

# LIFE-FLAREX

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

## PRESS RELEASE

Terrassa, January 20th 2020



### **AEI Tèxtils participated in an expert workshop from the European Commission towards hazardous chemical substitution**

**LIFE-FLAREX is a LIFE Programme project that aims to reduce the impact on the environment, human health and workers' safety, of current harmful Flame Retardants used in the textile industry and their alternatives, by analyzing their environmental impact and technical functionalities and promoting the best practices for the sector**

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, [AEI Tèxtils](#), the Catalan technical textiles' cluster, and [LEITAT technological center](#), member of the cluster, participated, in representation of [LIFE-FLAREX](#) project, in an expert workshop on "PFAS and fluorine free alternatives in textiles, upholstery, carpets, leather and apparel", organized by the Directorate General of Environment from the European Commission (DG-ENV) in Brussels.

The workshop was led by the consulting firm Wood along with the European Commission and [ECHA](#). Several authorities presented the views of the Commission and Wood presented the preliminary results from the study.

The workshop started with some introductory presentations on experiences with substitution and/or elimination of hazardous chemicals in different industries and how they overcame their particular barriers for each case study. After the plenary session, the participants divided into working groups to identify potential chemical substitutes, limitations and substitution strategy.

At large, the main strategic goals pivoted around the communication and information sharing framework, the value chain cooperation and the different policy changes that are upcoming to favor risk-sharing and innovation promotion in this field.

The participant profile was diverse, coming from different industries including chemicals, textiles, coatings and others, representatives from the public sector and research centers from across Europe.



LIFE-FLAREX is a project co-funded by the European Union under the LIFE Financial Instrument within the axe Environment Policy and Governance and under the Grant Agreement n. LIFE16 ENV/ES/000374

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**European Commission Workshop for hazardous chemical substitution in Brussels**

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*The project coordinator is AEI TÈXTILS, the Catalan cluster of technical textiles. Six additional partners complete the consortium: two Spanish technological centers/research institutes: LEITAT and the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (CSIC), both members of AEI TÈXTILS, the Belgian textile research center 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 the current flame retardants used in the textile sector, and their future alternatives, by identifying which are the best technologies available, both from the performance and from the sustainability point of view. This will be achieved with the development of the analysis of their environmental impact and functionalities in order to promote the substitution amongst the manufacturers.*

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**For more information: [www.life-flarex.eu](http://www.life-flarex.eu)**



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