VASt programme

Programme reinforcing the working conditions policy on dangerous substances
Presentation

• Background, why?
• Details of the programme
• Results
• Discussion
Why reinforcing

- one third of the companies is handling dangerous substances
- one fourth of the employees is exposed
- 30,000 different substances are handled
- estimated 17,000 occupational diseases and 1,850 deaths
- employers in SMEs take insufficient responsibility
Reasons insufficient compliance

- lack of information in the chain ‘producer, distributor, end-user’
- MSDS are too technical, too long and of poor quality
- lack of knowledge and skills in SMEs
- working conditions knowledge infrastructure is not adequately organised to support companies
- insufficient awareness of the risks
- lack of knowledge on possible control measures
Four levels

REACH

National

Sector

Company (SME)

VASt programme

Actors involved

• primary chain players
• branche/sector organisations
• trade unions
• research institutes
• occupational health services
• education and training institutes
• governmental organisations
Branches: develop and execute action plan

- dangerous substances used in branche
- reinforcing the position of the sector in the chain ‘producer, distributor, end-user’
- reinforcing the working conditions knowledge infrastructure on dangerous substances
Results sector level

- High priority sectors
- 24 action plans
- 184,000 companies involved
- About 2 million employees
- Awareness, information, knowledge
- Easier access for companies
- More involvement companies
- Implementation ??
Results company level

- Stoffenmanager
- Pimex
- AWARE
- Pilots industrial estates/sites
Stoffenmanager

- > 8000 users
- version 4.0 coming up
- validated, database 4000 exposure measurements
- quantitative exposure assessment
- linked to Pimex films
- REACH approved
- Inspectorate approved
- open source software
- modules; skin exposure, storage, ATEX, English
- 10 sector specific versions