

LIFE-FLAREX

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

PRESS RELEASE

Terrassa, February 25th 2020



The European Commission visits the LIFE-FLAREX project in Terrassa

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 finishing industry and their alternatives, by analyzing their environmental impact and technical functionalities and promoting the best practices for the sector

On February 24th, the European Commission visited the [LIFE-FLAREX](#) project during its last monitoring visit along with the IDOM-NEEMO monitoring team. AEI Tèxtils, as project coordinator, welcomed Mr. Manuel Montero, project adviser at EASME – the Executive Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises from the European Commission, and Ms. Mariona Salvatella from IDOM-NEEMO, the monitoring team subcontracted by the EC.

The visit started with a tour at E.CIMA industrial facilities, one of the two Catalan companies that participated in the industrial demonstration tests of the project earlier this year. The other Catalan company, and also AEIT Tèxtils' member, is BONDITEX.

The tour in E.CIMA started with a presentation about the company by Jordi Mota, R&D manager, followed by a discussion of the implications of the project results for the company to drive chemical substitution for flame retardants towards safer and environmentally friendlier alternatives. After the discussion, Jordi Mota offered a quick tour to the finishing facilities where the tests were conducted.



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

LIFE-FLAREX

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



Mr. Jordi Mota (E.CIMA), LIFE-FLAREX project coordinator, the industrial trials' responsible and European Commission representatives during the tour at E.CIMA

Afterwards, the European Commission team transferred to LEITAT Technological Center facilities in Terrassa to meet the rest of the consortium and have an update on the different ongoing activities since the start of the project.

During the meeting, each partner presented the status of the actions they are leading as well as the planning for the latest stages of the project that will be completed by the end of June 2020.

The consortium reviewed in depth the progress of all the actions of the project. Several points were treated with utmost detail; particularly, the ongoing industrial trials where the consortium are gathering the data for the Life Cycle Assessment and the Risk Assessment that will be used to assess the human and environmental risks and impact of the Flame Retardant products. The partnership also reviewed the progress on the skin penetration of the different products in order to assess the toxicological potential.

Thus far, the consortium has conducted industrial tests in Catalonia at [Bonditex](#) and [E.CIMA](#), Italy, at [TF2000](#) and [Fini-stampa Giordanetto](#), and at Czech Republic, both at [Inotex](#) and [Tylex Letovice](#). In the coming weeks, the partnership will conduct the last industrial trials at [Pertex](#) in Spain to complete the different assessments.

Other important aspect discussed during the meeting was the strategic plan for promoting substitution towards safer chemicals in the textile finishing process. All partners share a common vision and strategy to involve the different regions of the project and to seek regional synergies with ongoing programs and authorities. It is important to highlight best practices and experiences that companies can relate to in order to make an effective communication that can engage other companies to follow and lead.



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

LIFE-FLAREX

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

During the last stages of LIFE-FLAREX, the consortium will prepare several communication materials including the Layman's report and a FR Green Procurement Guide to communicate to companies and to the public the different results of the project.



LIFE-FLAREX team and European Commission representatives during the project meeting in Terrassa

Next public events of the project are the organization of a regional workshop in Catalonia on April 3rd in Barcelona and the project final event scheduled on June 17th in Alcoy.

LIFE-FLAREX is co-funded by the European Commission's LIFE program under the Environment Policy and Governance axe with Grant Agreement number LIFE16 ENV/ES/000374.

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.

LIFE-FLAREX video Link: <https://youtu.be/o2e877GgdcY>

For more information: www.life-flarex.eu



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