

Partnership Initiative “Chemical and Environmental Management”

Preventing the use of hazardous chemicals in textile supply chain

What is the aim of the Partnership Initiative?

Global textile production is associated with the use of many chemicals that pose risks for the workers involved, the environment and textile consumers. Enormous quantities of water are polluted by chemicals, especially during textile dyeing, printing and finishing. The wastewater from such wet processes is often discharged into the surface water without treatment, as many finishing plants are not aware of the relevance of responsible chemical management.

The Partnership initiative has set itself the goal of raising this awareness and gradually removing hazardous chemicals from the value chain.

How does the Partnership Initiative achieve this aim?

The partnership initiative consists of three interconnected modules:

- **raising the awareness** of political, economic and social actors
- improved access to **trainings** and **advisory services**
- promoting the **substitution** of hazardous chemicals and introducing technical **innovations**

Furthermore, a comprehensive module 0, ensures the harmonization of the three modules.

The members of the Partnership initiative will engage in one or more of the modules according to their expertise, thus contributing to the achievement of a sustainable chemical and environmental management in the textile sector. The best results can be achieved if the strengths and capacities of the individual actors are brought

together and the activities of the individual modules are combined and standardized. Agreement on a common approach and external communication with suppliers creates synergies and increases the effectiveness of the measures.

Module 1: raising awareness

Building on the expertise of international partner NGO's and standards organizations, awareness-raising materials such as short videos, training materials and a guide to avoiding hazardous chemicals will be developed. These will be made available to local and private sector partners. The aim is to use these materials to raise awareness of sustainable chemical management in production countries and to provide suggestions for the implementation of a chemical management system.

PROJECT REGION DISTRICTS	China, Bangladesh
PROJECT PARTNER	Amfori, ALDI Nord, ALDI SÜD, Brands Fashion, Bundesverband der Deutschen Sportartikel Industrie (BSI), Deuter, EDEKA-Verbund, German Environment Agency (UBA), German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Hej Support, KIK, Oeko-Tex, Orsay, Otto Group, Rewe Group, Sympa-tex, Takko, Tchibo, Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals (ZDHC).
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Module 2: Trainings

The aim of this module is to improve access to training and advisory services for the introduction and implementation of sustainable production processes for suppliers and producers in wet processing units in China and Bangladesh. This includes the establishment of a trainer pool with qualified training providers on site. In addition, uniform training materials in the relevant languages will be made available to the Partnership members for this purpose. Through a one-day basic training, which includes topics such as "Good Housekeeping", "Inventory List" and "Chemical Risk Management", workers in wet processes are to be sensitized to sustainable environmental and chemical management and equipped with basic knowledge on this topic. A more comprehensive Advanced Training, which consists of several blocks, advanced knowledge is to be imparted to the workforce and management. Training on MRSL and chemical management will be accompanied by on-site visits by trainers and colleagues from other factories.

Module 3: Substitution and Innovation

Cooperation with research institutes and universities promotes technical innovation. By complementing it with an ongoing dialogue with the chemical industry, an exchange of ideas on substitution options is promoted. The exchange between various actors on the topics of sustainable chemistry, wastewater and current developments in the field of best practice in chemical management is essential for banning hazardous substances from the textile value chain. Besides, industry also needs access to suitable substitute chemicals. To support this innovation process, a continuous dialogue between members and research institutions is necessary.

Module 0: Harmonization

