

# **Networks to support substitution**

## **Lessons from experience in the US**

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# Many entities and activities supporting substitution in the EU

How to better connect and coordinate?

- ▶ European Commission
- ▶ Member State authorities
- ▶ Enterprises
- ▶ NGOs
- ▶ Academia

# Primary Functions/Purpose?

## Different types of networks

What's the goal of the network? What are you trying to achieve?

### Some broad functions/purposes:

- ▶ **Operational:** Coordination/implementation of specific initiatives
- ▶ **Strategic:** Identifying priorities and collaborations to leverage resources on shared need and challenges
- ▶ **Capacity-building and mind-set change:** Learning from the experience of others
- ▶ **Networking/connecting**

# US Experience

Several networks are supporting substitution efforts with a specific focus on advancing alternatives assessment/safer chemistry

## Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse

- State gov't agencies
- Coordinated/managed by NEWMOA
- Particular focus on analysis of alternatives
- *Operational, networking*

## Green Chemistry and Commerce Council

- Enterprises - B2B dialog
- Coordinated by LCSP
- Mainstreaming green chemistry
- *Strategic, capacity-building, networking*

## BizNGO

- Gov't, NGOs, enterprises
- Clean Production Action (NGO)
- *Support policy and action on substitution*
- *Operational, strategic capacity-building, networking*

## Interagency Working Group on Alternatives Assessment

- Gov't agencies (federal, state, municipal)
- Coordinated by LCSP
- Enhancing collaborations and coordination to advance transition to safer chemicals
- *Capacity building, networking*

# Lessons Learned

## Benefits

- ▶ **Fresh ideas:** Platform for providing and sharing new perspectives and ideas
- ▶ **Advice and support:** Access to expertise from peers. Discussing common challenges and opportunities and options for progress.
- ▶ **Capacity-building:** Opportunity to exchange best practice knowledge and stay abreast of developments and new information. Leverage resources for shared objectives.
- ▶ **Strengthening of relationships and trust:** Enhancing relationships and trust among organizations

# Lessons Learned

## Challenges

- ▶ **Complex organizational dynamics:** Requires skilled leadership and facilitation to be sustainable over the long term
- ▶ **Maintaining/sustaining engagement:** Requires offering a value proposition for participants to stay active and engaged
- ▶ **Ability to be nimble:** Need to be nimble and willing to change the structure and focus of the network as needs evolve
- ▶ **Time/Resources:** Need to incorporate in-person meeting opportunities, despite time and resource complications