

# *Training program for professional workers handling chemical mixtures*

*Giulia Sebastio*

*DUCC Manager*



Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination group

# DUCC ?

- 11 EU associations
- **>9.000 companies** across the respective sectors in Europe, **the vast majority being SMEs**
- Turnover = more than 215 billion euros



# Why are we doing this project?

In line with the objectives of the EU green deal...

- to secure professional workers are properly skilled to safely handle hazardous chemicals;
- secure the jobs of professional workers using chemical mixtures – providing services needed for the green transition



# Why are we doing this project?

Such a platform would be useful in different situations, such as:

- Supporting employers in giving the mandatory Occupational Safety and Health training for employees
- Supporting self-employed professionals to achieve a similar level of protection as employed professionals
- Serving as the proof of training for safe use of chemicals as defined in REACH Reg. (EC) No 1272/2008
- Providing a training source for those professionals with no/limited access to training otherwise.
- Providing skills on sustainable and durable solutions to professionals in support of the green transition

# What will we produce?

European online platform for supporting the skills and development of professional workers on the safe handling of chemicals.

Step 1:

- Generic training for the safe use of chemical mixtures.
- Training with key, understandable explanations of how to use chemical mixtures safely.
- Translated in all EU languages.
- Free and easily accessible.



# Who will we involve?

- The creation of the 'generic training for safe use of mixtures' will be supported by a group of volunteers from experts of DUCC and Cefic.
- Over the course of 2023/2024 the group will set up a testing process to improve the training and refine it with input from external stakeholders (e.g. associations representing professional workers).
- This is considered a crucial step to ensure that the training is relevant and understandable for professionals.



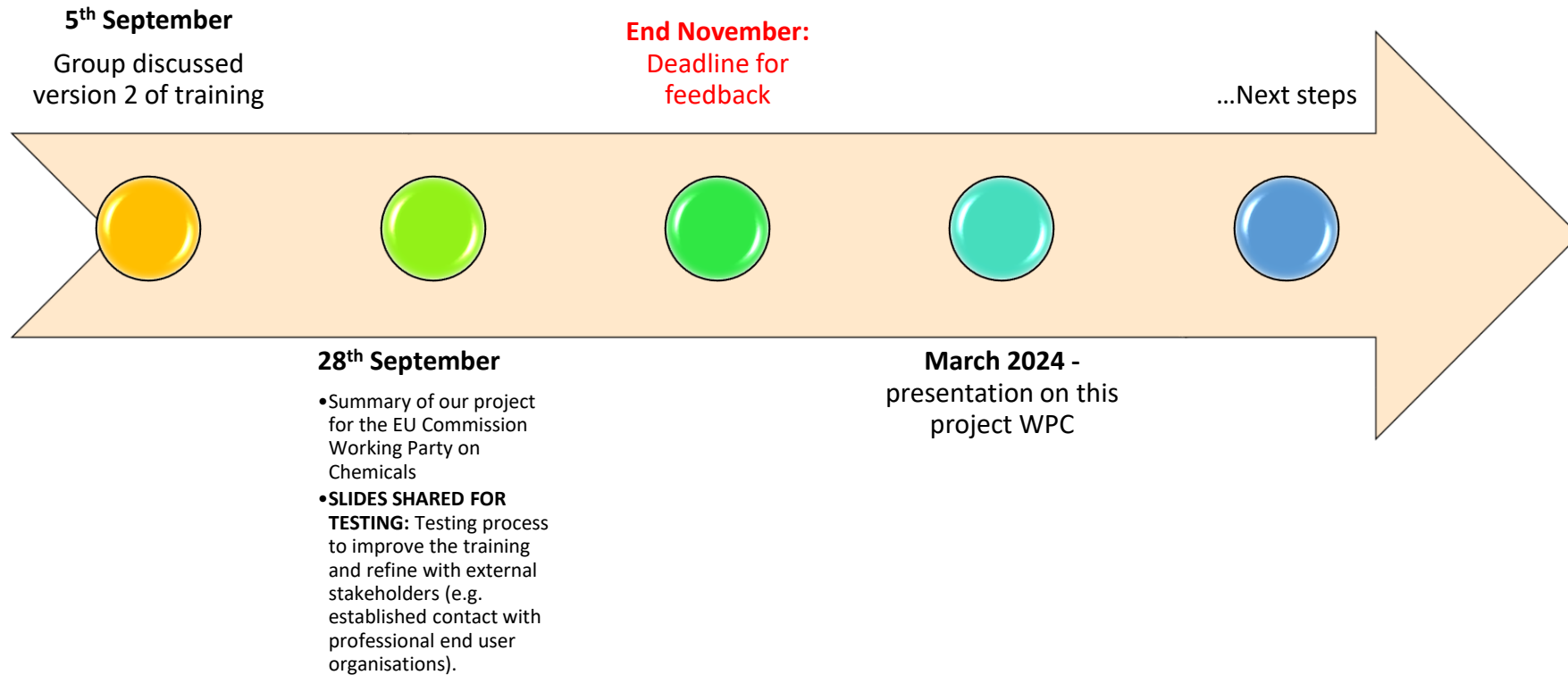


# Who will we involve?



Looking for feedback...

# When? What is our timing ?

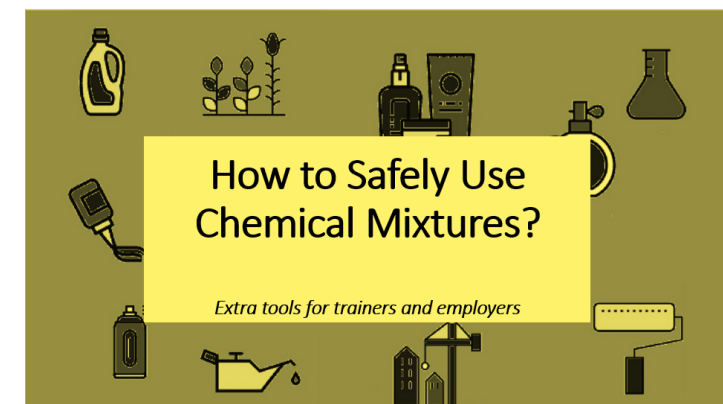
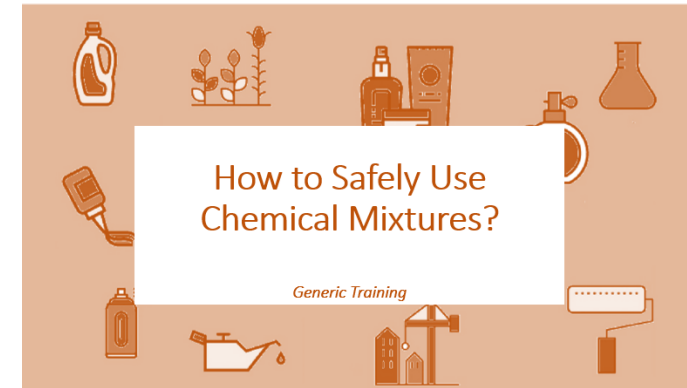




# Where will you find it?

Keep a look out at the DUEG website.

3 videos, ca. 10 minutes each



# A taste of our advice

*What are we sharing so far in the DUEG generic training?*



# Hazardous Chemicals?

Hazardous chemicals are substances that, when in contact with the body or absorbed into the body, can cause damage to health. Substances can also create physical hazards, such as fire and explosion.



K

Different effects of substances are possible:

- There may be effects that you notice immediately or effects that you do not notice immediately, but only in the longer term.
- The nature of the effects may vary: a substance can be irritating to the skin, harmful, but also toxic to very toxic or can even cause cancer.
- Effects can be temporary or permanent.
- Substances can have local effects (e.g. on contact with the skin) or effects throughout the body after being absorbed through inhalation, the skin, mucous membranes or the mouth.



# How to Recognise Hazardous Chemicals?

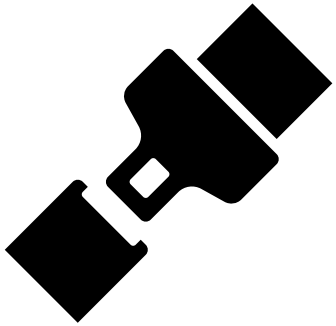
Hazardous mixtures can be identified by the hazard symbol on the label that must be affixed to the packaging.



Pictograms are an alert!



Pictograms are an alert!



How to keep yourself safe?

Read Section 8.2 of the Safety Data Sheet

**OR**

Find the Precautionary and Hazard statements on the label

# Pictograms

What hazard symbols do you use in your own workplace?

Which ones do you recognize?



# Pictograms – and safe use





Can you identify any products that you use with this pictogram?

What advice do you see about how to use the product safely?











### Physical hazards – SDS Sections 2, 9, 10

|   |                           |   |   |   |                 |   |                             |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | <i>Fire and explosive</i> |  | <i>Oxidizing Substances, may cause fire</i> |  | <i>Sostanze</i> |  | <i>Gases under Pressure</i> |
|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------------|

### Environmental hazards – SDS Sections 2, 11

|  |                             |   |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|  | <i>Air – destroys ozone</i> |  | <i>Water – aquatic life</i> |
|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|

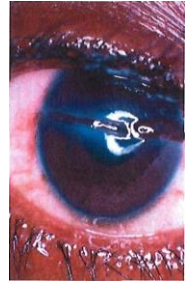
### Health hazards – SDS sections 2, 11

|   |  |  |  |  |                        |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|
|  | <i>Harmful Irritation<br/>May cause allergy to skin or eyes<br/>Narcotic effects</i> |  | <i>May cause allergy or asthma if inhaled<br/>Causing damage to organs<br/>Carcinogenicity/<br/>Genetic defects/<br/>Reproductive toxicity</i> |  | <i>Fatal and toxic</i> |  | <i>Corrosion to skin and eyes damage</i> |
|---|--|--|--|--|------------------------|--|--|

# Pictograms – and safe use



Corrosion to  
eyes damage



Wear safety  
goggles



Corrosion to  
skin



Wear  
gloves and  
long  
sleeves



# Pictograms – Safe Use



## Danger

Causes **skin irritation**. May cause an **allergic skin reaction**. Causes serious **eye irritation**. May cause **allergy or asthma** symptoms or breathing difficulties if inhaled. May cause **respiratory irritation**. **Toxic to aquatic life** with long lasting effects.



Avoid breathing dust/vapour/mist/spray. **Wear protective gloves, protective clothing and eye/face protection.** Avoid release to the environment. IF INHALED: Remove person to fresh air and keep comfortable for breathing. IF ON SKIN: Wash gently with plenty of soap and water. IF IN EYES: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. remove contact lenses, if possible; keep rinsing.

# If there is no pictogram ?

Some products will not have a pictogram, these will not require any personal protective equipment (PPE), but will still have instructions for safe use.

- Check the label for instructions on how to keep yourself safe.

**REMEMBER** buckets/barrels/cans/bottles can contain chemicals but will have no identification/label on them. (If it looks like water, does not mean it is water)!

# Behavior-based safety

## GOLDEN RULE WHEN HANDLING CHEMICALS = AVOID CONTACT

- Don't eat, drink or smoke to avoid accidental ingestion
- Don't use in proximity of open flames to avoid accidents and explosions
- Wash hands after use to avoid accidental ingestion or absorption to skin
- Avoid contact with damaged skin
- Odour should not be relied on as an indication of hazard



# Behavior-based safety

And **REMEMBER: Mixtures do not Mix!**

Mixing chemical mixtures together can result in unwanted chemical reactions

You don't want to accidentally cause an explosion!



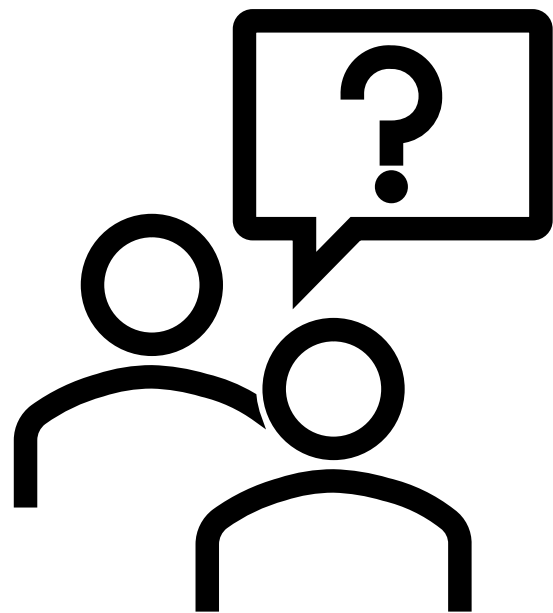
# Dealing with waste

Chemical/hazardous waste and any material in contact with chemical (cloth, empty container,..) must be disposed of in a waste container for chemical/hazardous waste

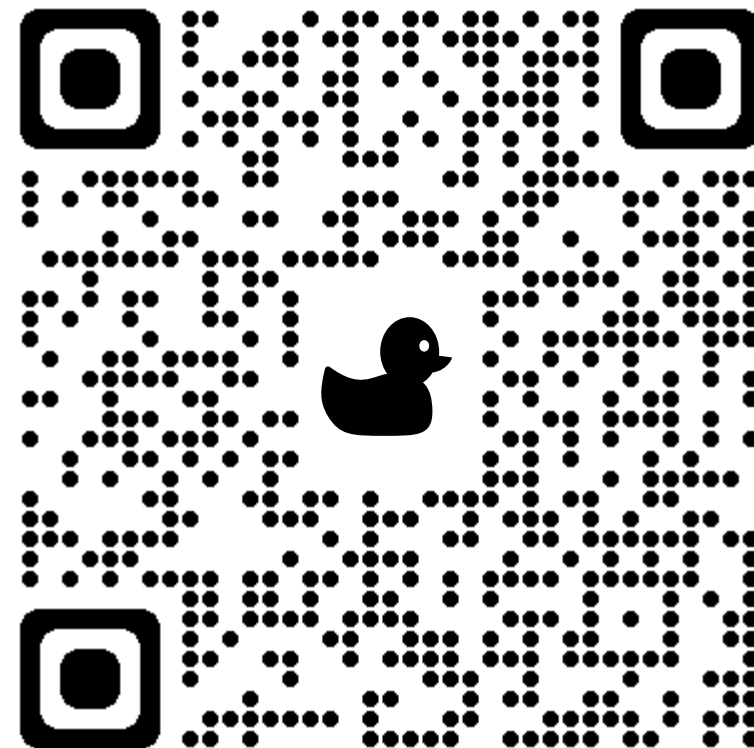
## **Protect bystanders!!!**

Important to protect bystanders

(e.g.: colleagues; staff from nearby services; contractor personnel)



Downstream Users of Chemicals Co-ordination group



Find us at: [www.ducc.eu](http://www.ducc.eu)