

Meeting Report

8th Meeting of the Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios (ENES8)
 20–21 May 2015

Venue: European Chemicals Agency, Annankatu 18, Helsinki

The Exchange Network on Exposure Scenarios held its 8th meeting in May. The event was organised by the ECHA-stakeholder CSR/ES Roadmap-ENES Coordination Group. The Group comprises ECHA, Cefic, Concawe, DUCC, Eurométaux and Fecc, and six Member States (AT, DE, FI, IT, NL, PL).

The 75 delegates came from industry (manufacturing and downstream user companies and sector organisations) and Member States (15 representatives from 11 countries covering occupational, environmental and consumer aspects).

The event.

The event consisted of four parts:

- 1) An overview of the activities of the [CSR/ES Roadmap](#) and how the 21 identified individual actions are designed to work together to improve the quality of information in registrants' chemical safety reports and the exposure scenarios communicated downstream.
- 2) Explaining how authorities make use of REACH information on use and exposure in their processes to screen the registration database to identify substances for further regulatory scrutiny; for instance, substance evaluation and harmonised classification and labelling (CLH). ECHA described the steps and criteria employed in (de)prioritising (selecting/parking) substances; this was complemented with case experience from the German and Dutch competent authorities together with lessons learnt in the metals' sector (Eurométaux). The messages being conveyed to ENES, and industry specifically, were that:
 - a. REACH dossiers, as submitted by industry, are the primary source of use and exposure information for authorities; this applies already at screening stage (i.e. early in the process for regulatory scrutiny);
 - b. Information on the extent of the different uses (in terms of tonnage) is seen by authorities as essential for good quality priority setting (avoiding false positives and false negatives). Information on tonnage is also needed to estimate releases for the environmental assessment. In some cases, collecting appropriate tonnage information may be a major challenge for some substances or industry areas.
 - c. ECHA/authorities have enhanced the communication on the criteria/processes for screening/prioritising substances over the last year. Thus registrants are able to identify which dossiers need proactive updates as a priority.

- 3) Progress was reported on nine ongoing CSR/ES Roadmap actions. These included the current key topics of improved sectors use maps; updated exposure assessment input datasets for the chemical safety assessment (CSA); the ESCom package; checking conformity with exposure scenarios at downstream user level; and safe use information for mixtures. For all of these actions, Roadmap products in the form of either guidance, templates or IT tools are foreseen to be delivered during 2015 into the first half of 2016.
- 4) Two parallel (optional) working sessions took place covering (A) Sector use maps and (B) Measuring success of the actions under the Roadmap.

General observations and conclusions

- 1) Many presentations used a similar visualisation of the communication/information flow indicating that understanding now converges amongst the ENES stakeholders on the importance of having realistic information from the downstream sectors as the source for the registrants' CSR and subsequent communication to their customers down in the supply chain.
- 2) Much progress has been made on key elements supporting that information flow since 2013 (concepts, methods, "formats", tools, ESCom 2.0 package); These discrete developments are expected to come together in 2016 and later, in the form of a harmonised approach for managing exposure scenarios at all levels (registrants, DUs, authorities).
- 3) There is a vital need to spread the word of the Roadmap's developments and product availability beyond the immediate ENES community e.g. to a wider population of sectors. For instance, on improved use maps: What to do in areas of the market where no (active) sector organisations exist? How to identify, prioritise and reach them? This is also important in view of the 2018 registrations.
- 4) Whilst Roadmap templates, formats, tools etc. are becoming available, their (updated) contents are still to follow. This includes information compiled by downstream sectors for registrants (as of 2016) and subsequent dossier updates by registrants (2016 and later).
- 5) A lot of work is underway in 2015:
 - All actors need to be realistic in their ambition level and plan well for managing the changes;
 - There is a need in industry for signals/examples that the investment will pay. For example, registrants should express their intentions to make use of the information compiled by downstream users to encourage them to do so;
 - Timing for managing the changes is key for ultimate success under the CSR/ES Roadmap. All stakeholders acknowledge, as already stated in the Roadmap itself, that this is a long-term process of improvement.

- 6) The alignment and connections to Chesar (and other CSA tools) and SDS generation systems (business between IT providers and single companies) are being seen as a real need/benefit.

Next steps

For the remainder of 2015, towards ENES9 in November, we can expect:

- Downstream user sector association templates (*sector-specific worker exposure descriptions, SWEDs / Safe use mixture information, SUMIs*) to be ready; their environmental equivalents (SpERCs) will follow a bit later.
- Further development and verification of the format for sector use maps.
- Building more common understanding and intensifying development work on the needs, and means for collecting, appropriate tonnage information for dossiers.
- Cefic/VCI publish updated guidance on the *Lead component identification method (LCiD)* for safe use of mixtures and carry out round robin testing (call for volunteers launched at ENES8).
- Next consultation steps (Committees and CARACAL) on ECHA's R.12 Guidance on *Use description* will take place (target for publication end of 2015) and consultation of other CSA-related guidance will be launched.
- IT providers prepare for the implementation of the ESCom package for the electronic exchange of exposure scenario information between suppliers and customers.
- Share lessons learned from authorisations and its relevance for the ENES community with a focus on information generated and communicated at registration.
- Publish a practical guide on the downstream user chemical safety report (*DU CSR*).
- Reach consensus on role and boundaries of scaling.

More information on the Programme can be found on the [ECHA ENES](#) web page.