

# Chemical exposure information for decision making in SMEs

Elevating Exposure Science in Chemical Safety Management

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# SMEunited & our role in chemicals policy

## Activities

- Association of crafts and SMEs in Europe
- more than 70 member associations from more than 30 countries
- representing 22,5 million SMEs in Europe which employ almost 82,4 million people
- SMEs make up > 99% of all enterprises, 2/3 of employment & > 50% of EU added value
- interest representation, networking & capacity building, projects
- European Social Partner

## Chemicals policy

- Sec Gen member of High-Level Roundtable on the implementation of the Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability
- participating in workshops on Chemicals Industry Transition Pathways
- member of Cross-Industry Initiative (CII) & Alliance for the Sustainable Management of Chemical Risk (ASMoR)
- member in various COM & ECHA groups on chemical policy (CARACAL, MSC,...)
- active member associations

# SMEs needs

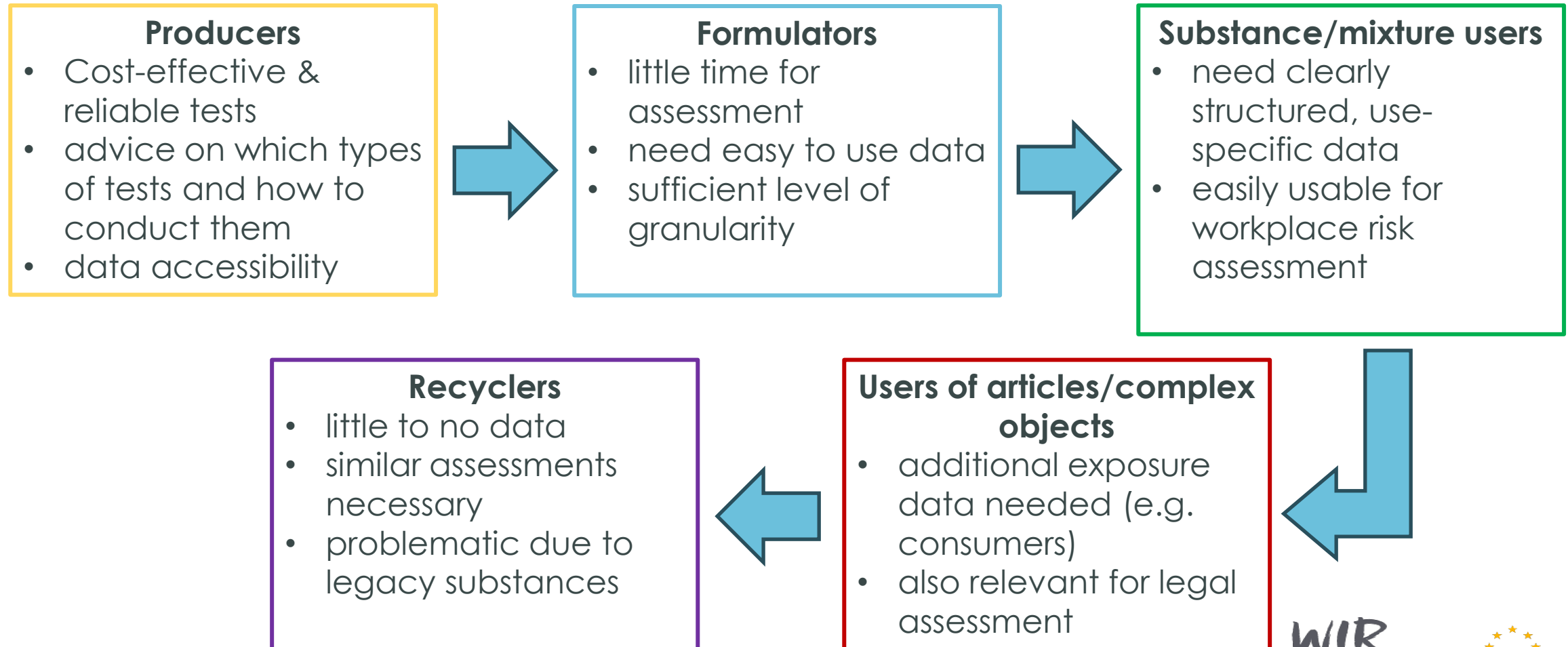
## Differences

- SME  $\neq$  SME
- SMEs along the entire chemicals value chain vary widely
- according to sector, position in the value chain, types of chemicals, forms of chemicals to handle + many more
- as a result, needs in data including exposure data vary greatly

## Commonalities

- few resources for chemicals management
- how data can be processed
- Need clear guidance on how to use information (reduce complexity)
- digital or analogue actually not the core question

# SMEs along the chemicals supply chain



# Example of tool for decision making

- SCIP Database: **S**ubstances of **C**oncern **I**n articles as such or in complex objects (**P**roducts) established under Waste Framework Directive (WFD)
- idea: ensure that the information on articles containing Candidate List substances is available throughout the whole product lifecycle
- however, the data as it is currently reported is not helpful for recyclers
- simply put: information on SVHCs in the product but nothing about the route of exposure, safe management or the like
- **goal:** transfer it into a real tool for decision making to improve worker protection & recycle quality

# Relevant legislative developments

## Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability

- Substances of Concern
  - increase n° of substances to consider
- Mixture Assessment Factor
  - applied to all risk assessments to ensure that unintended mixtures remain safe
- Essential Use Concept
  - which uses are considered essential for society?
- Generic Risk Approach (GRA)
  - extension to certain professional uses

## Digital Product Passport (DPP)

- information input/output for different actors along value chain (on a need-to-know basis)
- Substances of Concern to be included in DPP
- defined on product group/category basis
- potentially also exposure data to be included
- can develop into tool of decision making



# How to enable SMEs to take decisions

- SMEs have to continuously professionalise chemicals management but have little resources to do so
- Efficient resource use through manageable communication is crucial
- Key points to take regarding exposure data:
  - specific support measures, e.g. related to test costs & data accessibility
  - clearly structured & use-specific data
  - easily usable for workplace risk assessment
  - digital tools yes, but only with well-structured and prepared data
  - understandability & readability is key



# Thank you for your attention

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