

Raising Awareness on Health Hazards of Chemicals in Toys

Case of Belarus



IPEN Chemicals in Products Initiative (ICiPI)

Center for Environmental Solutions



Information about specific products and chemicals related to the activity:

In 2018, CES studied labels and content of 29 plastic toys and children-related products from 12 sales points in Minsk, Belarus. All these products can be easily purchased by consumers in supermarkets, stores, and open markets.

Out of 29 purchased items, 27 toys were tested for concentration of toxic metals and bromine, using XRF-method at Arnika Association in the Czech Republic.

Another 2 toys were tested for phthalates in the Greenpeace Laboratories (UK) and Eurofins Consumer Product Testing (Germany).

The project was implemented in the frame of IPEN's Chemicals in Products (CiP) programme (<https://ipen.org/site/toxics-products-overview>) with the objective to understand whether consumers are informed about the composition of toys, with a particular focus on phthalates.

Similar projects were implemented in Armenia, Serbia, Nepal and the Philippines. The picture is disappointing - consumers are deprived of the right to choose a safer product, because the important information about the chemical content of products is missing in all five countries involved in IPEN CiP projects.

Toxic effects of the chemicals contained in the products:

Heavy metals: cadmium, lead, arsenic, chromium (VI), mercury

Chemical	Use	How consumers are exposed	Toxic effects
Cadmium (Cd)	Used in paints to cover plastics	The respiratory or digestive systems (e.g. when burning plastic objects, cadmium is released into the air)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kidney inflammation;• Nervous system disorders;• Lung emphysema;• Bone pains, skeletal deformation, osteoporosis;• Hypertension, cardiopathy;• Anemia;• Sexual function disorders (prostatopathy);• Lung and kidney cancer;• Deficiency of zinc, selenium, copper, iron, and calcium.
Lead (Pb)	Paints, plastic, jewelry	The respiratory system (breathing dust) and the digestive tract (when dusty hands or toys are placed in the mouth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irritability, weakness, fatigue, memory loss, migraine, mental retardation, depression, concentration loss;• Muscle pain in limbs;• Appearance of lead on the gums - dark blue or black,• Dental caries, bone disease;• Increase of arterial pressure, atherosclerosis, bradycardia (decreased heart rate);• Sharp belly pain, constipation;• Weight loss;• Renal insufficiency, neuropathy;• Anemia;• Decreased resistance to infections;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of calcium and zinc content in the body.
Arsenic (As)	In solutions used to prevent decay of wooden articles	The digestive tract (when products/toys are placed in the mouth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irritability, headaches; • Liver function disorder; • Skin allergy inflammations (eczema, dermatitis, ulcers, peripheral dermatitis, etc.), eye inflammation (conjunctivitis); • Kidney infections (neuropathy); • Increased risk of developing skin, liver, lung cancers; • Disorders of the respiratory tract (nasal septum perforation); • Damage to blood vessels.
Chrome (Cr)	Chromium Salt ($\text{Na}_2\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7$) sodium bicromate is used in the chemical, textile and leather industry as a tanning substance. Chromium compounds are also used in the production of glass, rubber, and ceramics.	The digestive tract (when products/ toys are placed in the mouth)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin allergy inflammations (allergic dermatitis, eczema); • Bronchial asthma; • Irritability (astheno-neurotic disorders); • Increased risk of neoplasms; • Intestinal lining inflammation.

Phthalates

By penetrating the organism, phthalates lead to:

- decreased resistance of the body's immunity, weakened protective properties
- disorders of various organs: liver, kidneys, pancreas, genital organs, heart, vessels, brain (neurotoxic),
- fatty acne and metabolic disorders,
- obesity, diabetes,
- in women: breast, uterus and ovarian cancer (endocrine disrupting effects),
- in men: decrease of sperm development, infertility, cancer of the colon,
- in children: can lead to obesity, growth and development disorders, irreversible changes in immune and nervous systems

How consumers are exposed to phthalates:

Phthalates can be released from the finished items and penetrate the baby's body, especially when chewing or sucking those items. These items include teething rings, bottle nipples, soothers, etc. Children, especially very small ones, often put flexible plastic toys into their mouths.

Phthalates can be released from phthalate-containing soaps, shampoos, hair gels, bath toys, inflatable toys, rescue rings and inflatable rescue life jackets and absorbed into the human body through the wet skin.

Phthalates can be released from a product by heat, agitation, and prolonged storage. The release can occur during all the stages of the product lifecycle - from production, through use, to disposal. The number of these products is incommensurable. People most often are exposed to phthalates through food plastic containers. Under certain conditions of use, phthalates are released from products and absorbed into the body through food.

Although several types of phthalates were banned from use in children's toys in the US, Canada, the EU and the EEU, these toxic endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs) can be found in many children's items, including lunch boxes, waterproof mattress covers, inflatable toys, baby pools, and bath toys.

Describe legislation that regulates labeling of products, and the regulation of phthalates in products.

a. International

The International Council of Toy Industries (ICTI) lists International Standards for Toys and Children's Products as identified and maintained by the U.S. Toy Industry Association in its role as ICTI Secretariat (ref. <https://www.toy-icti.org/info/toysafetystandards.html>).

As of December 2017

Country	Title	Contact to Inquire or Obtain Standard
International Standards	<p>ISO/TC 181 Safety of Toys</p> <p>ISO 8124-1:2014 Safety of Toys—Part 1: Safety Aspects Related to Mechanical and Physical Properties</p> <p>ISO 8124-2:2014 Safety of Toys—Part 2: Flammability</p> <p>ISO 8124-3:2010 Migration of Certain Elements</p> <p>ISO 8124-4:2014 Swings, slides and similar activity toys for indoor and outdoor family domestic use</p> <p>ISO 8124-5:2015 Determination of total concentration of certain elements in toys</p> <p>ISO 8124-6:2014 Certain phthalate testers in toys and children's products</p> <p>ISO 8124-7:2015 Requirements and test methods for finger paints</p> <p>ISO/TR 8124-8:2014 Age determination guidelines</p> <p>IEC 62115:2017 Electric Toys—Safety</p>	<p>International Organization for Standardization ISO Central Secretariat BIBC II Chemin de Blandonnet 8 CP 401 1214 Vernier, Geneva Switzerland E-mail: central@iso.org Tel. : +41 22 749 01 11</p> <p>ISO Regional Engagement - Asia, Singapore office 2 Science Park Drive #02-05/06 Singapore 118222 E-mail: singapore@iso.org Tel. : +65 6265 1023</p> <p>Website: www.iso.ch Available in English</p> <p>International Electrotechnical Commission for IEC 62115 3, rue de Varembeé, P.O. Box 131 1211 Geneva 20 Switzerland E-mail: info@iec.ch Tel : + 41 22 919 02 11</p>

b. EU

The European Commission has announced plans to restrict the placing on the market of articles containing four phthalates – DEHP, DBP, BBP and DIBP – following their identification as substances of high concern due to endocrine disrupting effects on humans and the environment. These chemicals, Bis(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), Benzyl butyl phthalate (BBP), Dibutyl phthalate (DBP), and Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP), are commonly present in plasticised materials and found in a wide variety of everyday products, from toys to sport equipment. Consumers can be exposed to one of these phthalates or to their combination through different sources, such as ingesting food and dust, placing articles in the mouth, breathing in air and dust indoors, and by dust coming into contact with mucous membranes and skin. The chemicals are known for their [toxic effects on reproductive health](#).

Under the new restriction, the four phthalates may not be present in articles used by consumers or available in indoor areas in a concentration equal to or above 0.1% by weight individually or in any combination in any plasticized material.

The restriction proposal takes into account the cumulative effects and combined exposure to the four phthalates from different products.

The EU's REACH Committee, composed of experts from all member states, supported the proposed measure by unanimity.

The Commission's restriction plan comes almost seven years after the Danish government submitted a proposal to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to restrict the four phthalates. However, the proposal was rejected by the ECHA in 2012, which claimed at the time that the use of the chemicals did not pose a risk.

In 2015, Denmark resubmitted this proposal, which was [finally approved by the ECHA and green lighted by the EU REACH Committee in 2016](#).

c. Eurasian Economic Union

The Eurasian Economic Commission has the following technical regulations related to children's products:

- "On safety of products intended for children and adolescents (TR CU 007/2011) http://www.eurasiancommission.org/ru/act/texnreg/deptexreg/tr/Documents/P_797_1.pdf ;

- "On the safety of toys" (TR CU 008/2011) <http://www.ccis-expertise.com/pdf/cu-tr-008-2011.pdf>
Both, TR CU 007/2011 and TR CU 008/2011 contain the requirements on labeling.

The regulations regarding safety of products for children (TR CU 007/2011, Article 9) contain the following requirements on labeling (among others):

1. Product labeling must be reliable, verifiable, readable and accessible for inspection and identification. Product labeling is applied to the product, a label attached to the product or product label, product packaging, product group packaging or package insert.
2. Product labeling should contain the following information:
 - name of the country where the products are made;
 - name and location of the manufacturer (authorized by the manufacturer), importer, distributor;

- name and type (purpose) of the product;
- date of manufacture;
- single sign of circulation in the market;
- product service life (if necessary);
- warranty period (if necessary);
- trademark (if available).

3. Information must be provided in Russian or in the state language of the Member State of the Customs Union in which this product is produced and sold.

For imported products, the name of the country where the products are manufactured is allowed. The name of the manufacturer and its legal address shall be indicated using the Latin alphabet.

4. It is not allowed to use the instructions "ecologically clean", "orthopedic" and other similar instructions without a corresponding confirmation.

However, there is no requirement regarding information about chemical composition.

The regulations - "On the safety of toys" (TR CU 008/2011, points 5 and 6 of Article 4 Safety Requirements) contain the following requirements on labeling:

5.1. Labeling of toys must be reliable, verifiable, clear, easy to read, accessible and for inspection and identification.

5.2. The labeling is applied by the manufacturer (the person authorized by the manufacturer) and the importer.

The place and method of labeling is determined by the manufacturer (the person authorized by the manufacturer) and the importer.

5.3. Labeling should contain the following information:

- name of the toy;
- name of the country where the toy is made;
- name and location of the manufacturer (authorized by the manufacturer), the importer, information to communicate with them;
- manufacturer's trademark (if any);
- the minimum age of the child for which the toy or pictogram is intended, indicating the age of the child;
- the main construction material (for children up to 3 years) (if necessary);
- ways to care for a toy (if necessary);
- date of manufacture (month, year);
- service life or shelf life (when established);
- storage conditions (if necessary).

5.4. Depending on the type of toy, the contents of the label include: completeness (for sets), rules for using the toy, hygienic care, safety measures when handling the toy, warning labels, assembly instructions.

The warning information should contain an indication of special precautions when used in accordance with **Annex 3** of these technical regulations of the Customs Union.

6. Labeling and technical documentation supplied with the toy are performed in Russian and in the state language (s) of the Customs Union member state, if there are relevant requirements in the legislation (s) of the state (s) of the member (s) Customs Union.

Annex 3 contains detailed labeling requirements, including those related to chemicals (point 4):

4. A chemical toy must have operational documents containing hazardous substances and reagents, instructions regarding the dangers of their use and the need for users to take precautions. The operational documents should contain information on first aid, as well as an indication of age-related addressing.

In February 2018, the Eurasian Economic Commission (EAC) adopted a plan of action for implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the EAC, EU Committee on Standardization and EU Committee on Standardization in Electronics for the period of 2018-2022. One of the issues included in the plan of action (under point 7) is cooperation on the issues of synchronization of approaches between EAC and EU Directives on control of contents of phthalates and other hazardous substances in the consumer products, building materials, packaging, etc. (ref. https://docs.eaeunion.org/docs/ru-ru/01016914/clco_12022018_24).

d. National, Republic of Belarus

Belarus, as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, follows the regulations of TR CU 007/2011 and TR CU 008/2011 (including the requirements described in Annex 3 of TR CU 008/2011 on chemical composition).

Also, information about labelling on packaging is being regulated by TR CU 005/2011 («About safety of packaging»).

General provisions about labelling of products and services for consumers are contained in the Law of the Republic of Belarus about Protection of Consumers Rights of 09.01.2002.

Article 7 of the Law on Protection of Consumer Rights of the Republic of Belarus contains general requirements for the labeling of goods and products. According to this provision, the following information must be present on the product label:

- Name of product;
- Reference to regulatory documents establishing quality requirements;
- Information about the main consumer properties of products;
- Warranty period (if installed);
- Date of manufacture and (or) shelf life, storage conditions;
- Information about the manufacturer (company name and location of the manufacturer, as well as (if any) the importer or official representative. If the manufacturer (seller, representative) is an individual entrepreneur, you must specify the last name, first name, patronymic and place of residence of the individual entrepreneur);
- Information on confirmation of conformity of products subject to mandatory confirmation of conformity;
- Barcode;
- Information on the rules and conditions for the safe use of products under which it is not dangerous to the consumer's health.

In addition to the above, product labeling must be reliable, readable and accessible for inspection and identification. Product labeling must be applied to the product itself, label, or product label, package or enclosed liner.

Example of labelling requirements for toys sold in Belarus

The labelling of toys must be reliable, clear, easy to read, accessible for inspection and identification, and also contain the following information:

- Name of the toy;
- Name of the country of origin;
- Name and location of the manufacturer (authorized by the manufacturer), the importer, information to communicate with them;

- Manufacturer's trademark (if any);
- The minimum age of the child for whom the toy or pictogram is intended, indicating the age of the child;
- Date of manufacture (month, year);
- Durability or shelf life.

If necessary, also indicate:

- Storage conditions;
- Main production material;
- Ways to care for a toy.

The marking and technical documentation supplied with the toy must be made in Russian and in the state language(s) of the Eurasian Economic Union member state, if there are relevant requirements in the legislation of the state (member) of the Eurasian Economic Union.



Example of the toy labeling.

Important conclusion: The official labeling requirements for toys in Belarus do not include information about detailed chemical content of products. Labels include information about product manufacturing materials only, i.e. plastic, textile, metal, and does not specify which toxic chemicals a product may contain.

Phthalates regulated in EAC

According to the regulation of the Customs Union “On the safety of toys”, the following sanitary-chemical indicators for toys are used (ref. Table 1 of point 4 in Annex 2 to TR CU 008/2011):

4.1. The level of migration into the model environment (water, air) of harmful chemicals from toys should not exceed the standards specified in Table 1.

Name	Name	Level of migration	Level of migration
Materials, products	Identifiable harmful substance	Aquatic environment (mg/Nm ³), not more than	Air (mg/m ³), not more than
Polyvinyl chlorides	dibutyl phthalate **	Not allowed	Not allowed
	dimethyl phthalate	0,3	1,007
	dioctyl phthalate	2,0	0,02
	diethyl phthalate	3,0	0,1
Polyethylene terephthalate	dimethyl terephthalate	1,5	0,01
Rubber-latex compositions	dimethyl phthalate	0,3	0,007
	dibutyl phthalate **	Not allowed	Not allowed
	dioctyl phthalate	2,0	0,02
	diethyl phthalate	3,0	0,01

** It is not allowed in quantities exceeding the values corresponding to the lower limit of detection of these harmful substances according to the measurement procedures approved for the control of sanitary and chemical indicators.

National regulation of phthalates in products

In Belarus (as member of the EAU), only one phthalate – DIBUTIL PHTHALATE – is prohibited, and several are restricted. The table below shows that there is danger that some phthalates, which are not banned/restricted in the country of origin, may enter the national market.

Summary of phthalate regulations in USA, Canada, EU and EAU

No	Phthalate name	Abbreviation	USA	Canada	EU	EAU
1	di iso nonyl phthalate	DINP				
2	di-n-pentyl phthalate	DnPENP				
3	di-n-hexyl phthalate	DnHEXP				
4	di cyclo hexyl phthalate	DCHP				
5	di iso butyl phthalate	DIBP				
6	di-(2-ethyl hexyl) phthalate	DEHP				
7	di butyl phthalate	DBP				
8	benzyl butyl phthalate	BBP				
9	di-n-octyl phthalate	DnOP				
10	di-iso-decyl phthalate	DIDP				
11	di-n-butyl phthalate	DnBP				
12	di-n-hexyl phthalate	DnHP				
13	diethyl phthalate	DEP				
14	dimethyl phthalate	DMP				
15	dimethyl terephthalate	DMT				

	Restriction on the concentration of phthalates that are used in toys that the child puts in the mouth (teethers, etc.)
	Restriction on the concentration of phthalates for toys other than those designed to be put into the mouth
	Ban on the use of phthalates in toys
	Discussion on restrictions/ ban underway

How product waste containing the hazardous chemicals is handled and the legislation that regulates this type of waste:

All issues related to waste management are regulated by The Law of the Republic of Belarus on Waste Management from 20 July 2007:

http://www.etalonline.by/?type=text®num=H10700271#load_text_none_20_1

Revision of 10.05.2019: http://pravo.by/upload/docs/op/H11900186_1559941200.pdf

Additional national legislation and regulation on waste management is available here:

<http://minskpriroda.gov.by/laws/waste-management/>

The legislation sets up principles of waste classification according to classes of hazard, and provides specific management approaches for different classes of waste.

In practice, all consumer products, like toys, containing hazardous substances like heavy metals and phthalates will end up in the municipal collection system, and will be further landfilled. At present there is no viable opportunity for separate handling of such waste in Belarus.

Information available to consumers about the toxic chemicals in the product:

The CES study of labels in stores showed that toys with unknown detailed composition, which can endanger children's health, are sold in Belarus. We studied labels of 39 toys and products in 12 sales points in Minsk, Belarus.

All labels contained information, which is required by national/EEU legislation:

- Name of the toy;
- Name of the country of origin;
- Name and location of the manufacturer (authorized by the manufacturer), the importer, information to communicate with them;
- Manufacturer's trademark (if any);
- The minimum age of the child for whom the toy or pictogram is intended, indicating the age of the child;
- Date of manufacture (month, year);
- Durability or shelf life.

Also, 37 out of 38 labels contained information about the main component of the toy, but without specification of substances, which prevents consumers from receiving adequate important information about product chemical content.

Country of origin

Country of origin	Number of toys	%
Indicated	27	100
Not indicated	0	0

The names of the countries of origin

The names of the countries of origin	Number of toys	%
China	27	71
Belarus	7	19

Russia	3	8
Ukraine	1	2

Manufacturer

Manufacturer	Number of toys	%
Indicated	27	100
Not indicated	0	0

Information about brand

Brand	Number of toys	%
Is indicated	27	100
Is not indicated	0	0

Information about the materials used in toys

None of the product samples contained information about specific chemicals used in products, including plastic additives like phthalates and others.

Information about the materials used in toys	Number of toys	%
Is indicated	26	97
Is not indicated	1	3

Most of the toys have been made from plastic, but the manufactures provided different descriptions of the toys' make-up.

Information about description of the materials used in toys by producer:

Types of materials as indicated by the producer/importer
Polymer material
PVC
Plastic with textile elements
Plastic from PVC plastisole
Plastic PVC
Polymer materials, textile materials
Safe materials (+PP label separately)

Examples of toys and labels



Project Outcomes:

Summary of conducted activities and project outcomes:

1. CES purchased toys and some hair accessories, and analysed them for heavy metals, and phthalates.

Analyses for heavy metals were conducted in the Czech Republic, using the XRF method. Results of the analyses are presented in the Attachment 1.

CES also participated in Greenpeace Russia Fair Toys project, and provided toys for analysis on phthalates. Toys were selected by a vote of more than 3,000 parents. Half of the toys contained dibutyl phthalate, which is banned, inter alia, in the Eurasian Economic Union. In one toy sample (a doll made in China), the level of DEHP was 260-fold higher than the EU standard. One of the toys (doll) also contained DnBP, which is prohibited for use in toys in the member states of the Eurasian Economic Union.

Based on the project results and discussions with stakeholders, the following recommendations were developed:

- To propose mandatory information disclosure of chemicals in consumer products, and especially products for children and toys. Disclosure of information for cosmetic products could be used as a good practice example;
- To strengthen regular chemical control of toys produced in Belarus and imported to Belarus;
- To strengthen a public awareness-raising campaign about chemicals in products and ways to minimize negative health and environmental impacts;
- To use the case of chemicals in products and the importance of providing information to consumers as an important step towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Belarus (see more on SDGs below).

Outreach to Stakeholders and Outcomes:

The project implementation was focusing on reaching out to different stakeholders in Belarus and in the region. These stakeholders included governmental agencies/their subordinated bodies (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Household, Gosstandart), environmental NGOs, consumer organizations, mass media and bloggers, and citizens.

Outreach was organized via various channels, depending on the stakeholder group: personal meetings and consultations; interviews; sending out information via email; and outreach in social networks.

Communication Efforts:

The project generated the following publications:

- <http://news.21.by/other-news/2019/05/07/1789230.html>
- <https://virtualbrest.by/news65975.php>
- <http://zviazda.by/be/news/20181126/1543219377-ne-mozhet-deshevaya-igrushka-byt-bezopasnoy>
- <https://udf.by/news/health/192167-pochemu-detjam-v-ruki-popadajut-toksichnye-igrushki.html>
- <https://www.sb.by/articles/eto-vam-ne-igrushki-03042018.html>
- <https://www.sb.by/articles/vrednye-igrushki.html>
- <https://www.mazyr.by/2019/01/opasnaya-ximiya-iz-chego-na-samom-dele-sostoyat-okruzhayushhie-nas-predmety/>
- <https://zautra.by/news/news-30974>
- <https://gazetaby.com/post/pochemu-detyam-v-ruki-popadayut-toksichnye-igrushki/152973/>

- https://1prof.by/cgi-bin/Site.Head/preview.pl?url=/news/zoj/opasnaya_khimiya_iz_chego_na_samom_dele_sostoyat_okrzhayushchie_nas_predmety.html
- <https://ecoidea.by/ru/blogs/4030>
- <https://ecoidea.by/ru/article/3133>

The most important publication, which raised significant attention (more than 100.000 readers), was uploaded on the leading national portal TUT.BY:
<https://news.tut.by/society/636754.html>

CES also promoted the topic of chemicals in products in its social networks (Facebook, Instagram, vKontakte, Odnoklassniki), with total audience of more than 11.000 active followers.

Links between the project and the implementation of particular SDGs

The table below briefly describes the link between the project and the implementation of particular Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG	The project link
3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages (in particular 3.4 about prevention of mortality from non-communicable diseases and 3.9 about reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals)	Label analysis was conducted to understand the availability of information on hazardous chemicals in children's products (in particular, heavy metals, and phthalates) in Belarus. Recommendations developed by the project national team highlight the importance of disclosing information on hazardous chemicals in children's products to protect children's health, reduce exposure and avoid illnesses associated with phthalates and other toxic chemicals present in consumer products. .
12. Ensure Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (in particular 12.4: By 2020, achieve the environmentally sound management of chemicals and all wastes throughout their life cycle, in accordance with agreed international frameworks, and significantly reduce their release to air, water and soil in order to minimize their adverse impacts on human health and the environment; and 12.8: By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature)	The project generated data that showed current challenges in terms of sustainable and safe management of chemicals in products, and has contributed to raised awareness of people interested in sustainable and safe lifestyles.
16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels (in particular 16.7 about participatory decision-making and 16.10 about public access to information)	The project collected information about levels of accessibility and transparency of information on the chemicals that are hazardous for children's health by studying labels; and promoted policy discussions on the issue (both at the national level and the level of the Eurasian Economic Commission) at the national round table and by appeals.

Recommendations for next steps:

The project helped raise the issue of challenges with access of public to information about chemicals in products, and pointed out the concrete lack of information for the public on toys' labels. However, a lot needs to be done to implement the SAICM objectives in this area in Belarus. Our recommendations for the next steps include:

- Ensure mandatory information disclosure of chemicals in consumer products, especially products for children and toys. Disclosure of information for cosmetic products could be used as a good practice example;
- Strengthen regular chemical control of toys produced in Belarus and imported to Belarus;
- Strengthen public awareness-raising campaign about chemicals in products and ways to minimize negative health and environmental impacts;
- Use the case of chemicals in products and the importance of providing information to consumers as an important step towards the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Belarus;
- Continuation of efforts to ban hazardous phthalates (to add to the existing list); certification procedures have to be strictly followed so that the banned/ restricted phthalates, which are not banned/restricted in the country of origin, do not enter the national market;
- Strengthening capacities of civil society representatives (active citizen groups, NGOs, internet communities, mass media) to protect consumers' right to information and to demand information disclosure on hazardous chemicals in products (special attention to be paid to the need to have information in the national language);
- Continued experience sharing of the lessons learned by NGOs engaged in similar efforts at the EECCA level.

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