

# Combining key lessons learned from H2020 and FP7 projects to underpin the next generation of nanosafety research

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## A few things from past projects...

- Generated a wealth of data, especially on the hazards of engineered nanomaterials (NMs)
- We improved our understanding of the need for physicochemical characterisation, and how to do it
- We improved understanding of which physicochemical characteristics influence hazard
- We advanced methodologies for assessment of exposure
- We initiated templates for collection of data in a common format
- We initiated templates for method sharing

## What are we doing now?

- We need to deliver ‘tools’ for stakeholders that are useful.
  - Useful for regulators and industry
  - Useful for regulatory purposes
  - Useful for innovation and safe(r) by design
- We need to make sure that the ‘tools’ generated by individual projects are sustainable and are utilised after each project is complete.

# The evolution of nanosafety



- We have tools
- But they were not well organised or linked
- The quality is variable

- Our data is now well organised
- Our tool quality is being improved
- We have a great toolbox

- The toolbox needs to be accessible
- The tools need to be fit for different users and purposes
- Guidance needed
- Streamlined processes needed

## What are we doing now?

- An accessible data repository.....



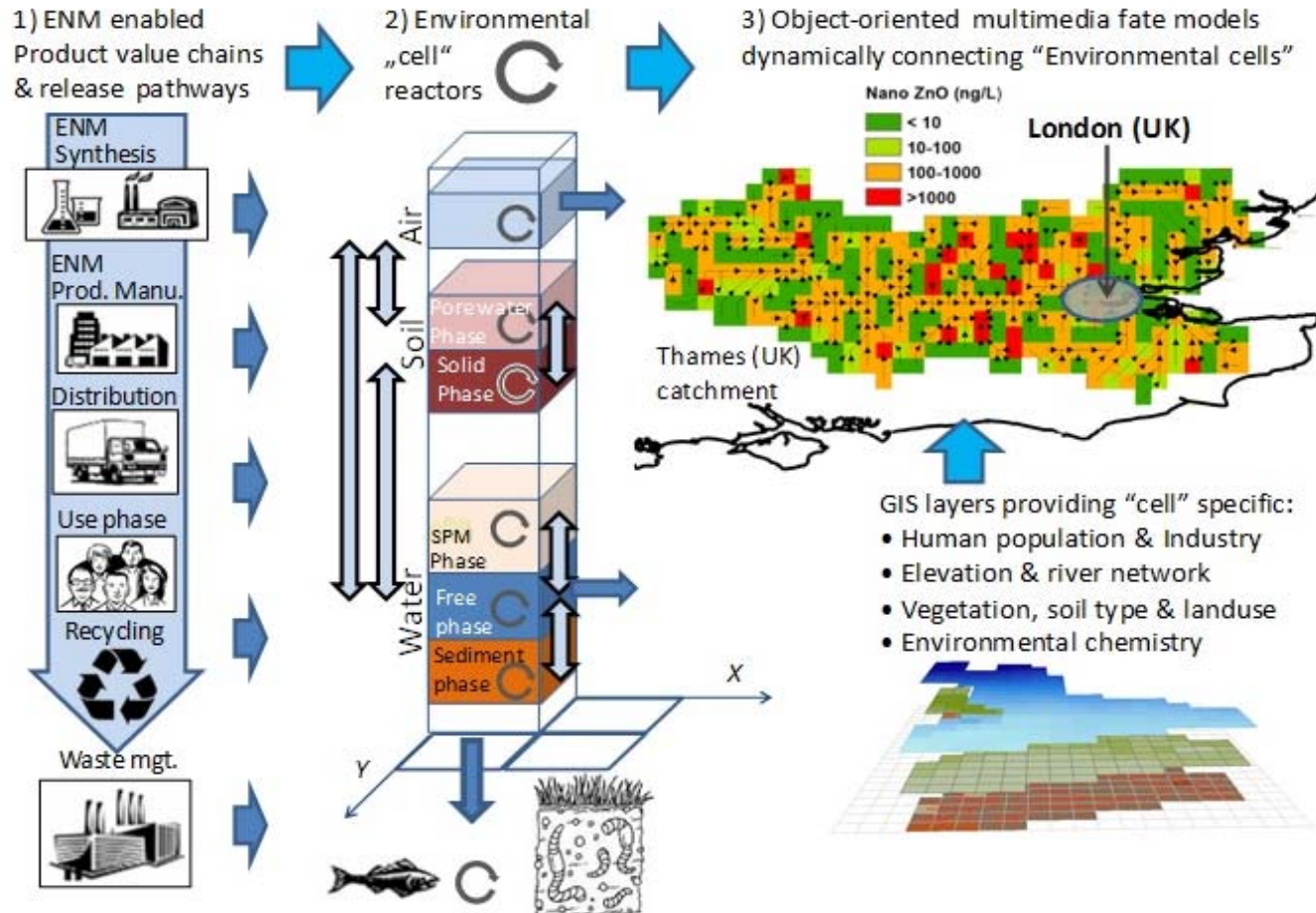
- The European NanoSafety database
- A computational infrastructure for **toxicological** data management of NMs
- Improved the utilisation of data through the implementation of data **storage, searching and sharing**
- Accelerating knowledge exchange and reuse
- Enabling the meta analysis of nano-bio interactions
- **Instances** generated for individual projects such as caLIBRAte, PATROLS and GRACIOUS – allow project partners to more readily access the most relevant data

<http://www.enanomapper.net/enm>

## What are we doing now?

- Exploitation of data repositories to develop models of NM behaviour.....

## Fate and Exposure models and tools for you – [www.NanoFASE.EU](http://www.NanoFASE.EU)





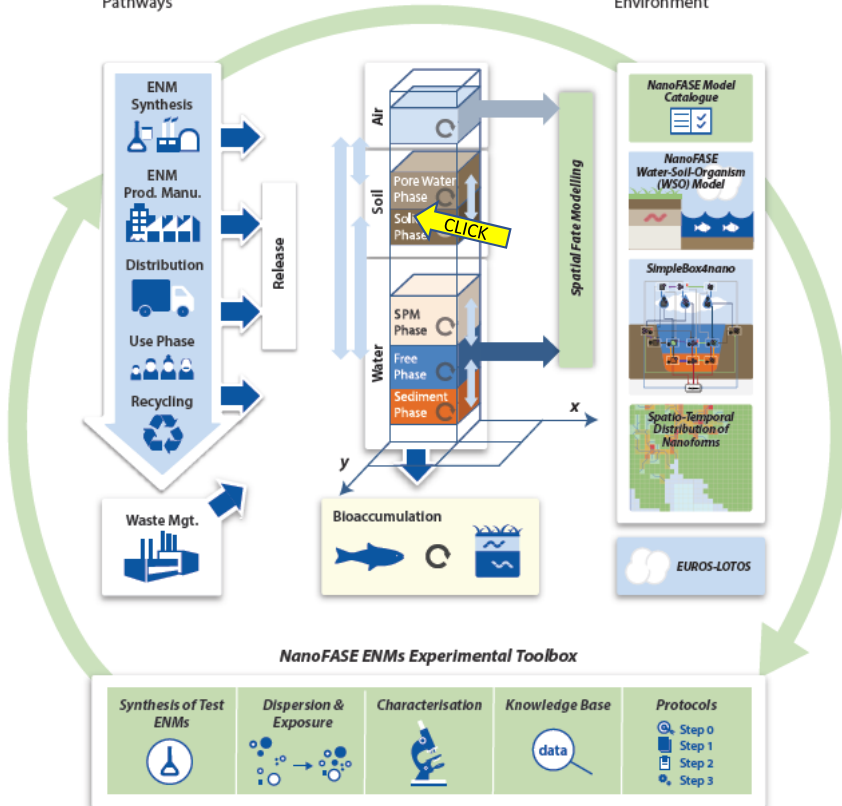
Fate and Exposure models and tools for you – [www.NanoFASE.EU](http://www.NanoFASE.EU)

Delivered in a transparent online “Clickable Framework”

ENM Enabled Product Value Chains and Release Pathways

Environmental Reactors and ENM Fate & Transformations

Dynamic Fate and Exposure Modelling for ENM Forms Entering the Environment



“Clickable” links for all elements:

- Product lifecycle release processes
- Environmental compartments
- Models for all Different complexity levels
- Protocols and Data

These links allow progressive access to deeper levels of details and protocols

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ENM Enab  
Product Va  
Chains and  
Pathways

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## Environmental Fate of ENMs: Soil Compartment

Soils are exposed to ENMs mostly through deposition of sludge on agricultural land. A range of organisms can be exposed and possibly be affected, including food crops, also giving an entry into the human food chains. ENMs are also applied deliberately to soils, e.g. as [zerovalent iron](#) to remediate contaminated soils, as [nanofertilizers](#) or as [nanopesticides](#).

Wastewater treatment plant

Air

Freshwater

Biota

1. Sludge deposition
2. Deposition
3. Homoaggregation
4. Heteroaggregation
5. Surface run-off
6. Air-water interaction
7. Straining
8. Attachment
9. Bioturbation
10. Bio-uptake
11. Spatial distribution

CLICK

Case studies

- [Zerovalent iron](#)
- [Nanopesticides](#)

Read also

Cornelis G, et al. (2014) Fate and Bioavailability of Engineered Nanoparticles in Soils: A Review. Crit. Rev. Environ. Sci. Technol. 44: 2720–2764. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10643389.2013.829767>

LEVEL 1 - CONCEPTS

Fate and Exposure models and tools for you – [www.NanoFASE.EU](http://www.NanoFASE.EU)

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HOME PROJECT

Environmental Fat

Soils are exposed to ENMs mostly including food crops, also giving an contaminated soils, as [nanofertiliz](#)

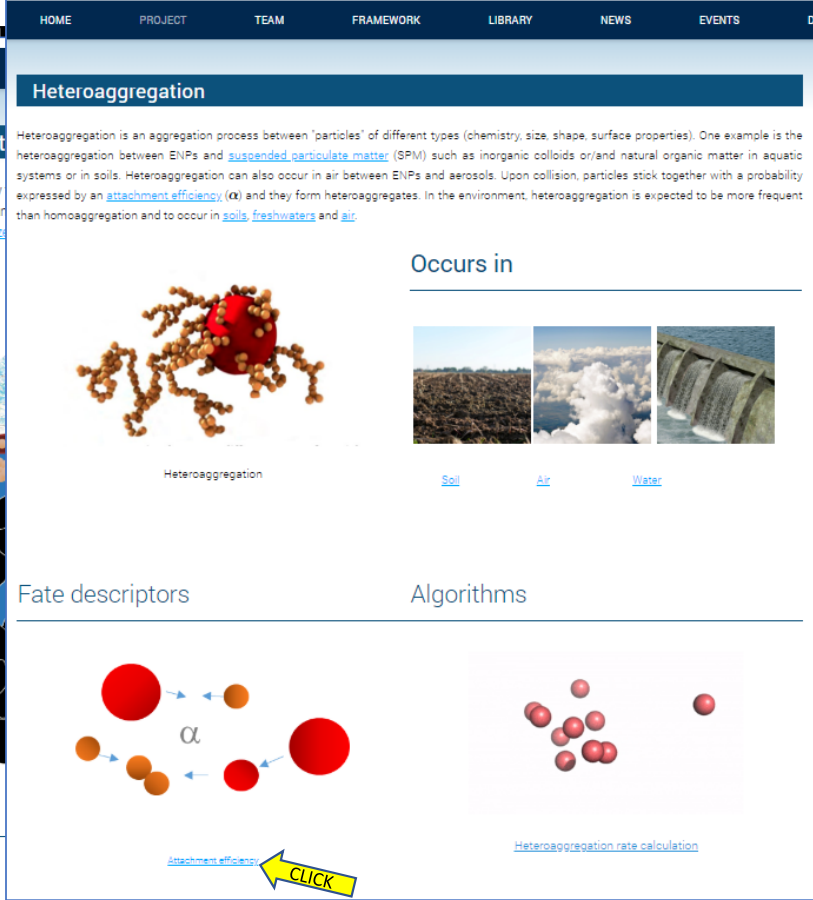


Wastewater treatment plant



Case studies

- [Zerovalent iron](#)
- [Nanopesticides](#)



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## Heteroaggregation

Heteroaggregation is an aggregation process between "particles" of different types (chemistry, size, shape, surface properties). One example is the heteroaggregation between ENPs and [suspended particulate matter](#) (SPM) such as inorganic colloids or/and natural organic matter in aquatic systems or in soils. Heteroaggregation can also occur in air between ENPs and aerosols. Upon collision, particles stick together with a probability expressed by an [attachment efficiency](#) ( $\alpha$ ) and they form heteroaggregates. In the environment, heteroaggregation is expected to be more frequent than homoaggregation and to occur in [soils](#), [freshwaters](#) and [air](#).

**Occurs in**

[Soil](#) [Air](#) [Water](#)

**Fate descriptors**

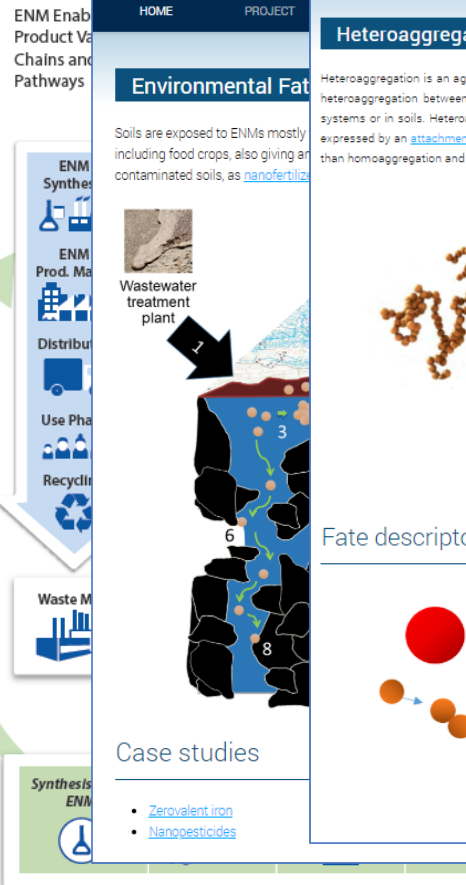
[Attachment efficiency](#) **CLICK**

**Algorithms**

[Heteroaggregation rate calculation](#)

**LEVEL 2 – DETAILED PARAMETERS & ALGORITHMS**

### Fate and Exposure models and Delivered in a trans



ENM Enable Product Value Chains and Pathways

HOME PROJECT

**Environmental Fate**

Soils are exposed to ENMs mostly including food crops, also giving an contaminated soils, as [nanofertilizers](#).

Wastewater treatment plant

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

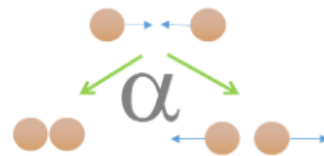
Fate descriptors

Case studies

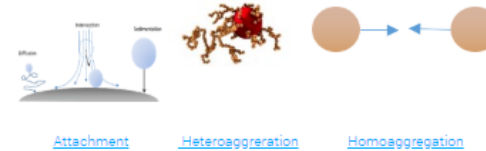
- [Zerovalent iron](#)
- [Nanopesticides](#)

#### Attachment efficiency

Attachment efficiency ( $\alpha$ ) expresses the probability that upon collision of a particle with another surface or another particle, the two particles will stick to each other. In the case of favorable [attachment](#),  $\alpha$  equals 1, i.e. all collisions are successful. This is the case e.g. when the particles are oppositely charged or when the ionic strength is relatively high. In most cases, however,  $\alpha < 1$ , e.g. because of dissolved organic matter adsorption leading to steric hindrance or charges on the particle surfaces resulting in electrostatic repulsion. Attachment efficiency, together with hydrodynamics, determines the [attachment rates](#) in porous media such as [soils](#) or [sediments](#) as well as the [homoaggregation](#) and [heteroaggregation rates](#) in [rivers](#) and [wastewater treatment plants](#).



Used for



Algorithms

$$k_{att} = \alpha \frac{3(1-\theta)r}{2d_c} \eta_0$$

[Attachment rate calculation](#)

$$v = \alpha \beta n^2$$

[Homoaggregation rate calculation](#)

$$v = \alpha \beta n_A n_B$$

[Heteroaggregation rate calculation](#)

Protocols



[Batch test](#)

[saturated column test](#)

[Unsaturated column test](#)

Read more

[NanoFASE Report D7.2 Soil property - NM fate relationships](#)

[NanoFASE Report D8.1 Alignment between model requirements and experimental procedures](#)

Read also

Petosa, A. R.; Jaisi, D. P.; Quevedo, I. R.; Elimelech, M.; Tufenkji, N. Aggregation and Deposition of Engineered Nanomaterials in Aquatic Environments: Role of Physicochemical Interactions. *Environ. Sci. Tech.* 2010, 44 (17), 6532-6549.

**LEVEL 4 –  
EXPERIMENTAL &  
ALGORITHM OPTIONS  
for  
PARAMETERS  
DETERMINATION**

## Fate and Exposure models and Delivered in a trans

ENM Enable Product Value Chains and Pathways

HOME PROJECT

### Environmental Fate

Soils are exposed to ENMs mostly including food crops, also giving an contaminated soils, as [nanofertilizers](#).

Wastewater treatment plant

### Case studies

- [Zerovalent iron](#)
- [Nanopesticides](#)

### Attachment efficiency

Attachment efficiency ( $\alpha$ ) expresses the probability that upon collision two particles will stick to each other. In the case of favorable [attachment](#),  $\alpha$  equals unity. It is influenced by steric hindrance or charges on the particle surface. In hydrodynamics, it determines the [attachment rates](#) in porous media and [heteroaggregation rates](#) in rivers and wastewater treatment plants.

### Algorithms

$$k_{att} = \alpha \frac{3(1-\theta)r}{2d_c} \eta_0$$

$$v = \alpha \beta n^2$$

[Attachment rate calculation](#)    [Heteroaggregation rate calculation](#)

### Read more

[NanoFASE Report D7.2 Soil property - NM fate relationships](#)

[NanoFASE Report D8.1 Alignment between model requirements and experimental procedures](#)

## Soil batch tests

Batch testing can be used in the laboratory to measure the [attachment efficiency](#) ( $\alpha$ ) of nanoparticles to [soil](#).

Batch testing provides an alternative to [column tests](#), and while the same parameters can be employed, batch testing provides a somewhat simplified approach, allowing larger datasets to be readily obtained.

1. A matrix (artificial rainwater) of known volume is mixed with a known mass of soil (sieved to 2mm).
2. Nanoparticles of known size and concentration are added, providing a known solid:liquid ratio.
3. The solution is constantly stirred and aliquots collected by syringe along a front-loaded time series gradient.
4. The batch test is then repeated using the same liquid:solid ratio and soil sample, with the addition of a known quantity of salt, increasing the ionic strength of the sample such that the attachment efficiency ( $\alpha$ ) equals unity.

### Mechanisms & Methods

The experimental parameters of the batch test – such as ratio of nanoparticles to soil, ratio of water to soil, and the chemistry of the water – must be optimized such that the observed rate of attachment is neither so fast that it is complete immediately, nor so slow that effectively nothing happens over the period of the test. The optimal experimental variables may vary for each soil type. Mixing speed and conductivity must also be considered as they too influence the rate of attachment. Thus, batch tests have to be repeated adjusting the experimental variables until a robustly measurable extent of attachment is seen (see graph).

The soil and rainwater matrix solution must first be equilibrated by constantly stirring for at least one hour to provide a stable background that can be subtracted from the absorbance of the supernatants at each time point. Following the sampling, the unattached nanoparticle concentrations in the aliquots are immediately measured, using [UV-Vis](#) absorbance or single particle [ICP-MS](#), depending on the particles under study.

### Used for

## LEVEL 5 – FULL PROTOCOLS (also feed into OECD TG & GDs via Malta initiative)

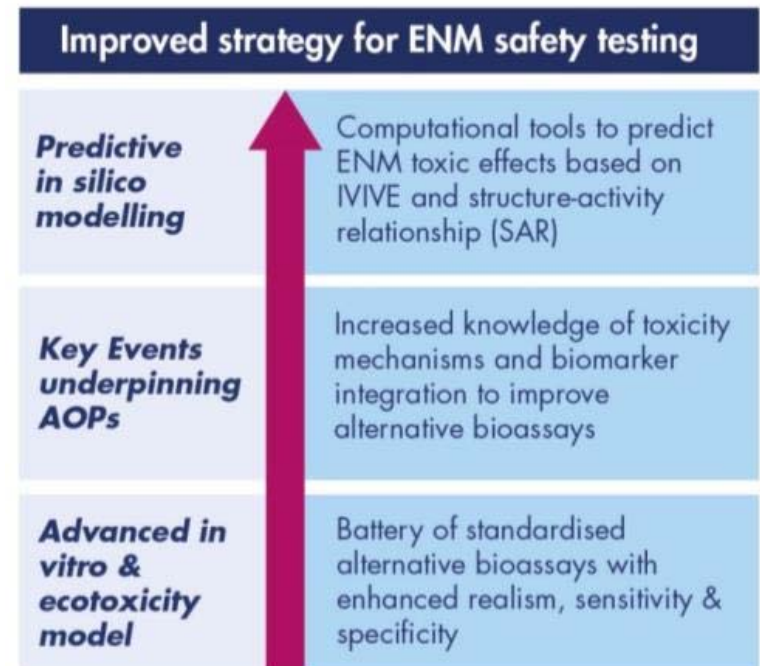
[Attachment efficiency](#)

## What are we doing now?

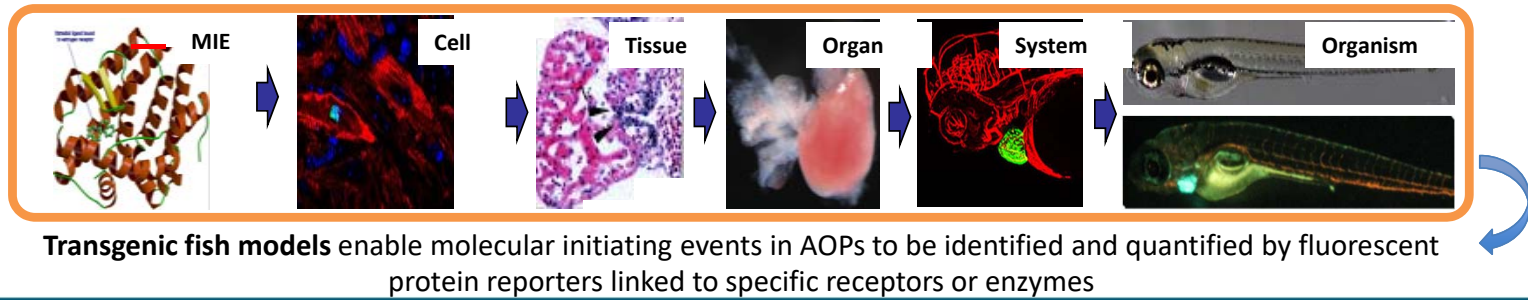
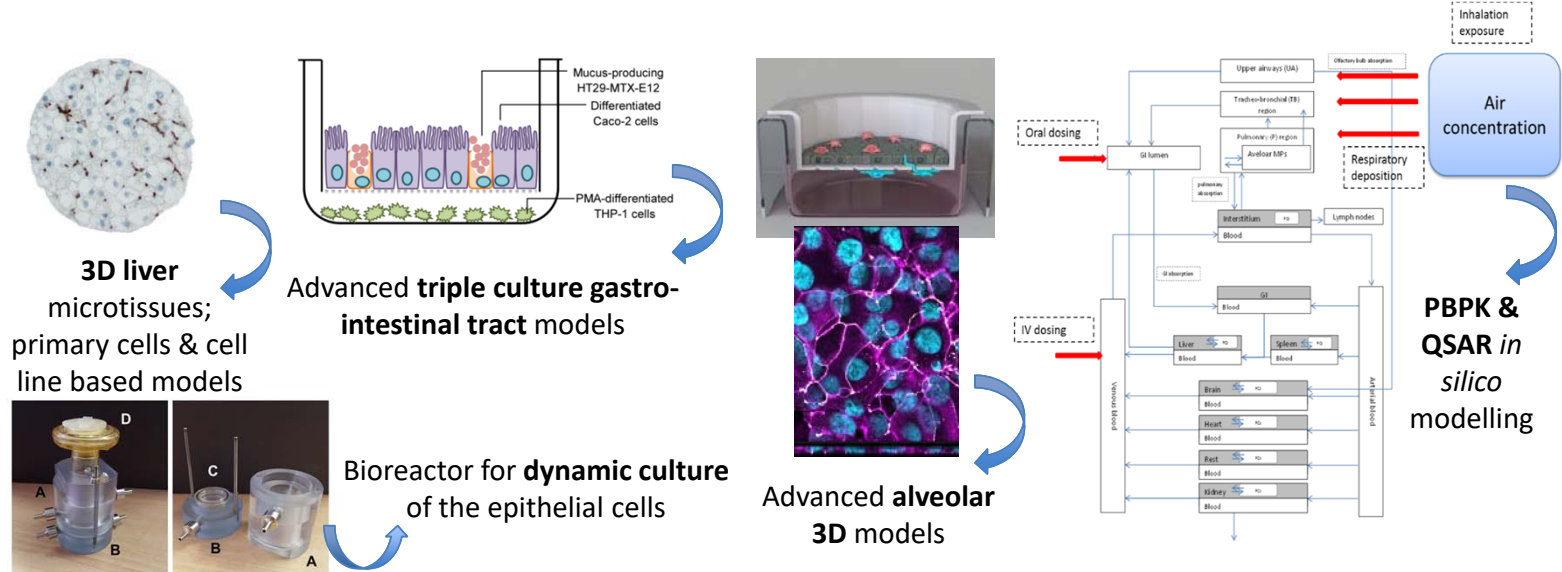
- Making the hazard tools more realistic, relevant and longer term .....

# PATROLS Vision

Establish and standardise a battery of next generation hazard assessment tools to predict adverse effects caused by long-term, low dose ENM exposure to humans & the environment, supporting regulatory risk decision making



# Developing advanced hazard testing systems



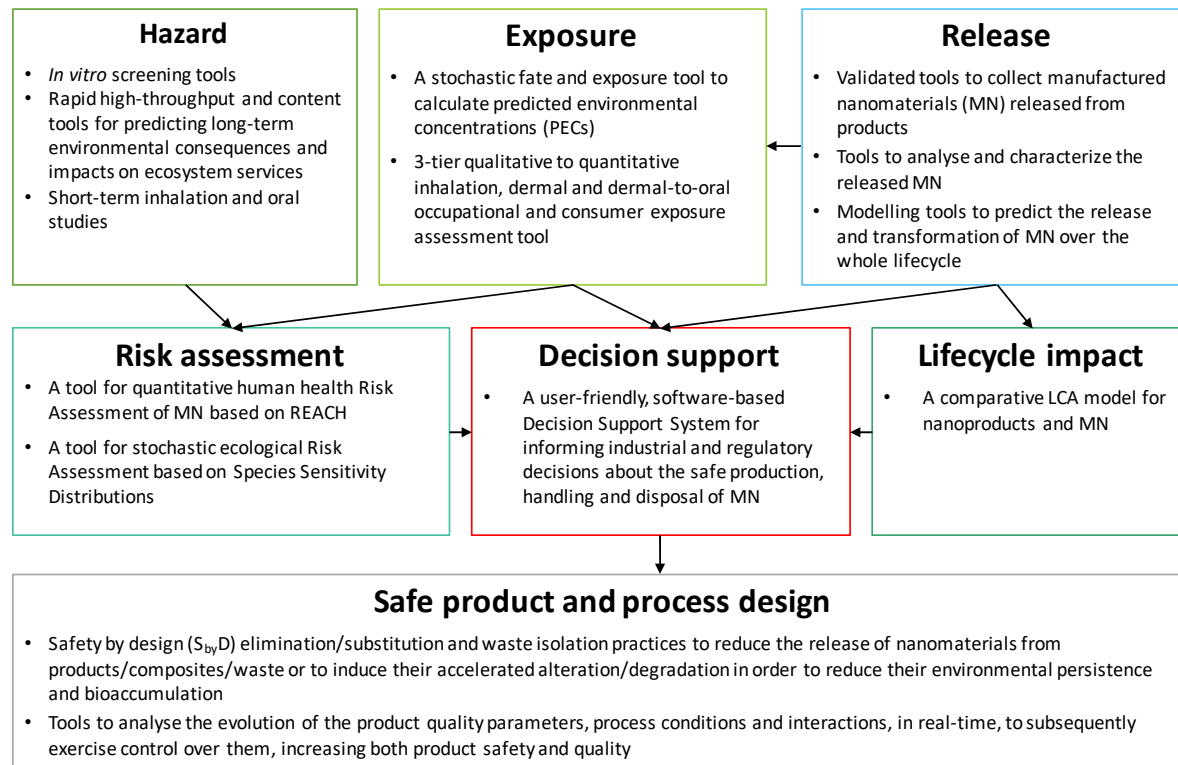


## What are we doing now?

- Combining different sources of information for risk assessment and decision making .....



# SUN Developed Innovative Tools

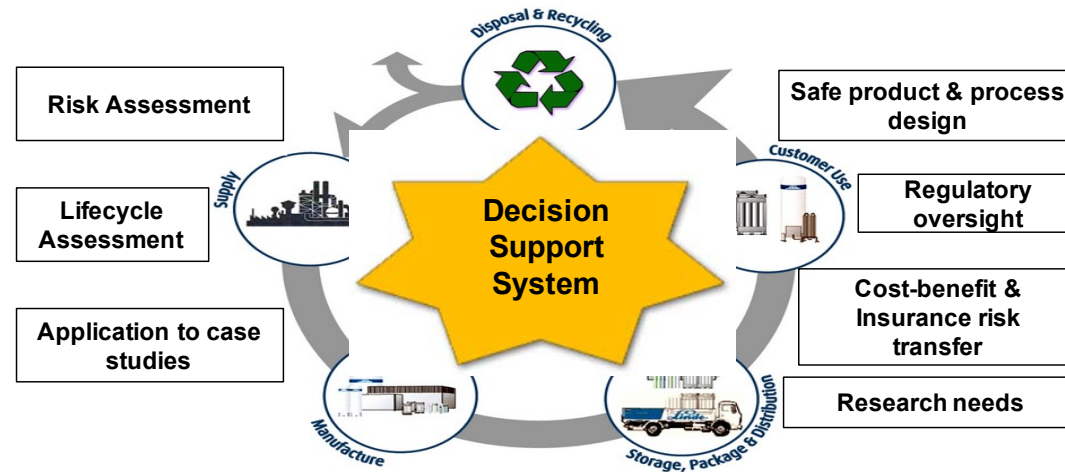




# SUN Concept

Bottom-up generation of environmental, health and safety (EHS) data and tools

Top-down design of a Decision Support System for use by industries and regulators



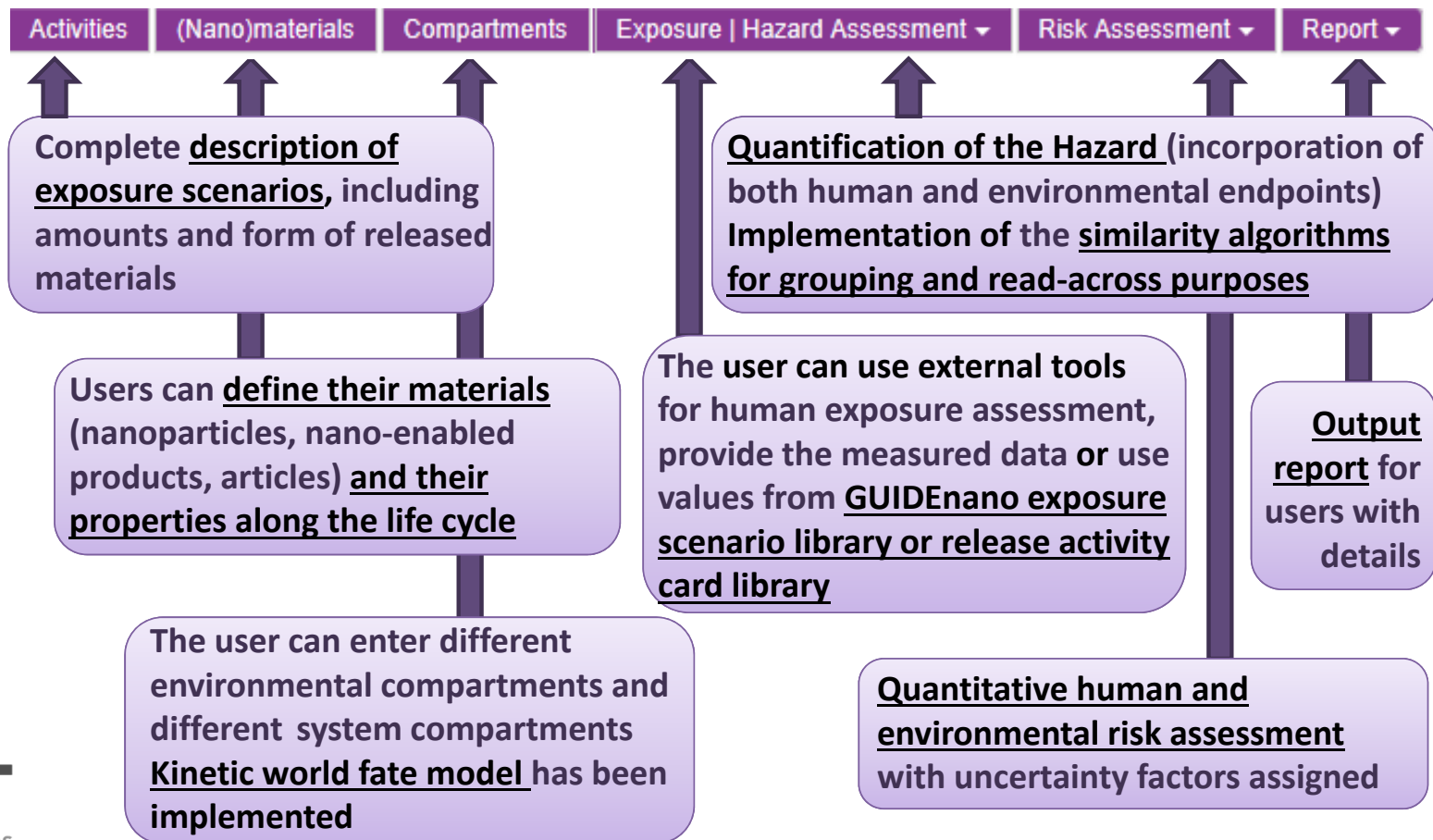
**Quantitative risk assessment**, allowing a justified assessment for each scenario

The tool is not for screening of risks or prioritization, but it **supports decision-making**

It is a **complete** (hazard & exposure assessment, different exposure routes and scenarios along the life cycle) **and flexible Tool** (allowing future updates)

The tool **matches with existing regulatory accepted risk assessment methods**, e.g. REACH, OECD

**OVERALL: GUIDEnano enables science-based risk assessment of nanomaterials and nano-enabled products in a more transparent and reproducible way compared to current practice**

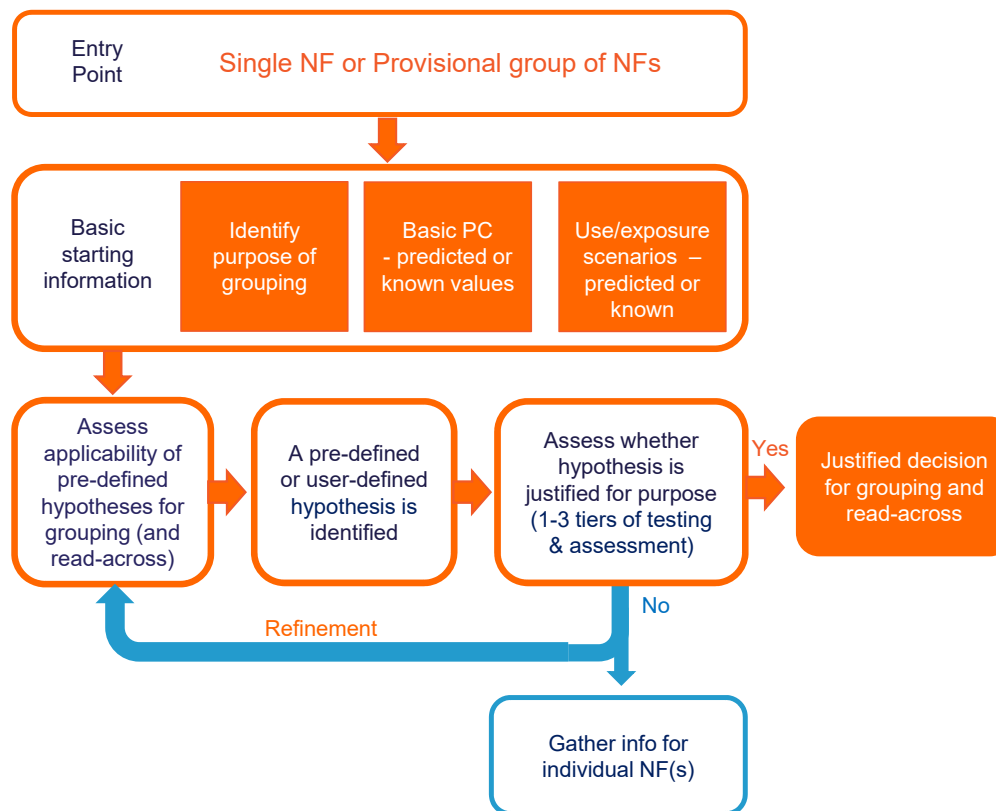


## What are we doing now?

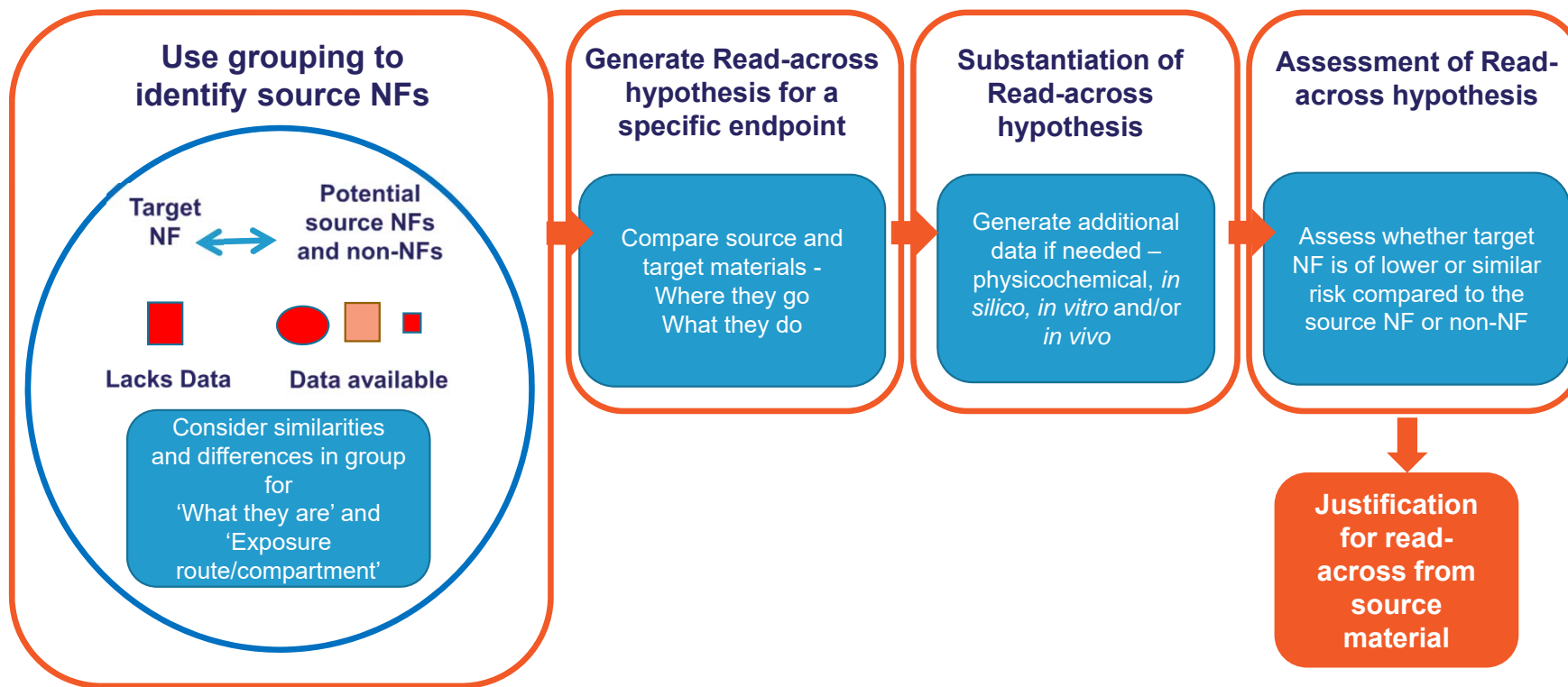
- Streamlining physicochemical, exposure, hazard and risk assessment  
.....

## GRACIOUS FRAMEWORK

# Grouping Nanoforms to streamline risk management



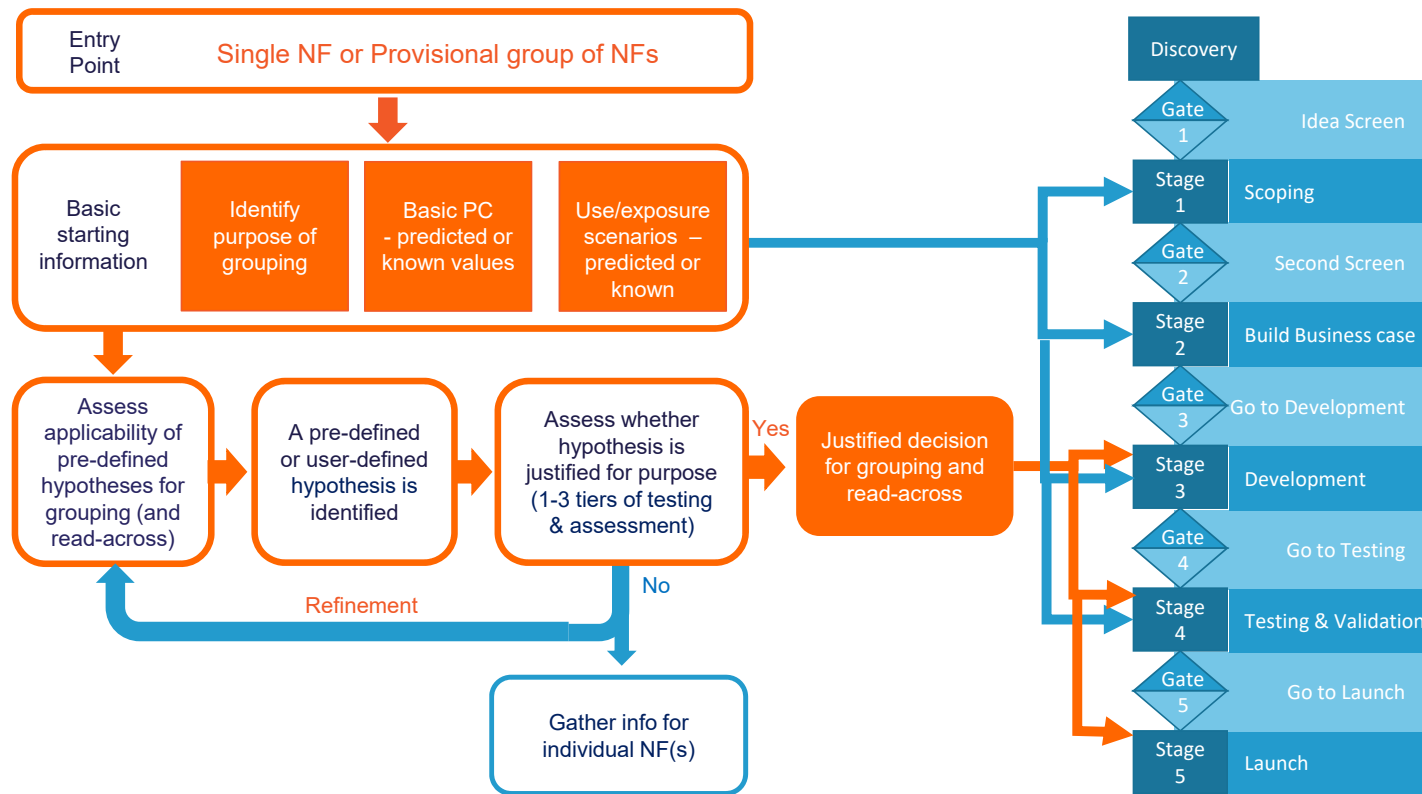
# Grouping for regulatory Read-Across





# GRACIOUS FRAMEWORK

## Grouping for innovation / Safe(r) by Design



# What are we doing now?



What I have shown you.....



# Exposure & Hazard assessment Contributing projects



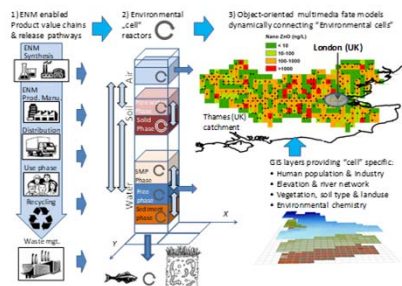
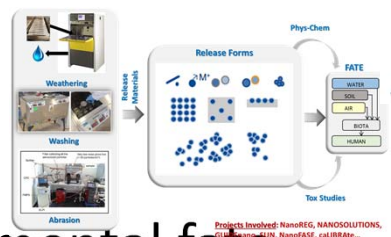


More information can be found at the  
NanoSafety Cluster website

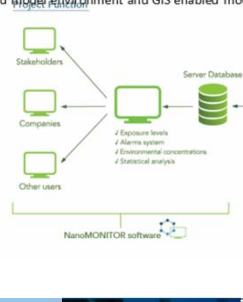
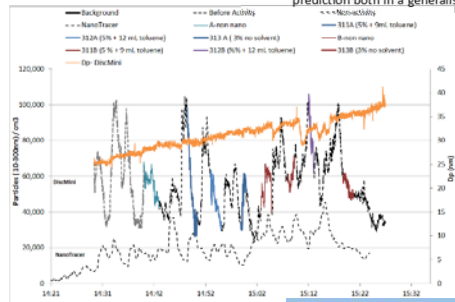
- <https://www.nanosafetycluster.eu/>

# Exposure & Hazard assessment Progress made 2014-2017

- Release
- Environmental fate
- Human Exposure
- Human Hazard
- Ecotoxicology



Conceptual workflow for a framework to deliver dynamic multimedia fate prediction both in a generalised model environment and GIS enabled mode.



# Exposure & Hazard assessment

## Remaining H2020 aims

- Match with stakeholder needs
  - Workshops/webinars with / for industry

- Networking & Harmonisation

- Joint project workshops



- Databases and data management

- Harmonised collection and storage
- Open access



- Innovative methods for exposure & hazard testing

