



Finnish Institute of
Occupational Health

Well-being through work



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Occupational Health

REACH impact assessment- Chemical safety at Workplace

- First evaluation

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Objectives of the study

- To evaluate the level of chemical safety and the knowledge about REACH regulation at workplace:
 - Inventory list of chemicals? Are Safety Data Sheets available?
 - What is the level of the risk assessments done at workplace?
 - Are companies familiar with REACH-regulation? Has it have an influence on the enterprice and work at your workplace?
 - Do you know what is exposure scenarios and have you seen any with the MSDS ?
 - Do you identify substances which might become under authorization or restriction, so called CMR and PBT/vPvB substances?

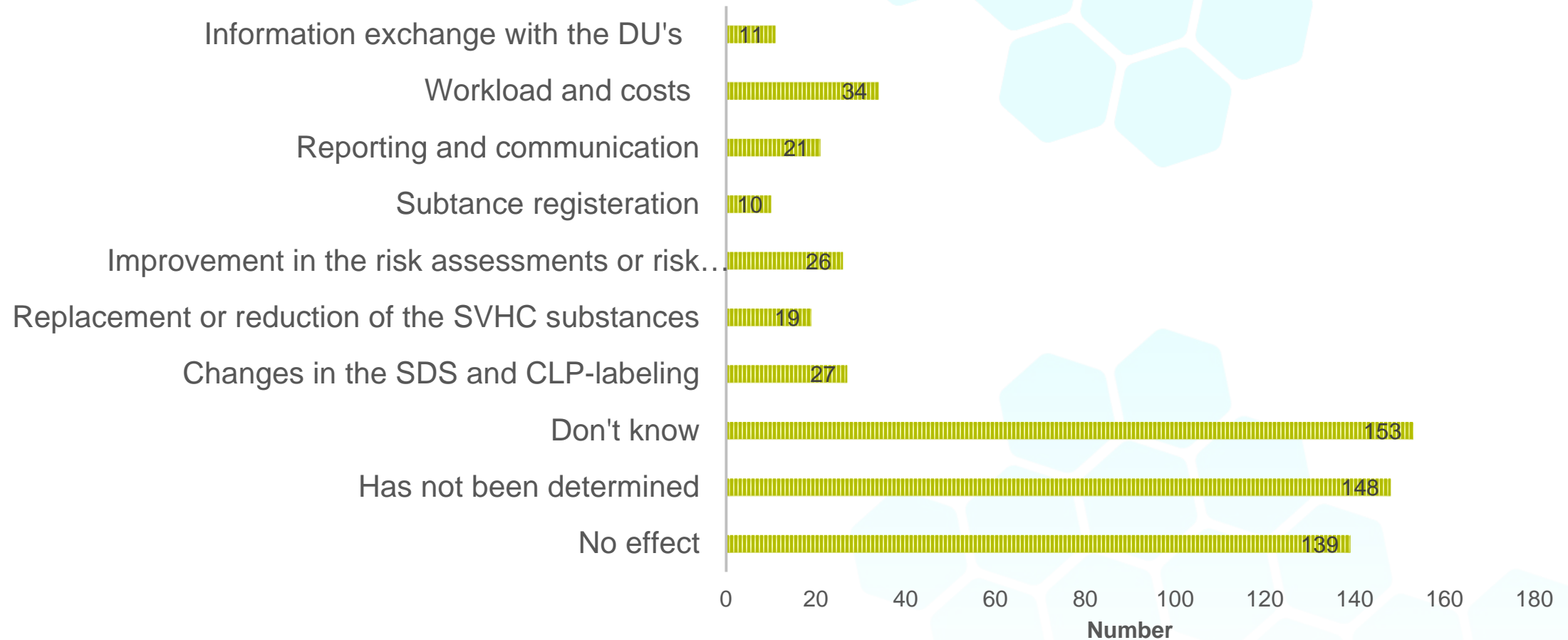
Study design 1

- Four branch studied
 - manufacturing basic metals,
 - manufacturing of chemicals and chemical products and also e.g. rubber and plastic,
 - maintenance and repair of motor vehicles, and
 - cleaning
- Baseline studied in 2008

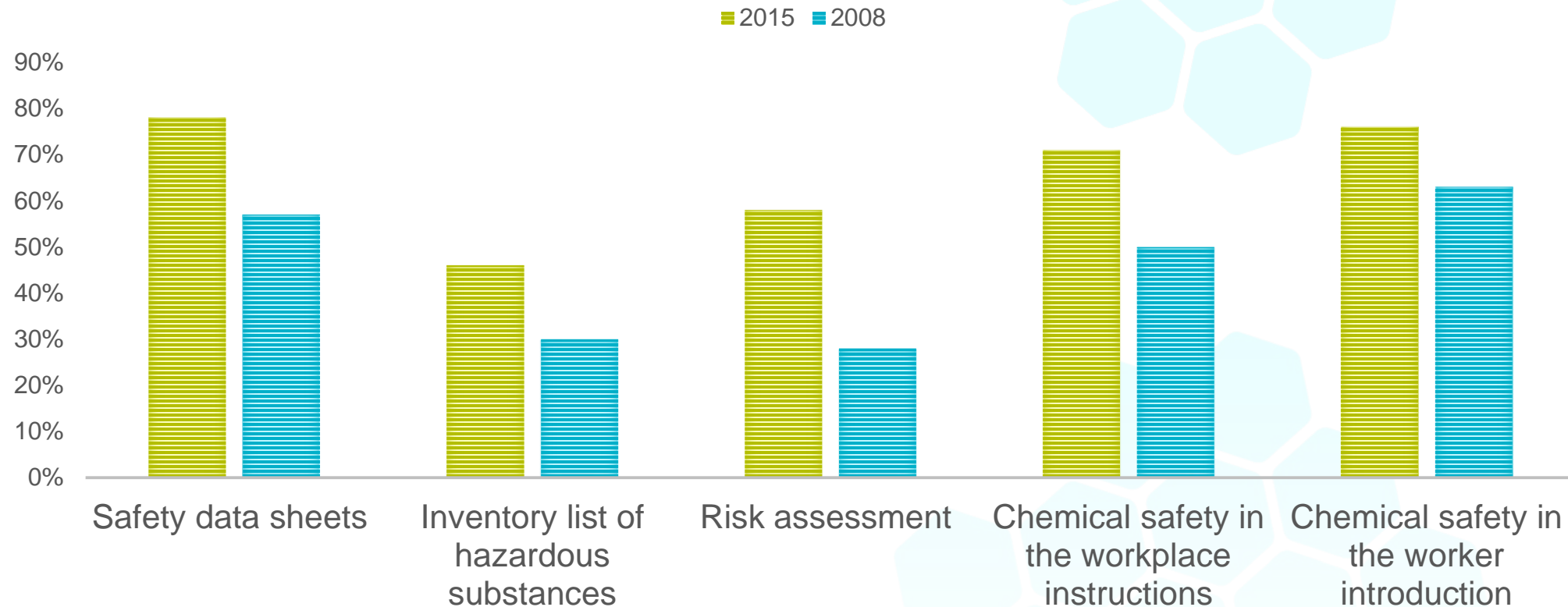
Study design 2

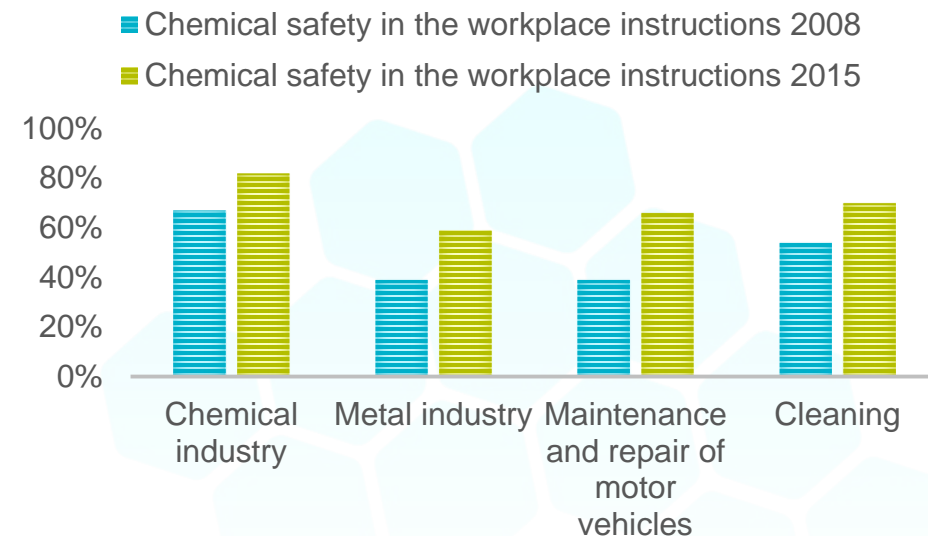
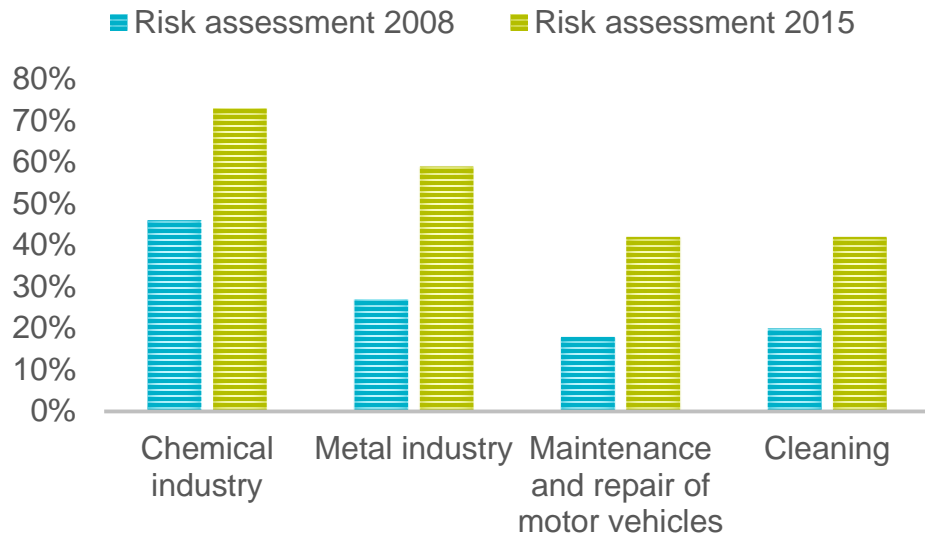
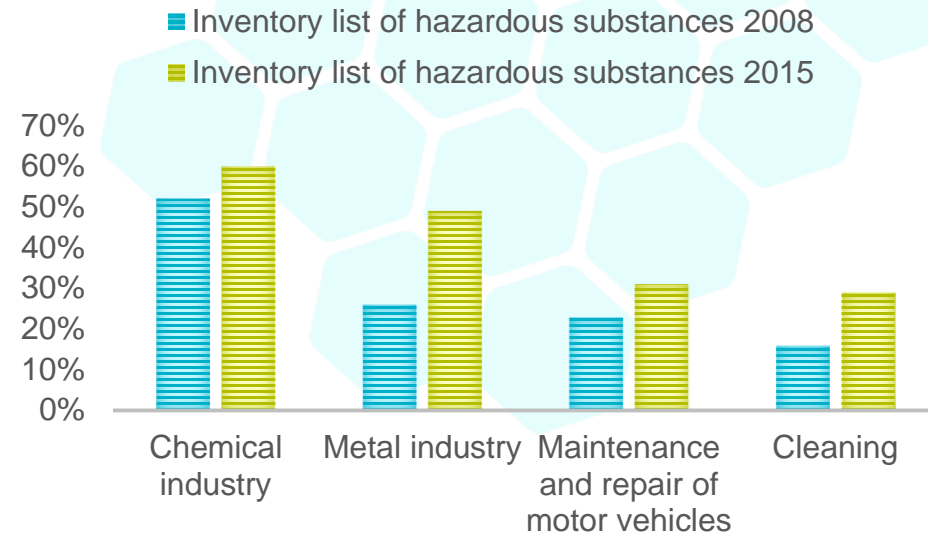
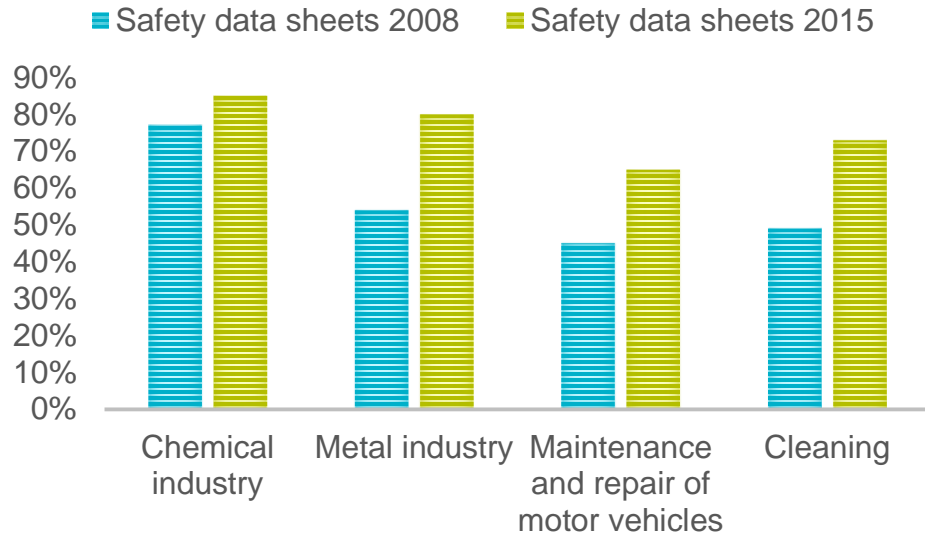
- Digital questionnaire (n=412)
- Semi-structured interviews (n=8)
- Register data
 - Product register
 - Register of workers exposed to carcinogens in their work
 - Register of occupational diseases
 - Registers of exposure at workplaces (biomonitoring and occupational hygiene measurements)

Q1: REACH Effects on Workplace

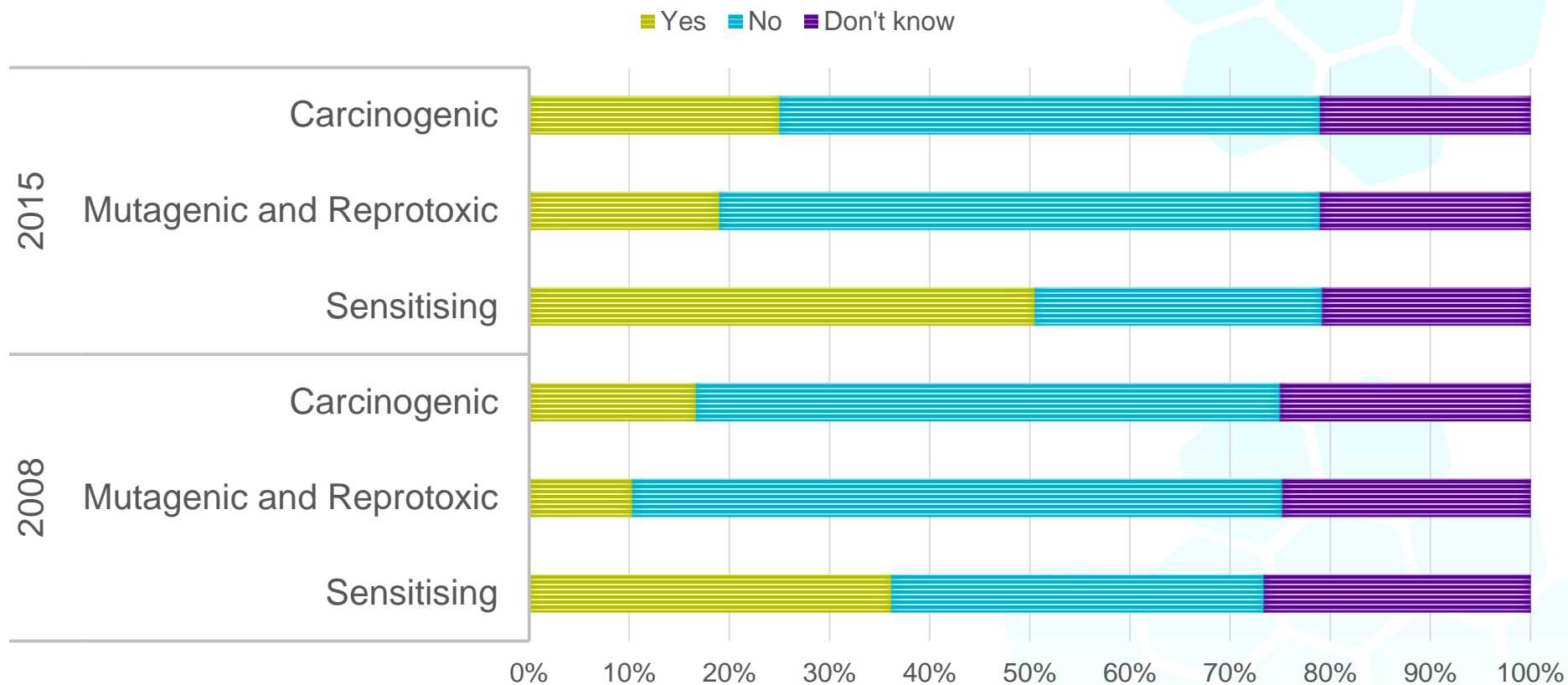


Q2: Chemical Safety at Workplace





Q3: Substances in use



Interviews

- ✓ Chemical industry is "REACH ready" but they don't believe it will have any effect.
- ✓ Outside the chemical industry: "*Very distant, lets put it that way*".
- ✓ Risk assessments are done, need for a guidance for the risk management
- ✓ But the extended safety data sheets...

Conclusions

- Lot of improvements in the chemical safety at the workplace
- There is still need for a simplified approach, how it's done
- More communication to get the mutual understanding



Thank you!

