

Deliverable report for  
SUN  
Sustainable Nanotechnologies  
Grant Agreement Number 604305

**Deliverable D 10.2**  
**Plan for use and dissemination of knowledge**  
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Dissemination Level:		
PU	Public	X
PP	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
RE	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
CO	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	



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## 1. Description of task

Deliverable 10.2 “Plan for using and dissemination of knowledge” is part of Task 10.3 “Dissemination framework”. Its aim is to set the plan for training, dissemination activities to be undertaken within the project.

## 2. Description of work & main achievements

Scientific research is a publically funded endeavour, and it behooves EU funded projects to generate value for its citizens. Significant value for any scientific activity arises from sharing the knowledge created with relevant stakeholders. Knowledge that is not communicated beyond the project remains unavailable to the broader research community, resulting in duplication of research effort and slower progress in the research area. In socially relevant research projects, dissemination to target communities is critical to realize the full value of the project. To foster technological growth and economic development in the EU, it is also important that the European Commission (EC) projects a coherent and proactive approach towards the safe implementation of nanotechnology. Thus, one measure of the success of the project would be its effectiveness in communicating its activities and results to various stakeholders.

The overall goals of WP10 of the SUN project are to provide training both to SUN participants and external stakeholders and to disseminate the outputs of the project widely amidst relevant audiences. To achieve this end, we will organize training courses, dissemination events and targeted outreach to industry, national and international regulatory bodies, scientific community and general public.

The contents of the dissemination are closely related to the research topics of the project and its expected outputs. In particular, the SUN project aims to develop:

- Methods to predict nanomaterial exposure and effects on human beings and ecosystems
- Process changes to reduce hazard and exposure to nanomaterials in different lifecycle stages
- Technological solutions for risk management in industrial settings
- Guidance on best practices for securing both nanomanufacturing processes and their fate, including development of approaches for safe disposal and recycling
- Decision support tools that integrate the know-how developed in the project within a decision science framework to support industry, regulators and the insurance sector to make informed decisions about nanotechnologies

SUN partners are encouraged to disseminate project information to their own networks. In addition, SUN will benefit from the synergistic efforts of a large number of its partners able to reach of the above actors. Dissemination is typically organised at three levels:

1. Dissemination for awareness: This dissemination seeks to ensure that the existence of the project, its aims and achievements are widely known. Here, the target audience is wide, but the information is general. Our tasks 10.3 and 10.4 fall under this category.
2. Dissemination for understanding: This type of dissemination is aimed at providing a deep understanding of the scientific output and the achievements of the project. Our tasks 10.1, 10.2 and 10.7 fall under this category.
3. Dissemination for action: This type of dissemination will enable the target audience to translate the information generated by the project into actions and decisions. Our tasks 10.5 and 10.6 fall under this category.

All three levels of dissemination need to be considered by the dissemination strategy. Given the nature of the end product of the project, dissemination activities aimed at decision makers and industry managers needs to be effective and targeted appropriately. Also the cutting edge nature of SUN's research makes training an important component of the project's outreach. SUN will target the next generation scientists from within the SUN consortium and outside. Scientists, technicians and managers from the industry will be also given the opportunity to be trained on core research themes of the project.

We believe that quality of dissemination is more important than the quantity, and our dissemination strategy aims at selective communication and high quality dissemination materials to achieve the greatest impact. We will collaborate with partners in the EU and outside to increase the impact of our dissemination activities.

SUN's dissemination strategy includes a series of activities which have been broken down in discrete tasks, which are also described in the DOW of the project.

#### Task 10.1 – Training schools for researchers and SUNDS training

Ongoing research projects continuously push the edge of knowledge in a research field, and it is important to disseminate this evolving frontier to young scholars. The SUN project plans to organize the Sustainable Nanotechnology School in Venice in autumn 2014 and, if financially viable, also in the following years. These schools will invite nanosafety experts from the SUN project and outside to train PhD students and postdocs on the latest knowledge in nano environmental, health and safety (EHS) research. The budget of these Schools will be partially covered by SUN, and co-hosting and joint financing with external collaborators will be actively pursued. Modena COST action is one potential source of such co-funding. The possibility of a joint conference with the US National Science Foundation (through the Sustainable Nanotechnology Organisation) and co-funding from the US Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) are also being discussed. If these deliberations are



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successful, such an event will ensure dissemination of high impact, quality and outreach of European Commission research. A portion of the cost of organization of the conference will be also covered by participant fees and relevant research bodies. The conference is likely to be held in Venice during the first half of 2015.

### Task 10.2 – Organisation of workshops for regulators and industry

As intended users of the SUN Decision Support System (SUNDS), regulators and industry are the most relevant stakeholders of SUN and will be targets of detailed dissemination efforts. Our research themes namely Materials, Products and Processes; Risk Assessment; and Safe Product and Process Design will organize a series of workshops to disseminate their research. In total, about five dissemination events will be organized and will be concentrated mainly in the final year and a half of the project. They will cover the following topics:

- Lifecycle Assessment (responsible Uni Bremen)
- Human Health Risk Assessment (responsible HWU)
- Ecological Risk Assessment (responsible AU)
- Safe Product and Process Design (responsible LEEDS)
- Decision Support (responsible UNIVE)

The aim of these events, organised as interactive workshop is that of train stakeholders and gain useful feedback on the ongoing activities and for the fine tuning of SUNDS. In addition, shorter events in the form of webinars will be organised with the aim of presenting more specific topics. Ineke Malsch of WP8 is also considering the possibility of having a panel discussion on user elicitation methodology at the SNET Conference in Karlsruhe in September 2014 to an audience of social scientists and regulators (No funds will be required from SUN for the same).

### Task 10.3 – Dissemination framework

The SUN project requires the definition of the following elements to set up a dissemination framework:

- Branding is a key aspect of building and reinforcing project identity. Appropriate logos and fonts were selected by TRC at the beginning of the project in order to provide an effective and recognizable identity to the project. The logos are available on the SUN file server for download by the partners. Here below we reproduce the main logo of the project.





- Signature templates were defined for the preparation of SUN related documents (including reports), presentations, flyers etc. These templates are available on the SUN file server for download by the partners.
- A flyer that summarises the project plan and objectives was developed and is available for download on the SUN file server. All partners were asked to use the flyer to promote SUN through their dissemination channels.
- Press releases are important tools to raise awareness about the SUN project and to rectify any miscommunication. A press release was issued in December 2013 by the project coordinator (UNIVE).

#### 10.4 – Website

A project website is a means to provide one-stop access to information and guarantee the project wide visibility. SUN's website aims to raise awareness about its objectives, partners, latest project news and events and disseminate technical results. It will also link with other relevant project websites.

The project website was set up at the end of November 2013 ([www.sun-fp7.eu](http://www.sun-fp7.eu)), and will be updated regularly. The website is maintained by TRC and monitored by UNIVE who has also access to administrator rights. Additional information can be found on the Deliverable 10.1 report.

#### 10.5 EU and international dissemination

Nanosafety policy makers around the world are awaiting findings from research projects like SUN to develop suitable regulations for nanotechnology. This task aims at providing regulators and EU/international bodies information on the project outcomes to support their activities, especially in the policy and regulatory areas. The main entities targeted are: OECD; ISO, CEN and standardisation bodies; EU Commission and other EU bodies and ECHA (including the Nanomaterials Working Group). Dissemination to these bodies will be carried out by providing reports and summaries, and also through direct communication facilitated by the Advisory Board member JRC.

The project has a greater chance of success if we use existing channels of communication. We surveyed our partners to ascertain their existing links with these target bodies of communication (see Appendix A). Representatives from these bodies will be invited to relevant events organised under task 10.2

#### 10.6 Dissemination in other EU initiatives

The main aim of this task is to increase the awareness of the project activities and findings among the EU nanosafety communities. This will lead to an increased integration of the EU funded projects, creation of synergies, stimulation of collaborations and the organisation, where possible of joint meetings and workshops. Duplications of efforts will be also



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reduced as a result of this effort.

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For this purpose, a discussion with Guidenano and Nanoreg projects coordinators has already started at the kick off meeting of SUN in October and continued at the Guidenano kick-off meeting in November 2013. Several SUN partners are involved in various EU projects in the nano EHS area and this will also help reducing overlaps and increase the information flow.

The Nanotox conference to be held in Antalya in April 2014, for example, will represent an opportunity for discussion as it coincides with a Nanosafety Cluster meeting and the planned steering committee meetings of SUN and of other projects, i.e. NanoValid, Marina, Nanomile, Quality Nano and Nanosolutions.

#### 10.7 Scientific publications

Conference papers and scientific articles are a de facto form of dissemination followed by the scientific community. Partners in the SUN project are encouraged to publish their results on peer-reviewed journals, trade sector publications and conference proceedings. TRC will keep track of the publications issued with the assistance of the SUN project funding.

Where allowed by copyright and agreed by the partners, the publications will be made available on the SUN website.

#### 10.11 Communication with the Nanosafety Cluster

The Nanosafety Cluster is one of the largest and most active group of nanosafety researchers in the EU. Out of 37 responses that we received from SUN partners on their links to SUN project's dissemination target bodies, 24 partners are members of the Nanosafety cluster (see Appendix A for more information). Therefore, it is fairly easy to disseminate SUN project's activities to the Nanosafety Cluster through their newsletter and meetings.

### **3. Deviations from the Workplan**

No deviations occurred so far.

### **4. Performance of the partners**

The dissemination strategy was drafted on time. Partners actively collaborated ensuring it was completed on time.

### **5. Conclusions**

The dissemination strategy document was circulated to the steering committee in December 2013 in its present form. Minor alterations were included upon requests by the project partners. No objections were received to the document.