



Ministry of Infrastructure and the  
Environment | Ministry of Economic  
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Health and the Environment

# Sustainable innovation of substances, materials and products

Activities of the Netherlands

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Sustainable innovation of substances, materials and products





# REACH

Registration  
Evaluation  
Authorisation and  
Restriction of **C**hemicals

## Challenges

- REACH enforces substitution. However,
  - this process takes time
  - drawback of 'substance per substance approach' is regrettable substitution
- We need a more fundamental substitution
- How can companies become more proactive regarding substitution?
- Several activities in the Netherlands



## Safe Chemical Innovation Agenda (SCIA)

- Calls aiming at developing alternatives are scarce in EU research programs
- Stakeholder consultation: which substances are problematic?
- Goal to obtain a widely supported research agenda with a short-list of substances for which alternatives are desired (results expected beginning of 2018)
- Request to EC to implement this topic in EU research programs



## Bio-based alternatives for SVHCs

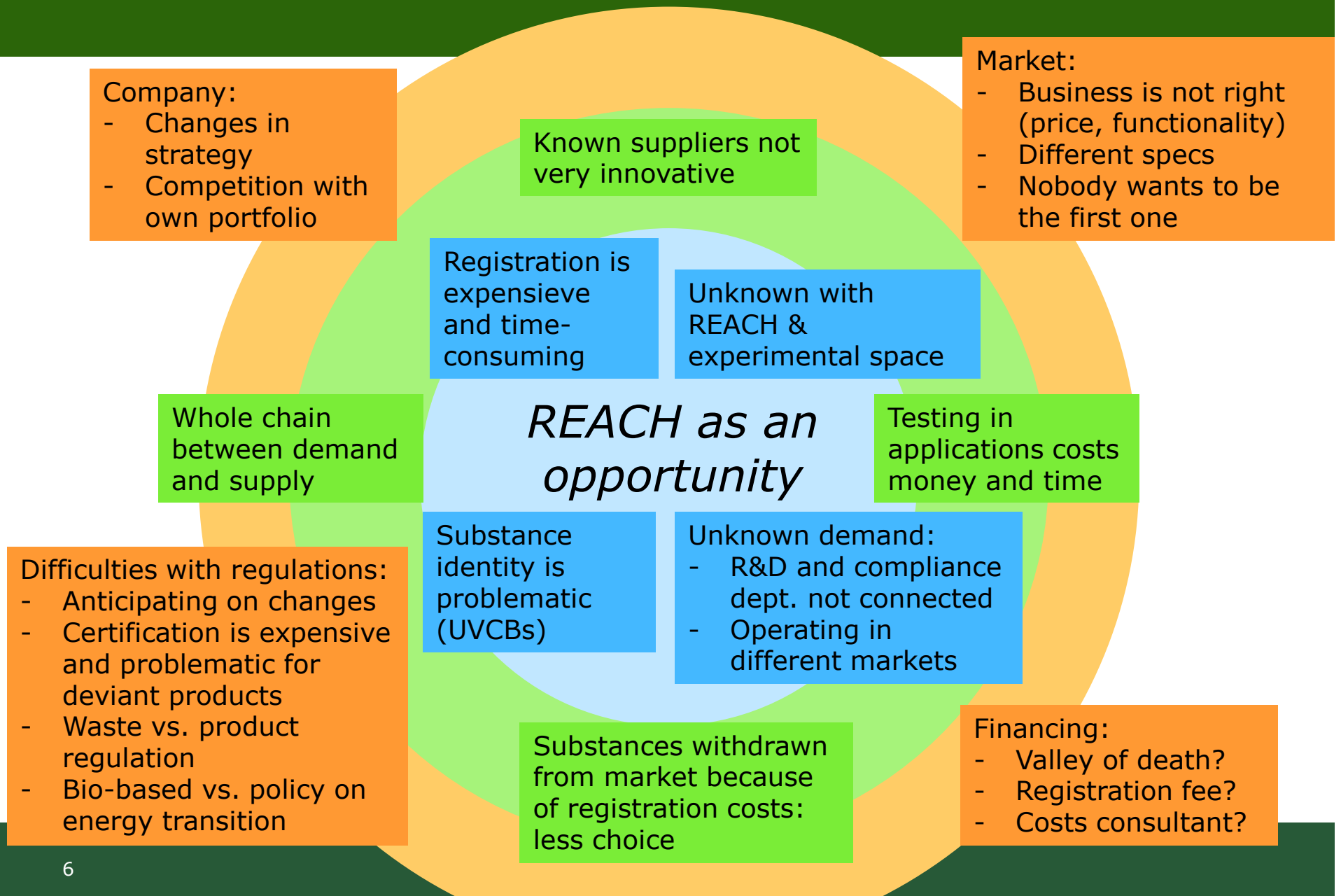
- Two studies by Wageningen University & Research Centre (WUR)
  - Development of bio-based chemicals is expected to increase
  - Are there bio-based chemicals with replacement potential and a better hazard profile?
1. Bio-based replacement potential of hazardous chemicals (report 2014): short-list of biobased alternatives for SVHCs that could be produced at a short-term
  2. Bio-based alternatives for polar aprotic solvents
    - existing and emerging bio-based product streams
    - new bio-based chemicals
    - selection of potential substitutes of polar aprotic solvents
    - Results expected before the end of 2017



## REACH as an opportunity

- Governmental program: stimulating regulation for sustainable innovation
- REACH often mentioned by companies as an obstacle, especially by SMEs
- WUR report on bio-based alternatives for SVHCs (2014) used as a starting point for interviews
- Experiences of NL companies with bringing alternatives to the market

# Experiences bringing alternatives to market



# What way?



1. Dissiminate and utilize current opportunities
  - Make people aware of the opportunities in REACH, tell about inspiring substitution initiatives
  - Make existing substitution tools and databases easy to find
  - Make it clear where to find finance for projects on substitution
  - Focus on both big and small companies
2. Bringing demand and supply together
  - Branche organisations are not in position to fulfill this role
  - New role? *The substitution broker*. Insight into science and business
3. Learning while doing: a specific substitution case
  - Government can provide scientific knowledge, facilitate the dialogue, (support on finding) finance, support on obstructing regulations, ambassador for innovations
  - Involvement of whole supply chain. Important role for the big customer?
  - How to find? Please share experiences with us!

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