

MIDWOR-LIFE PROJECT REACHES ITS END BUT PARTNERS WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TOWARDS A MORE SUSTAINABLE TEXTILE INDUSTRY

PRESS RELEASE

MIDWOR-LIFE is a project co-funded by LIFE programme that aims to reduce the impact on the environment, human health and workers' safety, of current Durable Water and Oil Repellents (DWOR) used in the textile industry and their alternatives, by analyzing their environmental impact and technical functionalities.

On August 31st, the European project MIDWOR-LIFE completed its cycle and reached its official ending. The project, which focused on the study and evaluation of safer and greener alternatives for durable water and oil repellents (DWOR) used in the textile finishing industry, was ongoing since September 2015 and it had a duration of 3 years.

The project has arisen a lot of attention to high-level stakeholders, which have been engaged in different ways during the project, including the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) and the European Textile and Apparel Confederation (EURATEX).

While the project official end date was August 31st, the team will continue to disseminate and communicate the project results as part of the After-LIFE communication plan including the presentation of the project in a webinar organized by the Global perfluorinated chemicals (PFC) group from the OECD on October 30th. The group is composed of international experts with the mission to promote alternative substances to hazardous perfluorinated substances used traditionally in the textile finishing industry, among others, to provide water and oil repellency. The team will present the different alternatives analyzed during the project with the goal to propel a global substitution toward safer and ecological substances.

The third newsletter released on July highlighted the different activities during the last months, including the project final event held in Brussels, the publication of a broad-audience report summarizing the main project outcomes (Layman's report) available in all partners' languages (Spanish, Catalan, Italian and Czech) besides English, the web tool launch in the project website to facilitate companies' self-assessment of the environmental impact caused by different DWORs, and the publication of several technical reports from the project.

The major project outcomes have been the technical and environmental assessments of different alternative DWORs versus conventional ones. At environmental level, the results from the life cycle assessment (LCA) revealed that conventional fluorinated products have a negative impact in the range of 10 to 40 times larger than fluorine-free alternative products. On the technical level, alternative products achieved a water repellency matching the performance of conventional fluorinated products; however, its performance against oil did not reach any acceptable level. This fact raises the need to establishing an equilibrium and rationalization of



the requirements at the design stage to find a balance between environmental impact and technical properties according to the final application of the treated textile material.



Members of MIDWOR-LIFE Consortium during the project meeting in A Coruña, Spain

MIDWOR-LIFE is a European 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. LIFE14 ENV/ES/000670.

AEI TÈXTILS, a non-profit organization representing the Catalan technical textiles cluster is the coordinator of the project. The consortium is completed by another 5 partners: 3 research institutes/technological centers from Spain: LEITAT Technological Center (member of Tecnio network), CETIM and the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia from CSIC plus 2 technical textile clusters, CS-POINTEX from Italy and CLUTEX from the Czech Republic.

MIDWOR-LIFE project is an example of collaboration between clusters, with the aim to improve competitiveness of their members, SMEs in the technical textiles sector.

More information: www.midwor-life.eu



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