

The EU NanoSafety Cluster mission and objectives: emphasis on aquatic toxicology

T. Fernandes

School of Life Sciences, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, UK

t.fernandes@hw.ac.uk

The EU NanoSafety Cluster is a DG RTD NMP initiative to maximise the synergies between the existing FP6 and FP7 projects addressing all aspects of nanosafety including toxicology, ecotoxicology, exposure assessment, mechanisms of interaction, risk assessment and standardisation. Participation in the NanoSafety cluster was voluntary for projects that commenced prior to April 2009, but it has been compulsory for nano-EHS projects which have started since April 2009. The EU NanoSafety Cluster aims to facilitate exchange of information, data and knowledge across the different projects, sectors of activity and stakeholders. So far the work of members has taken the form of workshops focussing on particular issues, such as ecotoxicology and databases, has acted as a catalyst for the depository of materials, such as protocols, and has been the focus of key exchanges with workers in this field in the USA. This talk will provide an overview of the work of the EU Nanosafety Cluster, with a particular focus on aquatic toxicology, and future developments in the area of marine nano ecotoxicology.