

ECHA-13-A-08-EN

# Multi-annual Work Programme 2014-2018 – working for the safe use of chemicals

Built along four strategic objectives, ECHA's five-year plan defines how the Agency will contribute to the aims of the REACH, CLP, Biocidal Products and PIC Regulations<sup>1</sup> from 2014 to 2018.



ECHA's vision is to become **the world's leading regulatory authority on the safety of chemicals**. This five-year plan sets out how to achieve this ambitious goal, for which ECHA will cooperate closely with the European institutions and Member States, and interact with its accredited stakeholders.

The four strategic objectives were created to focus ECHA's resources on areas of priority: to secure public trust in the safety information provided by industry, reduce presence and exposure to chemicals of concern and build the capacity to provide reliable scientific advice. At the same time, the Agency strives to further increase efficiency and effectiveness.

The four objectives are broken down into action areas and milestones for each year. Annual work programmes will provide more detail on the individual activities.

Progress in these main milestones and action areas will be measured annually which will allow ECHA to review and update the plan and milestones, if necessary.

<sup>1</sup>ECHA implements the Regulation concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH); the Regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures (CLP); the Biocidal Product Regulation (BPR) and the Prior Informed Consent Regulation (PIC).

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: MAXIMISING THE AVAILABILITY OF HIGH QUALITY INFORMATION TO ENABLE THE SAFE MANUFACTURE AND USE OF CHEMICALS

Thanks to the REACH and CLP regulations, ECHA now has the world's biggest database on the impact of chemicals. The Agency publishes information on registered substances, on substances notified to the classification and labelling inventory and data resulting from its regulatory activities.

The challenge in 2014-2018 is to improve the quality of the registration data. This data needs to be used effectively to enable the safe manufacture and use of chemicals. By evaluating the dossiers and taking prompt action against companies whose information falls short of the standard, ECHA helps to ensure a level playing field for all registrants.

The Agency supports registrants and downstream users to improve the communication of risk management advice throughout the supply chain – up to the articles to the benefit of consumers.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: MOBILISING AUTHORITIES TO USE INFORMATION INTELLIGENTLY TO IDENTIFY AND ADDRESS CHEMICALS OF CONCERN

ECHA works closely with the Member States and the Commission to develop a common framework for managing the risks of chemicals. It strives to use the information in its database intelligently: to first seek out those substances that appear to be most harmful and whose risks may not yet be well managed. By focusing on identifying new substances for risk management and including such substances on the Candidate and Authorisation lists, ECHA contributes to the substitution of the most dangerous substances in the EU.

With the Biocidal Products Regulation entering into operation, ECHA takes a central role in coordinating the evaluation of active substances and Union-wide authorisation of biocidal products.

To improve compliance with chemicals legislation throughout Europe, ECHA supports national authorities to harmonise their enforcement activities.



## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: ADDRESSING SCIENTIFIC CHALLENGES BY SERVING AS A HUB FOR BUILDING THE SCIENTIFIC AND REGULATORY CAPACITY OF MEMBER STATES, EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER ACTORS

To remain at the forefront of regulatory science, ECHA cooperates closely with the scientific community, following the latest developments and emerging regulatory needs. Through specialised working groups of committees, scientific platforms, trainings and workshops, it is building a hub for capacity building for Member States, European institutions and other actors.

In the coming years, a new regulatory science strategy will prioritise the Agency's scientific activities.

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: EMBRACING CURRENT AND NEW LEGISLATIVE TASKS EFFICIENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY, WHILE ADAPTING TO UPCOMING RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS

From 2014 to 2018, ECHA faces a high volume of regulatory tasks under REACH and CLP and has started with new tasks related to the Biocidal Products and PIC regulations. At the same time, resource constraints from the EU budget need to be faced. Therefore, ECHA strives to maximise the synergies between its tasks, making the best possible use of IT. The continuous improvement of all operations aims for both higher efficiency and increased effectiveness.

Read ECHA's Multi-annual Work Programme 2014-2018 at: [echa.europa.eu/publications](http://echa.europa.eu/publications)

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