



## Serbian 'FIGHT TO KNOW' campaign

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# About us



**ALHem – Safer Chemicals Alternative** is a civil society organization based in Belgrade, Serbia. Its goal is promotion of sustainable development, with focus on chemical safety management.

ALHem is committed to safe management of chemicals in Serbia and operates at all levels of society with the objective of reducing risks from chemicals to human health and the environment.

We are following global policy strategies in this area, actually implementing the policy of *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management* - **SAICM**.

**ALHem** is a unique CSO in this field in the Republic of Serbia, and to our knowledge in the Balkan's region.

# We are a members of:



IPEN network



EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL BUREAU (EEB)



HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALLIANCE (HEAL)



COALITION 27 - a national group of civil society organizations with the aim of monitoring and contributing to the process of harmonization and implementation of policies and regulations of Serbia with the EU acquis in the field of environment and climate change (Chapter 27 of the negotiations).



## REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

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Modern chemical management system in Serbia was established in 2009 through the adoption of the Law on Chemicals, which was harmonised with the REACH Regulation as a relevant European legislation pertaining to this area.

Pursuant to **Article 27 Law on Chemicals** (as well as Article 33 REACH),

} a consumer is entitled to be informed about the presence of SVHC in products if concentration thereof exceeds 0.1%,

} while producers, importers and distributors are obligated to communicate the information sufficient for safe use of the product, at least the name of the substance, at consumer`s request!

Substances subject to these provisions are listed in:

EU

SERBIA

Candidate List of substances of very high concern for Authorisation  
(published in accordance with Article 59(10) of the REACH Regulation)

Authorisation List  
(List of SVHC included in Annex XIV of REACH)

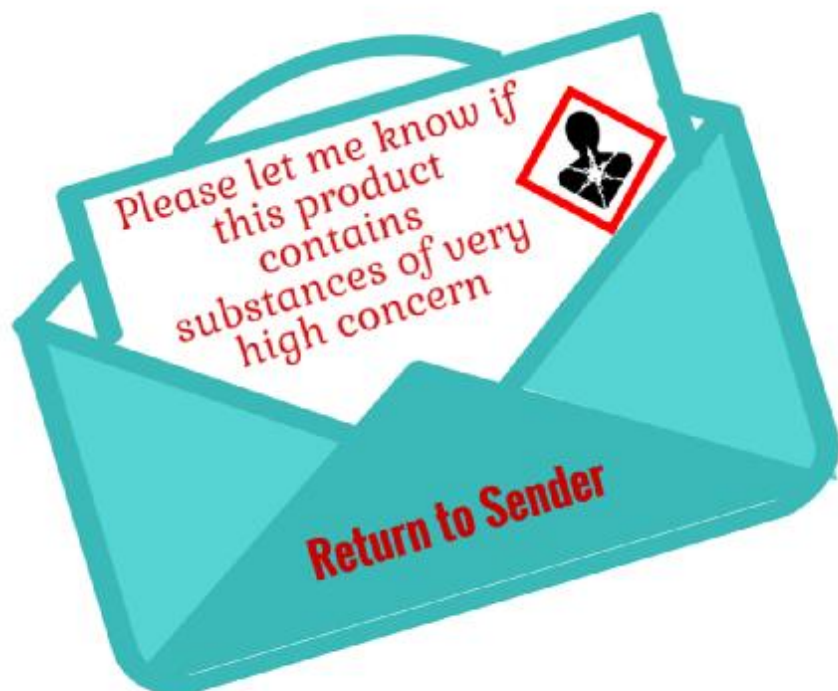
Lista supstanci kandidata za listu supstanci koje izazivaju zabrinutost ("Sl. glasnik RS", broj 58/16) (*skr. Lista kandidata SVHC*)

Lista supstanci koje izazivaju zabrinutost ("Sl. glasnik RS", broj 94/13) (*skr. Lista SVHC*)

# FIGHT TO KNOW in SERBIA



PROJECT: Strengthening Capacities and Strategic Partnership for Safe Chemical Management in the Republic of Serbia



The campaign the “FIGHT TO KNOW!” (in Serbian “Izbori se da znaš!”) was carried out in Serbia from October 2015 to April 2016 in order to test the implementation of the legal provisions aimed at protecting people from substances of very high concern (SVHC) and to raise awareness about them.

# Goals of campaign FIGHT TO KNOW in SERBIA



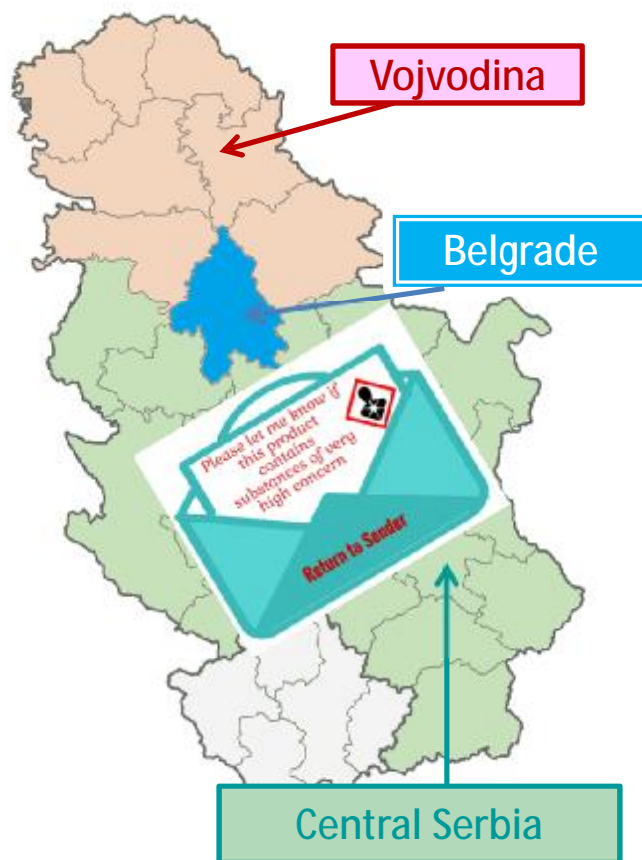
- 1) Screening of implementation of legal provisions about the obligation to communicate information on presence of SVHC in products in practice and promotion of consumers' right on such information,
- 2) Awareness raising about SVHC as important factor for chemical safety of products, as well as about the obligation to communicate on SVHC in products along the supply chain and need to introduce safer alternatives.



The model for the campaign "FIGHT TO KNOW!" implemented in the Republic of Serbia was a similar one called "THE FIGHT TO KNOW" which was implemented in the EU in 2010 under the auspice of the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), in collaboration with several partners, including WECF

# FIGHT TO KNOW in SERBIA

## 3 regions



Primary activities in the campaign “FIGHT TO KNOW!” were divided into two sections:

**Communication with distributors** – selection and purchase of specific PVC products and sending of letters with request for information about the presence of SVHC in those products, as well as successive collection of answers.

**Laboratory testing** – chemical analysis to determine whether the samples of products contain phthalates belonging to SVHC.



# FIGHT TO KNOW in SERBIA



Condu

## Name of the substance and acronym

vities

90 products were  
 were sent a request

Di-(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate; (*synonym:*  
*bis*(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate) (DEHP)

ia and distributors  
 a specific product.

The requests were  
 and resp

Benzylbutylphthalate (BBP)

the 90 distributors  
 45 days.

Dibutyl phthalate (DBP)

Diisobutyl phthalate (DIBP)

Di-n-pentyl phthalate (DNPP)

Product samples are  
phthalates

Diisopentyl phthalate (DIPP)

the content of 9

*n*-Pentyl-isopentyl phthalate (NPIPP)

Di-(2-methoxyethyl) phthalate; (*synonym:*  
*bis*(2-methoxyethyl) phthalate) (DMEP)

Di-n-hexyl phthalate (DNHP)

and in compliance with accredited  
 is registered in the Accreditation

Scope under number 01-036 and includes the following elements: Determination of phthalate content (DBP, DEHP, BBP, DNOP, DINP, DIDP) applying technique GC-MSD with measurement range of 0.01-1 % (w/w).



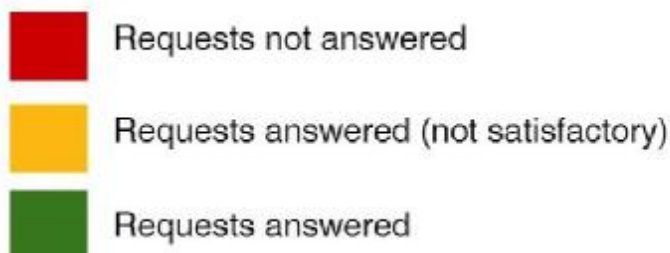
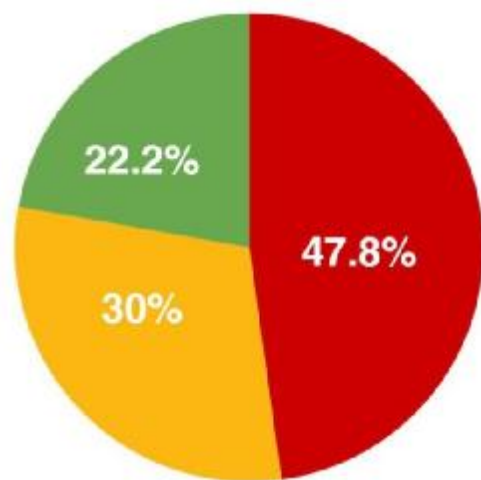
## Campaign subject – products that may contain phthalates



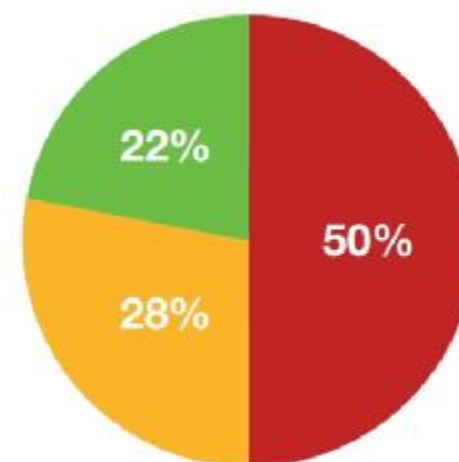
1. SCHOOL SUPPLIES (Rubbers , Protective films and folders, Pencil holders)
2. TOYS (horses, Balls , Bath toys )
3. BABY CARE PRODUCTS (Changing pads, Nose aspirators - pumps, Bibs )
4. BEACHWEAR (Floats, Armbands )
5. ACCESORIES FOR MOBILE PHONES (Plastic masks ,PVC protective foils for mobile phones)
6. FOOTWEAR AND CLOTHES (japanke, kroks papuče, kabanice)
7. HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS (Oilcloths , Food serving pads, Bath pads)
8. PLASTIC DISHES (Bowls, Jugs-decanter)
9. CABLES (Extending cables-electric cables, Cables with connectors, Bulk cables)
10. PVC FLOORS (PVC canvas, Rolled vinyl floor covers, Sport exercise mats and children's puzzle mats)
11. MEDICAL DEVICES (Urinal catheter, infusion sets, PVC syringes)

# Campaign Results - communication with distributors

SERBIA 2016



EU 2010



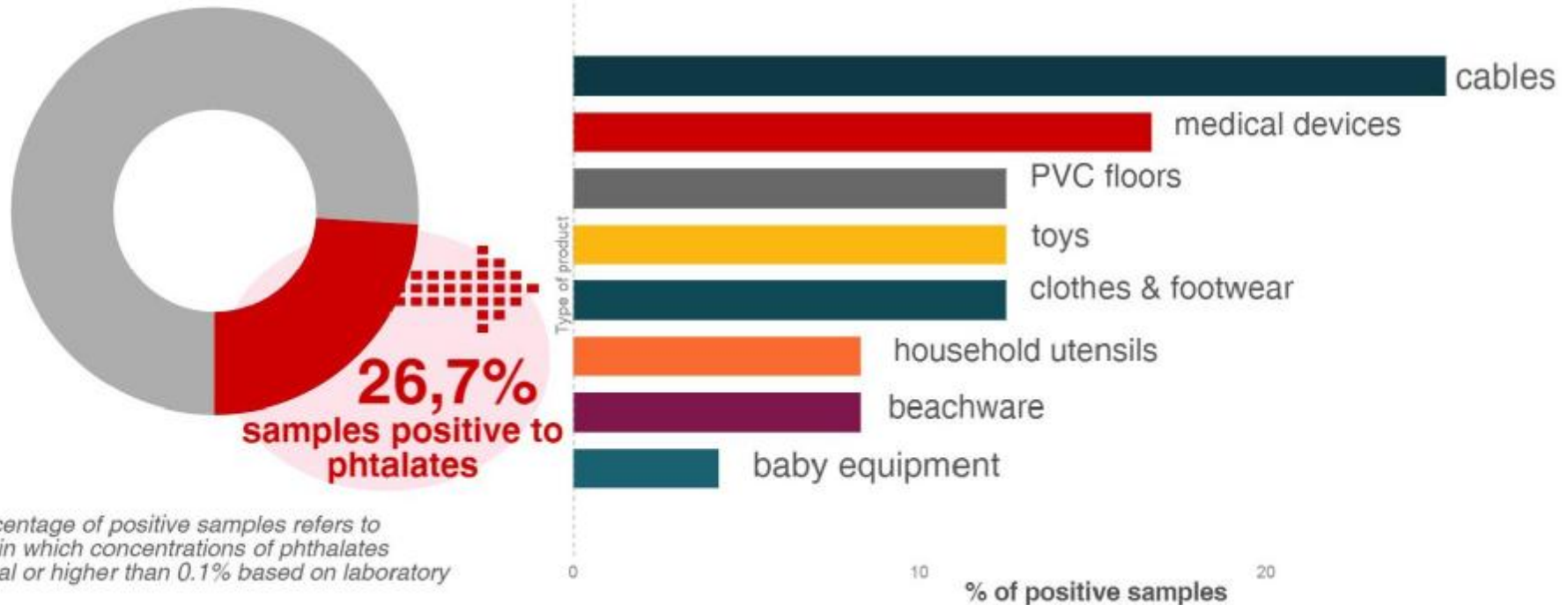
## Summary

- Out of 90 distributed requests to provide information about presence of SVHC in products, responses were received from 47 distributors (52.2%).
- For 20 out of 90 distributed requests (22,2%), specific answer that contains requested information about presence of SVHC in product was received.
- Only 9 out of 90 (10%) distributors provided answers that showed good level of knowledge about SVHC and related legal obligations.



## Campaign Results - laboratory testing

Laboratory analysis on content of phthalates in selected products  
(% positive samples\*)



### Summary

- Laboratory testing on contents of phthalates in selected products demonstrated the presence of phthalates ( $C > 0,1\%$ ) in 24 samples (26.7%), in 8 out of 11 product types that were tested.
- Tested samples of school supplies, plastic dishes and accessories for mobile phones did not contain phthalates ( $C > 0,1\%$ ).

# FIGHT TO KNOW in SERBIA



## Conclusions

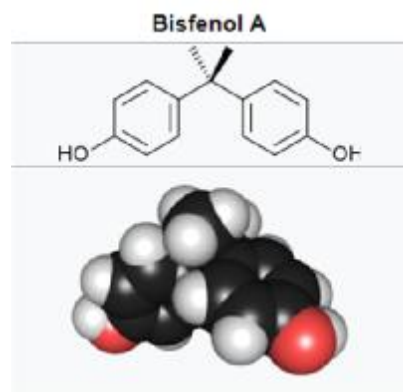
The campaign “FIGHT TO KNOW!” raised awareness about SVHC in products and related legal obligations in Serbia and showed that joint activities of competent authority and civil sector can significantly contribute to safe chemicals management.

## Recomendations

- The activities related to awareness raising about the presence of SVHC in products should be continued;
- The implementation of Article 27 of the Law on Chemicals, as well as prescribed bans and restrictions, should be additionally strengthened;
- The level of knowledge about the SVHC within companies should be improved;
- The introduction of safer alternatives should be exhorted.

## CAMPAIGN „TOXIC CASH REGISTER RECEIPTS“

The presence of Bisphenol A (BPA) in thermal paper





CAS: 80-05-7  
Harmonized classification:  
Repr. 1B H360F  
STOT SE 3 H335  
Eye Dam. 1 H318  
Skin Sens.1 H317

BPA is a high production volume chemical, reached an annual global production of 5,2 million tonnes in 2008. Uses:

1. Polycarbonate plastics (80%)-bottles, food-packaging mat.
2. Epoxy resins (18 %)
3. Other applications (2%) –colour developer in thermal paper

# EU Regulatory framework

## Candidate List of substances of very high concern for Authorisation

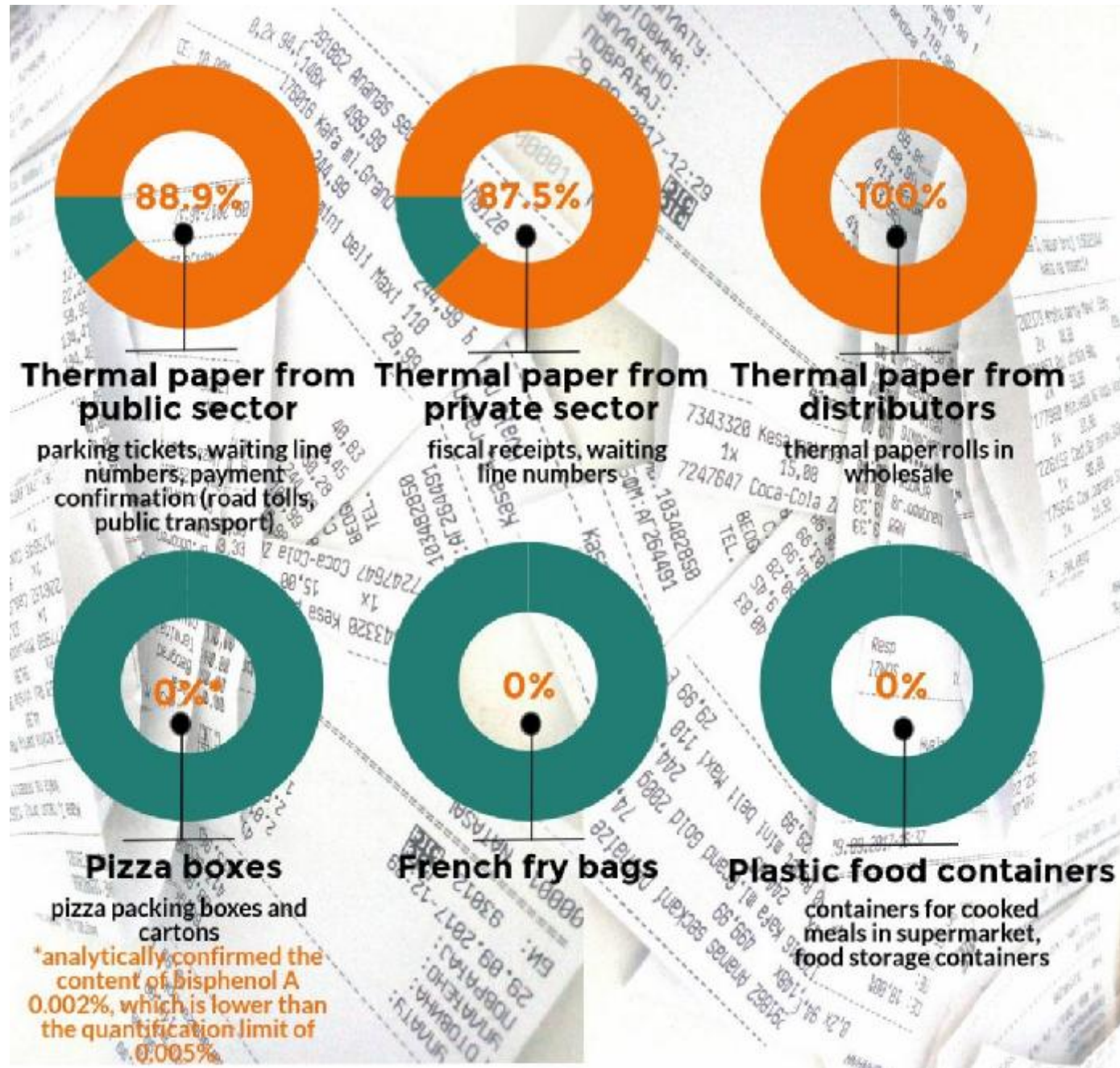
<b>4,4'-isopropylidenediphenol</b> Bisphenol A; BPA	201-245-8	80-05-7	12/01/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Toxic for reproduction (Article 57c)</li><li>Endocrine disrupting properties (Article 57(f) - human health)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>ED/30/2017</li><li>ED/01/2017</li></ul>		
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### EU restricted BPA in Thermal Paper

#### **COMMISSION REGULATION (EU) 2016/2235 of 12 December 2016**

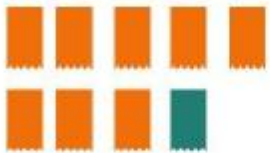
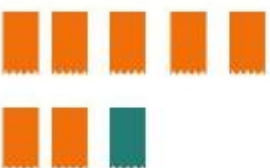

**amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards bisphenol A  
(Text with EEA relevance)**

*„Shall not be placed on the market in thermal paper in a concentration equal to or greater than 0,02 % by weight after 2 January 2020.’*





## The BPA concentration in samples was in range of 0,63-0,91 % (w/w)

Samples	sampling site/distributor	BPA (%)
thermal paper from public sector (9) 8/9 	Post of Serbia - payment confirmation	0,69 ± 0,07
	The Serbian Business Registers Agency -waiting line number	0,65 ± 0,06
	Public garage Obilicev Venac - ticket	<0,005
	Pension & Disability insurance fond - waiting line number	0,63 ± 0,06
	City Municipality of Novi Beograd - waiting line number	0,86 ± 0,09
	Public garage Obilicev Venac- fiscal receipt	0,77 ± 0,08
	Roads of Serbia- road toll conformation	0,74 ± 0,07
	National Employment Service- waiting line number	0,73 ± 0,07
	Public transport Bus Plus - payment conformation	0,74 ± 0,07
thermal paper from private sector (8) 7/8 	McDonalds Belgrade	0,72 ± 0,07
	McDonalds Pančevo	0,69 ± 0,07
	Caribic Pizza Belgrade	0,70 ± 0,07
	Big Pizza Belgrade	0,85 ± 0,08
	Big pizza Zrenjanin	0,83 ± 0,08
	KFC Belgrade	0,80 ± 0,08
	IKEA Belgrade	<0,005
	Banca Intesa waiting line number	0,87 ± 0,09
termalni papir distributeri fiskalnih rolni (3) 3/3 	Bookstore Etno Pavlović	0,81 ± 0,08
	Glattex company	0,84 ± 0,08
	Vnen company	0,91 ± 0,09



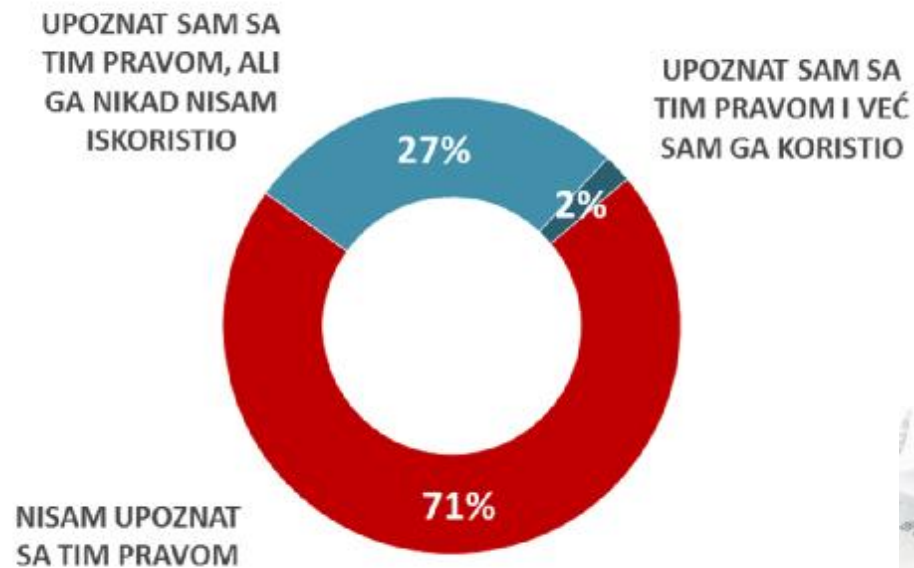
# ANALYSIS OF PERCEPTION OF CHEMICAL SAFETY IN SERBIAN SOCIETY *(3rd round)*

IPSOS STRATEGIC MARKETING  
September 2017

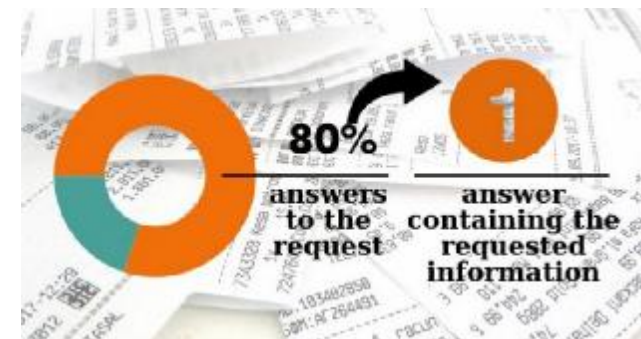
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# Consumer rights

Nearly three-quarters of citizens are unaware of the right of consumers to ask for information about the presence of hazardous chemicals (SVHC) in daily-use articles



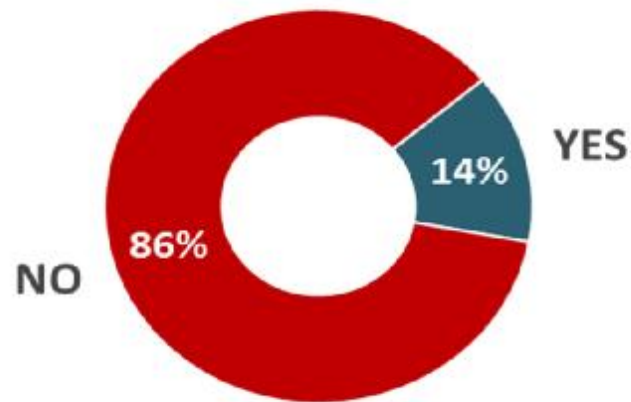
Although 29% of citizens are aware of this right, only 2% used this right in practice



- *To what extent are you informed about the existence of the right to ask for information about the presence of hazardous chemicals (SVHC) in daily use articles?*

## Endocrine Disruptors

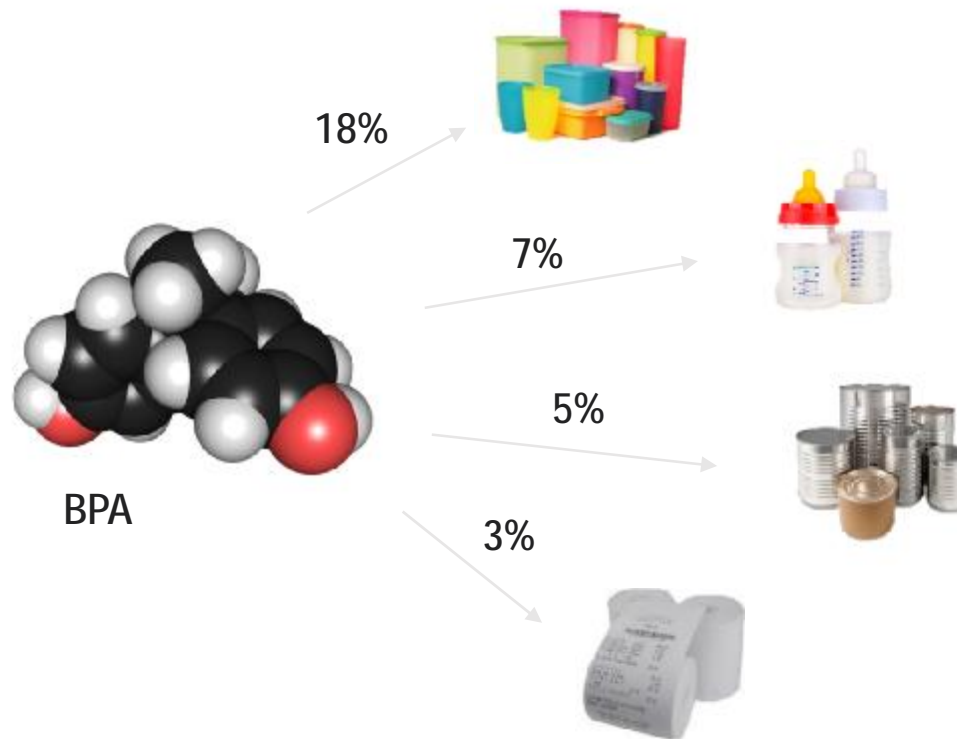
The vast majority of citizens did not hear about endocrine disruptors, while almost four-fifths of them never heard of Bisphenol A and do not know in which products this compound can be found.



- ***Did you hear about the so-called endocrine disruptors, substances that interfere the work of the hormone system?***

## Endocrine Disruptors

Citizens most often think Bisphenol A can be found in plastic containers. In a slightly smaller percentage of the occurrence of Bisphenol A, it binds to baby bottles, cans and cash register receipts.



Women, in comparison with men, more often state that Bisphenol A can be found in baby bottles (10% of women, as opposed to 4% of men)

- *Do you know where can be found Bisphenol A?*



In preparation:

## Project „Consumer safety through stakeholder synergy“

Project aims at helping distributors/retailers working in Serbia to introduce good distributors/retailers practice related to chemicals safety policy, as well as to assess interest of Serbian manufacturers to introduce chemicals safety policy in their corporate policies in order to phase out hazardous chemicals from the products they are placing on the Serbian and EU market. Also, to raise awareness among consumers about hazardous chemicals in the consumer products that can have harmful effects on their health and the environment, and to urge them to actively take part in advocating for replacement of chemicals known to be toxic with safer alternatives.



# ALHem

Alternativa za  
bezbednije  
hemikalije

Safer  
Chemicals  
Alternative

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*Safer chemicals, healthier life!*

Thank you for  
attention!

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