

# **Key elements of an amalgam phase out strategy, including country-specific examples**

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# Key Measures by Countries to Phase Out Dental Amalgam Use

- Consultations with stakeholders
- Educating citizens about mercury, the environment and alternatives
- Adherence to the precautionary principle & product substitution approach
- Minimally invasive approach to dentistry
- Measure amalgam reductions over time



# Precautionary Principle:

## Restrictions on amalgam use

- European Union: Ban in pregnant women, children
- Norway: Started with ban in pregnant women/children.
- Sweden: Amalgam was prohibited in children in 2009.
- Denmark: Prohibition in children's milk teeth, among others.
- Germany: Precaution against amalgam use in children and women of childbearing age.
- Netherlands: Started with phase down in children.
- Finland: Not to be used in pregnant women and children.
- Canada: Warning about risks in children, pregnant women, and people with impaired kidney functions.
- Australia: Parents, pregnant women, nursing mothers, and people with kidney impairments urged to avoid amalgam
- Mauritius: Cease amalgam use in children following recommendations by its Ministry of Health.

## Hazardous product substitution/Minimally invasive dentistry

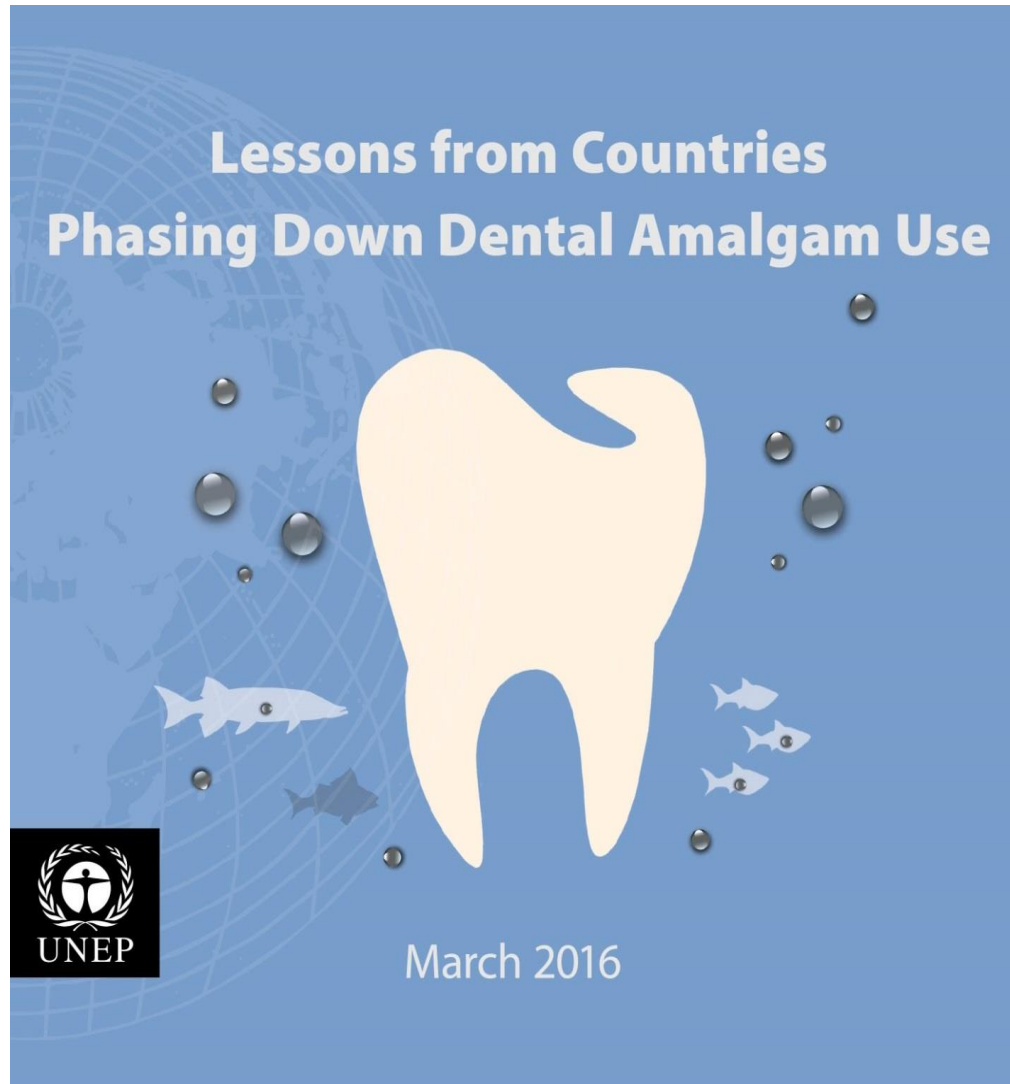
- Swiss ordinance: amalgam can't be used if alternative is viable
- Denmark decree: mercury-free alternatives should be the first choice
- Norwegian guidance: amalgam may not be used if less toxic alternative is available and viable
- In Norway, when a dental filling is placed, the technique should involve the least amount of tooth removal
- Amalgam requires removal of more healthy tooth tissue
- Guideline also to reduce exposure to hazards in the work place

# Baseline data needed to measure reducing amalgam

- Pathways and end-uses (country, quantity) of dental Hg very difficult to know more precisely
- Easy diversion to other uses (ie artisanal small scale gold mining)
- Currently, tariff codes don't differentiate between Hg-added/Hg-free fillings
- Enhanced HS codes through Minamata Convention needed
- Reporting requirements key to measure amalgam reductions



# FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE:



Thank you!

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