



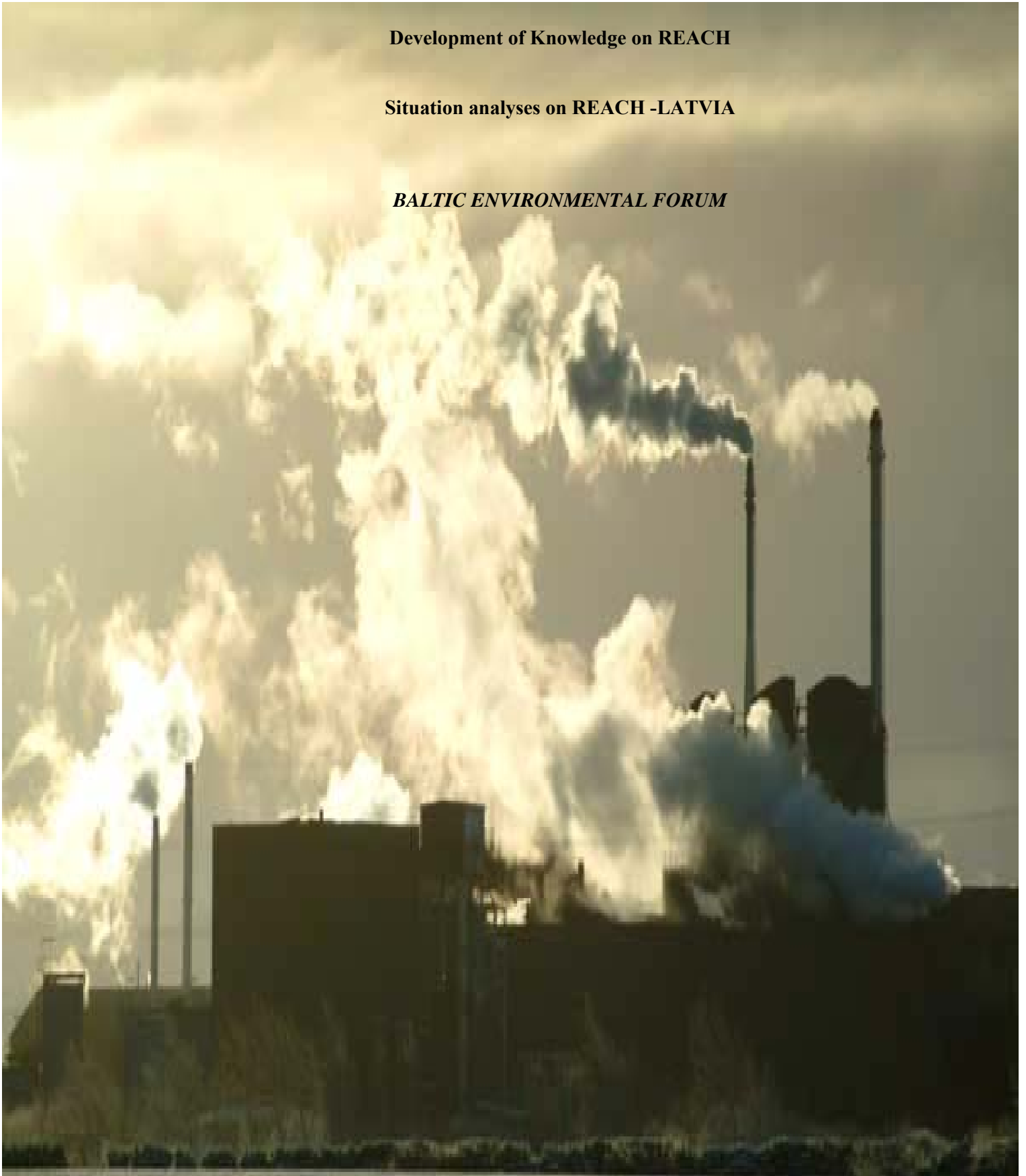
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Development of Knowledge on REACH

Situation analyses on REACH -LATVIA

BALTIC ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM



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1. General introduction

Over the past years, the EU has been shaping a new chemicals policy and this policy implementing regulation on **Registration, Evaluation and Authorisation of CHemicals (REACH)**. The compromise reached between Council and Parliament will improve health and environment while safeguarding innovation and competitiveness. EU Environment Ministers unanimously adopted the REACH Regulation at their Council meeting in Brussels on 18 December 2006 and it will enter into force on 1 June 2007.

The proposed regulation is a complicated document, with far reaching consequences related to its implementation. Dozens of different impact assessments were conducted to study a probable impact. Most of these studies dealt with possible costs, and just a few of them with possible benefits. Their estimates vary widely depending on the set of the assumptions adopted. The assumptions cannot be avoided due to the lack of data for making assessments. Different representatives (the Commission, national authorities, industry, and public representatives) are inclined to choose different assumptions.

Regarding hot discussions during legislation development phase and communication activities on REACH, it can be foreseen that different interested parties will need to gain deeper knowledge and understanding of main principles and different requirements for regulation.

At the beginning of the project partners carried out analysis of situation regarding REACH in the countries, especially focussing on the current gaps on knowledge regarding its implementation. Situation analyses will be used as a source of information (the basis) to determine the topics for the developing materials and trainings.

Each of actors under REACH has own role and responsibilities. The most important actors (the success of the REACH mostly depends on the activities of these) are industry and national authorities. The controlling authorities in future will also play an important role in implementation process. Other groups have more supporting role in implementation of REACH requirements.

The target groups listed in situation analysis have the following responsibilities:

a) National authorities

- **Ministries, competent authorities:**
 - evaluation of substances;
 - proposals for restrictions/authorisations;
 - contribution to work at EU level (e.g. Committees);
 - determining enforcement system and establishing sanctions;
 - report about implementation to the Commission;
 - organization of Helpdesk.

- **Inspectorates** (the exact roles are not set yet)
 - ensuring enforcement;
 - report about enforcement to the Commission.

b) *Industry (M, I, DU)*

- **Manufacturers and importers:**

- generate/collect information on chemicals (on properties, uses, risk management measures);
- classify and label the substances;
- process collected information to understandable format (SDS);
- communicate information downstream;
- registration of substances (if needed preparation of Chemical Safety Report);
- apply for authorisation (in case CMR, PTB, vPVB substances);
- follow substance restrictions.

- **Downstream users of chemicals:**

- implement recommended measures;
- compare information and advice of supplier with uses, processes and risk management measures in the own company;
- communicate deviations and additional information upstream (and to the Agency);
- follow use restrictions of substances;
- Formulators: classify, label, form SDS for formulations.

As already mentioned above other stakeholders have and will have in future an important role for successful implementation of regulation. One of the most important target groups are industry associations. Some associations already have performed a lot of actions in order to educate their members; however a lot of work can be done there. The other important group is NGOs, which have been participating in various information activities/ campaigns as well as have been taking part in development of national position. The other stakeholder group are academia, which will play an important role, by being able to consult companies, do some research job, assist with information on substances etc.

Situation analysis provides the overall vision about the situation in the countries and it will help to identify the information and education needs in countries.

2. Situation analysis in LATVIA

There is not *officially approved* particular authority taking the responsibility for implementation and improvement the new chemicals policy and its demands in Latvia at the moment but Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology Agency and Ministry of Environment realize the functions as responsible authorities. Other authorities in Latvia will manage the controlling functions of particular demands and support. Representatives from different groups of interests have been involved in processes for preparing the involvement of REACH regulation and changes as result. As far the biggest impact will affect the industry there has been realized the research to evaluate the potential impact of REACH to industry companies in Latvia.

Research made by The Association of Latvian Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry shows:

- There are manufactured 21 different chemical substances in Latvia with volume more than 1/t per year (data from LEGMA). 10 of those are active pharmaceutical substances or intermediate products of producing process.

- In general it has been evaluated that there are 450-560 imported chemical substances in Latvia (data from LEGMA).
- In total there are 11 carcinogens mutagens and substances toxic for reproduction system in the interviewed companies and it is necessary to authorize the substances in order to use those.
- There are 13 substances used as exceptions from REACH regulation (data from LEGMA).

There are several companies in Latvia producing the chemical substances in volumes which are requesting registration in accordance with demands of REACH regulation. Substances have been imported (from third countries it contains about 50-60%) for activities of chemical sector and involved companies. Research shows that there are more importers as well as downstream users of chemical substances so it is necessary to pay attention for informing and supporting those companies.

2.1 National Authorities;

2.1.1. ***Ministry of Environment of Republic of Latvia*** has a legislative power in Latvia in the field of environment. Within REACH, ministry plays a very important role:

- is responsible about the implementation of regulation in the country;
- coordinates the implementation process in country, also by coordinating the work of subordinated institutions;
- ensure the cooperation between various involved parties (e.g. competent authorities, other ministries, inspectorates, nongovernmental organizations, industry associations and representatives);
- ensures that national legislation is in compliance with EU legal acts;
- responsible for development of national position in the process of REACH development;
- representing Latvia in European Council working groups;
- involved in elaboration of information materials about REACH;
- participation in information activities within various projects/ campaigns on REACH.

2.1.2. ***Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology agency:***

- Competent authority about the enforcing the REACH in Latvia;
- Coordinates the sub working group of Chemical safety working group; there are representatives from controlling institutions in this sub group;
- There are nominated contact persons for REACH help service in Latvia, safety officers for IT network as well as persons for the REACH Inspection Forum;
- Participated in the preparation of national position about the REACH regulation in its development process;
- Actively participated in the preparation of informative materials about the REACH;
- Participates in the society informative campaigns/ projects about the REACH;
- In future are planning to actively lead and participate in different meeting and working groups in national level as well as in EU level.

2.1.3. Inspectorates:

As far there are no clear decisions about the competencies of different inspectorates in the country it means that activities of different institutions about the REACH have been very various. More or less those activities are connected with gaining the information as well as education of employees. Nowadays one of the important problems is deficiency of human resources; there is no capacity to control the implementation of current legislation so there is no resource to acquire new information.

Inspectorate Questions	State Sanitary Inspectorate	State Labour Inspectorate	State Environmental service
<p>What kind of activities have been performed about REACH</p>	<p><i>State Sanitary Inspectorate has participated in the development process of the legislation by commenting Latvia's national positions and by giving suggestions. State Sanitary Inspectorate actively participated in different workshops: Chemical safety working group, PEEC III (Practical Experience from Enforcement of Legislation) and EC workshop's "Practical preparation for REACH" sub group – "Monitoring", there have been developed the questions in the connection with REACH regulation. Inspectorate has been giving the comments for publications as well as participated in different projects (e.g., BEF project "REACH Baltics"; EK, Nordic countries and Netherlands common project "Preparing for Enforcing REACH" (preparation for implementing the REACH). In the training programme of inspectors there have been</i></p>	<p><i>State Labour Inspectorate participates in the implementation process of REACH regulation in Latvia (there is representative in Chemicals safety team working for implementing the REACH regulation). Representative from inspectorate participated in the activities of Baltic Environmental Forum – it was chance to get know the REACH regulation and its basic principles.</i></p>	<p><i>State Environmental service participates in the implementation of REACH regulation (there is representative in Chemicals safety working group for implementing the REACH regulation). Representatives had participated in some informative events about REACH; they got informative materials about REACH as well as actively participated in the organizing of informative events.</i></p>

	<p><i>included questions about the REACH and GHS already in 2004. In the frame of PHARE project in 2005 there were organized the training for inspectors and REACH was a main topic. In 2006 in the frame of inner training of inspectorate one seminar completely was devoted to REACH and in some other seminars inspectors received all latest information about the REACH. There was a training material for inspectors.</i></p>		
<p>Planned activities in the future</p>	<p><i>Planned activities in 2007:</i></p> <p><i>1) Participate in the implementation of REACH in Latvia:</i></p> <p><i>a) in the team dealing with the screening of legal acts about chemicals management and with the evaluation of necessary amendments;</i></p> <p><i>b) participation in the team of supervisory group- leading of this work.</i></p> <p><i>2)Participation in the planning of REACH implementation in European level:</i></p> <p><i>a) Working in the EC working groups “Practical Preparing for Enforcing REACH” sub group “Monitoring”;</i></p> <p><i>b) Participation in EC, Nordic countries and Netherlands common Project “Preparing for Enforcing REACH” (preparing for implementation of REACH).</i></p>	<p><i>Work inspectors so far haven’t been informed about the authorization and restrictions in the connection with REACH so it is not possible to plan any specific activities. State Labour Inspectorate is planning to participate in the activities of project “Development of Knowledge about REACH”.</i></p>	<p><i>State Environmental service is planning to participate in the activities for REACH implementation in the future and in the controlling of legislation in the future.</i></p>

	3) <i>Inner training of inspectorate devoted to practical question for implementation of REACH.</i>		
Knowledge of target group	<i>State Sanitary Inspectorate knowledge is good about the REACH.</i>	<i>Medium amount of knowledge – because of no clearance about the competencies of inspectorate.</i>	<i>Appropriate to the situation at the moment.</i>
What kind of information you would like to get in the future and in what manner?	<p><i>State Sanitary Inspectorate has knowledge about the principles of REACH but there is not enough information about the practical implementation. Inspectorate would like to find out:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Surveillance of requirements REACH in Latvia, including the competences of the surveillance authorities;</i> <i>• Schedule for enforcing the requirements of REACH;</i> <i>• About the ECHA, about the information for inspectors, about REACH IT (IUCLID 5);</i> <i>• Organizing the Exchange of information among the different surveillance divisions (ECHNA, competent authority in Latvia, competent authorities from other countries,, surveillance authorities in Latvia).</i> <p><i>State Sanitary Inspectorate would like to participate in the training about the above mentioned questions as well as would be glad</i></p>	<i>State Labour Inspectorate will participate in the activities about the REACH. After dealing with the competences in the state level it is going to be easier to identify the needs of inspectorate.</i>	<i>State Environmental service will participate in the activities about the REACH to get the information and knowledge about the REACH.</i>

	<p><i>about the brochure with the information about ECHA, surveillance authorities in Latvia and their functions. State Sanitary Inspectorate would be glad to get the handbook about the registration of chemical substances and authorization.</i></p>		
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2.2 Industry (Manufacturers, importers, downstream users)

Knowledge of industry is various, for example – companies from chemicals industry are very well informed and had started the preparation for implementing of REACH. However, companies from other industries (for example, furniture producers) – downstream users and importers – aren't very good informed about the basic principles of REACH and its requirements. Therefore it is very important to continue the informing and education activities.

<p>Questions</p>	<p>Industry</p>
<p>What kind of activities have been performed about the REACH</p>	<p><i>Very various:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Manufacturers of chemical substances; formulators of chemical products are very good informed about REACH and already started the preparation processes in their companies as well as actively follow the information about REACH and readily participated in the different activities;</i> - <i>Knowledge of downstream users and importers of chemicals about REACH is in average level or even less.</i>

Planned activities in the future	<p><i>There are different planned activities as well:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Follow the information and latest news about the REACH;</i> - <i>To realize their role and tasks in the frame of REACH;</i> - <i>To establish the electronic register of chemical substances and chemical products (in the substance level), to get the overview about the volumes and dangerous properties of substances;</i> - <i>To verify the safety data sheets and their compliance with demands of legislation;</i> - <i>To develop the plan of enforcing the REACH in the particular company;</i> - <i>To clarify the necessary information about the registration process;</i> - <i>To inform the higher management about the implementation of REACH, to designate the responsible person;</i> - <i>Start the research about the chemical substances;</i> - <i>Not to enlarge the assortment of production;</i> - <i>To establish the list of suppliers;</i> - <i>To evaluate the possibility of substituting the substances;</i> - <i>To inform the chemical substances suppliers from non EU countries;</i> - <i>To inform the suppliers about the use of chemical substances.</i>
Knowledge of target group	<p><i>Very various.</i></p>
What kind of information you would like to get in the future and in what manner?	<p><i>To get more information about REACH:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Using internet, e-mails to get the answers about different questions;</i> - <i>Seminars, trainings;</i> - <i>It is necessary to get the guidelines in Latvian language and in electronic way;</i> - <i>It is necessary to get the information about the implementation of REACH and its practical aspects;</i> - <i>Information how to form the application of registration, how to communicate with European Agency of Chemical substances etc..;</i> - <i>Information about the cooperation with the suppliers from non EU countries;</i> - <i>Information about the overviews appropriate to the companies and state's controlling role in this field;</i> - <i>Information about the way REACH will influence companies in Latvia, information should be more appropriate to the real situation.</i> <p>There are various needs about the information; it is clear about the necessity of specific guidelines to deal with the practical tasks in the frame of REACH regulation. Many companies hope to get the all the necessary information in the Help Desk.</p>

2.3 Associations (Manufacturer, Importer and downstream user)

Depending on sector associations have various knowledge and various activities to prepare for the successful implementation of REACH regulation and its demands enforcing in the companies.

Asociācijas Jautājumi	Latvian Association of Polygraphy companies	Association „Latvian Furniture”	Association of Mechanical Engineering and Metalworking Industries of Latvia	Latvian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Association of Textile and Clothing industry	The Association of Latvian Chemical and Pharmaceutical Industry
What kind of activities have been performed about the REACH	<i>Nothing</i>	<i>There are no activities about the new policy of chemical substances REACH. Member of association participate in different activities organized by Ministry of Environment and other responsible institutions.</i>	<i>There was a meeting in 2006 for members of association about the latest news in the legislation concerning to chemical substances and its basic principles.</i>	<i>Representatives from the Chamber participated in the different activities to enlarge the knowledge about the REACH regulation (info days and seminars). There was a publication in the Chamber's newspaper about the REACH. Official statement was prepared in cooperation with associations and companies to EC about the</i>	<i>Since 2005 there is known information about the REACH regulation. Latest information regularly have been updated and sent to the members of association and to other interested persons.</i>	<i>Association actively participated to informing the members about the new policy REACH and expected changes by organizing seminars and by preparation the informative handout materials (brochures). Association also participates in Chemical safety working group about the enforcement of REACH.</i>

				<i>implementing the REACH regulation in Latvia.</i>		
Planned activities in the future	<i>Association doesn't have any plans to manage some activities itself but gladly renders the information to the members about the activities from other organizations.</i>	<i>At the moment there aren't planned any activities but sometimes small seminars with invited field experts are organized to inform the members of association. There is nothing about the REACH so far organized.</i>	<i>It depends from the needs of companies.</i>	<i>More or less further actions depend from the needs and activities of companies.</i>	<i>There are prepared project application and searches for the finances to promote the informative activities for companies about the REACH regulation and expected changes.</i>	<i>Association will continue participation in informing the companies by organizing the trainings, info days and other activities.</i>
Knowledge of target group	<i>Minimum</i>	<i>Knowledge about the REACH regulation is small but there are efforts to follow the information and normative acts concerning the industry.</i>	<i>There is basic knowledge about the demands of REACH regulation.</i>	<i>There is understanding about the REACH regulation and its main aspects.</i>	<i>Good knowledge about basic principles and demands of REACH regulation.</i>	
What kind of information you	<i>General information</i>	<i>Would like to attend the specific training</i>	<i>Information in the internet already</i>	<i>Information in the internet about the</i>	<i>Would like to attend the specific</i>	<i>There is already good level of</i>

<p>would like to get in the future and in what manner?</p>	<p><i>about the new policy of chemical substances - REACH, by electronic way and by trainings.</i></p>	<p><i>or seminars about the implementation of this regulation in the companies.</i></p> <p><i>Association foresees the big financial problems for the members and there is alarm about the future of companies by implementing those demands.</i></p>	<p><i>exists in the big amount.</i></p>	<p><i>REACH already exists in the big amount so it would be useful to pay attention to the press as a way to inform wide range of society.</i></p>	<p><i>trainings about the implementation of the REACH regulation especially in the textile field.</i></p>	<p><i>information about the latest news.</i></p>
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2.4 NGOs

NGO Questions	Pasaules Dabas fonds (WWF branch in Latvia)	„Latvia Environment Protection Club”
What kind of activities have been performed about the REACH	<i>In the frame of DETOX campaign there had been realized the informative campaign (http://www.pdf.lv/?sadala=104&setc=1). In understandable way for wide range of society there were explanations about the synthetic pollution, its amount, impact and consequences in each human life as well as about the REACH, its meaning and aims.</i>	<i>During the last 2 years Club participated in the informative campaigns and activities organized by „Friends of the Earth International. Also there is cooperation with the „Greenpeace” and WWF for realizing different campaigns, for example – publication of blood analysis results of popular persons and experts’ opinion about the present substances. Also Club had followed to all the information about the REACH.</i>
Planned activities in the future	<i>As NGO we are not planning any more activities from our side – the legislation is already accepted and we can’t affect it any more.</i>	<i>At the moment our aim is to follow the realization and implementation of the REACH. Of course we will continue to participate in the international activities and projects.</i>
Knowledge of target group	<i>In general knowledge is good and enough. And we know where to get the additional information in case it is necessary.</i>	<i>In general knowledge is good and enough, existing information is decent. Main problem as for NGO is the missing capacity of human resources to seriously go deeper in the complicated legislation. For that we need a person with juridical education.</i>
What kind of information you would like to get in the future and in what manner?	<i>The most comfortable way to get the information – internet and e-mails. We would prefer the brief, clear and understandable without any amendments.</i>	<i>It would be good to get any information about the REACH, its implementation and enforcing – publications, internet resources. The most important thing – clear information with simple explanations for wide range of society</i>

2.5 Academia (Universities)

Universities Questions	Latvia University of Agriculture	University of Latvia	Riga Technical University
What kind of activities have been performed about the REACH	<i>So far there are no any actions realized.</i>	<i>There had been invited experts to lecture about this topic – from Baltic Environmental Forum and from Latvian Environment, Geology and Meteorology agency</i>	<i>So far there are no any actions realized.</i>
Planned activities in the future	<i>So far there are no actions planned.</i>	<i>To follow up the implementation and enforcing of the regulation.</i>	<i>It is planned to go over the course „Evaluation of environmental pollution monitoring” and include some information about the REACH regulation.</i>
Knowledge of target group	<i>Knowledge is poor – only some general information.</i>	<i>Knowledge is good.</i>	<i>In general – knowledge is very average.</i>
What kind of information you would like to get in the future and in what manner?	<i>It is necessary to get the information about the basic principles and its practical implementation. Preferably to get the information via internet or e-mails.</i>	<i>Would like to get the wider information about the REACH via internet, e-mails or as publications. Then every student could find the more necessary information.</i>	<i>Publication would be the best way – as a summary about the regulation and its implementation.</i>

3. List of References

3.1. State authorities

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Used information from the report in the frame of the project „REACH Baltics”.

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4. List of links to some available info sources on REACH

European Commission DG Environment

http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm

European Commission DG Enterprise

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/reach/index_en.htm

European Chemicals Bureau

<http://ecb.jrc.it/REACH/>

European Chemicals Agency

<http://www.hel2.fi/eca/eca.html>

European Environmental Bureau

<http://www.eeb.org/Index.htm>

European Centre for Ecotoxicology and Toxicology of Chemicals

<http://www.ecetoc.org/Content/Default.asp?PageID=313>

International Chemicals Secretariat

<http://www.chemsec.org/>

European Chemical Industry Council

<http://www.cefic.be/Templates/shwStory.asp?NID=494&HID=441>

Baltic Environmental Forum

www.bef.lv

Latvijas Ķīmijas un Farmācijas uzņēmēju asociācija

www.lakifa.lv

Portal „Environment, Industry, We”

www.virums.lv

European Agency for Safety and Health

www.osha.lv

Latvia Environment Protection Club

www.vak.lv

Pasaules Dabas fonds (WWF branch in Latvia)

www.pdf.lv

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