

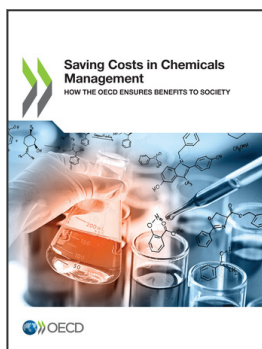
Foreword

For more than 40 years, the OECD Environment, Health and Safety (EHS) Programme has been dedicated to helping governments develop and implement high-quality chemicals management policies and instruments to promote chemical safety worldwide. OECD countries now have science-based, rigorous and comprehensive systems for assessing and managing the risks of chemicals. But implementation of such regulatory systems can be time-consuming and expensive, which is why OECD countries work together to combine their skills and knowledge, avoid duplication of testing, minimise non-tariff distortions to trade, and ultimately be more efficient and effective in managing chemicals.

This report is the third in a series of reports that have quantified the financial benefits that accrue to governments and industry from the work of the EHS Programme. The first report, *Savings to governments and industry resulting from the OECD Environment, Health and Safety Programme*, was published in 1998 and estimated that the cost savings to industry and governments was approximately EUR 90 million a year (all monetary figures in this report have been adjusted for inflation). The second report, *Cutting Costs in Chemicals Management: How OECD Helps Governments and Industry*, was published in 2010 and estimated that the savings had grown to EUR 177 million per year.

This report explores a larger part of the work of the EHS Programme than the previous reports did, and details the significant savings it has secured for both governments and industry – more than EUR 309 million a year. These quantifiable savings only tell part of the story; the report also describes the programme's equally important non-quantifiable benefits (e.g. harmonising biotechnology safety assessments as a direct result of EHS work). Further, the estimated savings are just a snapshot of the benefits that accrue today, and this figure is expected to rise as the results of more EHS projects become available in the coming years.

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