ENKORE

The ENKORE cluster https://enkore-cluster.eu/ is comprised of five projects: EDC-MASLD, ENDOMIX, HYPIEND, MERLON and NEMESIS, funded under the EU call HORIZON-HLTH-2023-ENVHLTH-02-03 (Health impacts of endocrine-disrupting chemicals: bridging science-policy gaps by addressing persistent scientific uncertainties). The ENKORE cluster's policy goal is to inform current and future policy processes in the EU to ultimately improve the health and well-being of European populations. The cluster finds the update of the CPR of central importance for exposure of the European population to endocrine disruptors (EDs) and would like to emphasise the urgency to pursue efforts in minimizing ED exposure and protect the health of women, vulnerable groups and future generations.

The ENKORE cluster calls for a prohibition of EDs in the CPR:

In the scientific papers published by the ENKORE cluster thus far, the urgency of minimizing exposure to endocrine disruptors (EDs) have been underscored.

Epidemiological studies report rising trends in hormone-related diseases, including reproductive and metabolic disorders, and animal studies confirm that similar effects can be induced by exposure to EDs (Svingen et al., 2024; Parent et al., 2025; Heikkinen et al., 2025; Gogola et al., 2025; Holmer et al., 2025). Despite this rapidly increasing knowledge-base and intensified regulatory efforts to improve the identification of EDs relevant for humans within the European Union over the past 15 years (Holmer et al., 2025), a continuous low-dose exposure of EDs through every-day products, including cosmetics, is inevitable (Svingen et al., 2024; Parent et al., 2025; Hakomäki et al., 2024; Gogola et al., 2025).

There are reports of increased consumption of cosmetics in adults and children (McKinsey & Company 2024) and higher use of personal care products is correlated with higher levels of multiple EDs (Bloom et al., 2024). Further, dermal exposure to EDs is often neglected, but it is a significant exposure route. The kinetics from dermal exposure is different than from oral exposure and may lead to higher internal levels due to bypass of first-pass metabolism (Abraham et al., 2022; Liu et al., 2017; Shin et al., 2023; Martinez et al., 2018). Also, human biomonitoring studies continue to detect levels of EDs in the general European population, and for some EDs, the levels exceed estimated tolerable intakes (EEA 2023).

On this basis, the ENKORE cluster calls for the revision of the CPR to include a prohibition of CLP-classified EDs in category 1 and category 2 for human health (HH), in line with the recent restriction of use of ED-classified substances under the Toys Regulation (EC 2025).

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The contents of this position paper do not necessarily reflect the views of all partners of the ENKORE cluster.

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