

## ACTIVITY A1 PROGRESS REPORT

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### 'MILESTONE 1 - OVERVIEW':

Generate an overview how occupational prevention organisations provide help instruments to companies.

#### M1a Background idea of challenge 3.2

In France and Germany, respectively, tools are available for the employer to support the risk assessment in their enterprises. The idea to use these tools as an addition for the pillar 'Providing Help' in the course of the Roadmap on Carcinogens from 2020-2024, were the basis to create the Challenge 3.2 - Involving Occupation prevention Organisations. In the following, the Challenge team presents in a comprehensive overview the respective tools present in France and Germany.

#### M1b The GDA Hazardous Substance Check (DE - developed by BG RCI and DGUV)

In the course of the 'Joint German Occupational Health and Safety Strategy (GDA)' from 2021 to 2025, the German Social Accident Insurance institutions took over the task of developing the Hazardous Substances Check ('Gefahrstoffcheck'). The GDA Hazardous Substances Check is an offer for all those dealing with occupational health and safety at an enterprise and it is an important component of the GDA work program 'Safe Handling of Carcinogenic Substances'. The GDA is a permanent national strategy developed by the federal government, state authorities, German social accident insurance institutions and social partners for strengthening safety and health in workplaces in Germany.

With the Hazardous Substance check, the risks for the employees arising from handling of carcinogenic substances at the workplace can be identified and anticipated efficiently to be able to take effective protective measures. An important step in protecting the health of employees is being continuously active and identifying the need for action at the shop floor. Especially in small and medium sized enterprises, this self-evaluation is intended to facilitate the introduction to the risk assessment. With this tool, the users

from the enterprises can check and evaluate how well they conducted the risk assessment for activities involving carcinogenic substances. The check provides specific aids as to what needs to be done and allows enterprises to tackle necessary duties and measures or to improve their implementation. It offers the employer or responsible person the possibility of identifying need for action and helps to conduct risk assessment systematically, or complete, improve, or update it. It conveys special duties and measures in a plainly comprehensible and compact manner by using specific instructions and offers an overview of sector-specific practical aids.

All questions of the GDA Hazardous Substances check can be answered using a traffic light model, through which self-evaluation of the individual points is possible:

-  Requirements not fulfilled
-  Requirements partly fulfilled
-  Requirements fulfilled

In the electronic version, available under (add link), additional contents are provided for every single question, for instance explanations in the section **'What is meant by this?'** and suggestions for action in **'What is to be done?'**. These explanations are based on the requirements of the German Hazardous Substances Ordinance. Technical terms are highlighted in color, and descriptions and definitions are directly available with one click. In addition, there are the sections **'Further information'** and **'Practical aids'**, in which in-depth or topic-related information, useful links and practical working aids can be found. One section **'Legal bases'** refers to corresponding legal sources.

After processing of the components, measures that should or must be implemented in the enterprise, as well as responsibilities, can be determined. These entries, as well as the overall result generated at the end of the check, are made available to the user as a report for downloading.

### **M1c Chemical Risks Pro (FR - developed by CNAM)**

The National Chemical Risks Pros program offers a chemical risk prevention package and allows personalized support for companies particularly affected by exposure to carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic substances for reproduction. Its purpose is to reduce employee exposure to chemicals, make companies autonomous in the prevention of chemical risks and reduce the costs of compensation resulting, in particular, from occupational cancers. The program targets 5,000 companies, representing around 100,000 employees, particularly affected by exposure to carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic substances for reproduction (CMR). In France, two million employees are potentially affected in a wide variety of sectors: construction, carpentry, mechanics and machining, care, analysis laboratories, technical control centers, garages, etc. The challenge is to reach very small businesses because it is not necessarily the chemical industry which is primarily concerned.

The program will offer companies a chemical risk prevention approach, personalized support from the regional funds for certain targeted companies, training systems,

documentary resources and chemical risk assessment tools. In order to improve knowledge, the program also provides for a three-year campaign aimed at improving knowledge of the risks for work situations that have not been investigated very much. It will target in particular multi-exposure situations (for example formaldehyde, wood dust, cutting fluids, as well as lead and its derivatives). This online course is structured in four stages with tools and devices specific to chemical risks. The program is accessible from a private space which allows companies to follow the prevention course with actions to be carried out. After accessing the course, the 4 stages of the process are as follows:

1. Initiate your approach
2. Define your action plan
3. Deploy your actions
4. Sustain your actions



Depending on the sector of activity, the company may benefit from one of the following 'prevention micro companies' grants:

- RC Pros Carpentry Painting to protect professionals from toxic fumes and aerosols;
- RC Pros Equipment to help professionals finance protective equipment against chemical products;
- Airbonus to protect employees against risks associated to diesel;
- Welding + safe to protect employees from welding fumes
- Stop Asbestos, to reduce employee exposure to asbestos fibres

These subsidies are only for companies with less than 50 employees.

**The keys to success** of the Professional Chemical Risks program requires a real commitment on the company's part over time with three key actions: The designation of a pilot, the definition of action priorities following the assessment, and verifications of the effectiveness of the preventive measures put in place.

#### **M1d SEIRICH (FR - developed by INRS, DGT, CNAM, CARSAT, CRAMIF, UIC, UIMM, CNAP, SIPEV)**

SEIRICH is an assessment and information system on chemical risks in the workplace. The objective of this IT tool, intended for companies, is to provide companies with a validated methodology, recognized at national level, in order to facilitate the process of assessing chemical risks while informing them of the latest specifications in terms of prevention and regulation.

SEIRICH is regularly updated and the user is automatically informed of the availability of new versions. SEIRICH will allow to test a company's compliance level, to discover teasers, videos and tutorials, and to identify the main risks in a company's sector of activity. The software can be downloaded for free and can be installed on a computer (PC only). This allows for a company inventories and assessment results to be stored in directly in a company, thus ensuring the confidentiality of data.

SEIRICH is used to characterize the hazards of labeled products and chemical agents issued according to a grid that incorporates the classification and labeling procedures resulting from the Classification, Labelling, and Packaging (CLP) regulation. The functionalities of SEIRICH make it possible to optimize the chemical risk assessment process for companies:

- Helping to carry out an inventory of labeled products and chemical agents emitted present in the company by facilitating the entry of the necessary information from SDSs or labeling;
- Classification of labeled products and chemical agents emitted according to their level of risk;
- Taking into account collective and individual protection systems;
- Technical and regulatory advice adapted to the context;
- Management of evaluation documents, job descriptions;
- Traceability of occupational exposures;
- Monitoring of preventive actions

SEIRICH has three levels of user interfaces from a novice user, unfamiliar with chemical risks to an expert in chemical risk assessment. SEIRICH is a tool to evaluate, inform, plan and trace the chemical risks in a company whatever its activity. In conclusion, the tool is a chemical risk assessment tool. It is suitable for everyone, regardless of the user's knowledge level. It makes it possible to carry out an inventory of products, to prioritize and assess risks and to establish and develop a preventive action plan.

## **‘ACTIVITY A1 - DATA GENERATION’**

### **A1a Exchange**

**28 January 2021:** The challenge team had a kick-off meeting, to briefly agree on the content of the challenge as published in the overview. In the challenge acceptance, first steps were concluded that included the following:

- Create a short description of the respective national tool(s) and provide these to the respective other partners in an English version. This was performed in the **first quarter of 2021**
- Compare the respective tools, identify commonalities and design a questionnaire for the Roadmap partners to seek for their support within a 4 weeks period. This was performed **mid-May to mid-June**. The challenge team designed the questionnaire - the content was crosschecked and evaluated by national co-partners (BG RCI and EUROGIP) responsible for the development of the exemplary tools.

**31 May 2021:** The challenge team exchanged on the best way forward in an interim meeting. It became evident that the feedback from the partners of the Roadmap would most likely not reveal a high number of further examples in member states. Therefore, the challenge team needed to realistically reflect on how to proceed. This resulted in the following:

- Independent of the number of examples received, they will be published in an overview (most likely in a table format) and first conclusions will be drawn on common features. These conclusions will also be published. The publication on the dedicated webpage was foreseen for **mid-July**.

### A1b Resulting Questionnaire

In the following, [the developed questionnaire for the partners can be accessed here](#). Although the first activity within Ch3.2 has been concluded (07/21), the challenge team welcomes further examples and suggestions. For this, please use the questionnaire linked above, fill the tick boxes and provide the feedback to [marx.romy@baua.bund.de](mailto:marx.romy@baua.bund.de).

## ‘D1 - OVERVIEW REPORT’

### D1a Table with overview

A summary of the tools identified via the questionnaire and the input from the Roadmap partners is given below. Next to the starting point for the Challenge (GDA Hazardous Substance Check, SEIRICH, Chemical Risks Pro), **three other tools** have been identified. The overview is purposely very comprehensive in order to facilitate readability and allow for direct comparison.

Information	KemiGuiden	EVAL	GDA Gefahrstoff-Check	SEIRICH	Risque Chimiques Pros	OSHA e-Tool
Link	<a href="https://www2.prevent.se/kemiguiden/">https://www2.prevent.se/kemiguiden/</a>	<a href="https://www.eval.at/">https://www.eval.at/</a>	<a href="http://www.gda-gefahrstoff-check.de">www.gda-gefahrstoff-check.de</a>	<a href="https://www.seirich.fr/seirich-web/index.xhtml">https://www.seirich.fr/seirich-web/index.xhtml</a>	<a href="https://www.ameli.fr/entreprise/sante-travail/risques/risques-chimiques-entreprise/agir">https://www.ameli.fr/entreprise/sante-travail/risques/risques-chimiques-entreprise/agir</a>	<a href="https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-resources/e-guides/dangerous-substances-e-tool">https://osha.europa.eu/en/tools-and-resources/e-guides/dangerous-substances-e-tool</a>
Language(s)	Swedish	German	German	French	French	Norwegian, Icelandic, Portuguese, Slovenian, Estonian, Romanian
English Version	with Google Translate	No	No	Yes	No	Yes
Provisions met are	national	national	national	national	national	general
Addressee(s) is/are	Employer	Employer	Employer/employee	Employer/Employee	Employer	Employer
Targeted to	SME	SME	SME	SME	SME	SME
Level of expertise	Novice/expert	Novice/Expert	Novice/Expert	Novice/Expert	Novice/Expert	Novice/Expert
Updated regularly	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A
Provided	online	online	online	Software	online	online
Type of help	Information	interactive/anonymus	interactive/anonymus	interactive/personalised	interactive/personalised	interactive/anonymus
Results	No report available	Assessment report	Assessment report	Assessment report	No report available	assessment report
Scope	Hazardous chemicals	Hazardous chemicals	carcinogens	Hazardous chemicals	Hazardous chemicals	Hazardous chemicals
Personalised support offered	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No support
Charges	N/A	N/A	N/A	No	No	N/A
Targeted for a specific sector	No	No	No	No	No	No
Sector-specific aids provided	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No
Sector-specific subsidies provided	No	No	No	No	Yes	No
Assessment covers for	Substitution, organisational support, PPE	Substitution, technical, organisational support, PPE	Substitution, technical, organisational support, PPE, Behaviour	Substitution, technical, organisational support, PPE	N/A	Substitution, technical, organisational support, PPE

**Table 1:** Overview of assessment tools identified during Activity A1 of Ch3.2

### D1b Conclusion

All tools are targeted to SME and all are either addressed to the employer or to the employer as well as the employee. They are regularly updated to meet the respective member states legal provision. The level of expertise needed to use the tool has a wide range, but all tools proclaimed to be designed in a way that a novice level of expertise is sufficient to use them. Most of the tools are provided online, accessible with a browser, either with a personalised account or without registration. A software solution is also provided with one tool, which offers the advantage to perform the risk assessment on a local computer and store the data. These most common features can be concluded to be beneficial, are regarded as straight forward and will most likely serve as fixed starting points for future considerations. Other information is assessed in detail in the following:

**Language:** Most of the tools are only available in the national language. This is clearly a factor complicating it for the challenge team in directly assessing the tools. Within the challenge team, the translation service can be provided, but the more actors (and languages) involved the more profound this will influence the speed of the progress. It will necessitate reaching out to the responsible person for each tool, explaining our initiative and asking them for support. It is without question, that the result we will achieve with this project will be available in English. Within our capacity, we will also try to think of a multiple language solution right from the start.

**Scope:** The German GDA Hazardous Substance Check only focusses on Carcinogens; the other tools are for Hazardous Chemicals in general. When developing a Checklist that is inspired by all tools, we need to consider this and might need to have a closer look on the design.

**Type of help:** Except one tool that only provides information, all the other tools are interactive. The user needs to actively decide to either tick a box, add an explanation in written text or assess and decide on their own compliance by selection.

**Sector-specificities:** Some tools provide links to sector-specific guidance and/or even sector-specific subsidies. This is of course easier to achieve the narrower the scope of a tool is. Tools providing support for risk assessment to all hazardous chemicals can hardly manage to provide links to all sectors and substance specific guidance that exist. Therefore, it can be concluded that upon concentrating on carcinogenic substances, it will be easier to integrate links to specific guidance. But we recognize as well that it is most likely impossible to cover specific further support to all task performed with carcinogens in all sectors. To cover that as good and complete as possible, a close exchange with the teams from the Challenges on substitution (Ch2.1), general risk management (Ch2.2) and safe working procedures (Ch4.2) is necessary to complement the guidance that is already referred to in the examined tools.

**Control measures:** In all tools, the assessment covers for all control measure in the hierarchy of control. They include questions for substitution; provide support with regard to technical, sometimes sector-specific, guidance and organisational solutions as well as for choice of the most appropriate personal protective equipment. Consequently, the next step and the hypothesised Checklist will also cover all.

#### **D1c Next Steps**

The challenge team will evaluate in more depth the (sector-specific) help instrument provided within the tools and study the possibility of a more harmonised data collection. It will also be tried to solve the obstacle of differing national, legal obligations. After collection of examples and evaluation of common features, we will seek out cooperation and ask for interested actors to be involved when exploring the idea to develop a harmonised checklist (non-interactive tool in this stage - working title 'CarcCheck') and find volunteers to test the checklist in industry with the help of the Roadmap Partners. The Challenge team plans to draft a checklist for carcinogens by the end of 2021.