

LIFE-FLAREX

Mitigation of environmental impact caused by Flame Retardant textile finishing chemicals studying their non-toxic alternatives

PRESS RELEASE

Terrassa, July 25th 2017



THE EUROPEAN LIFE-FLAREX PROJECT BEGINS

The project, carried out by a consortium of seven members, has the objective to reduce the impact of flame retardants used in the textile industry and their future alternatives, on the environment, human health and on the safety of industry workers by analysing their environmental impact and functionalities. LIFE-FLAREX will promote substitution within the European companies of the sector.

The kick-off meeting of the LIFE-FLAREX project took place at the headquarters of the LEITAT Technological Center in Terrassa, Spain, on July 13th 2017.

LIFE-FLAREX is co-funded by the European Commission's LIFE + program under the Environment Policy and Governance axe with Grant Agreement number LIFE16 ENV/ES/000374.

The project started the 1st of July, it has a duration of 3 years and a total budget of 1.163.879€.

The project coordinator is AEI TÈXTILS, the Catalan cluster of technical textiles. Six additional partners complete the consortium: two Spanish technological centres/research institutes: LEITAT and the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (CSIC), both members of AEI TÈXTILS, the Belgian textile research centre CENTEXBEL and three technical textile clusters: ATEVAL from Spain, POINTEX from Italy and CLUTEX from the Czech Republic.

LIFE-FLAREX's objective is to reduce the impact on the environment, human health and workers safety, of current flame retardants used in the textile sector, and their future alternatives, by identifying the best technologies available, both from the performance and from the sustainability point of view. This will be achieved by developing the analysis of their environmental impact and functionalities in order to promote the substitution amongst the manufacturers.



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The project is motivated by the environmental limitation that affects the use of this type of products, especially the halogenated ones. The REACH Regulation in relation to authorization and restriction processes of Substances of Very High Concern and their gradual replacement by appropriate alternatives together with the demands of end users and NGOs have encouraged the development of non-toxic or low toxicity solutions.

Although, in most cases, alternative solutions do not provide the required flame retardant properties in high performance applications, the leading chemical multinationals continue working on more functional and less toxic alternatives. Yet, there is a lack of information on the toxicity of these recently developed alternative solutions.

The LIFE-FLAREX project will select the products to be analysed according to their functionality and market requirements. An analysis of the environmental impact of the best available technologies being developed as an alternative to the current flame-retardants will be carried out. Demonstration activities in industrial facilities will ensure the technical, economic and environmental viability of the selected chemicals. A full and detailed analysis of the best technologies (i.e. functionality, controlled risk and lower toxicity) will be disseminated in order to inform society and define the best non-toxic technologies in which research should focus in the near future.



Members of the LIFE-FLAREX project consortium at LEITAT facilities

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