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1. What Eco-Supporters at municipalities about?

The Finnish innovation, the Eco-supporters operating model at public institutions, represents very efficient Nordic environmental management structures. The Eco-supporters or eco-support persons within the workplace is a model of how to, firstly, increase the awareness about sustainability issues like hazardous substances at an organisational level and, secondly, to start a change from bottom to top for more sustainable workplaces. Eco-support persons are sustainability ambassadors within the organization who, alongside their regular work, promote the sustainability and environmental goals set by the organization. They operate at the grassroots level, ensuring that the organization's strategic goals are translated into everyday actions.

The LIFE Chemicals Ambassadors for Europe (LIFE ChemBee) project aimed to apply the Eco-support operating model, an approach developed for Finnish public organisations as a tool to boost organisational ambitious sustainability goals, in Greece and France. The objective was to get cities to reduce harmful substances by raising employees' awareness of harmful chemicals and the measures needed to reduce them.

This document collects together the actions that were implemented while the Finnish model was adapted for Greek and French municipalities and public organizations in the LIFE ChemBee project.

2. Implementation of the eco-support in Greece

Within the LIFE ChemBee project, ECOCITY assumes the responsibility of adapting and implementing the Finnish Eco-supporters model in Greece. Its role includes identifying and recruiting participating municipalities, designing and delivering targeted training for eco-supporters, and ensuring the integration of chemical safety awareness into local administrative practices. By training municipal employees to become "eco-supporters" in their workplaces, ECOCITY helps local authorities build safer environments, reduce harmful chemicals, and embed sustainability into daily routines.

2.1. Designing the greek version of Eco-supporters model

In the frame of LIFE ChemBee project the adaptation and implementation of the eco-supporter model within greek municipal workplaces was designed and tested. This model involves the appointment of "eco-supporters", drawn from the existing human resources of the municipality's structures. These individuals receive training and support to act as internal agents of change, promoting safer practices and raising awareness around hazardous chemicals and environmental health.

In the Greek context, this model presents both an opportunity and a challenge. While municipalities in Greece possess significant administrative autonomy and are seen as key players in advancing sustainability, the bottom-up approach is still relatively new in local government structures. Encouraging initiative, ownership, and peer-to-peer engagement among employees represents a cultural shift from more traditional top-down governance models. Nevertheless, this transition is critical to foster a more participatory, responsive, and effective approach to environmental health and workplace safety.

Under the LIFE ChemBee project, our goal is to test and adapt this innovative Finnish eco-support model in selected pioneering municipalities in Greece and France. The implementation focuses on two main pillars:

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1. Capacity building and education of municipal human resources regarding hazardous chemicals, safe practices, and alternatives.
2. Practical, small-scale interventions within workplaces aimed at reducing harmful exposures and improving chemical safety in daily operations.

Through this approach, the project aimed to lay the foundation for a scalable and sustainable method of embedding chemical safety awareness into municipal operations, contributing to healthier work environments and a broader cultural shift toward toxic-free practices at the local government level.



Figure 2.1: Conceptual framework illustrating the transfer and adaptation of the Eco-Supporters model to Greek municipal workplaces under the LIFE ChemBee project.

2.2. Recruitment - Participating Municipalities

The recruitment of Greek municipalities within the LIFEChemBee project was implemented in two distinct phases, each following specific criteria and strategic planning. The recruitment strategy can be found [here](#).

Phase One: Selection of Pilot Municipalities

The first phase involved the selection of two **(2) pilot municipalities**. The selection criteria were:

- (a) Proximity to Athens, to enable easier organization of face-to-face meetings and onsite visits if needed.
- (b) Municipality size, ensuring a manageable scale for piloting the eco-supporter model.
- (c) Demonstrated environmental commitment, based on previous participation in environmental projects and their proven capacity and willingness to collaborate with other institutions. These pilot municipalities acted as frontrunners, implementing the eco-supporter model in Greece for the first time. They also served as mentors, sharing their knowledge and experience with other municipalities in Greece and internationally.

Phase Two: Expansion to Additional Municipalities and Prefectures

In the second phase, the project activities were extended to **nine (9) additional municipalities and one (1) Prefecture**.

To implement this expansion, ECOCITY developed a targeted recruitment strategy designed to attract interest and engagement from municipalities across Greece. This strategy was built upon:

- The structure and operational framework of Greek municipal administration.

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- Prior experience with environmental awareness and municipal action.
- Established collaborations developed through ECOCITY's previous national campaigns.

The **recruitment strategy** consisted of three main approaches:

(a) Institutional Announcement via KEDE

An open call for interest was published via the **newsletter and website of the Central Union of Greek Municipalities (KEDE)**. Interested municipalities could access further information through the project's landing page or direct contact with ECOCITY. This ensured broad visibility, transparency, and equal opportunity for all municipalities to participate.

(b) Direct Approach to Environmentally Active Municipalities

A shortlist was compiled of municipalities known for their proactive environmental engagement. These municipalities were contacted directly via email with detailed information about the project. Follow-up communication was conducted through phone calls and in-person meetings to secure participation.

(c) Approach Based on Past Collaborations

ECOCITY leveraged its 20+ years of experience implementing national environmental campaigns (e.g., ECOMOBILITY, OIKOPOLIS Awards) and existing relationships with municipalities. Based on this track record, previously collaborating municipalities were contacted and invited to join the project through personalized outreach.

Municipality / Region	Participation Phase	Population (ELSTAT - 2021)	Special Characteristics
Municipality of Vrilissia	Pilot Municipality	32.417	Northern suburb of Athens, residential and environmentally conscious
Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi	Pilot Municipality	22.327	Coastal municipality with a port, residential and tourist area east of Athens
Municipality of Agia Paraskevi	2nd Phase	62.147	Urban municipality within the Greater Athens Area
Municipality of Athens	2nd Phase	643.452	Metropolitan municipality, capital city, dense urban structure
Municipality of Astypalea	2nd Phase	1.376	Very small island municipality, model for sustainable transition
Municipality of Dionysos	2nd Phase	42.376	Residential area in northern Attica, surrounded by natural environment
Municipality of Elafonisos	2nd Phase	898	Very small island municipality, notable tourist destination

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Municipality / Region	Participation Phase	Population (ELSTAT - 2021)	Special Characteristics
Municipality of Ilioupoli	2nd Phase	76.730	Urban municipality within the Athens metropolitan area
Municipality of Polygyros	2nd Phase	21.351	Capital of Chalkidiki Regional Unit, mixed urban and rural features
Municipality of Pyrgos	2nd Phase	45.365	Capital of Ilia Regional Unit, semi-urban and agricultural region
Municipality of Fyli	2nd Phase	48.157	Western Attica municipality, with both residential and industrial zones
Region of Western Greece	2nd Phase	648.220	Includes both urban and rural areas, coastal and inland zones, strong environmental interest

Table 1: Participating Municipalities in Greece

As shown in table 1, the municipalities that joined the LIFE ChemBee project in Greece represented a diverse cross-section of the country. They included the capital city of Athens with its dense metropolitan structure, suburban municipalities in Attica, small island communities such as Astypalea and Elafonisos, as well as regional towns like Pyrgos and Polygyros. This variety was intentional, allowing the project to test the eco-supporter model under different administrative, demographic, and geographic conditions. Each type of municipality brought unique perspectives and challenges: metropolitan areas provided scale and visibility, while smaller municipalities offered flexibility and closer community engagement. The inclusion of island municipalities was particularly valuable, as their remoteness and environmental sensitivities highlighted both the urgency and potential of sustainable solutions. Together, these municipalities created a rich pilot group that demonstrated the adaptability of the Finnish eco-supporter model to the Greek context.

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Figure 2.2: Official visual communication announcing the municipalities participating in the project, shared via social media and press releases.

2.3. Training Material

The development of the Greek eco-supporter training package was based on a systematic adaptation of the Finnish Eco-support training framework to the specific administrative, institutional, and cultural context of Greek municipalities. ECOCITY worked in close cooperation with the project partners to review the Finnish training materials, identify core transferable elements, and redesign them to address the needs and capacities of Greek municipal employees. The training package was conceived as a modular and flexible set of resources, allowing municipalities of different sizes and operational profiles to use the materials according to their priorities and internal structures. Particular attention was given to ensuring that the content was scientifically accurate, practically applicable, and accessible to non-specialist staff, in order to facilitate uptake and long-term use beyond the lifetime of the project.

The final training package consisted of a combination of presentations, thematic handouts, practical guidebooks, and curated links to relevant articles and audiovisual material. The core topics covered included: basic concepts on hazardous chemicals and exposure pathways; chemicals in everyday municipal environments; safer alternatives and eco-labels; chemical risks in offices, childcare facilities and public spaces; and the role of Green Public Procurement as a strategic tool for reducing harmful substances at organisational level and introduction to environmental communication. Specialised guidebooks such as *Detox Your Office*, *Chemical Smart Public Procurement*, and the *Catalogue for Construction Materials* provided concrete, sector-specific guidance, enabling eco-supporters to translate general principles into workplace actions. In parallel, supplementary materials and external references were selected to support self-learning, deepen understanding of emerging issues, and encourage continuous professional development. Through this multi-layered approach, the training package aimed not only to transfer knowledge, but also to build practical competence and empower eco-supporters to act as multipliers of chemical safety within their municipal organisations.

Table 2 below presents an overview of the training materials developed and used in the framework of the Greek eco-supporter activities, including presentations, handouts, guidebooks and supplementary resources. The training material can be found in this [link](#).

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Table 2. Overview of training materials developed and used

Material Type	Thematic Focus	Description / Purpose	Number of documents (format)
Presentation	Eco-Supporters model & chemical safety	Comprehensive presentation used during training sessions, covering the Eco-Supporters model, hazardous chemicals, exposure pathways, health impacts, safer alternatives and workplace actions	1 (PPT)
Articles & Videos (Greek & international sources)	Chemical pollution, plastics, PFAS, endocrine disruptors & health impacts	Curated selection of Greek and international media articles, scientific and policy publications, and educational videos used to contextualise chemical risks, support evidence-based understanding, raise awareness and stimulate discussion during training and follow-up activities	16
Guidebooks	Toxic-free workplaces, products & materials	Practical guidebooks providing step-by-step guidance on reducing chemical exposure in offices, construction materials, consumer products and renovation practices	5

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Table 2. Overview of training materials developed and used			
Material Type	Thematic Focus	Description / Purpose	Number of documents (format)
Handouts	Hazardous chemicals & safe alternatives	Thematic handouts supporting training sessions, focusing on specific topics such as aluminium, microplastics, endocrine disruptors, low-dose exposure, REACH and recycling codes	15
Blog posts (expert contributions)	Chemical pollution, endocrine disruptors, PFAS & environmental health	Expert-authored blog posts developed by Dr Aleksandra, used to translate scientific evidence into accessible language, support awareness-raising activities and enrich training and communication materials within the Eco-Supporters framework	5



Figure 2.3. Examples of thematic handouts used in the Eco-Supporters training activities

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2.4. Eco-supporter Trainings

The training activities for the Greek eco-supporters were implemented in three successive phases, following a stepwise approach that allowed for gradual scaling-up and continuous refinement of the training methodology.

The **first phase** targeted the initial group of model municipalities, which acted as pilot cases for testing the adapted training content and delivery format.

The **second phase** expanded the training to a broader group of nine additional municipalities, building on the experience gained during the pilot phase and allowing for further adjustment of the materials and methods.

The **third phase** focused on the training of staff from the Region of Western Greece, marking the extension of the eco-supporter concept from the municipal to the regional level and demonstrating the transferability of the approach to higher administrative tiers. This phased structure ensured progressive learning, consolidation of experience, and a consistent quality of delivery across all participating authorities.

All trainings were organised as two-hour online sessions (three webinars for phases 1 and 2 and two webinars for phase 3), combining structured presentations with interactive elements and dedicated time for questions and discussion. The online format was selected in order to facilitate participation from geographically dispersed municipalities, including island and remote areas, and to ensure continuity despite time and resource constraints.

Each session followed a common structure, including an introduction to the eco-supporter concept, thematic modules on hazardous chemicals and safer alternatives, introduction to Green and Chemical Smart Public Procurement, presentation of practical tools, an elementary approach for Environmental Communication and a concluding discussion focused on local implementation challenges. Particular emphasis was placed on dialogue with participants, allowing municipal staff to present their specific contexts, raise practical questions, and exchange experiences with peers. This interactive format proved effective in supporting engagement, clarifying technical issues, and strengthening the role of eco-supporters as focal points for chemical safety within their organisations.

Table 3. Overview of Eco-supporter Training Phases Implemented in Greece			
Phase	Dates of Trainings	Municipalities/Region	Number of participants
Phase 1: pilot	10.05.2024, 18.06.2024, 25.06.2024.	Municipality of Vrilissia Municipality of Rafina-Pikermi	6 participants

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Table 3. Overview of Eco-supporter Training Phases Implemented in Greece			
Phase	Dates of Trainings	Municipalities/Region	Number of participants
Phase 2	03.02.2024, 14.02.2025, 17.02.2025	Municipality of Agia Paraskevi Municipality of Athens Municipality of Astypalaia Municipality of Dionysos Municipality of Elafonisos Municipality of Ilioupoli Municipality of Polygyros Municipality of Pyrgos Municipality of Fyli	28 ecosupporters in total (various departments)
Phase 3	04 and 05.12.2025	Region of Western Greece	2 ecosupporters in total

Table 3 summarises the training activities implemented in Greece, presenting the main characteristics of each session, including timing, participating municipalities and number of participants.

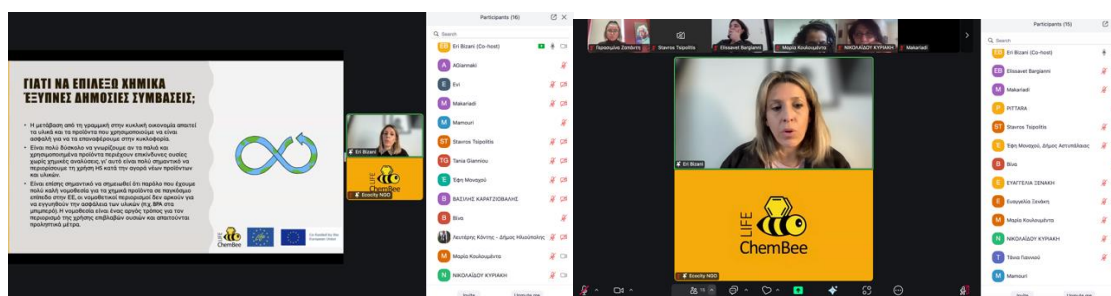


Figure 2.4. Seminar phase 2: February 2025

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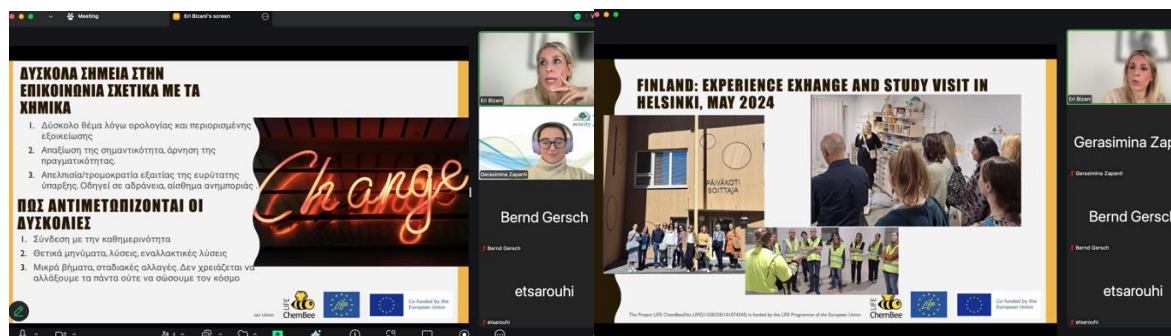


Figure 2.5. Seminar phase 3: December 2025

Building on the experience gained during the field visit in Helsinki, municipalities participating in the second phase of the training programme were additionally offered an **online inspirational seminar** focused on the practical implementation of the eco-supporter model. The seminar, organised by **Turku University of Applied Sciences (BEN06)** and the **City of Helsinki on 04.02.2025**, provided concrete examples and operational insights from the Finnish context. Through direct exposure to real-life cases of eco-supporter activities, Greek participants were able to better understand the functioning of the model in practice, reflect on differences between the Finnish and Greek municipal environments, and identify potential challenges and adaptation needs relevant to their everyday work.

2.5. Communication, Social Media & Events

The communication campaign of the LIFE ChemBee project was strategically designed to raise awareness on chemical safety and environmental health, while ensuring high visibility of the Eco-Supporters model and key project milestones. A multi-channel approach was adopted, combining press outreach, targeted social media communication and participation in high-visibility events. This integrated strategy aimed to reach a broad and diverse audience, including municipal staff, local authorities, professionals, stakeholders and the general public, while ensuring consistency of messaging across all communication tools.

Press releases constituted a core communication instrument, used to announce major project developments and public-facing activities. A total of three (3) press releases were issued during the reporting period, resulting in 58 media reproductions in total, including five (5) reproductions in newspapers at national and regional level.

In parallel, social media played a central role in sustaining continuous engagement and amplifying project messages. A total of five (5) social media posts were published across the project's communication channels (Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn), achieving a total reach of over 5,000 users and more than 400 impressions, based on platform analytics. The published content focused on key project actions, including awareness-raising on chemical safety, dissemination of the Eco-Supporters model, and communication related to project participation in VERDE.Tec and the Green Governance Day. Visual-based and event-related posts enabled timely dissemination and interaction with target audiences (detailed analysis will be provided within WP10).

Special attention should be given to an outreach and dissemination event organised by ECOCITY in the framework of [Verde tec Forum 2025](#), a major national exhibition and conference addressing a wide range of stakeholders involved in environmental governance, sustainability, and innovation. Given the strong representation of municipal and regional authorities at the Forum, the event provided a highly appropriate platform for presenting the eco-supporter concept as developed within the LIFE ChemBee project. During the session, ECOCITY introduced the rationale, methodology and objectives of the eco-supporter model, highlighting its bottom-up character and its potential to support municipalities in addressing chemical risks in everyday operations. Contributions from invited speakers further

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underlined the importance of safe and healthy choices in the working environment, linking chemical safety with occupational health, public well-being and sustainable municipal management. The event facilitated direct interaction with municipal representatives, increased visibility of the project, and contributed to raising awareness of chemical-related issues among a broader governance audience.

Furthermore, recognising the central role of public procurement as a strategic lever for advancing health and sustainability objectives at local level, a Greek delegation consisting of a representative of the Municipality of Athens (Vice Mayor) and ECOCITY participated in the **Green Governance Day events** held in Vilnius on 25–27 November 2025. Participation in this international event enabled the Greek partners to exchange experiences and good practices with other European authorities and to engage with fellow Interreg projects ([NonHazCity3](#), [ChemClimCircle](#)) working on green governance and sustainable procurement. The discussions focused in particular on the integration of environmental and health criteria into public procurement processes, reinforcing the relevance of Chemical Smart Public Procurement as promoted within LIFE ChemBee. Collectively, the participation in both events significantly strengthened the project’s outreach and impact, offering valuable opportunities for networking, peer learning and dissemination of project results to a wider professional and institutional audience beyond the core group of participating municipalities.

Table 4. Communication, Dissemination and Outreach Activities

Action	Topic	Notes
Press Releases (3)	Project progress, policy relevance & municipal engagement	58 media reproductions in total, including 5 reproductions in newspapers (national & regional media) *
Social Media Posts (5)	Awareness raising on chemical safety & LIFE ChemBee actions	Total reach >5,000 users and >400 impressions across Facebook, Instagram & LinkedIn (based on platform analytics) *
VERDE.Tec Event	Dissemination of project actions & stakeholder networking	Project presented at VERDE.Tec Exhibition & Conference (Athens)
Green Governance Day	Green governance & stakeholder dialogue	Physical event combined with online dissemination

* Detailed analytics of all social media posts, along with the full list of press release reproductions, are provided [here](#).



Figure 2.6. Speakers at the VERDE.Tec event

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Figure 2.7. Participation of ECOCITY and the Municipality of Athens in the Green Governance Day

2.6. Greek eco supporter adaptation: learnings, key challenges and successes

The transfer of the Finnish eco-supporter model to the Greek municipal context proved to be a highly instructive process, generating valuable insights into both the opportunities and limitations of introducing chemical management as a new sustainability theme at local level. One of the main **challenges** identified was that **chemical management was largely unfamiliar to Greek municipalities**, which traditionally focus environmental action on waste, energy or climate-related issues. In addition, the **bottom-up approach of the eco-supporter model contrasted with the prevailing top-down administrative culture**, raising concerns about the degree of influence that individual eco-supporters could exert within municipal hierarchies. Limited time and human resources further restricted active participation, while the **absence of binding requirements**, particularly in the field of green public procurement, created hesitation in moving from awareness to concrete implementation.

At the same time, the implementation process generated important **learnings**. Municipal staff showed stronger engagement when training content was clearly connected to **everyday work practices and operational needs**, rather than presented as a purely environmental or technical issue. Positioning chemical safety within the broader framework of sustainability and **Green Public Procurement (GPP)** proved particularly effective in increasing motivation and relevance. The experience also underlined the importance of **institutional and leadership support**, which significantly enhanced the credibility of eco-supporters and facilitated internal cooperation. Moreover, **study visits and peer exchange activities**, most notably the Helsinki field visit, played a decisive role in transferring know-how, building confidence and demonstrating that organisational change is feasible when supported by clear structures and long-term commitment.

Several **key successes** emerged from the Greek implementation. **Large metropolitan municipalities, particularly Athens, played a leading role**, setting examples that helped legitimise the eco-supporter model and encouraged smaller municipalities to follow. Across participating authorities, **Green Public Procurement emerged as the most tangible and impactful driver for action**, offering a concrete mechanism to reduce hazardous substances through everyday purchasing decisions. Importantly, Greek municipalities became part of a wider **international eco-supporter network**, which provided inspiration, mutual learning and motivation to adopt innovative, sustainable and forward-looking practices. These results confirm both the adaptability of the eco-supporter model to the Greek context

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and its potential to strengthen the role of municipalities as agents of change in chemical safety and sustainability.

2.7. Advancing Ecosupporter model in Greece: Next steps and follow up actions

A public version of this report and of the findings - a guide entitled "[Eco-supporter in practice: good practices and lessons learned from the adaptation of the Finnish operational model in France and Greece](#)", has been produced in English and translated into French and Greek. The Greek version is available [here](#). English version will be available on projects' webpage and the greek version will be available on ECOCITY's webpage and promoted through ECOCITY newsletter.

Building on the experience gained during the LIFE ChemBee project, the next phase should focus on **consolidating and scaling up the eco-supporter model within Greek municipalities**. Priority should be given to securing stronger institutional endorsement, ensuring that eco-supporters are formally recognised and embedded within municipal strategies, structures and daily operations. Such recognition is essential to balance the bottom-up nature of the model with the top-down support required for effective implementation.

A central follow-up priority concerns the further development and application of **clear, ambitious and, where possible, compulsory Green Public Procurement criteria**, enabling municipalities to systematically address chemical risks through procurement processes. Metropolitan municipalities should continue to play a leading role by setting benchmarks and demonstrating feasibility, while smaller municipalities can adapt these practices to their own scale and capacities. Continued capacity building, advanced training opportunities and sustained international exchange are also critical to maintaining motivation and expertise among eco-supporters.

By embedding these practices beyond the lifetime of LIFE ChemBee, Greek municipalities can establish a durable framework for healthier workplaces, safer chemical management and strengthened local governance. In this way, the legacy of the eco-supporter activities directly contributes to the objectives of the European Green Deal, the Zero Pollution ambition and the broader transition towards a circular and toxic-free economy.

3. Implementation of the eco-support in France

The Réseau Environnement Santé (RES) aims to put environmental health at the heart of public policy. The network is behind the ban of Bisphenol A in baby bottles in 2009 and at the origin of the progressive elimination of perchloroethylene used by dry cleaners (replaced by water-based compounds). France has adopted since 2014 a specific EDC-free national strategy and certain hazardous substances (e.g., bisphenol A and more recently some PFAS) are currently under ban.

The French government has no overall strategy on chemicals management with large chemicals industries, but rather favour diverse public engagements. Two versions of the national EDCfree strategy have been in force since 2014 as a component of the National Environmental Health Plans. Regional Health Agencies (ARS) are responsible for the definition of specific regional objectives. They coordinate activities and allocate operating budgets to hospitals, clinics, care centres, and other medical structures for the elderly, disabled and dependent. Departmental authorities are responsible for sanitary protection for families and children. Municipalities are in charge of prevention, hygiene and health services. They set up with the ARS local health agreements which are set up and monitored

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by local representatives of national insurance fund, county councils, municipalities, health professionals (cooperating within professional territorial groupings – CPTS) and associations.

3.1. Designing the French version of eco-supporter in France

RES has been working since 2017 with an EDC-free Charter helping local authorities develop EDC-free local action plans.

This Charter has been ratified so far by 4 regions, 11 Départements, and about 250 cities. By signing the EDC-free Charter local authorities commit to:

- Prohibit the use of plant protection products and biocides containing endocrine disrupters (as well as substances classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic or toxic to reproduction (CMR)) on their territory by providing assistance to individuals, owners of private property and entities that wish to apply these provisions.
- Reduce exposure to endocrine disruptors in food by promoting the consumption of organic foods and banning the use of cooking and heating equipment containing EDCs.
- Promote information of the population, healthcare professionals, local authority staff, early childhood professionals and economic players on the issue of endocrine disruptors.
- Implement eco-conditionality criteria prohibiting EDCs in public contracts and purchases
- Inform citizens every year on the progress of commitments made.

There is no requirement to follow the RES EDCfree Charter, however, and RES does not keep track of the actual actions taken by the signatories.

3.2. Recruitment - Participating Municipalities

A/ Recruitment strategy

A conference organised in Strasbourg in November 2023 with the theme "*Reducing the exposure to EDCs: role and leverage of municipalities in France*" enabled RES to assess the initiatives implemented by EDCfree signatories. Reviewing municipalities' actions plans and identifying public bodies (cities,

inter-municipal bodies, departments, and regions) that were able to work with associations to mobilize various stakeholders at the local level (health insurance, early childhood facilities, health professionals...) was a necessary first step to define a methodology specific to the ChemBee project. The seminar also helped inform many local governments about the program and tangible leverage for action by showcasing current French municipality initiatives and initiatives conducted by partners in the Baltic region under Interreg NonHazCity I and II.

The second recruitment stage involved the selection of five volunteer "pilot" municipalities willing to experiment the scheme and give some feedbacks on it using the following selection criteria:

- Demonstrated environmental health commitments, based on previous participation in RES projects and/or signing of EDC-free Charter
- An EDC action plan has been developed and is part of the health local agreement or part of the sustainable development strategy adopted by the local authority / public body
- Presence of a local RES correspondent or staff locally to ensure a manageable scale for piloting the eco-supporter model.
- The third stage consisted in contacting and presenting the eco-supporter scheme to the most recent signatories of the EDCfree Charter.

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In a first phase, RES rallied the municipalities of Strasbourg, Paris, Blanc Mesnil, Cergy Pontoise, Marseille and Nice, but Paris and Marseille dropped out by mid 2025 and were replaced by two County Councils: Tarn and Dordogne. Nice postponed trainings for well over a year and Strasbourg handed over the project to EuroStrasbourg, which they thought was more qualified for the project.

A first group of ambassadors was trained in Strasbourg in January 2024. A recruitment strategy was drafted in February 2024 which was somewhat upset by the vagaries of politics in France (the 2024 parliament dissolution which postponed municipalities' adoption of budget for months) and the departure of the ChemBee coordinator recruited by the municipality of Paris!

Target public: a public with a previous knowledge of EDCs and their impacts on health

- EDC free Charter signatories (heads of health & environment services, staff in nurseries, canteens, urbanism and purchasing services mainly) ;
- Water treatment agencies (in needs of trainings)
- Staff in primary insurance funds agencies (the most active agents by far)
- CPTS (Local health professional communities), without success so far despite numerous contact taken with federation and individually.

Communication means for the second stage recruitment:

- Kick-off events organised with pilot municipalities and public conferences held on EDCs throughout France in universities, symposium and at territorial level by RES volunteers; participation in municipalities' health fair, which proved rather useless
- Organising face-to-face visios with health and environment heads of services in about 50 local authorities
- Taking part in CPTS annual and regional meetings and contacting Local health agreement participants in many regions (in the North Eastern region alone, ARS contacted 60 CIS to present the scheme);
- RES newsletters for EDCfree signatories: a bi-monthly newsletter; about 400 EDC-free Charter signatories; around 50 signatories registering each year for webinars;
- Establishing synergies with advocacy and campaigns conducted at national level to make environmental health the second pillar of the healthcare system in France; to get the National Health Insurance to fund environmental health prevention measures; and to get the recommendations coming out of the evaluation of the 2nd French National Strategy on EDCs implemented (zero non persistent EDCs by 2030!)
- Some communication through social media (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, local and regional papers) which did not help to recruit eco-supporters.



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The list of all the municipalities contacted, with which RES organised visio can be consulted [here](#) and their follow up given [here](#).

RES recruiting strategy is available [here](#).

The list of public events, kick-off events, social media posts, newsletters and synergies created with national campaigns to recruit further municipalities eco supporter program in France is available by following [this link](#) and detailed under WP10 report.

Some examples of supports and presentations used by volunteers and staff to recruit and communicate about RES, the Charter, EDCs and the eco supporter program are listed in [this folder](#).

B/ Participating municipalities

The implementation of the eco-supporter pilot scheme in France extended beyond just municipalities, involving a diverse array of public organisations committed to advancing chemical safety and environmental health.

Local authority	Participation phase	Population or size	EDC-free Charter or chemical action plan in place ?	Special characteristics
Municipality of Lyon	Pilot municipality	523 000	EDC-free Charter 2021 EDCs exposure reduction part of health action plan SPASER with EDC criteria ⁽¹⁾	4 th greenest metropolitan area in France
Municipality of le Blanc Mesnil	Pilot municipality	60 000	EDC-free Charter 2024 EDCs exposure reduction part of local health agreement	In the Ile de France region
Municipality of Cergy Pontoise	Pilot municipality	70 000	EDC-free Charter 2022 EDCs in sustainable development policy	In the Ile de France
Municipality of Strasbourg	Pilot municipality – project taken over by Eurostrasbourg	300 000	EDC-free Charter 2018 EDCs part of local health agreement and SPASER with EDC-free food schemes	3 rd greenest municipality in France
Municipality of Nice	Pilot municipality	360 000	EDC-free Charter 2021 EDC reduction in LHA and in SPASER	1 st green municipality in France
Département of Tarn	2 nd stage	500 000	EDC-free Charter 2019 An action plan against EDC part its sustainable development policy	Rural county council in the South of France
Département of Dordogne	2 nd stage	400 000	EDC-free Charter 2023 EDC action plan and a SPAR (1) including EDC in building, food procurement and	Rural county with high tourism attraction
City of Metz	2 nd stage	500 000	Metz : EDC-free Charter 2019	Part of the greater Strasbourg area

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Local authority	Participation phase	Population or size	EDC-free Charter or chemical action plan in place ?	Special characteristics
City of Charleville Mézières	2 nd stage	45 000	-	Part of the greater Strasbourg area
CPAM 54 (Département Meurthe et Moselle)	2 nd stage	550 employees managing 645 000 beneficiaries	The National Health Insurance Fund decided in 2024 to fund awareness raising actions in schools on phthalate	Regional Health Insurance fund
Water syndicate of Alsace (SDEA)	2 nd stage	720 employees 408 municipalities 1.3 mio inhabitants	A SPASER with a specific mention to limiting EDCs and micro plastics	A public cooperation institution
Municipality of Evry Courcouronnes and hospital training center	2 nd stage	70 000	EDC-free Charter 2024 Eco supporters decided to audit their home in the absence of mandate	North East of Paris The training center is for 3 hospitals, 3000 employees – budget 200 mio €
Municipality of Lons le Saunier	2 nd stage	27 000 inhabitants	EDC free Charter signed 2021	Small rural city in Burgundy
Municipality of Paris	2 nd stage (externalized recruiting)	2.1 mio	EDC-free Charter 2017.	1st French metropolis
Municipality of Marseille	2 nd stage (externalized recruiting)	900 000	EDC-free Charter 2021 No mention of EDC in LHA but strong in SPASER (total ban) In the end, the town dropped out	2 nd biggest metropolitan urban area with strong proportion of young foreign & unemployed population

(1) Schemes to promote Socially and Ecologically Responsible Public Purchases (SPASER) or Schemes for sustainable purchasing (SPAR).

More CPAM and municipalities were interested late 2025, but have postponed decision until after 2026 French municipal elections.

It is important to note that in all of the participant municipalities in France, there was already a high level of awareness as a result of the application of the EDCfree Charter and EDCfree national strategy. Municipalities and County councils were for many already in some regions:

- monitoring air quality in public buildings - prescribing materials that are favorable to indoor air quality;
- characterizing health risks in schools and early childhood education and care facilities;
- monitoring phthalates in daycare centers;

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- identifying public purchases with high health risks and switching to more sustainable products whenever possible (ecolabelled nappies and school supplies, for instance...)
- changing the food market and eliminating plastic tableware in schools and daycare centers;
- Providing support in the choice of cleaning products in public buildings that welcome vulnerable members of the public;
- and sometimes already training City employees on the issues surrounding EDCs...

The largest French pilot cities had also already integrated their EDC-free action plan into broader health and environment action plans. For example, in Paris since 2020, the Environment Plan contributes directly to an overall approach aimed at eliminating EDCs from all living environments. After 5 years of implementing concrete actions in the field of environmental health, notably through its Local Health Agreement, the Eurométropole of Strasbourg adopted in 2023 a ‘One Health’ strategy by integrating health issues into all its sectoral public policies - greening, mobility, agriculture, urban planning, water management, etc. It was soon to be followed by others. In Nice, a territorial plan called “Horizon Zero Plastics” and a specific health environmental plan on phthalates was in place. The Greater area of Lyon produced its first EDC-free action plan in 2023 and was introducing actions in its Local Health Agreement. Pilot districts (Départements Tarn and Dordogne whose competences are mainly in the social field) had already embedded the reduction of EDC-exposure as an axis of their Schemes to promote Socially and Ecologically Responsible Public Purchases (SPASER). The other pilot were still working on it.

As a result, the goal in France was to test the eco-supporter training program with the pilot municipalities to see if eco supporters could offer a complementary approach to the EDCfree Charter, which would help identify key sectors for action and give agents a methodology to tackle the next step: develop an EDCfree purchasing policy and train buyers in tendering units. The scheme's goal and the challenge of adapting the eco supporter program in France were therefore very specific.

3.3. Trainees, training sessions, training content and training materials

Means: the first 2024 trainings were done by RES LIFE ChemBee coordinators. From October 2024 to December 2025, RES employed a professional trainer one day a week. She was helped by a volunteer trainer member of the board.

Number of training sessions: together, they organised about 20 training sessions spread over several days and trained **66 eco-supporters (to be updated in April)**. Around 30 more public agents were trained who used the CheckED tool rather than the eco-supporter questionnaires, as they were working directly with parents and families and wanted to be able to advice them on auditing their home. By filling up CheckED, they fall into the eco-ambassador category. A list with the name and contact detailed of all trainees is available [here](#).

Local authority or public body	Training dates	Nr of staff trained	Comments and justification
Lyon	22.03.24 et 14-16.05.24 and 10.10.24	13 person of staff trained (head of health, early childhood and tendering unit)	Testing advanced training

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Local authority or public body	Training dates	Nr of staff trained	Comments and justification
Le Blanc Mesnil	14-16.05.24, 27.05.24 19.05, 12.12.25 and 16.12.25	18 eco supporters trained in three groups (a fourth one planned in 2026)	Wide variety of departments and public bodies working with municipality Testing advanced training
Cergy Pontoise	14-16.05.24 and 28.05.24	6 eco supporter trained in 3 different municipalities, 1 buyer	Testing advanced training
Nice	02.10.25	6 eco supporters trained in health services, family and students departments, tendering and human ressources units	Many delays in implementation. Will test advanced training in 2026
Tarn County Council	31.01.25	6 eco supporters trained (3 early childhood staff and 2 environmental association and 1 buyer)	Testing advanced training
Dordogne County Council	18.07.25	9 eco supporters trained in environment, health, tourism, economy, social, school and solidarity, culture and heritage services	Testing advanced training
Metz	18.03.25	7 agents trained (early childhood structures)	
CPAM 54	31.0125	2 heads of services were trained as eco-supporters	They trained further 22 eco-ambassadors among their services

Charleville Mézières	11.04.25	4 eco-supporters trained in the local mission	They became eco-ambassadors and audited home & families
Alsacian Water Syndicate - SDEA	September 2024 Visios 27.05, 23.06 and 25.06.25	2 head of services trained as eco ambassadors	They trained a further 560 eco-ambassadors in 3 visios. Audits were not requested.
EvryCourcouronnes	12 et 19.06.25	9 agents trained in environmental and climate transition division and with the training centre of the district hospital group	They became eco-ambassadors and audited home & families instead

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Local authority or public body	Training dates	Nr of staff trained	Comments and justification
Lons le Saunier	10.03 et 01.04.25	12 agents of a complementary insurance scheme (Mutuelle) working in relay nurseries and childhood departments	They choose to use CheckED and fell into the category of eco-ambassadors
Paris	6.9.25 and 9.9.25 20.12.25 and 27.12.25	In the end, 2 groups of 11 and 14 young people belonging to the Green Brigades (environmental urban associations) were trained as eco-ambassadors	The municipality outsourced the recruitment then dropped out of the program, as it recruited RES Life ChemBee coordinator

Marseille, which did not want to spend time to recruit and organise internally dropped out mid 2025. Annecy which participated in the visio replay on Helsinki decided to go for another awareness raising operation after this; and Strasbourg which passed on recruitment to the Greater Strasbourg area and led to the involvement of Metz and Charleville Mézières.

A decisive step forward happened in April 2024 with the involvement in the Great Eastern region of the Primary Health Insurance office and the main Water treatment public Syndicate. RES trained two representatives of both these organisations. Both were given mandate to act and were able within weeks to mobilize staff inside their organization for further trainings. CPAM 54 trained internally 22 more agents who filled up about 70 questionnaires and publicised the program on their internal and external communication platforms. SDEA representative trained in three visio 460 more agents who were asked to check their home but not to fill up questionnaire. The objective of the training was to make staff aware of the many substances which are found in waste water and prepare them to deal with it. In this context, the checks were not deemed useful by heads of services.

Training content

RES designed the eco-supporter training in France to help local authorities implement chemical safety practices and reduce exposure to endocrine-disrupting chemicals (EDCs). The training programme begins with an online session introducing EDCs, their effects, and current legislation, followed by

practical advice on reducing exposure. A subsequent virtual meeting explained how to audit offices for hazardous substances and raise awareness among staff, with participants provided with useful guides and regular updates. Weeks later, trainers followed up individually to support further action. An advanced training kit was later developed, offering factsheets, checklists, and communication tools to help eco-supporters promote EDC-free policies in purchasing and tenders. This approach continues to be refined and tested with pilot municipalities through 2026.

The training support - a very detailed 80 slide power point presentation - is sent to participants after the first four-hour distance learning session together with an evaluation questionnaire for the training and some fact sheets, leaflet and other basic documents on EDCs. Training support is also publicly available on RES website.

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Each eco supporter has to organise two audits at work place. Audits and questionnaires are an integral part of the eco supporter training program, as they teach how to communicate about environmental and health impacts of EDCs in a non-anxiety producing manner.

Trainings of public sector agents whether eco ambassadors or eco supporters are very similar in France. The main difference between a French eco ambassador and an eco supporter working for a municipality is that the former works in direct contact with families, whereas the latter works with colleagues in an office.

Material	Topic	Available at
Training support (also available on RES website page ChemBee)	EDCs, their impact, where to find them, how to reduce exposure + link to questionnaire	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wqXU5X_I Ao ytvvCG3loIgn6G4p_Y_Wk/view?usp=drive link
Supplementary materials to fill up questionnaire	Complementing training and helping filling up questionnaire for all staff	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1qCkNEUOF3XV-9EyajPLKtE8VNmWf7bS8
Supplementary materials to fill up questionnaire	Specific to staff working in kindergartens and with early childhood	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1y6zVgXTPL-KLlryc_Au_1fqP3zf0_WQ/view?usp=drive link
	Link to questionnaires	https://scan4chem.limequery.com/646343?lang=fr https://scan4chem.limequery.com/317794?lang=fr
Checklist for offices	NonHazCity check list for offices in French	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yAISx-ynvN3CiNc1BiCRO_7wlpKGD0AJ/view?usp=drive link
18 ChemBee pedagogical sheets	18 fact sheets put together with partners detailing what are EDCs, cocktail effect, bioplastiques, PFAS, phthalates, bisphenol A, EU regulations, labelling and recycling codes, aluminium and metals, digital equipment...	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17y4dt0JkogVWizpFByFW3ykb3HgJ-1dl?usp=drive link
Toxfree step by step guide for a healthy working place in French	A NonHazCity guide which goes through office's equipment, furniture and material to look at chemical that can be found.	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KVlqFaoCu4G26eg8qpBm6pUDFGmsZTKO/view?usp=drive link

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3.4. Implementation of advanced chemical training in France

A/ Advanced training of for all public agents

In response to some agents' feedbacks, the RES produced in June 2025 a dozen more fact sheets

(complementing the 18 drafted with the partners) and focusing on issues agents and staff in nurseries and schools wanted to have more information about, among which:

- the health impacts of EDCs and the 30 suspected and proven chronic diseases and mental disorders linked to the main EDC families;
- the limitations of regulations (EU and French) and why it is important not to rely solely on them and to learn to reduce exposure daily at home and at work ;
- EDCs in an hospital environment;
- EDCs in dentistry and orthodontics ;
- EDCs likely to be contained in produce and materials used in childcare units and schools (food containers and wrappings, textiles, nappies, school supplies, toys, cleaning products, furnitures...)
- the pedagogical approach to adopt in order to motivate target audiences to carry out audits that are often considered intrusive...

These professional fact sheets are being completed continuously as needs arise within the municipal staff.



Agents also asked for materials they could adapt easily and include in their own communication supports (synthetic analyses and diagrams/drawings they could reproduce freely). This was done through 6 power point presentations adapted from partners and completed with RES articles and sources.

Materials	Topic	Available at
12 factsheets for professionals (updated continuously)	EDC health impacts, childcare equipment and materials, school supplies, food containers and wrappings, hospital equipment, dentistry and orthodontics, educational approach...	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lw6vT15GeIS56_JLfWdqHWbBB13JUOVN?usp=sharing
6 powerpoint presentations adapted from partners on issues not dealt with in the factsheets	Synthetic information and diagrams/drawings that can be adapted and reused in customised presentations and communications	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K-brizWDawCEK7Ts-jFqZfMRXZ9kXIYd?usp=drive_link

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B/ Kit Charte + on smart chemical purchases and tenders for buyers

In the original application, RES identified that most local authorities in France do encounter difficulties in purchasing articles without toxic substances. To encourage more municipalities to join the scheme, an advanced training kit was put together, building up on a dossier started by Cergy Pontoise on chemical criteria and clauses after Helsinki visit and using TUAS materials to respond to the needs expressed by the pilot municipalities to train their buyers in tendering and purchasing units. The kit offers:

- fact sheets and data sheets explaining how to introduce chemical requirements in purchasing and tenders progressively ; short coming of the reglementation ; the need to adopt chemical action plans and list of priority substances; what pre-established chemical criteria can buyers rely safely on ; where to find all the information they need ; what are the main difficulties encountered (using feedback from Swedish municipalities); how to use need specifications and market dialog ; what type of clauses for what level pursued ; etc.
- Some powerpoint presentations designed to help department heads to communicate about the need to reduce chemical exposure through GPP and purchases with stakeholders and with elected representatives within SPASERS;
- case studies to illustrate what is already done elsewhere and how it is done (using GPP best practices and the three pillar environmental approach developed by local authorities in the Baltic Sea region to restrict the use of chemicals and deal with toxicity at the same time as circularity and climate impacts);
- guides translated from the European projects NonHazCity I, II and III, ToxFree and ChemClimCircle to inform building and renovation projects which the French municipalities are supposed to tackle from 2026 onwards to meet national sustainability and circularity targets.

This material is currently being tested by pilot-municipalities. The objectives is to get feedback on the supports by the end of the project in April, to extend it afterward to other municipalities.

Material	Topic	Available at
17 technical factsheets for buyers in purchasing and tendering units	How to use and insert chemical criteria in local authorities' GPP and purchases in practice (existing criteria, where to find them, how to write clauses or use ecolabelling, what difficulties for purchasers ? Setting up lists of priority substances, where to find the information, etc.	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JGpHXYUtaylUr-QhlqXwwEX2yGwGJ91F?usp=drive_link
Case studies of GPP including chemical, climate and circular criteria	6 case studies of GPP with chemical criteria to show what is already been done by other municipalities in Europe (building, furnitures, equipment...)	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RI8sTlg832rIIQSp2wt1t09oITekuTsy?usp=drive_link
GPP guidelines and guides available in French	Translation and provision of ressources in French which can be used when writing tenders with chemical criteria in the sectors of childcare, building and renovation, internal air quality, food catering, furniture	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1qRvfG5wwqkYeLhmHnJ5Y76K3krRqOUW-?usp=drive_link

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Material	Topic	Available at
Powerpoint presentations	To help communicate about the need to adopt a three dimensional environmental approach in tendering units including climate change, circularity and toxicity of materials and products	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cw0stA1MM7xzeIy8-KpLwdgiD7jv3PRP?usp=drive_link

All materials are detailed under WP2.



3.5. French eco supporter adaptation: results, key challenges and successes

Indicators

Overall numbers	Planned	Actually done
<u>Eco-supporters trained</u>		
France	75-95	66 so far
<u>Office-checks conducted</u>		
France	365 - 2050	230 (160 and 70) but many eco supporters used CheckED instead
<u>Municipalities involved</u>		
France	(pilot - 5; second wave - 20)	5 and 14

Key Successes: The pilot involved 14 local authorities, county councils, public and private insurance funds, and one water agency. Almost 100 eco-supporters and ambassadors were trained, including those working directly with families. Hazardous substances will be included in procurement of pilot municipalities and health planning in several cities, and political interest is growing through EDC-free and sustainable procurement commitments, notably in the public insurance sector and with intercommunal bodies dealing with management of natural resources, such as water syndicates and regional parcs.

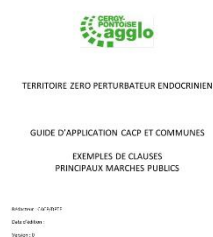
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The involvement of the 5 pilot municipalities facilitated the integration of chemical safety practices into various operational settings—ranging from education, environment, urbanism and schools to intercommunal bodies such as water agencies. It also helped the ARS, regional health agencies—demonstrating the model’s adaptability thus reinforcing primary health insurance funds commitment to collective healthier, safer public spaces.

Another positive result of the project is the widespread dissemination of information through the program. The SDEA, the water syndicate which works for 744 municipalities in the North Eastern Region, including EuroStrasbourg, effectively trained 560 additional agents through three online sessions. Additionally, the local branch of the national insurance fund trained around 25 more agents independently, who are now sharing information with other National health services and CPAM offices across France.

Many French pilot municipalities also committed to funding the training of teachers and students eco-ambassadors (e.g. Cergy, Nice, Evry, pharmacists, ARS and nurses...), who are locally engaged in training centers and universities to ensure information dissemination among the medical sector and the population.

The trip to Helsinki in May 2024 has proven to be highly inspiring for the municipalities of Lyon, Cergy Pontoise, and Le Blanc Mesnil, while RES was able to interest further districts and cities with the replay in January 2025. Since then, pilot municipalities have been focusing on developing local and territorial purchasing schemes to incorporate health issues and EDCs into all aspects of their operations, setting a benchmark for numerous other municipalities across France. Cergy municipality also made publicly available its [guide with examples of clauses to limit toxic substances](#).



Key Challenges:

Complex administrative structures and numerous committees slowed implementation. Some pilot municipalities selected staff to be trained from their own ranks, but some heads of health, after realizing they would have to spend quite a lot of time recruiting and organising trainings, preferred delegating recruitment to the RES, resulting in mixed outcomes. The RES had to navigate complex administrative layers in place to implement the French national health policy, requiring collaboration with:

- health and social committees to include social workers and family helpers;
- health professionals working collaboratively in territorial groups to improve access to care or health and environment associations;
- territorial grouping to which municipalities had delegated some of their competences (water, social services, country and urban planning).

This process has been time-consuming and somewhat ineffective. The Finnish model is effective in empowering individuals to drive change from within their workplaces, whereas the French approach sometimes led to the opposite outcome by failing to involve pilot municipalities in the initial development of the eco-supporter scheme internally or outsourcing recruitment. There has been a lack of capacity building for the trained eco-supporters, as a result, who have not received adequate support from their organization, and were given no time to assess exposure in offices with the approval of their department heads. Maintaining commitment without clear mandates proved difficult. Whereas it has somewhat hindered the replication and the full development of the project’s scope in France so far. It has also led many French eco-supporters to opt to become eco-ambassadors, as they found it easier to audit their family premises.

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As far as procurement was concerned, legal caution has limited ambition so far beyond national requirements. Like in Greece, green public procurement (GPP) emerged as the most critical lever for municipalities to reduce hazardous substances. GPP offers a concrete mechanism to set sustainability standards and phase out harmful chemicals through everyday purchasing decisions. France’s centralized system enables the implementation of national policies, targets, and monitoring systems from the top down. Various laws have, since 2017, established percentage targets for recycling and reusing materials, prohibited the use of plastic in school canteens, and mandated GPP policies to be enforced across all sectors by June 2026. Additionally, the French government’s recovery plan outlines objectives to renovate public buildings and decrease energy consumption by 40% by 2030 and 60% by 2050. Yet the uptake of GPP is currently lower than levels for which the national goals advocate. In 2020, public procurement represented about 16% of France’s GDP, of which about 30% were construction projects. In 2020, 13% of these procurements (within tenders managed by municipalities) included at least one environmental criterion. Strong barriers remain, among which are the lack of knowledge and capacity at the local purchaser level, as well as a lack of standardized data and reporting systems. Moreover, French municipalities are aware that without ambitious and compulsory procurement criteria, progress will remain fragmented, voluntary and limited to the largest municipalities and groupings.

Key Learnings:

- Make eco-support activities part of municipal and public health frameworks, with leadership support and resources is essential for the expansion of the operational eco-supporter model in France.
- Early involvement of department heads and decision-makers and better understanding of the key missions eco-supporters might play could secure long-term success.
- Anchoring the model within existing frameworks—such as SPASER and public health contracts—ensures continuity. Simplified tools and teaching kits increase participation and understanding.
- Build a community of practice among eco-supporters for sharing experiences and solutions would have helped reinforced the legitimacy of eco supporters.
- In the same way, expand partnerships with local stakeholders for collaborative awareness campaigns and projects would increase support.
- It would need to go hand in hand with regular updates and small-scale actions to keep progress on track.
- Set clear targets and monitor progress in reducing hazardous substances and increasing the use of environmentally friendly products would enable to go beyond the implementation of the EDCfree Charter.

3.6. Advancing Eco-support in France: next steps

A public version of this report and of the findings - a guide entitled “[Eco-supporter in practice: good practices and lessons learned from the adaptation of the Finnish operational model in France and Greece](#)”, has been produced in English and translated into French. The French version is available [here](#). Both will be made available on RES website and publicised through RES regular and VTSPE + (Charter +) newsletter and via the French local authorities’ networks [Elus santé territoires](#) et “[Villes Santé OMS](#)” coordinated by the municipalities of Lyon and Strasbourg, together with all the information and pedagogical material produced. Recruitment and trainings of eco-supporters in France will resume after 2026 French municipal elections. Many more contacts have been made and some interest was expressed by certain local CPAM (before the NHC DIY Guide on detoxifying own’s home was made freely available by RES online), as well as the Parc naturel régional des Vosges du Nord, the water agency of Ile de France region and some more intercommunal bodies...

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Except for the largest French metropolis, local authorities in France still handle health and environment separately. However, it is crucial to have a unified vision for healthy, and sustainable local policies to move beyond the EDCfree Charter and to start planning work towards creating healthy, and sustainable municipalities and territories. Following the LIFE project, the focus will be on strengthening and expanding the eco-supporter model, with a priority on intercommunal bodies, that advise municipalities on natural resources management and urban planning. The main objective is to gain institutional support from each organization to officially recognize and integrate eco-supporters into each organisation's strategies and operations. Additionally, it is important to establish comprehensive GPP criteria that prioritize health considerations in purchasing policies, in addition to environmental and social criteria.

The process of implementing healthy, sustainable policies involves a learning curve. Lessons will be learnt and shared with other regions and municipalities through networks, such as the WHO Healthy Cities Network and the national centre for public agent training. Seeking European funding will be a priority to share information and lessons from NonHazCity and ChemClimCircle projects and to engage a broader stakeholder group. Maintaining commitment and inspiring the transfer of policies and projects to local situation is indeed facilitated by European connections, even though each local situation may require a unique approach that must be identified and established gradually.

4. Implementation of the eco-support in Finland

4.1. Experience exchange and study visit in Finland

A study visit to Finland was organised in May 2024 as part of the LIFE ChemBee project. The event took place on 15–16 May and was hosted by the Associated Partner, the City of Helsinki. The objective was sharing of acquired experience and knowledge about eco-supporters to French and Greek stakeholders. The visit focused on exchanging experiences and exploring chemical management practices relevant to municipalities and public organisations between the City of Helsinki and the eco-support piloting cities from Greece and France.

The programme highlighted both strategic and operational aspects of chemical management in the City of Helsinki. Presentations delivered by representatives of the city included topics such as the city's overall approach to chemical management, the Finnish eco-support model, and practical experiences of implementing eco-support in workplaces. Participants also learned about the roles and activities of eco-supporters and gained insights into piloted eco-support models from France and Greece.

Further discussions addressed the use of chemical-smart public procurement as a tool for managing hazardous substances, as well as the application of chemical restrictions in buildings certified with the Nordic Swan ecolabel. To complement the presentations, the programme included site visits to the Viikki Wastewater Treatment Plant and to Finland's first kindergarten certified with the Nordic Swan ecolabel, offering participants a practical perspective on the implementation of sustainable chemical management practices.

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Activity	Information	Notes
Participant organisation from Greece	BEN 02 EcoCity Vrilissia Rafina – Pikermi,	
Participants organisations from France	BEN04 RES Ville du Blanc-Mesnil Cergy Pontoise Lyon	
Participants organisations from Finland	BEN06 TUAS AP city of Helsinki HSY (municipal water supply and waste management services) Nordic Swan Eco-label Finland	
Materials	Seminar summary	Internal document

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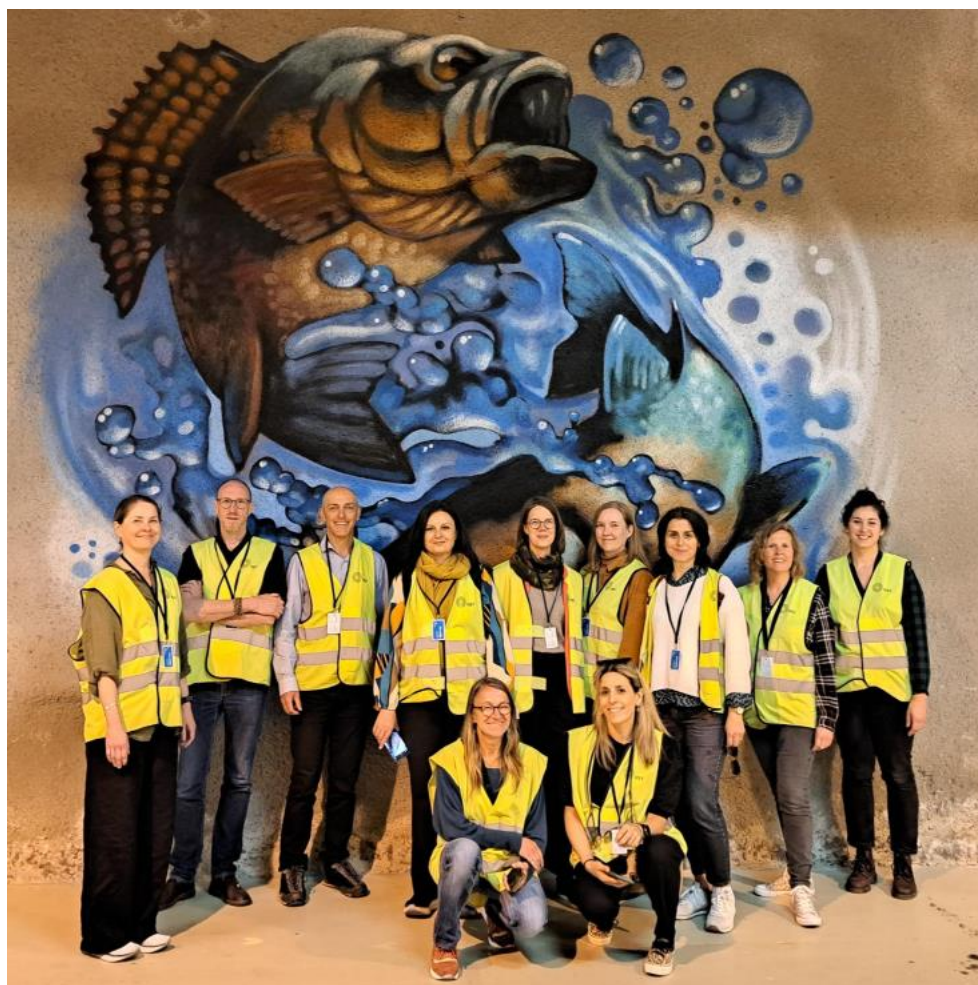


Figure 4.1: Site visits to the City of Helsinki's Viikki Wastewater Treatment Plant

4.2. Implementation of advanced chemical training in Finland

The Finnish eco-support advanced chemical training was conducted under three “training packages”.

The first training package was the “Office-Check” campaign. The campaign was implemented with the name of “Chemical Smart Work Environment” among Finnish municipalities participating in the Finnish Eco-support network. The campaign consisted of the following components: recruitment of municipalities, info events for participating municipalities (with participants being eco-support coordinators) and implementation of the “Chemical Smart Work Environment” campaign.

The second training package was an advanced hazardous chemical training course for the City of Helsinki's eco-supporters. The course included online-lectures. BEN06 TUAS organised two training courses; the first was focused on chemical knowledge and the course was open to all City of Helsinki's eco-supporters. The second course was focused on personnel of early education.

The third training package targeted Finnish eco-support coordinators and environmental experts in the 23 municipalities that are members of the Finnish Eco-support network. The training consisted of three workshops. The first workshop introduced the objectives and planned activities of the LIFE CHEMBEE project, aiming to motivate municipal eco-support coordinators to use the materials

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developed during the project and to encourage participation in the Office-Check (“Chemical Smart Work Environment”) campaigns. The second workshop presented experiences from activities implemented so far and showcased training materials developed. The third workshop presented all training materials and concepts developed for Finnish eco-support during the project period. The aim was to promote the use of these materials and provide coordinators with practical tips on how to apply them in their local training efforts.

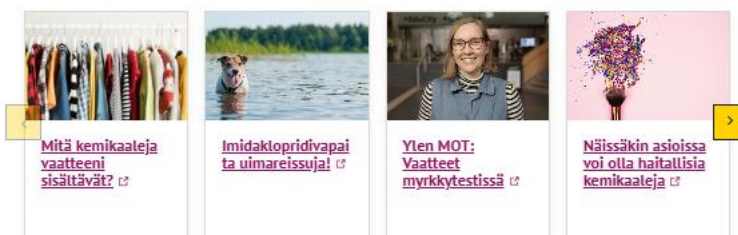
The first training package - the “Office-Check” (“Chemical Smart Work Environment”) campaign

Activity	Information	Note
Activities implemented	2 recruitment online-events 2 kick-off online- events 2 Rounds of “Chemical Smart (Work)Environment” -campaign	Organised together with the AP City of Helsinki
Participated eco-support organisations: online recruitment and kick-off events	Lohja Helsinki Keski-Uudenmaan ympäristökeskus (Central Uusimaa Environmental Centre) Helsingin seudun ympäristöpalvelut -kuntayhtymä HSY (Helsinki region environmental services) Kouvola Nurmijärvi Uudenmaan liitto (Helsinki-Uusimaa Regional Council) Vantaa Tampere Hyvinkää Kuopio Siilijärvi Oulu Turku Päijät-Hämeen hyvinvointialue (Wellbeing Services County of Päijät-Häme) Espoo PH palvelut (Päijät-Häme Institutional Cleaning Services Ltd) Varsinais-Suomen hyvinvointialue (Wellbeing Services County of Southwest Finland)	19 organisations 45 participants
Participated eco-support organisations: campaign	Helsinki The Finnish national eco-support network (operated by Helsinki) Espoo Helsingin seudun ympäristöpalvelut -kuntayhtymä HSY (Helsinki region environmental services) Oulu Kouvola	6 organisations

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Activity	Information	Note
Materials	Campaign material package prepared by BEN06TUAS	Reported and described in D2.4

Ajankohtaista kemikaaliasiaa



Kysyttävää haitallisista kemikaaleista?



Lisää kemikaalitietoa



Figure 4.2: Screenshot from the “Chemical Smart(Work)environment -campaign website <https://www.turkuamk.fi/yrityksille-ja-organisaatioille/koulutusta-henkilostolle/tekniikan-ja-liiketoiminnan-tilauskoulutukset/kemikaalikoulutus/>

The second training package -advanced hazardous chemical training course for the City of Helsinki’s eco-supporters

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Activity	Information	Note
Activities implemented	<p>2 training online training courses organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical smart work environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ five 1,5 hour lectures • Chemical smart early education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ four 1 hour lectures ○ 1 hour lecture for kindergarten directors 	<p>Focus groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AP City of Helsinki's eco-supporters • AP City of Helsinki's eco-supporters and other interested staff in early childhood education • Kindergarten directors
Participation to the trainings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical smart work environment • Chemical smart early education • Kindergarten directors 	<p>61 participants (Sep-Dec 2024)</p> <p>39 participants (Sep-Nov 2025)</p> <p>165 participants (Oct 2025)</p>
Topics of the training	<p>Toxicity Persistence Bioaccumulation Exposure to Harmful Chemicals Chemical Regulation: EU Chemical Legislation Chemical Regulation: International Agreements Chemical Regulation: National Chemical Legislation Transport (of Chemicals) Studying the Effects of Chemicals Examples of Chemical Groups Monitoring and Measuring Chemicals in the Environment Municipal Management and Reduction of Harmful Substances Harmful Substances and Textiles Plastics</p>	<p>Materials reported and described in D2.4</p>

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The third training package -workshops for Finnish eco-support coordinators and environmental experts

Activity	Information	Note
Activities	<p>Three workshops for Finnish eco-support coordinators and environmental experts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st Objectives and planned activities of the LIFE CHEMBEE project • 2nd Idea for training materials and specific examples of materials • 3rd Chemical-smart (work) environment: training and discussion for eco-support coordinators. 	
Participated eco-support organisations	<p>Lohja Helsinki Siilinjärvi Kauniainen Kotka Oulu Varsinais-Suomen hyvinvointialue (Wellbeing Services County of Southwest Finland) Nurmijärvi Järvenpää Päijät-Hämeen Laitoshuoltopalvelut (Päijät-Häme Institutional Cleaning Services Ltd) Vantaa Päijäthäme Vesilahti Tuusula Kauniainen Espoo Hyvinkää Kouvola Kuopio Tampere Helsinki Region Environmental Services, HSY</p>	<p>21 organisations 66 participants</p>
Materials	<p>Campaign material package prepared by BEN06TUAS</p>	<p>Reported and described in D2.4</p>

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5. The “Office check -tool”

As part of the eco-supporter activities, a structured questionnaire was introduced as a practical tool to support eco-supporters in assessing their work environment and identifying opportunities for reducing exposure to hazardous chemicals. The questionnaire was presented and explained during the training sessions, with the aim of enabling participants to systematically reflect on everyday practices and evaluate the feasibility of behavioural and organisational changes. Two distinct versions of the questionnaire were used, one adapted to office environments and one specifically designed for schools and kindergartens, reflecting the different exposure contexts and operational realities. Eco-supporters were encouraged to complete the questionnaire twice, through a first and a second round of checks, in order to capture initial conditions and potential changes over time. This approach was intended to support self-assessment, stimulate awareness, and provide indicative information on both existing practices and the perceived ease of adopting safer alternatives.

Preliminary results are presented below; however, a comprehensive analysis will be provided in the final reporting following the completion of the project’s activities.

5.1. Survey tool in Greece

At the time of reporting, the collection of questionnaires in Greece is ongoing, and additional checks are expected to be completed in the coming months. As eco-supporters continue to familiarise themselves with the tool and as institutional support within municipalities is further strengthened, higher participation rates are anticipated. Final results and a more comprehensive analysis of the Greek questionnaires, including potential comparison between first and second checks, will be produced and reported in April 2026, in line with the overall project timeline. Until then, the available data should be considered indicative and primarily useful for qualitative reflection rather than statistical assessment.

Table 5.1: Summary of Questionnaires Completed – Greek Eco-supporters (as of November 2025)

Indicator	Offices	Schools / Kindergartens	Total
Number of questionnaires completed	9	5	14
Share of total questionnaires	64%	36%	100%
Respondents willing to change practices at home	2	4	6
Percentage willing to change practices at home	22.2%	80.0%	42.9%

According to first results, among the Greek eco-supporters who completed the checks, a total of 6 out of 14 respondents (42.9%) reported willingness to change practices at home following the ChemBee training and awareness activities. A notably higher proportion of positive responses was observed among staff working in schools and kindergartens (80%) compared to office-based respondents (22.2%).

Preliminary results from the questionnaires indicate that the main behavioural changes reported by Greek eco-supporters are primarily related to everyday practices that can be easily modified at

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individual or departmental level. These include the increased use of eco-labelled detergents, the reduction or elimination of room deodorisers and artificial fragrances, and a conscious effort to limit single-use plastic products in the workplace. In addition, several respondents reported avoiding the use of plastic food containers, particularly for heating meals, opting instead for glass or stainless-steel alternatives. Similar feedback was consistently collected during follow-up meetings and informal exchanges with eco-supporters, especially those from the pilot municipalities, where these practices were discussed as practical first steps towards reducing chemical exposure. The convergence between questionnaire responses and qualitative feedback suggests that, even at this early stage, the training activities have contributed to raising awareness and initiating tangible behavioural changes in everyday work environments.

Given the limited number of questionnaires completed to date, these results should be considered preliminary and indicative. Further data collection is ongoing, and a more robust analysis will be carried out once additional questionnaires and second checks have been completed, with final results to be reported in April 2026.

5.2 Survey tool in France

230 questionnaires were filled up by French eco supporters by mid November 2025 (to be updated in April 2026) with 160 first checks and 70 second checks made. A specific questionnaire is used by French staff working in early childhood services and kindergartens. Participating departments and services are detailed in the table below.

Services	1st check	2nd check	Participating municipalities or public bodies
Early childhood (PMI) and kindergartens	27	11	Lyon, Metz, Saverne, Menucourt (Cergy), Nice and Dijon (Lons used CheckED)
Environment and ecological transition	15	7	Cergy Pontoise, County Council of Tarn (CPIE association), CPAM, SDEA, Evry Courcouronne (some used CheckED),
Purchasing and tendering units, accountancy	14	7	CPAM, Lyon et Nice
Health department and socio medical staff	27	10	Nice, Lyon, Faverges, CPAM, APF France Handicap
Education and schools	16	6	Nice, County council of Dordogne, Menucourt (Cergy)
Catering	2	0	
Housing, transport, waste, risks and urbanism	6	5	Cergy Pontoise and County council of Dordogne
Health prevention	67	39	CPAM (Primary Insurance Fund)
Culture, communication and Human resources	12	5	SDEA (Alsacien water syndicate) and CPAM
Water	agents used CheckED		SDEA (Alsacien water syndicate)

Getting a mandate from their heads of services and the time to make two office checks at their work place has proved difficult for most French eco-supporters, who ended up auditing their home or that of their relatives 'instead.

The main behaviour changes adopted by eco-supporters over the period were:

- Replacing the use of plastic bottles in kindergartens with glass bottles and asking parents to bring glass bottles

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- Eliminating damaged non sticking pans and replacing them with stainless steel
- Replacement of plastic containers in kitchens by glass and stainless steel containers
- Gradual suppression of single use plastic containers and cups
- Adoption of ecolabelled cleaning products
- More rational use of plastic gloves and coffee pods
- Increased airing and dusting, especially where printers and photocopiers are stored
- No more heating meals in plastic containers
- And more thoughts before purchasing a product or a type of material.

Feedbacks collected from agents about the app: interviews were conducted with eco supporters trained between September and December 2025 ([whose transcription can be found by following the link](#)) and this is what came out:

- Eco supporters in France were quite happy with the training support and the questionnaire, but felt that simply having a green, yellow or red light appearing at the end without indications about what to do next was not sufficient (with CheckED, further instructions were given). They need pieces of advice, which they can pass on to their work colleagues.
- During the training sessions, the need to carry out 2 checks leaving at least four weeks in between was stressed, as well as the importance of doing so to be able to assess the impacts and the change in behaviours. Trainees seem to understand, but in fact, the second check always seems to be complicated (ID number lost, lack of time from the part of the people being trained, misunderstandings with department heads who gave them no time to do so, what's the point of filling up another questionnaire if you got a green light? etc.) Sometimes, the second check was done only a few days later with a timelapse not long enough to allow for changes.
- Some trainees pointed out that an interval of 4 to 6 weeks was too short to assess real behaviour changes. Most eco supporters attest not using single use plastic containers to eat or heat up meal; most of them adopted glass and stainless steel containers instead. But other changes planned (for example to remove the plastic kettle or throw away the non sticking cookware, and stop using aggressive detergents and perfumes in toilets, etc.) will take more time to be adopted. It needs to be shared, understood and accepted by the rest of the staff.
- The objectives set for questionnaires and audits originally proved far too ambitious for France. Following up eco supporters trained, sending them reminders to do their first and second checks, remotivating them and discussing solutions with them by visios or on the phone is a task that was largely underestimated in the original funding application and that requested a lot more time from RES team than was originally planned.
- French eco supporters would have liked to be able to fill up questionnaires little by little on their spare time without losing all the data entered if they have to close it down before completion. As the questionnaire was set up, they could only fill them up in a go or close it down before the end and lose all the data filled up. The request was made to change this in June 2025. French supporters were often not given the right to conduct audit and fill up questionnaires during their

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work time. They felt it would have facilitated the task if they had been able to complete it gradually at their own space.

- In the same way, many pilot municipalities would have liked to have some feedbacks on the number of questionnaires filled up in their area, by whom and comparison made with figures at European level. It would have enabled them to publicly communicate about results. So far, the low number of second questionnaires being filled has prevented RES to give them data. Another impediment is linked to the fact that eco-supporters do not identify themselves correctly in the questionnaires. Some only mention their services without the name of the municipality they belong to. Others use acronyms!
- Those eco-supporters who chose to fill up CheckED instead found that it delivered more advice at the end, but that it was very long, repetitive and cumbersome to fill up; so much so that it was not adapted to a work environment.

5.3. Survey tool in Finland

Results from the tool/questionnaire

Tool	Total number of checks	Green	Yellow	Red	Green/%	Yellow/%	Red/%
autumn 2023- spring 2024 (baseline)	27	7	17	3	25,9	63,0	11,1
summer 2024- autumn 2025	68	11	40	17	16,2	58,8	25,0
Total	95	18	57	20			

Changes implemented at home

	Total*	% of all answers*
Changes implemented or planned to be implemented at home (including those who are going to make changes but had not yet at the time of answering)	58	61,7
Changes implemented at home	52	55,3

*Yes answers in the training feedback or office check tool. Calculated based on the number of people who have answered to our feedback questionnaire, not from total number of people participating in trainings. Not all participants have provided us with this data.