

OPEN WORKSHOP - Operational occupational Risk Management Models and tools for MNMs in the industry

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Synthetic summary of the round table discussion

B. Hazebrouck - EU-VRI – V02 – 20.04.2015

Round Table: How to effectively translate research into practical tools for the industry?

Many gaps remain between research state of the art and market state of the art, e.g. for exposure data for control banding tools, information transmitted in Safety Data Sheets, OSH training,... What are the best ways to fill these gaps?

- Lorenzo Calabri, Tec Star [industry partner of NanoMicex]
- Dr David Carlander, Nanotechnology Industries Association
- Andreas Falk, BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft mbH, chairing the Roadmap for nanosafety Part III: "closer to the market"

Moderator: Olivier Salvi, EU-VRI, Secretary General of the European Technology Platform on Industrial Safety (ETPIS)

A key for the transfer from research into practical tools for the industry is the appropriate communication towards companies, especially but not only to the SMEs. Beyond the REACH framework, two types of reference documents are particularly well established for companies, and therefore should be a priority for this transfer:

- Material Safety Datasheets (MSDS)
- Standards

Before (possibly) becoming mandatory, standards are often implemented following a "best-of-the-class" logic. But the cost-benefit analysis here is not only market driven, but also regulatory-driven.

A second key for this transfer is to simplify as much as possible the rules and tools, e.g. through very operational grouping as discussed all along the SENN meeting. Here, there may be a conflict between SMEs and large companies, that are usually more present in standardization committees and often open for more complex systems than SMEs, which usually have less resources available (e.g. in risk management ISO 31000 vs. OSHAS 18001).

A third key is to provide the results from research in national languages.

It is essential to have the industry on board to drive the development of practical tools for the industry. It becomes urgent to overcome the gap between science and implementation in the market, before potential negative effects could happen. It is also recommended to start communication about benefits and the high potential of nanotechnology as enabling technology BEFORE anything happened. Public perception and/or acceptance may be one of the crucial success factors respectively barriers on the way to the market.

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