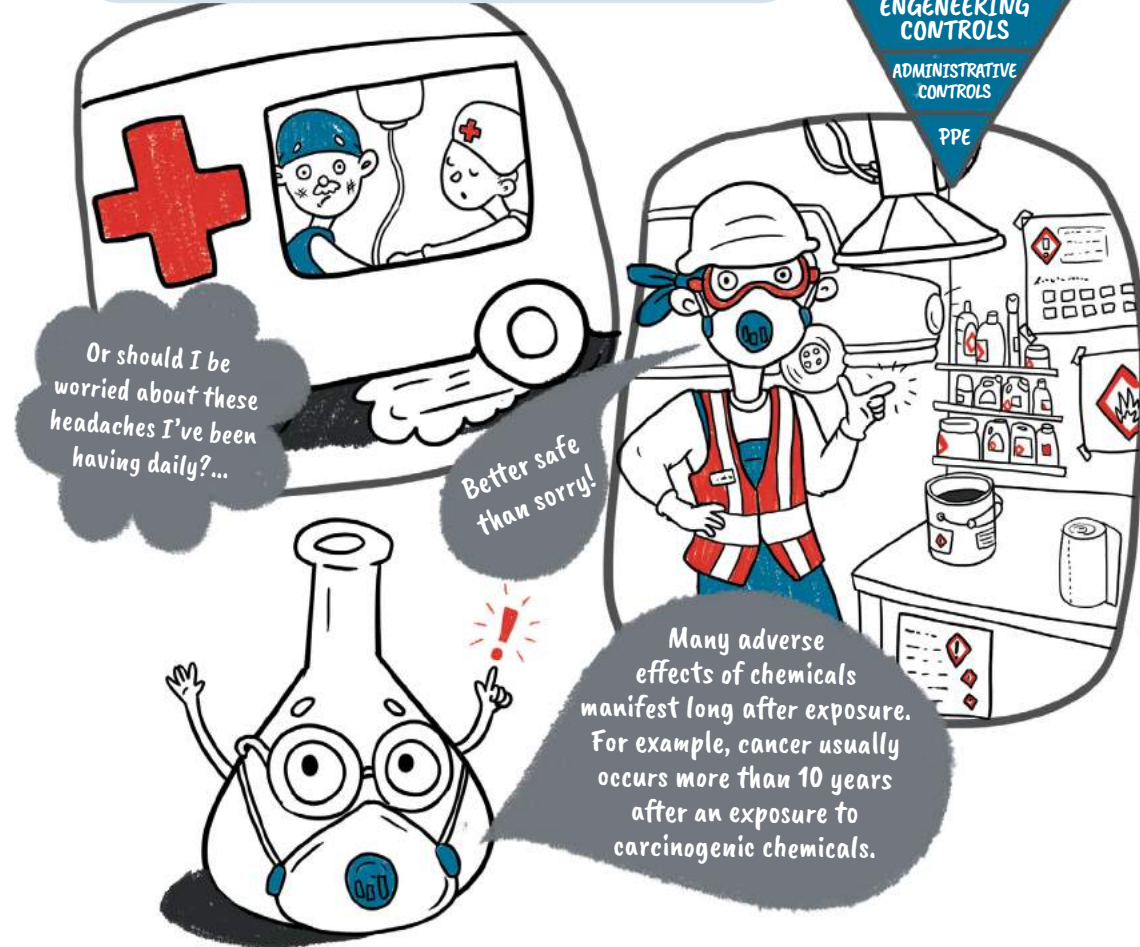
ELIMINATION

SUBSTITUTION

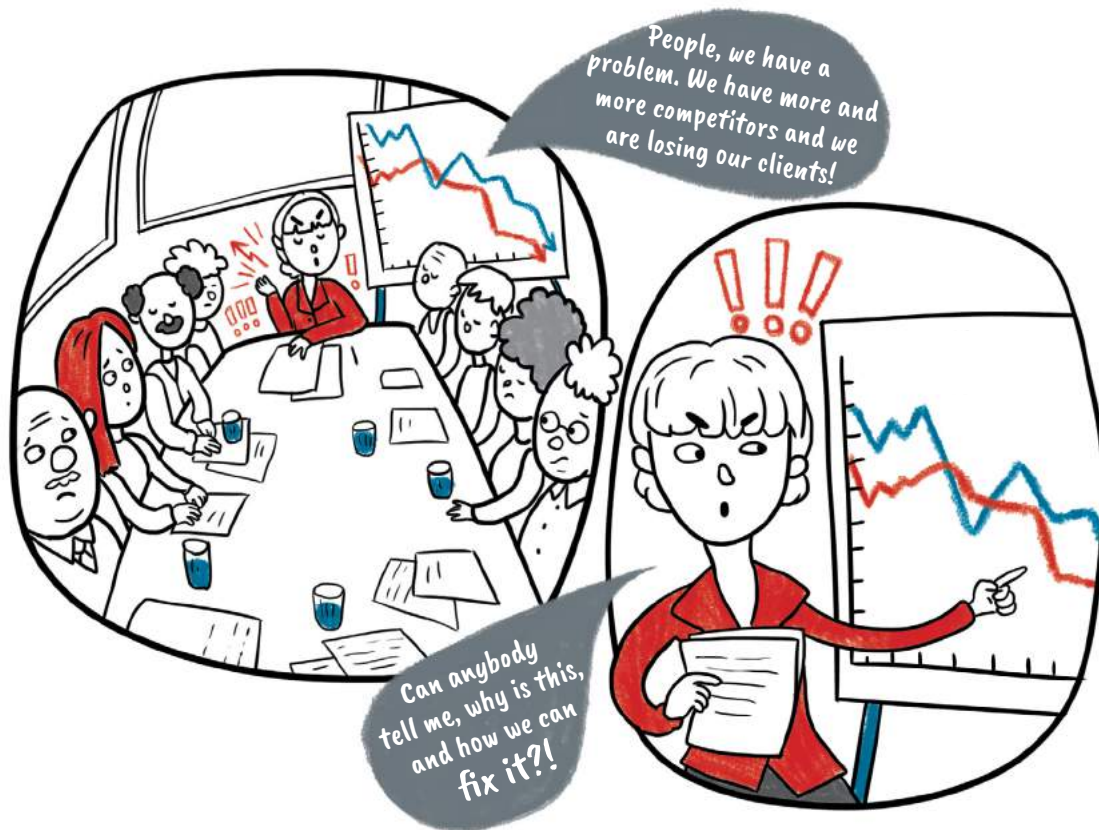
ENGINEERING CONTROLS

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROLS

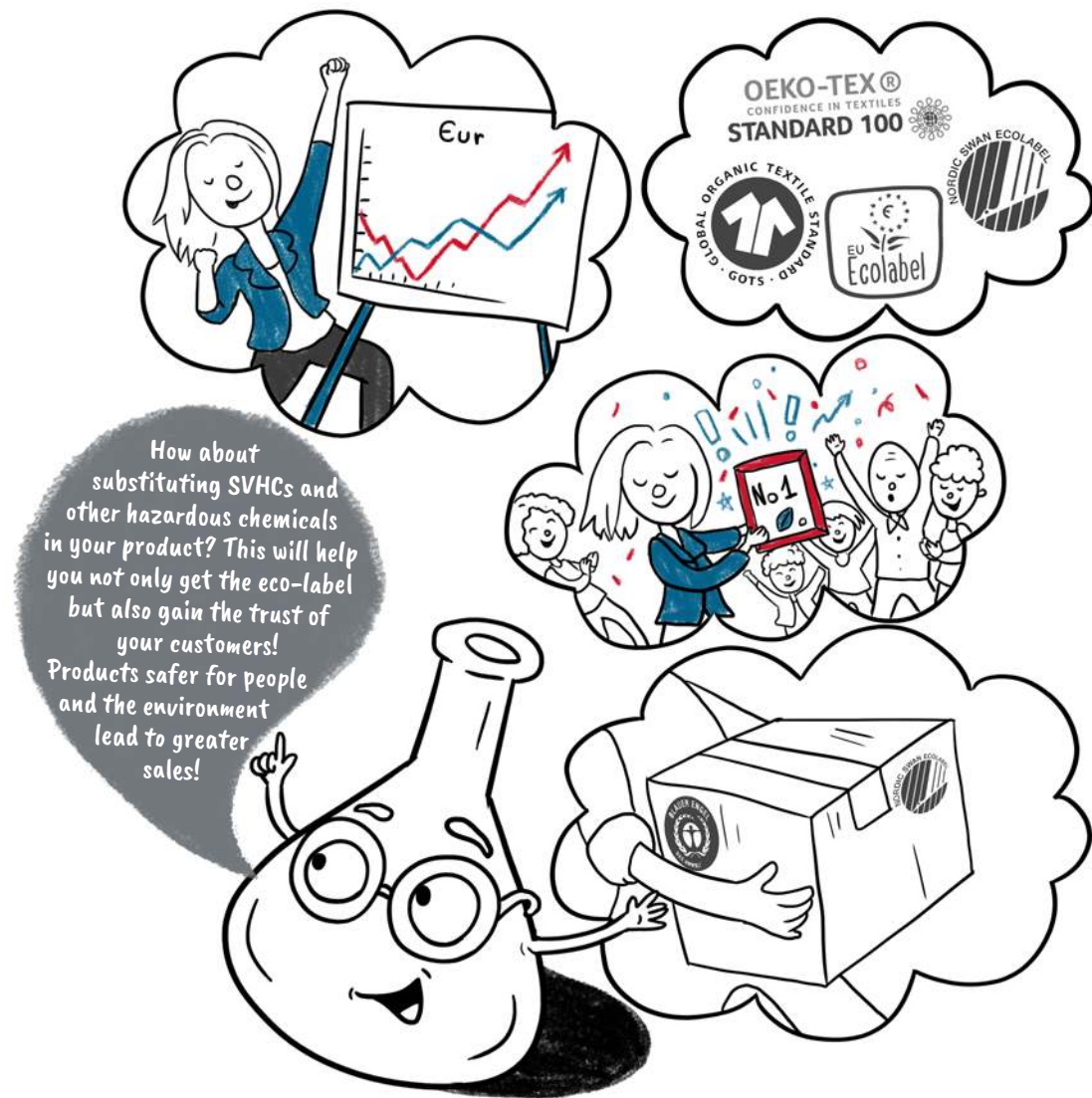
PPE



MARKET BENEFITS



Substituting unwanted substances and making products safer for people and the environment can have market benefits. It may bring new clients and earn respect from society.



USEFUL LINKS

fitreach.eu

Project LIFE Fit For REACH: substitution examples, information in various chemicals risk management topics, tools and publications

fitreach.eu/content/tools

- Example template for keeping the chemicals inventory
- Checklist for safety data sheets (SDS)
- SubSelect - tool to assess and compare substances and mixtures

echa.europa.eu/candidate-list-table

The list of Substances of Very High Concern

sinlist.chemsec.org

Substitute It Now list (SinList)

subsportplus.eu

Substitution support portal, including case database

marketplace.chemsec.org

Database of safer alternatives of hazardous chemicals

LIFE / FIT FOR REACH



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