



Tackling gender inequalities in Environmental Health

Madrid, 11 November 2009

Sascha Gabizon, Executive Director
WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future

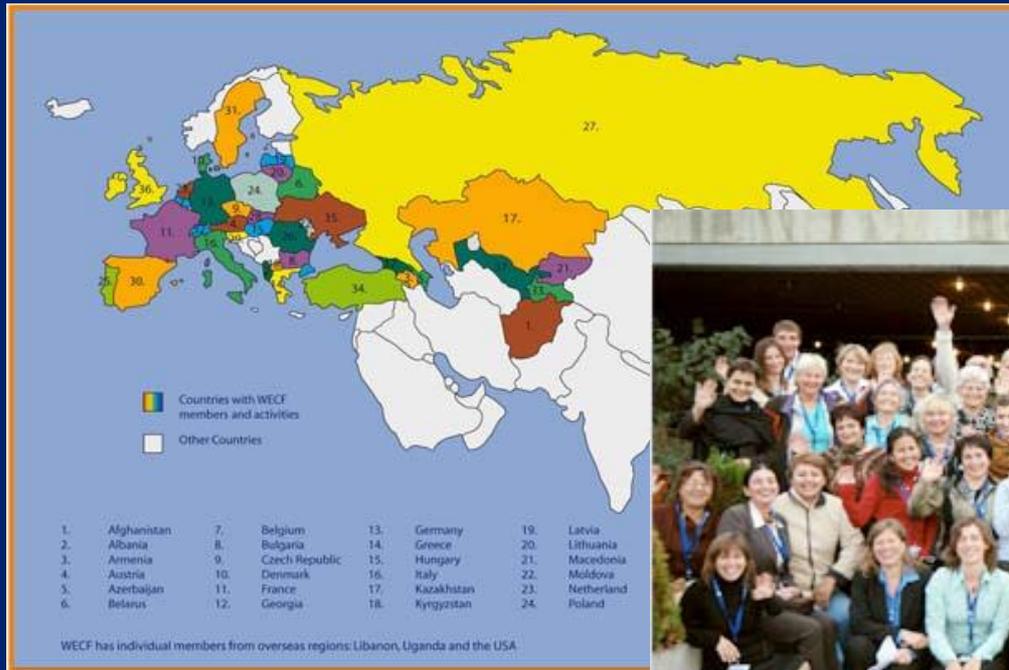
Why Women?



- Women as full partners in policy making and implementation
- Gender approach as a pre-condition for successful implementation and policy

WECF: international network

100 member organisations
WECF - France
WECF - Germany
WECF - Netherlands



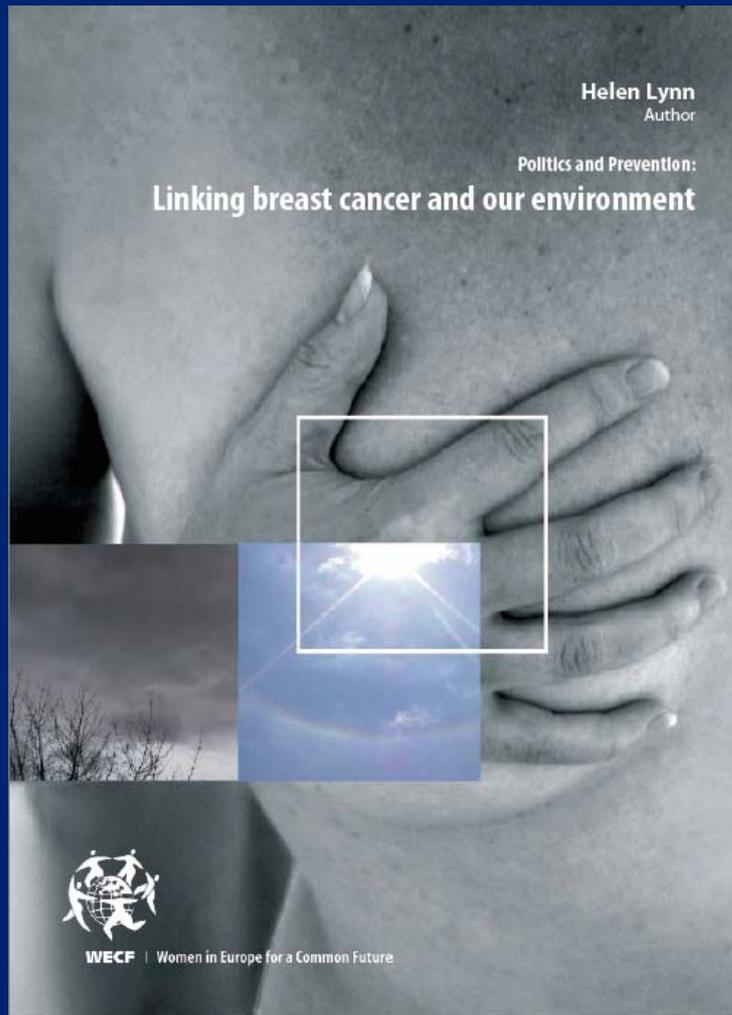
Awareness raising
Demonstrating solutions
Promoting better policies

Women's environmental health



- Women with breast cancer are 5x as likely to have pesticides residues in their blood such as DDT (banned in 1972)
- Nurses, teachers, hairdressers and pharmacy workers have higher rates and risks of breast cancer
 - Breast cancer is now the most common form of cancer in the UK
 - 41,000 cases each year - over 800 cases weekly

Cancer is made, not born?



- Only 5-10% of cases are known to be linked to hereditary factors
- Established risk factors (late menopause, late childbirth), hereditary factors, and exposure to irradiation can only explain about 25-50%
- leaves the other 50-75% of cases with no known cause
- Fewer than half of identical twins get the same cancer
- Cancer risk of adopted children parallels that of their adopted (not their biologic) parents

Precautionary breast cancer policies?

Do we need to review our policies

- Chemical exposure in home, work?
- Chemicals in food?
- Phasing out hormone disrupting chemicals?
- Radiation exposure?
- Mamografie, how often?



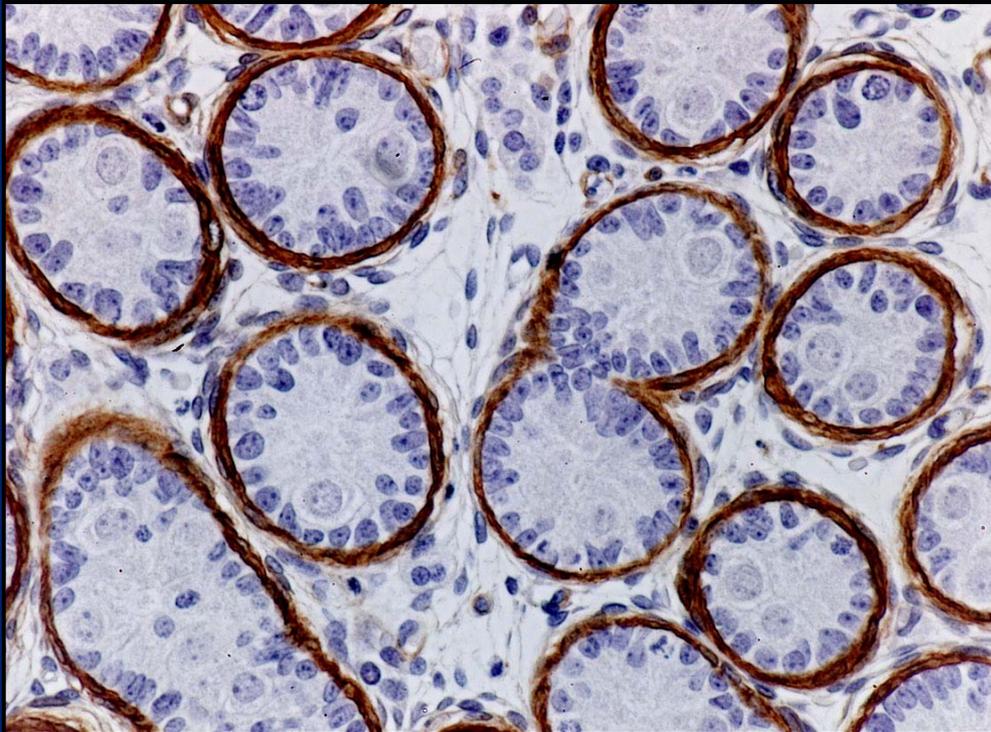
Fertility and pollution

- Male **fertility has sharply declined** in Western countries over the past 50 years;
- **1 in every 6 boys** born in Europe today will have a low sperm count,
- Research shows links with prenatal exposure to **endocrine disrupting** substances.
- Danish and US researchers have recently shown irreversible health **effects on girls.**
 - Carlsen E., et al (1992), British Medical Journal 305. See also van Waelegem, K., et al (1996), Human Reproduction 112.

Next Generations at Risk

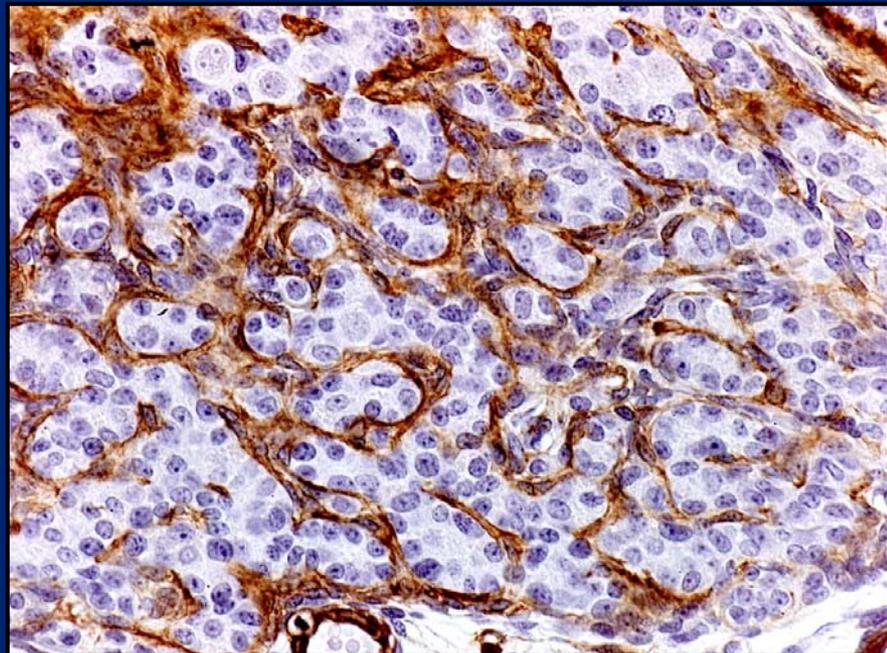
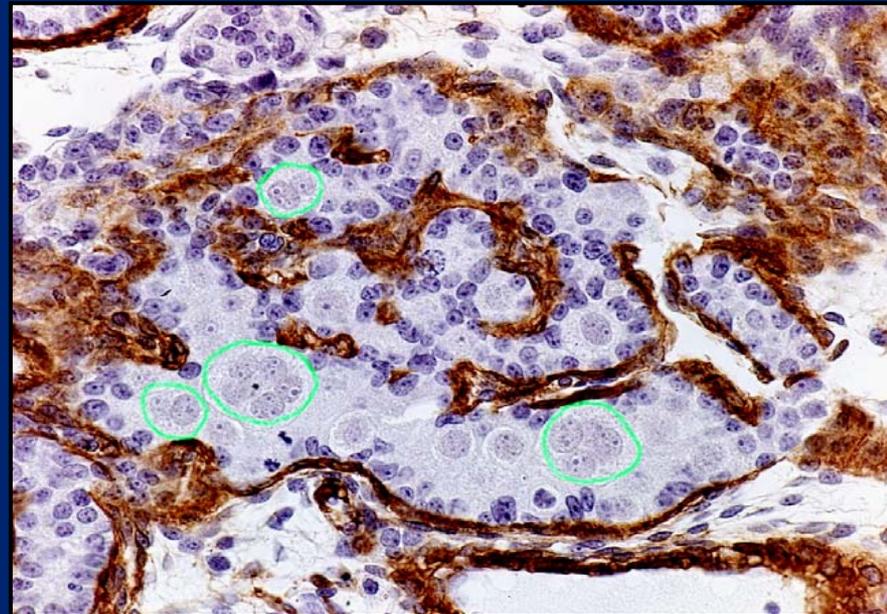
- DEHP (plastic softener) have adverse effects on the developing male fetus, especially with respect to growth of the reproductive tract
- Prof Skakkebaek, Denmark
„Phthalates seem to dissolve not only plastics, but also testis“

Dysgenetic areas in the testes on d4 postnatal after in utero exposure to DBP (500 mg/kg/day) Fisher et al. Hum Reprod, 2003)



Control

Brown = smooth muscle actin



DBP

Effects on girls: EDC

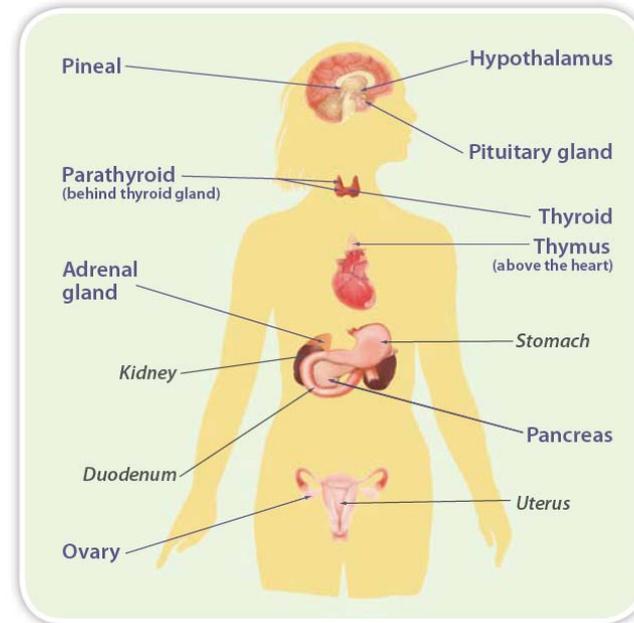
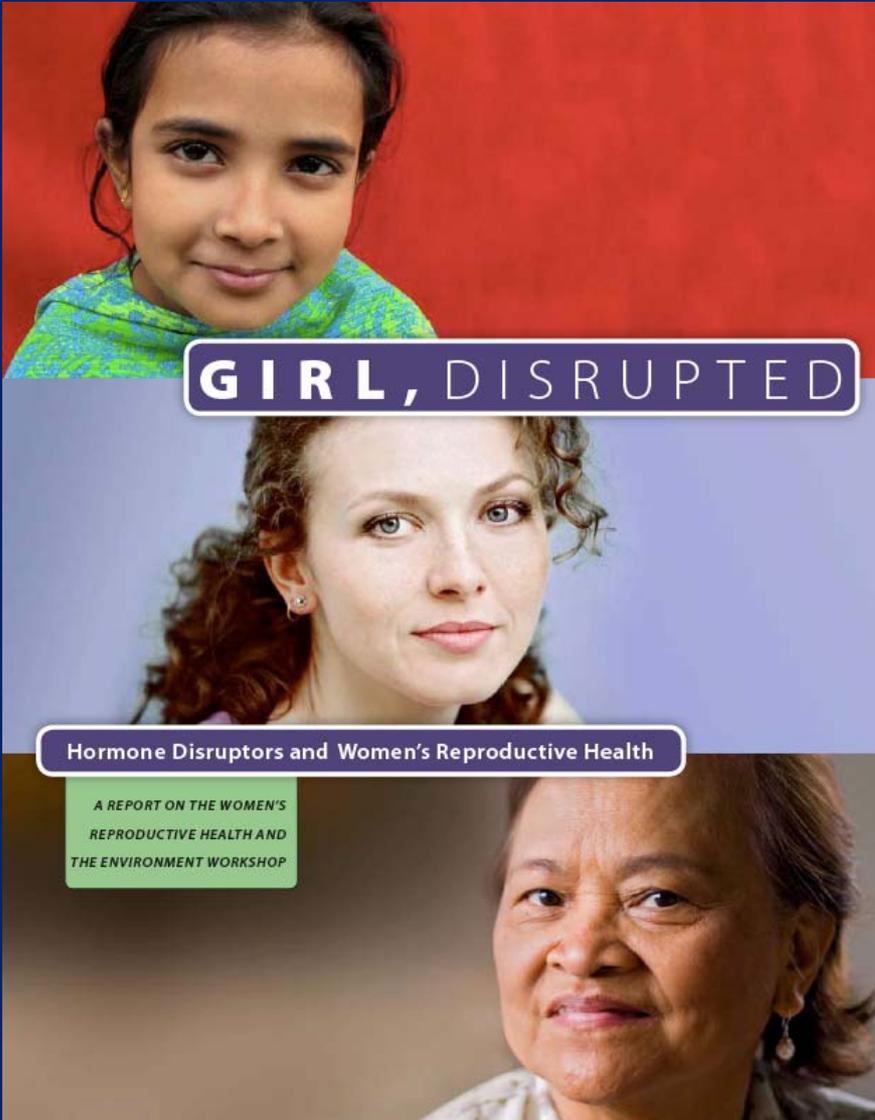


FIGURE 1: Major female endocrine tissues, organs, and glands, in purple (partial listing).



- WECF translation into German (UBA)

Women want to know: How to reduce risk?

Danish study :

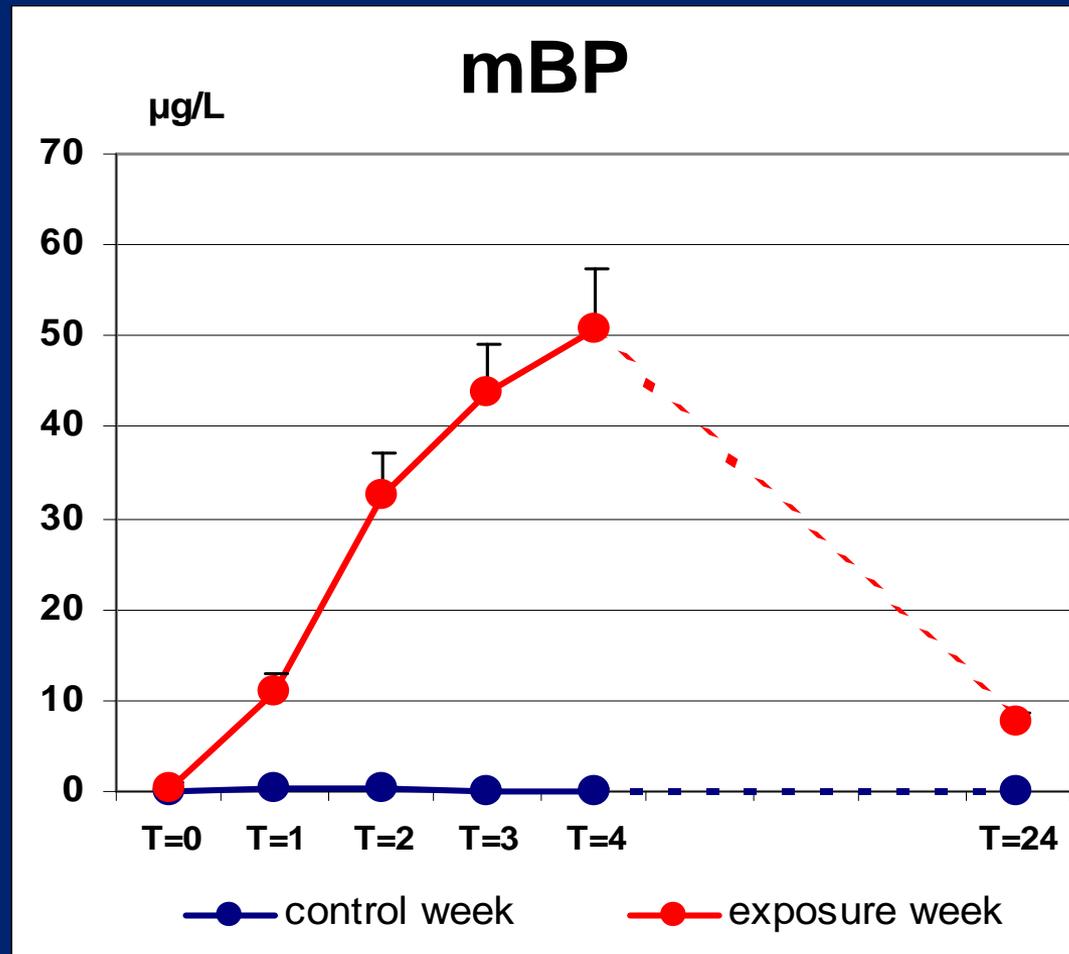
- Low dose exposure (e.g. rubber shoes) may result in a critical risk for the 2 year-old.
- 2 year-olds absorb too high levels of:
 - phthalate DBP (mostly from foods)
 - dioxins and dioxin-like PCBs (mostly from foods, and partly from indoor air and dust),
 - parabens propylparaben and butylparaben (from cosmetic products such as oil-based creams/moisturising creams/lotions and sunscreen)
- Survey and Health Assessment of the exposure of 2 year-olds to chemical substances in Consumer Products.

Chemicals in Food

- 1/3 of food in the EU contaminated with pesticides
- Mercury in Fish (hair tests)
- Endocrine disruptors (UBA)
 - in milk
 - in orange juice



Phatalates from body-lotion go straight into blood



Mono-butyl-phthalate in serum during 24 hours

Janjua NR, Mortensen GK, Skakkebæk NE, Wulf HC, Andersson AM, in prep.

Products containing Phthalates



Cosmetics



**Rain gear
20-40%**



**Wallpaper
30-40%**



Toys 30-50%

**PVC Shower
curtain
20-40%**



Shoes 10-30%

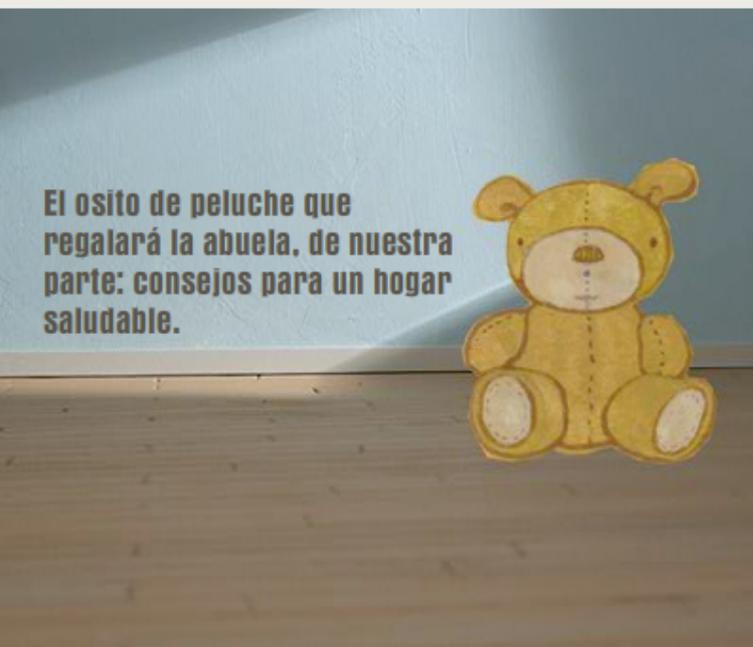


**Couch (foam) 10-
30%**

Hormone disrupter Bisphenol A

- Babies feeding bottles
- Dental fillings and sealants
- Bottles for wine
- Tableware
- Food can linings
- Compact disks
- Thermal fax paper
- Sheathings of electronic articles





RENOVAR | AMUEBLAR | VIVIR

NOTICIAS

BIENVENIDOS AL PORTAL NESTING: CÓMO CREAR UN ENTORNO SALUDABLE PARA TU BEBÉ

Cuando estás esperando un bebé, empiezas a imaginar, planificar y hacerte preguntas. Las cosas están cambiando y se presentan tiempos emocionantes. Todo debe estar a punto para el bebé. Debe sentirse a gusto y a salvo en su nuevo hogar, su nido. El portal Nesting (del inglés nest, nido) te ofrece consejos sobre las nuevas e importantes decisiones sobre tu bebé: renovar, amueblar y organizar vuestra vida juntos. » más

» MARCADORES ÚTILES

- > El Proyecto
- > Historias
- > Contacto
- > La Publicación



RENOVAR | AMUEBLAR | VIVIR

NOTICIAS

Sin humos | Juguetes | Cuidado personal | Vestido | Pañales | Airear | Limpieza |

- > El Proyecto
- > Historias
- > Contacto
- > La Publicación

UN BUEN COMIENZO

El hogar está listo, la [habitación](#) renovada, el [mobiliario](#) instalado – el bebé ya puede llegar.

Sin embargo, toda esta preparación inicial no cubre las necesidades concretas que tiene cada bebé en su proceso de crecimiento y de descubrimiento del mundo. Cada día te enfrentarás a nuevas preguntas. Por ello hemos seleccionado un par de temas que tienen que ver con la vida diaria de los bebés. Una pared pintada de un bonito color y la cuna adecuada no son las únicas áreas en las que preocuparse por la salud y la [seguridad](#). El [cuidado corporal](#), por ejemplo, es muy diferente para un bebé que para un adulto. Su metabolismo va a reaccionar de diferente forma ante la exposición a distintos agentes.

No queremos darte una lista de productos concretos, por favor, busca las etiquetas que te mencionamos. Lo que te sugerimos es que seas sensible a ciertos temas, problemas y riesgos. Y después, la vida compartida con tu hijo puede comenzar y poneros a [jugar](#) juntos.



WECF
Women in Europe for a Common Future

+ BOOKMARK



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Nos partenaires

60 millions

BÉBÉ ET VOUS



Bienvenue sur le Site NESTING

Vous êtes futur/jeune parent et vous voulez savoir comment créer un **environnement intérieur le plus sain possible pour votre enfant** ?

Nesting est un **outil ludique et interactif** créé par WECF pour vous aider à connaître les polluants de l'environnement intérieur et les moyens de les éviter pour préserver

la santé de votre enfant. Matériaux, mobiliers, vêtements, jouets... autant d'interrogations auxquelles nous répondons par des **conseils pratiques** simples à mettre en œuvre. Des **informations actualisées et validées par nos experts indépendants** qui s'adressent aussi à l'entourage du bébé et aux professionnels de la petite enfance et de la santé.

Grâce à son expertise de plus de 10 ans au niveau européen en santé environnementale, WECF (Women in Europe for a Common Future) vous propose un site résolument tourné vers la santé de l'enfant.

<http://www.wecf.eu>



Travaux d'intérieur

CE QUI COMPTE QUAND VOUS PRÉPAREZ LA CHAMBRE DE BÉBÉ. » [lire la suite](#)

Mobilier

CE QUI EST IMPORTANT DANS LE CHOIX DES MEUBLES ET DE L'AMÉNAGEMENT. » [lire la suite](#)

Au quotidien

COMMENT RENDRE LA VIE QUOTIDIENNE DE VOTRE BÉBÉ PLUS SAIN ET PLUS SÛRE » [lire la suite](#).

Fiches techniques

INFORMATIONS DÉTAILLÉES ÉDITÉES PAR DES EXPERTS » [lire la suite](#).

QUI SOMMES NOUS ?

POUR EN SAVOIR PLUS SUR NOTRE ÉQUIPE



NEWS

09.11.2009

Poste Chargé(e) de mission animations



Dans le cadre du projet Nesting et avec le soutien de la Région Rhône-Alpes pour la création d'un emploi dans le domaine de l'environnement, WECF Fran...

» [lire la suite](#)

06.11.2009

Etats-Unis le cauchemar d'Halloween: du plomb dans les peintures pour le visage pour enfants



Les peintures pour le visage utilisées pour Halloween font peur, mais pas forcément pour la raison que l'on croit: Du plomb dans les peintures pour le ...

» [lire la suite](#)

DOSSIER D'ACTU

Le vaccin grippe A (H1N1), les femmes enceintes et les enfants

Les Femmes enceintes et les jeunes enfants doivent-ils se faire vacciner contre la grippe A H1N1 ? WECF passe en revue les déclarations, les faits, et...

» [lire la suite](#)

PUBLICATIONS

WECF et ses partenaires publient des ouvrages de référence en matière de santé et d'environnement qu'ils souhaitent vous faire partager. **Bonne lecture !**

» [lire la suite](#)

VOS QUESTIONS

Vous avez des questions? Vous n'avez pas trouvé de réponse sur notre site? N'hésitez pas à nous contacter, nous vous répondons dans les 7 jours.

ATELIERS NESTING



Ateliers parents : inscrivez-vous à un atelier ludique et interactif avec un animateur Nesting pour en savoir + sur

l'environnement de bébé !

>> [Voir les prochaines dates](#)

Ateliers professionnels :

Formation pour les responsables administratifs et professionnels de la petite enfance.

>> [Lire la suite](#)

JEU

» [START GAME](#)



JOUEZ AVEC NOUS

et testez vos connaissances sur l'aménagement d'une chambre d'enfant saine et sûre !



Exhibitions and events



08.09.2009 | WECF Press Release



Many toys contain synthetic chemicals which can have negative effects on children's health. Carcinogenic formaldehyde is often found in glued wood puzzles, highly toxic flame retardants are found in cuddly toys. Even toys as innocent looking as bathing ducks may contain chemicals like PVC and hazardous substances as phthalates.

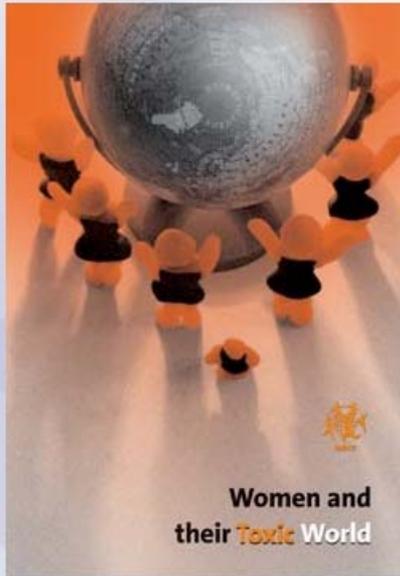
To raise awareness on this issue WECF - Women in Europe for a Common Future, a network of a hundred women's and environmental organisations – handed out toxic free toys to young parents in Utrecht during Sustainability Day.

Publications for general public

Women and their Toxic World

A booklet by WECF on chemicals, women and everyday life.

09.10.2006



Panel of speakers during the launch

"Women and their toxic world" is the first brochure written for and by women on chemicals in every day life. The publication examines how women's lives and that of future generations in Europe are threatened by hazardous chemicals, why strong policies such as REACH are needed to end this threat and what women can do to protect themselves. The foreword of the publication was written by MEP Hiltrud Breyer.

"We are very excited about this new tool to inform women about the issue and to show women alternative ways to protect themselves and their families from hazardous chemicals in every day consumer products" says Daniela Rosche, author of the publication.

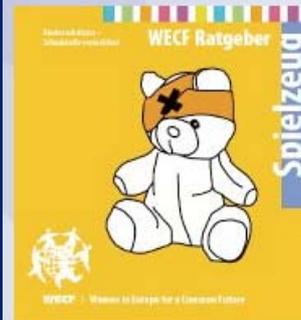
The WECF publication Women and their Toxic World can be downloaded: "[Women and their toxic World](#)".

WECF publishes Toys Guide in four languages - Tips on how to choose toxic-free toys

Concise information about most hazardous substances found in toys and concrete tips on how consumers can play it safe when buying toys for children

30.03.2009

WECF- Women in Europe for a Common Future- has published a Toys Guide which provides tips on choosing toxic-free toys. The practical brochure provides concise information about the most hazardous substances found in toys and what the potential dangers are, and provides concrete tips on how consumers can play it safe when buying toys for children.



The German brochure was **officially launched** during the Nuremberg Toys Fair in February 2009.

You can download the guides here:

[French Toys Guide](#)

[English Toys Guide](#)

[Dutch Toys Guide](#)

[German Toys Guide](#)

Workshops for parents, midwives, women, fathers

Prochains ateliers Nesting

http://www.projetnesting.fr/ateliers_nesting.php

amazon eBay Yahoo! News

Nesting en français Rechercher sur ce site OK

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Espace presse Nous soutenir Nos partenaires

QUAD-LAB

BÉBÉ ET VOUS NEWS ATELIERS NESTING VOS QUESTIONS PUBLICATIONS



Prochains ateliers Nesting

Vous souhaitez participer à un atelier Nesting ?

Les ateliers Nesting sont un lieu d'échange et d'information sur tout ce qui touche à l'environnement du nouveau-né (mobiliers, produits de décoration, articles de puériculture, produits d'entretien, etc.). Des personnes formées par nos experts santé-environnement animent ces sessions ludiques et interactives. Frais de participation : 5 €

Prochains ateliers Nesting près de chez vous :
Les ateliers du mois de novembre :

Le 9 novembre à Douvaine (74) de 13h45 à 16h
- animé par : Emilie Delbays-Atge, animatrice Nesting
- inscriptions : emiliedelbays@yahoo.fr

Le mardi 17 novembre à Croissy sur Seine (78) (16 allée du Vieux Jardin) à 19 h 30
- animé par : Nita Chaudhuri, experte santé-environnement WECF
- contact : nita.chaudhuri@wecf.eu

Le mardi 24 novembre à Lyon, à l'Aromathèque, 9 rue de l'Ancienne Préfecture, 69002
- animé par : Françoise Mar/Florence Gaillard, animatrices Nesting
- contact: francoise.mar@cegetel.net

Le samedi 28 novembre Magasin Botanic de Gaillard (74) de 15h à 17 h
- animé par : Sophie Schmitz-Sabarly, animatrice Nesting
- contact : sophie.sabarly@hotmail.fr et 06 07 03 48 96

Vous pouvez apporter des articles de chez vous sur lequel vous voulez des précisions !!

>> [Inscription en ligne ici](#)

NOUS SOUTENIR

Vous souhaitez soutenir le projet « nesting » : vous pouvez le faire en envoyant un don à WECF France, association porteuse de ce projet en France. WECF France vous remercie de votre générosité, et vous adressera un reçu de don.

FAIRE UN DON EN LIGNE
Le don en ligne par carte bancaire, une option rapide et sûre.
Notre système de donation par Internet Paypal est sécurisé et vous assure une totale confidentialité des informations transmises.
Vous recevez le jour même un email vous confirmant la prise en compte de votre don.
Un doute, une question ?
Contactez Natalia Dejean par email : natalia.dejean@wecf.eu

Faire un don



FAIRE UN DON PAR CHEQUE
Vous pourrez bientôt remplir le coupon de soutien téléchargeable, puis joindre votre chèque établi à l'ordre de WECF France et adresser le tout par la poste à : WECF France
BP 100
74103 Annemasse Cedex

En application de la loi Informatique et Liberté n° 78 - 17 du 06/01/1978, vous pouvez accéder aux informations vous concernant, communiquées par vous à WECF France, demander leur rectification, leur suppression ou vous opposer à leur échange par WECF France.



Workshops and publications for immigrant women

Total chemical burden of household products in pregnancy (ALSPAC)

Percentage of pregnant women using the following chemicals:

- ❖ Disinfectant: 85%
- ❖ Bleach: 85%
- ❖ Aerosols: 72%
- ❖ Air fresheners: 68%
- ❖ Window cleaner: 60%
- ❖ Carpet cleaner: 36%
- ❖ Turpentine or white spirit: 23%
- ❖ Pesticides or insect killers: 21%
- ❖ Paint stripper or varnish: 5%



EU directives: Cosmetics, Toys, Biocides, Pesticides



European toy safety directive – will children really be safe from hazardous chemicals in toys?

*Position Paper WECF
Women in Europe for a Common Future
01 September 2008*



Toys bad for child health?

We live under the presumption that toys bought here in Europe are safe for our children. However massive recalls of toys in the EU (of 1,605 recalled products the highest % were toys in 2007), from reputed producers (Mattel, Fisher-Price, Toys R Us, Disney) show that this is not the case. Toys we buy in the EU can contain a number of highly toxic chemicals

Marianne Thyssen² presented a report with proposed changes to the Commission proposal. Considering the recent toy scandals, rapid technological developments in the toy industry, and the increase in imports of toys from countries with lower environmental and safety standards (75% of toys on the market in Europe originate in China), this revision is urgently needed.

Setting standards for toy safety worldwide

The USA, like the EU, is discussing new regulations for toys after some shocking cases of toy recalls such as the 2007 Aquadots case, where it was found that the adhesive used was mistakenly replaced by the Chinese manufacturer with a chemical

depending on the existing laws in those countries. Double standards must be eliminated in order to protect children in all countries from hazardous toys. To this date there is no regulation regarding what happens to recalled toys in Europe and the USA. It is most likely that these toys reappear on the market in countries with lower safety standards, e.g. in non EU Eastern Europe. WECF member organisations from Azerbaijan and Belarus report child health problems, such as allergies, from toys probably containing hazardous chemicals.

A false sense of security: the misleading CE "label"

All children should be able to play safely with toys without risking



Ref.: LDE/022009039/cm

10 February 2009

Declaration on banning Bisphenol A in babies' bottles

Dear Member of the European Parliament,

We are writing on behalf of consumer, environmental and health NGOs to ask for your support in relation to the attached Written Declaration on banning Bisphenol A in babies' bottles (Nr. 0106/2008). This declaration has been tabled by MEPs Hanne Dahl, Christel Schaldemose, Hélène Goudin and Carl Schlyter and is open for signature until 4 April.

Bisphenol A (BPA) is a plastic chemical widely used in a range of products but mostly in polycarbonate plastics, making the material hard and shatterproof. Unfortunately, this chemical has been shown to migrate, especially if the material is scratched, heated or comes in contact with warm liquids. This migration is worrying in more than one way; a number of scientific studies have already shown that when BPA enters the body, it increases the risk of several serious health conditions. We find it unacceptable that young children are exposed to these risks.



On their way to water in Armenia, Georgia and Romania

Gender aspects of water and health

Women more often than men responsible for collecting water by foot/hand for:

- Consumption
- Maintaining sanitation
- Cooking and cleaning
- Agricultural activities
- Child care

Consequences reported:

- Infections from contaminated water
- Sexual abuse and violence on way to wells
- Less time for productive, educational and social activities





Water inequalities - the example of EECCA Region

- Quality of access to water services has deteriorated
- Disruptions of water supply, pipe breaks, and water leaks
- Bigger cities and states have better developed systems than smaller cities and rural areas
- Prices often the same



In Armenia. Photo by WECF

Some Gender Aspects of School Sanitation

In the Least Developed Countries:

- only 63% of girls attend primary school
- only 24% attend secondary school

One reason:

- lack of toilets, with privacy, security

In most EECNA regions girls do not go to school when having their menstruation

School Sanitation – Status Quo in EECCA countries (rural areas)



Hayanist, Armenia



Uzbekistan



Poltova, Ukraine



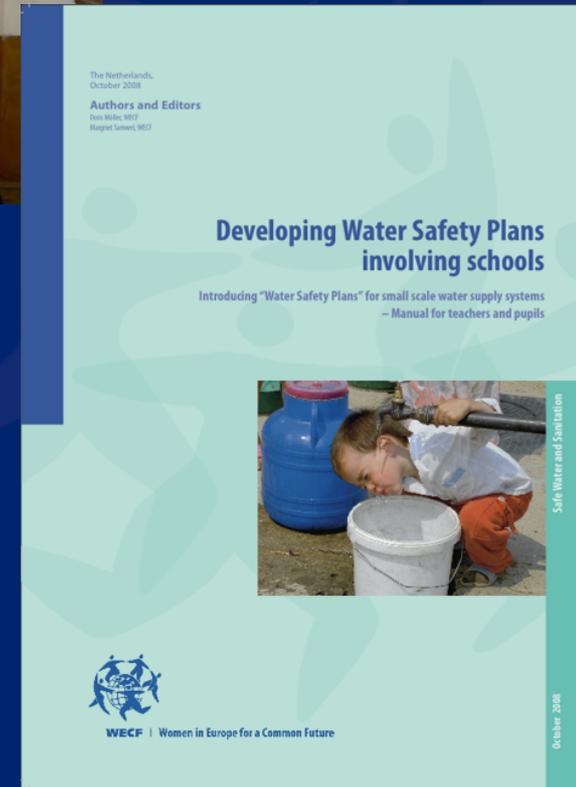
Examples of Sustainable School Sanitation based on UDDT by WECF and Partner



Water and Sanitation Safety Plans

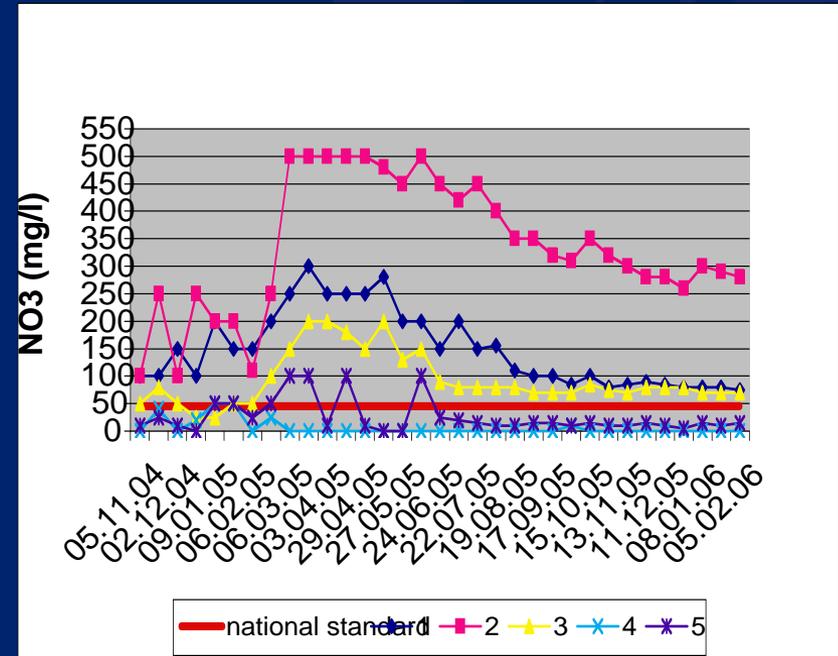


- Monitor water quality
- Assess hygiene situation
- Identify sources of pollution
- Suggest measures for water protection
- Inform local authorities
- Involve parents



Involving schools

- Test of seasonal fluctuation of nitrate
- Mapping of nitrate pollution in village
- Hygiene and health educational materials
- Doing surveys; presenting results to stakeholders



Make it a Policy Priority

Set School Sanitation Targets



- Safe school sanitation for all: needs its own global target
 - excluded from MDG7 monitoring (JMP)
- Ministers of H&E Europe process have made it their target:
 - In the draft Ministerial Declaration for PARMA 2010 - Regional Priority Goal 1:
 - “In particular, we aim at providing each child with access to safe water and sanitation at school /day care centers, by 2015...”

THANK YOU



Contact:

sascha.gabizon@wecf.eu / www.wecf.eu