



4FUN

“The FUTURE of FULLY integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals:
Ensuring the long-term viability and technology transfer of the EU-FUNded 2-
FUN tools as standardised solution”

Grant agreement No.: 308440 (Collaborative Project)

Deliverable D6.7: Report on involvement of other networks

Due date of deliverable: 31. August 2015
Actual submission date: 11. November 2015

Start date of project: 1st October 2012

Duration: 36 months

Coordinator	AEIFORIA
Deliverable Leading Partner	AEIFORIA
Contributing Partners	EDF, FACILIA, INERIS, VITO, ARCHE, CSIC, CVR, BPT, ENVI, GRES, ASI, UCSC
Task	6.5 Connecting to other networks
Revision	

Project co-funded by the European Commission under the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7)		
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 Introduction

This Deliverable reports the activities of Task 6.5, which aims to connect the project to other networks. This is part of Work Package (WP) 6 Dissemination and training for technology transfer towards end-users, especially SMEs.

The first objective of this task is to spread information about the 4FUN project and the MERLIN-Expo tool to existing networks (associations, initiatives, other EU-funded projects etc.). The second objective is to involve these networks in the dissemination activities.

To achieve these objectives, this task included the following activities:

- Exploiting synergies with other EU-funded projects;
- Using the materials developed in task T6.2 to provide information to the public on the project and its achievements. All the materials developed can be freely downloaded from the project websites (<http://4funproject.eu/> and <http://merlin-expo.4funproject.eu/>);
- Utilising the professional on-line social networks of the 4FUN members (e.g. posting news about project progress, events etc. for example on LinkedIn or Facebook).
- Adding appropriate references to the MERLIN-Expo tool and 4FUN project in the internet.

1.1 Purpose of this report

This report aims to describe all the activities that were performed in order to involve other networks in the 4FUN project. In particular:

- The connection to other EU-funded projects, related to 4FUN
- Training events, workshops and other activities to connect to other existing networks (CEN, China-Marie Curie IRSES, 4FUN Schools)
- Dissemination activities to disseminate project news (e.g. use of on-line social networks, etc.)

2 Connection to other EU-funded projects

The connection to other EU-funded projects took place through three different actions:

1. Direct contact (via email) with other EU-funded projects' coordinators. A number of projects similar to 4FUN or related to it were identified together with the contact details of their coordinators or principal investigators. They were then contacted via email. The aims were to spread information about the project activities and the MERLIN-Expo tool, and to ask for any possible collaboration with the 4FUN project. Annex A includes the list of projects and the project coordinators who were contacted via email. Annex B reports the email text.
2. Interlink project websites. In the 4FUN website we added a page, which was entitled "Related projects" (<http://4funproject.eu/en/content/Related-projects.23/>), with a list of projects that were considered to be relevant for 4FUN. The list includes: project acronym, full title, and website link (Figure 1).
3. Presentation of the 4FUN at other projects' meetings. In particular, on 7 May 2015 a presentation about "MERLIN-EXPO program on Fate and Risk assessment of Pollutants" was given at the GLOBAQUA technical meeting (<http://www.globaqua-project.eu/>). On 15 June 2015 a presentation about the interactions between 4FUN and GLOBAQUA was given at the 2nd GLOBAQUA annual progress meeting (<http://www.globaqua-project.eu/>). The aim was to present the 4FUN project and to identify possible interactions between these two EU-funded projects. GLOBAQUA members found MERLIN-Expo an interesting tool and some possible applications of MERLIN-Expo to the GLOBAQUA case studies were identified. However, MERLIN-Expo will be useful in a more advanced phase of GLOBAQUA. Moreover the GLOBAQUA project and 4FUN cooperated in the promotion of each other's training events.



Figure 1 – Related project webpage in the 4FUN website.

2.1 Marie Curie IRSES project

2.1.1 GLOCOM project

The University Ca' Foscari of Venice, Department of Environmental Sciences, Informatics and Statistics (UNIVE), is coordinator of the exchange project **GLOCOM - Global Partners in Contaminated Land Management** (<http://www.dais.unive.it/~glocom/>), started in December 2011 and funded by the Marie Curie Actions - International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES), within the FP7-People programme.

GLOCOM partners are:

- University Ca' Foscari of Venice, Italy (UNIVE)
- Umeå University, Sweden (UMU)
- Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, China (CRAES)
- Beijing Normal University, China (BNU)

The GLOCOM project is focused on approaches and tools for contaminated sites assessment and management in China and in Europe. Complex hazardous contamination of soil and water are indeed obstructing sustainable re-development of previously industrialized urban land in Europe as well as in China. Although several significant efforts have already been developed, a systematic and integrated approach for the sustainable management of contaminated sites is still lacking. The main objective of this program is to strengthen the quality of research by developing international collaborations and advance the decision making on complex issues in contaminated land management. GLOCOM is aimed at increasing harmonization of approaches and methods for risk assessment and management in contaminated areas in EU and China. This is being done by the organization of secondment periods (up to 6 months) for Chinese researchers in EU and for EU researchers in China with the aim of implementing scientific collaborations in the fields of contaminated areas characterization, environmental risk assessment and decision making processes. These exchange activities aim to increase quality and mutual benefit of the transfer of knowledge between the involved researchers from EU and China, in particular through the organization of workshops and training sections and the co-participation to conference and scientific publications.

Thanks to the convergence of research topics, a collaboration between GLOCOM and 4FUN project has been started, through the involvement of researchers from UNIVE and from the Chinese partner institutes.

2.1.2 Seminars and training sessions

Two seminars were organized to present 4FUN project activities and to illustrate the main features of MERLIN-Expo tool, namely:

- *GLOCOM seminar - The Merlin-Expo Tool for the integrated exposure assessment of chemicals*, 23rd July 2014, Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences, Beijing;
- *GLOCOM seminar - The Merlin-Expo Tool for the integrated exposure assessment of chemicals*, 24th July 2014, Beijing Normal University, School of Environment, Beijing.

Both seminars were held by Dr. Elisa Giubilato (UNIVE) and each of them involved about 20 participants, including PhD students and researchers from the hosting institutes.

Moreover, *ad hoc* training with PhD students/researchers interested in the tool were organized, to show the main functionalities of the tool and its application through simple case-studies.

2.1.3 Joint case studies

In the framework of GLOCOM project, three joint case-studies are being developed, which include the application of MERLIN-Expo tool for environmental and/or human exposure assessment. A summary of these cases is provided below.

CS1: Assessment of children exposure to lead in a smelter area in China

Researchers from UNIVE and BNU are working on a case-study aimed at assessing children exposure to lead in a Pb-Zn historical smelter area in south-western China. The MERLIN-Expo model is being used to simulate environmental fate of lead and internal exposure of children living in the contaminated area. The results of MERLIN-Expo tool are compared with the ones provided by the Integrated Exposure Uptake Biokinetic (IEUBK) model developed by USEPA, as well as with real biomonitoring data (Pb concentration in children blood from local biomonitoring survey). The application is aimed at identifying the most relevant exposure routes and to explore their relative contribution to the overall children exposure, as well as to identify the differences between the applied modelling tools.

CS2: Assessment of human exposure to lead in different Chinese cities

Researchers from UNIVE and CRAES are working on a case study aimed at assessing children exposure to lead in 11 cities in China. Recent data concerning Pb contamination in air, soil, dust, food and drinking water have been collected from international and Chinese scientific literature and are used as input data to MERLIN-Expo to estimate Pb concentration in children blood (2 to 6 years old). Modelling results will be compared with biomonitoring data for the target cities collected from literature.

CS3: Assessment of ecological exposure to POPs in the Liaodong Bay

Researchers from UNIVE and BNU are working together on a case-study concerning the bioaccumulation of persistent organic pollutants along the aquatic food web in Liaodong Bay (part of Bohai Sea). Phytoplankton, Invertebrate and Fish models, recently implemented in MERLIN-Expo, are being used to reconstruct Liaodong Bay food web and to dynamically simulate accumulation of POPs in aquatic organisms. Concentrations of POPs in sediment cores are used to reconstruct historical contamination levels.

3 Training events, workshops and other activities to connect to other existing networks

3.1 4FUN Schools

The 6 training events (4FUN Schools) organised to promote the MERLIN-Expo tool and to showcase its capabilities were an opportunity to networking. The different courses targeted regulators, scientists, students, and the industry. Presenting the tool, its potential, and applications to different groups helped communication and knowledge transfer. Involving science, policy, and the industry was a way to inform them about the tool. This can be a first step for future possible cooperation, or marketing. The following courses were organised:

- Regulatory Workshop in Paris (France): 26th-27th March 2015
- Scientific Workshop in Belgrade (Serbia): 20th-21st April 2015
- Short Course at SETAC in Barcelona (Spain): 3rd May 2015
- JRC Workshop in Ispra (Italy): 21st-22nd May 2015
- Cremona Summer School (Italy): 29th June-3rd July 2015
- MERLIN-Expo Barcelona Workshop (Spain): 22nd September 2015

More details on these trainings are reported in Deliverable 6.6 '4FUN School I-IV'.

3.1.1 Regulatory Workshop

The workshop was specifically aimed at regulators and regulatory specialists in order to demonstrate the principles and capability of the tool and to showcase its application to specific case studies related to the transfer of contaminants in water, air, soil and biota systems, as well as in the human body. It brought together 17 regulators from across Europe to learn about MERLIN-Expo and to gain hands-on experience. The overwhelming response was that MERLIN-Expo showed great potential as a higher-tier exposure tool in a range of situations. There was a strong level of enthusiasm that the tool should be maintained into the long-term.

Annex C.1 reports the participant list.



Figure 2 – Participants at the Regulators' Workshop in Paris.

3.1.2 Scientific workshop in Belgrade

The workshop was aimed at environmental scientists, government ministries and institutions, regulatory bodies and students with an interest in environmental fate modelling and human health risk assessment. The objective of the workshop was to demonstrating the principles and capability of the MERLIN-Expo tool. The workshop was a great success. Some of the more notable points from the workshop and all the data collected were that:

- 80% said the content was relevant to their jobs,
 - 87% they are very likely to recommend to MERLIN –Expo to a friend or colleague.
- Annex C.2 reports the participant list.



Figure 3 – Participants at the Workshop held in Belgrade, Serbia.

3.1.3 Short course SETAC

The workshop was specifically aimed at more experienced modellers with the objective of demonstrating the principles and capability of the MERLIN-Expo tool. There was a total of six participants for this short course, of that two were from the industrial sector and four were students. The participants seemed genuinely interested in the tool and impressed with its capabilities.

Annex C.3 reports the participant list.

Furthermore, this workshop was organised as a short course within the SETAC Europe annual meeting, held in Barcelona in May 2015, and it was an opportunity to create connections with SETAC.

3.1.4 JRC Workshop

This workshop specifically targeted scientists of the European Joint Research Centre (JRC), based in Ispra (Italy). It was organized according to a specific request from Alexandre Zenie, who works for the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP); the audience was made of JRC employees belonging to different institutes (mainly the Institute for Environment and Sustainability – IES, and the Institute for Health and Consumer Protection - IHCP). In total 16 persons took part at the workshop. The audience was made of people with deep knowledge in several areas related to the 4FUN project (exposure/risk assessment, epidemiology, toxicology, etc.). Therefore, the discussions were interesting. This workshop allowed 4FUN to spread information about the MERLIN-Expo to JRC scientists, who showed great interest in the tool and in possible future collaboration.



Figure 4 – Participants at the Workshop held at JRC.

Annex C.4 reports the participant list.

3.1.5 Cremona Summer School

The summer school was aimed at junior modellers, research students, post-docs and anyone in the early stages of their career. The school was supported by SETAC, who included it as part of their professional training programme ‘Certification of Environmental Risk Assessors’ (CRA). Speakers were not only partners of the 4FUN project, but also people coming from other institutions, such as ECHA, Istituto Mario Negri, SACHT, SVT, INERIS and EFSA. Inviting external speakers gave to the tool a very good visibility. Some of the external speakers showed interest in future collaborations. The Summer school was considered to be a great success with 16 participants attending the event.



Figure 5 – Participants at the summer school in Cremona.

Annex C.4 reports the participant list.

3.1.6 MERLIN-Expo Barcelona Workshop

This workshop was decided to be organised the day before the Informa Life Sciences annual conference, in order to involve the industry people who attend the conference. This conference focuses on the Biocidal Products Regulation, targets the industry, and is a significant opportunity for networking. The aim was to reach the industry and the consultancy and to spread information about the MERLIN-Expo. Nine persons participated to the workshop.

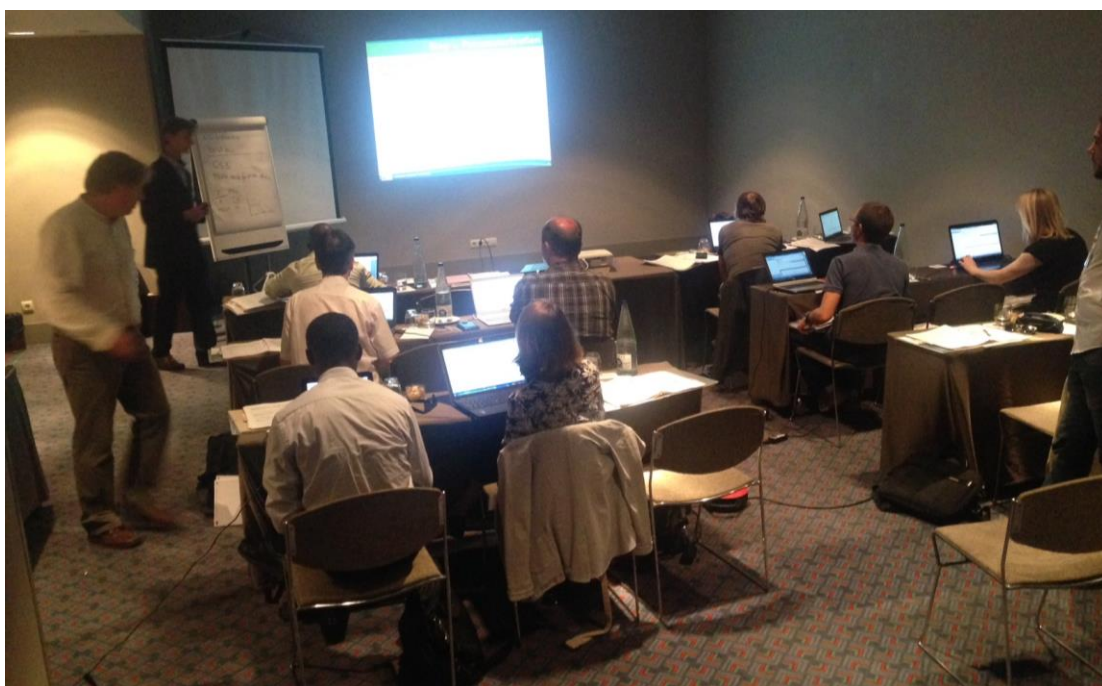


Figure 6 – Participants at the MERLIN-Expo Barcelona Workshop

Annex C.4 reports the participant list.

3.2 CEN Workshop

CEN, the European Committee for Standardization, is an association that brings together the National Standardization Bodies of 33 European countries.

CEN is one of three European Standardization Organizations (together with CENELEC and ETSI) that have been officially recognized by the European Union and by the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) as being responsible for developing and defining voluntary standards at European level. CEN provides a platform for the development of European Standards and other technical documents in relation to various kinds of products, materials, services and processes. During the 4FUN project a standard documentation of chemical exposure models has been proposed in a new CEN workshop agreement (CWA). The CWA was developed by some members of the 4FUN consortium together with other persons working at the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission, the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment, the French Institute for Radiological Protection and Nuclear Safety (IRSN), the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), the Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research (TNO), and the Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BauA).

On 2nd July 2014, a workshop entitled 'New CEN Workshop on Standard documentation of large chemical exposure models (WS MERLIN-Expo)' was organized in Brussels (Belgium) in order to plan the work. Then several conference calls were organized and from April to June 2015 the Draft CWA of CEN Workshop "MERLIN Expo" was published on CEN website and underwent a public review to get comments from the public. Then the comments were discussed and integrated into the final document.

Working together with the above mentioned stakeholders helped the 4FUN consortium to establish good relationships. A paper about the standardization process is planned to be written in cooperation with all the participants to the CEN workshop and will be included in the special issue.

The participants of the CEN Workshop (4FUN partners excluded) are reported in Annex D.

3.3 Market analysis and identification of target stakeholders

It is worth mentioning an activity that is not specifically included in WP6, which is the market analysis. It was carried out in WP7 and is reported in Deliverable 7.1 (Business Plan), but it has an impact also on the connection to other networks. In fact, 50 stakeholders were interviewed and this was a way to make them aware of the existence of 4FUN and to spread information. Six different groups of potential stakeholders were identified:

- Regulators / legislators
- Academic and research
- Professional organizations
- Specialized consultancy companies
- Industries (companies)
- Civil society

Based on these different groups, interviews were conducted in different countries in order to better understand the possible role(s) for each stakeholder in the 4MERLIN-Expo market and

hence identify target customers. The objectives of the interviews were to clarify the target sectors for every stakeholders and to clarify their effective role(s). For more information refer to Deliverable 7.1.

3.4 Participation to conferences

In order to create a network and disseminate the project among scientists, the 4FUN members participated to several conferences, as listed in the following table.

Table 1. Participations to conferences.

Date	Location	Type of activity	Title of the event	Number of people attending the event	Leading Partner	*Note
12-16 May 2013	Glasgow (UK)	Poster presentation	SETAC Europe Annual Meeting	500-1000	ARCHE	Review and evaluation of exposure models in the 4FUN projects
17-19 June 2013	Trondheim (Norway)	Oral presentation	SRA-E Conference (The Society for Risk Analysis – Europe)	200-500	VITO	Demonstration and exploitation of the 2-FUN human exposure model identified as a promising tool derived from European research activities; A case study on Pb in the environment.
30 June - 2 July 2013	Nanjing (China)	Other (platform presentation)	ICESEC 2013 - First International Conference on Environmental Safety and Ecological Criteria (co-organized by SETAC Asia-Pacific)	200-500	CVR	Assessment of Children Lead Exposure in a Smelter Site Area in China: Approaches for the Identification and Ranking of the Most Relevant Exposure Routes
19-23 August 2013	Basel (Switzerland)	Oral presentation	Conference of the International Society of Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE), the International Society of Exposure Science (ISES), and the International Society of Indoor Air Quality and Climate (ISIAQ)	500-1000	VITO	Demonstration and exploitation of the 2-FUN human exposure model identified as a promising tool derived from EU research activities; A case study on Arsenic
2-4 September 2013	York (UK)	Poster presentation	Pesticide behaviour in soils, water and air	200-500	AEIFOR A	Review and evaluation of exposure models in the 4FUN project
11-15 May 2014	Basel (Switzerland)	Poster presentation	SETAC Europe Annual Meeting	500-1000	ARCHE	Linking exposure models to regulatory and sustainability driven frameworks
4-5 July 2014	Beijing (China)	Other (platform presentation)	International Symposium on Environment and Health (co-organized by SETAC Asia-Pacific and Society of Environmental Geochemistry and Health)	200-500	CVR	Comparison of modelling approaches for the assessment of children exposure to lead in a smelter area in china

23 July 2014	Beijing (China)	Seminar (oral presentation)	"GLOCOM" seminar, held at Chinese Research Academy of Environmental Sciences (CRAES), Dept. of Environmental Pollution and Health, Beijing (China)	20	CVR-UNIVE	MERLIN-Expo tool for integrated exposure assessment of chemicals
10-14 August 2014	San Francisco (USA)	Poster presentation	13th International Congress on Pesticide Chemistry (IUPAC)	500-1000	AEIFOR A	Evaluation of exposure models and their link to regulatory frameworks within the 4FUN project
10-14 August 2014	San Francisco (USA)	Poster presentation	13th International Congress on Pesticide Chemistry (IUPAC)	500-1000	USCS	MERLIN-Expo – an integrated advanced chemicals exposure assessment tool for legislation requirements
14-16 October 2014	Frankfurt am Main (Germany)	Poster presentation	CABERNET 2014: Tailored & Sustainable Redevelopment towards Zero Brownfield. 4th International Conference on Managing Urban Land.	200-500	CVR-UNIVE	Improving modelling approaches for children exposure assessment in contaminated areas: a case-study in a smelter site in China
3-7 May 2015	Barcelona (Spain)	Poster presentation	SETAC Europe 25th Annual Meeting	500-1000?	UNIVE	Demonstration of the new modelling tool "MERLIN-Expo": a case-study on environmental and human exposure to POPs in Venice lagoon
14-18 June 2015	Bergamo (Italy)	Platform presentation	XV Congress of the Division of Environmental Chemistry and Cultural Heritage of the Italian Society of Chemistry	100-200	UNIVE	Assessment of environmental lead contamination in China through the application of MERLIN-Expo exposure tool (in Italian)
2 September 2015	Beijing (China)	Poster presentation	GLOCOM Final Conference "Common Understanding of Environmental Pollution: Challenges & Perspectives for EU-China Cooperation"	expected 100-200	UNIVE	Use of Physiologically-based pharmacokinetic models to estimate lead exposure in children in 11 Chinese cities
2-4 September 2015	Piacenza (Italy)	Symposium in Pesticide Chemistry	MERLIN-Expo, an integrated exposure assessment tool for pesticides legislation requirements	100-200	UCSC, AEIFOR A	MERLIN-Expo, an integrated exposure assessment tool for pesticides legislation requirements
10 September 2015	Stockholm (Sweden)	Lecture: Application in the innovative European project "The Future of Fully integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals 4FUN".	PhD-student course "Ecological Dynamic Modelling". 7-11 September 2015. https://sites.google.com/a/facilia.se/ecological-modeling/	12	Facilia	Application in the innovative European project "The Future of Fully integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals 4FUN".

20-24 September 2015	Leipzig (Germany)	Poster presentation	ICCE2015 - 15th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment	expected 200-500	UNIVE	Modelling ecological and human exposure to Persistent Organic Pollutants in the Venice lagoon through the application of the MERLIN-Expo tool
20-24 September 2015	Leipzig (Germany)	Poster presentation	ICCE2015 - 15th EuCheMS International Conference on Chemistry and the Environment	expected 200-500	UNIVE	Children exposure to lead in a smelter area in China: comparison of modelling tools for the prioritization of exposure pathways
08/10/2015	Brussels	Presentation	CONCAWE workshop on exposure assessment		EDF	Presentation of the MERLIN-Expo tool – Application for the oil industry

3.5 Other activities

In addition to the above mentioned activities, other activities were performed with the aim of networking.

From 10th to 11th of February 2015 a training course for regulators was held by EDF and UNIVE at JRC.

On 10th September 2015 a lecture entitled “Application in the innovative European project “The Future of Fully integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals 4FUN” was given by FACILIA during the PhD-student course “Ecological Dynamic Modelling”. (<https://sites.google.com/a/facilia.se/ecological-modeling/>). The lecture aimed at introducing the MERLIN-Expo tool as an application of modelling in ecology and as a viable tool for Human and Environmental Assessment.

On 8th of October 2015 a presentation was given by EDF during the ‘CONCAWE workshop on exposure assessment’. The MERLIN-Expo tool and its possible application for the oil industry were presented.

4 Use of on-line tools

The use of on-line tools aimed at spreading information to a high number of people using the web.

4.1 Professional on-line social networks

It was decided to use a professional network (LinkedIn) and another social network (Facebook) in order to reach different target groups: mostly professionals and students.

As stated in the Description of Work (DoW) the 4FUN members were invited to use their account of online social networks (e.g. LinkedIn) to post news about the project progress. In particular, a text was prepared with information about the project and others for the promotion of some of the 4FUN training events (Figure 7, 8 and 9).

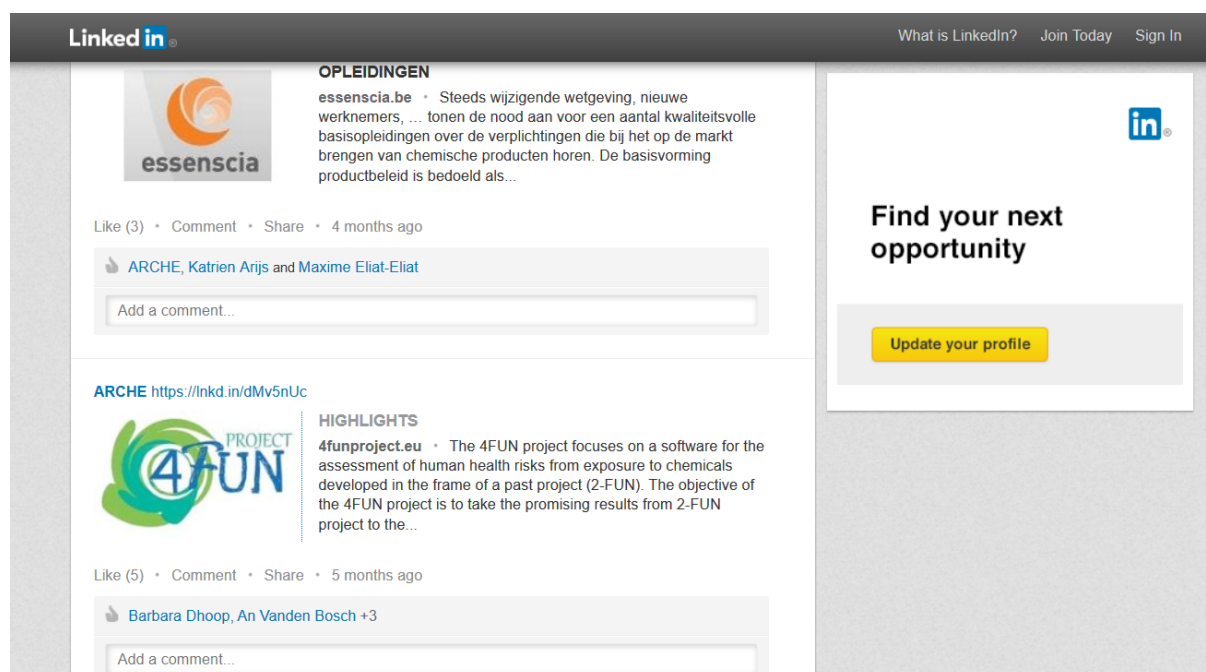


Figure 7 – Message posted on LinkedIn to describe the 4FUN project.

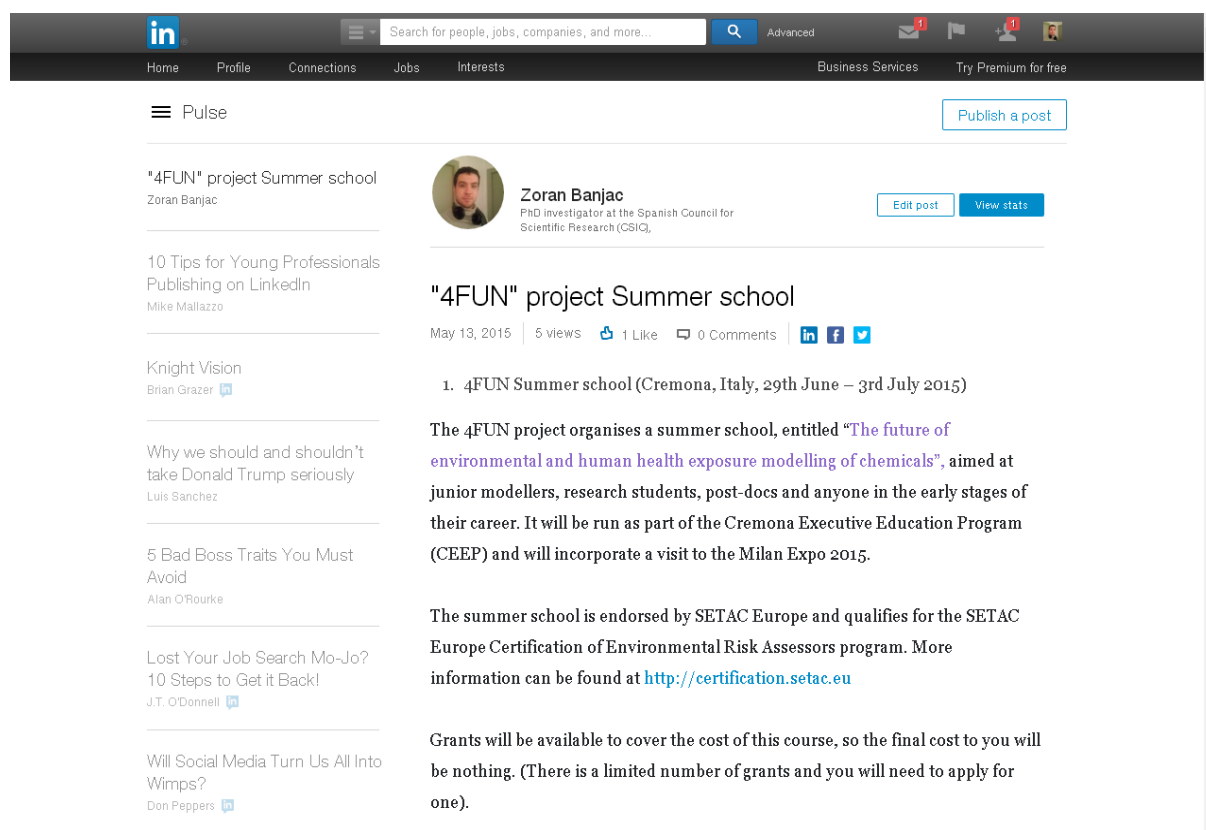


Figure 8 – Message posted on LinkedIn to promote the Summer School that was held in Cremona (Italy).

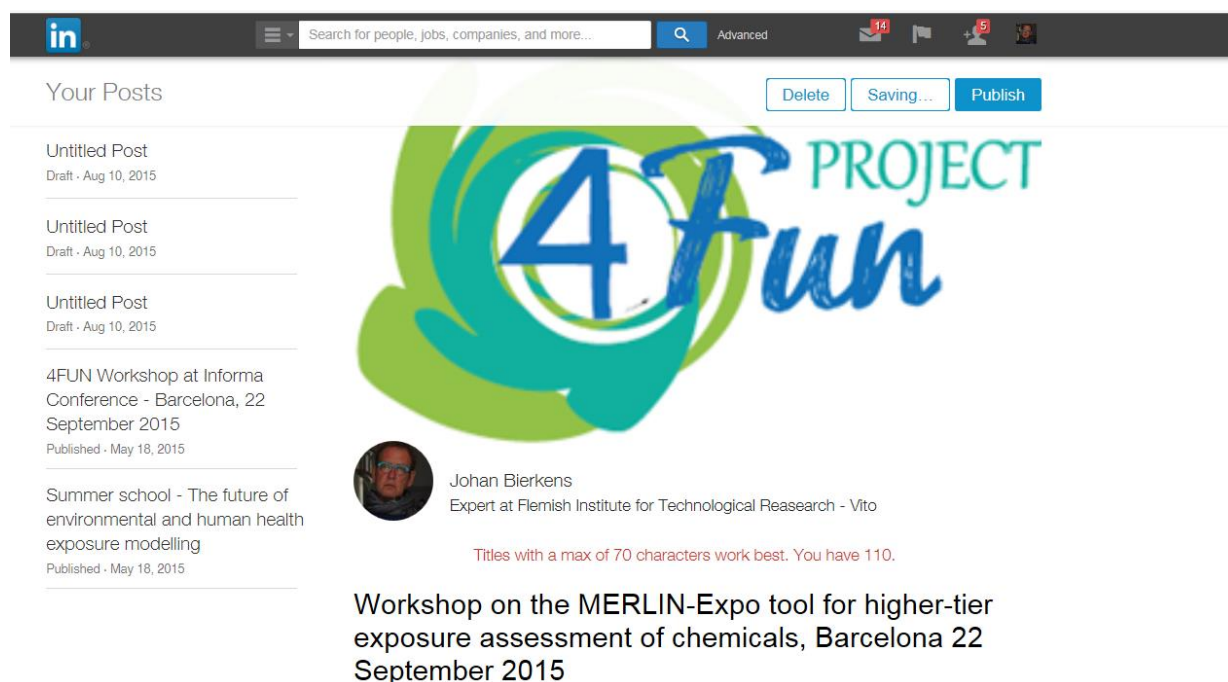


Figure 9 – Message posted on LinkedIn to promote the Workshop in Barcelona in September 2015.

Facebook was used to post both news about the training events and reports on how the trainings went together with some pictures and comments.



Figure 10 – MERLIN-Expo webpage on Facebook.

4.2 Website

The website was launched in March 2013 (<http://4funproject.eu/>) and was set up to inform the public, the stakeholders and the scientific community about the 4FUN project itself and its status and results.

The website has both static and dynamic content. The static content consists of information giving an overall introduction to the project, the aims, an overview of the work packages, the description of the consortium and the link to the related projects. While the dynamic parts contain the news and events, the information on the trainings organized within the project, the public deliverables, dissemination materials, and the observatory page. The dynamic content is updated on a regular basis.

Furthermore, through the website it is possible to subscribe to the newsletter, to access directly the Facebook page of the MERLIN-Expo and to contact the coordinating team of the project.

The website is directly linked to the web-based platform, where users can gather detailed information about MERLIN-Expo.

4.3 Web-based platform

From the web-based platform (<http://merlin-expo.eu>) interested persons can download the latest version of the MERLIN-Expo and all the accompanying documentation.

The future of fully integrated human exposure assessment of chemicals

[Learn how to use MERLIN-Expo](#)

[Training events scheduled for 2015](#)

MERLIN-Expo can be downloaded free of charge

[Download](#)

Integrated modelling
The MERLIN-Expo tool is based on a library of models simulating the fate of chemicals in the main environmental systems and in the human body.
[Read more](#)

Run simulations
MERLIN-Expo features powerful numerical solvers in combination with state of the art methods for uncertainty and sensitivity analysis.
[Learn more](#)



4FUN Project
MERLIN-Expo is developed within 4FUN Project funded by the EU 7th Framework Programme.
 

Figure 11 – MERLIN-Expo web-based platform.

Furthermore, video tutorials, training materials, documentation developed in WP6 can be freely downloaded. The platform facilitates and encourages collaboration and the exchange of knowledge and experience in exposure and risk assessments using the tool.

Tutorials

[Introduction to MERLIN-Expo](#)

1. General introduction to MERLIN-Expo



[Click here to open the video in a new window \(recommended\)](#)

2. Introduction to the graphical user interface of MERLIN-Expo



[Click here to open the video in a new window \(recommended\)](#)

Figure 12 – MERLIN-Expo web-based platform. Tutorials web-page.

4.4 Newsletters, press releases and webinars

CORDIS, the European Commission's Research and Development Information Service, was used to publish a number of press releases. CORDIS Wire offers visibility to externally generated information on research and innovation. The following press releases were published CORDIS Wire:


- a general press release about the project;
- a press release about the CEN Workshop for the standardisation procedure;
- a press release promoting and informing about the 4FUN Observatory;
- a press release about the Regulators' Workshop held in Paris (which was the first training event);
- a press release to promote the stakeholder workshop organised in Brussels, on 17th September;
- a press release to inform about the CEN Workshop Agreement about the standardisation process of the model documentation (see Deliverable 6.7 for further details about the CEN Workshop);
- a press release about the CEN Workshop Agreement for Standard documentation of chemical exposure models.

Furthermore, two press releases were done by ASI to advertise the CEN MERLIN-Expo workshop.

Two different newsletters were sent to all the contacts of the 4FUN stakeholder database, in order to disseminate the project and the main events organised by the consortium (Figure 13 and 14). In addition, on 10th of September 2015 EURELATIONS published on its newsletter the invitation to the stakeholder workshop held in Brussels and promotion of the training held in Barcelona.



Figure 13 – 4FUN Newsletter Issue 1.



Workshop for regulators and policy-makers on chemical exposure assessment

The new MERLIN-Expo tool represents the state-of-the-art modelling framework for chemical exposure predictions. The 4FUN consortium is proud to present a half-day workshop to demonstrate the principles and capability of the tool. The workshop is specifically aimed at regulators and regulatory specialists involved in policy-making, risk assessment and risk management. This workshop will be held in the afternoon of 17 September 2015, in Brussels.

MERLIN-Expo software is an easy-to-use tool which incorporates advanced models simulating the fate of chemicals in the environment and human body. MERLIN-Expo incorporates a thorough analysis of uncertainty and sensitivity. MERLIN-Expo is supported by CEN compliant model documentation and has been successfully tested against existing methodologies for exposure assessment.

In this workshop, you will see applications of the tool to case studies in the areas of contaminants in water, air, soil and biota systems, as well as in the human body.

The workshop will be hosted by highly regarded experts in the areas of modelling environmental fate, human exposure, pharmacokinetics and environmental risk assessment of chemicals.

To register, visit:
<http://merlin-expo.4funproject.eu/learn/training-events/>
 or send an email to: merlin-expo.events@4funresearch.eu

The deadline for registration is 10 September.

You can find the agenda at the following link:
<http://4funproject.eu/learn/training-events/show/Agenda>

This event will be held at: Vlaams-Europese verbindingsagentschap vzw near Roundpoint Schuman, Address: Kortenberglaan 71, 1000 Brussel, Belgium.

Time: 14:00 – 17:30

MERLIN-Expo was developed as part of the 4FUN project, funded by the EU 7th Framework Programme.



September 2015.

4funproject.eu

4FUN has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Programme for research, technological development and demonstration under grant agreement N° 308440.

Figure 14 – 4FUN Newsletter Issue 2.

On 10th of September 2015 a webinar was done by EDF and ENVI on the MERLIN-Expo entitled 'General introduction to MERLIN-Expo to encourage people to use the online course'. The webinar was included in the online training course done on the OpenTea platform (<http://www.opentea.eu/en/e-learning/courses-The-Future-of-Environmental-and-Human-Health-Exposure-Modelling-of-Chemicals.10/>).

5 Dissemination materials

In order to get in contact with other network and to disseminate widely the project and the MERLIN-Expo tool, several dissemination materials were produced:

- three flyers with information about the project, the training events, and the summer school held in Cremona
- a project poster with the general description of the project
- several video tutorials describing the functioning and the processes behind the different parts of the MERLIN-Expo tool
- a full package of training materials used during the training events (more info are available in Deliverable D6.5 'Training material for 4FUN Schools')
- a training course available on-line on the OpenTEA platform (details in Deliverable 6.6)
- press releases on CORDIS Wire. CORDIS, the European Commission's Research and Development Information and Newsletters
- a Quick Response Code (QR) was made for the 4FUN project to give to interested persons the possibility to gather quickly information on the project from the internet
- a project roll-up was made to briefly describe the objectives of the MERLIN-Expo tool and to disseminate the online training course
- give-away materials, such as USB, notes and pens, were made and distributed to the participants of the trainings
- a special issue/section about "human and biota exposure" will be published on the journal "Science of the Total Environment" in 2016 (submission of the manuscripts is due by January 2016). At present 11 papers are foreseen
- a book will be published, entitled "Modelling the Exposure of Humans and the Environment to Chemicals".

6 Conclusion

Promotion, knowledge transfer and communication of information can be the first step of networking, cooperation, etc.

The promotion of the project and tool was intense and fruitful. Thanks to the training events and the market analysis, it was possible to get in close contact to more than one hundred persons (Annex C). The feedback questionnaires made at the end of the trainings demonstrated that most of the participants to the 4FUN events were interested in the MERLIN-Expo tool (Deliverable 6.6) and showed interest in being kept informed.

However, it was not easy to get the involvement of other EU projects, except for Marie Curie IRSES project and GLOBAQUA.

The CEN workshop was a good way of creating a network with persons outside the consortium. The involvement of the CEN participants in writing a paper on the standardization process, that will be included in the special issue, demonstrated that a good link was created with them.

Overall many different activities were undertaken by the project partners to achieve the creation of a wide network around the MERLIN-Expo tool. They do not finish with the end of the project, especially the book and special issue will be continued until 2016 and their final publication. As partners expressed strong interest in taking the MERLIN-Expo tool forward further activities are planned incl. the follow-up on existing networks and contacts.

7 References

4FUN Deliverable D6.5: Training material for 4FUN Schools

4FUN Deliverable 6.6: 4FUN School I-IV

4FUN Deliverable 7.1: Business Plan



8 Annex A

Project	Project website	Project Coordinator	Institution	Country
ACROPOLIS	www.acropolis-eu.com	Dr Jacob van Klaveren	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)	The Netherlands
Browse	https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/browse/index.cfm	Andy Hart	The Food and Environment Research Agency (FERA)	UK
HEROIC	http://www.heroic-fp7.eu/	Martin Wilks	Universität Basel, SCAHT - Swiss Centre for Applied Human Toxicology	Switzerland
Scarce	http://www.scarceconsolider.es/	Damià Barceló	Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research Spanish Council for Scientific Research IDAEA-CSIC, Dep. Environmental Chemistry	Spain
Solutions	http://www.solutions-project.eu/	Werner Brack	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research GmbH – UFZ	Germany

Tox-Train	http://toxtrain.eu/	Peter Fantke	Technical University of Denmark Division for Quantitative Sustainability Assessment (QSA)	Denmark
ChimERA	http://cefic-lri.org/projects/lri-eco19-rug-chimera-an-integrated-modelling-tool-for-ecological-risk-assessment/	Frederik De Laender (Principal investigator)	Ghent University	Belgium
DustEX	http://cefic-lri.org/projects/lri-b12-ethz-assessing-the-relevance-of-the-dust-contribution-in-consumer-exposure-to-substances-from-consumer-products-and-articles-dustex/	Natalie von Goetz (Principal investigator)	ETH Zurich (ETHZ)	Switzerland
INTEGRA	http://cefic-lri.org/projects/lri-b11-certh-integrated-external-and-internal-exposure-modelling-platform-integra/	Dimosthenis Sarigiannis (Principal investigator)	Centre for Research and Technology Hellas (CERTH) Chemical Process and Energy Resources Institute	Greece



9 Annex B

Dear [Name Surname],

I am writing you as coordinator of the 4FUN project (www.4funproject.eu). Since you are coordinator of a project dealing with a similar topic, I thought you might be interested in the 4FUN and in what we are organising.

The 4FUN project, funded under the EU 7th Framework Programme, aims at delivering a standardised tool for human exposure assessment to chemicals, named MERLIN-Expo.

The MERLIN-Expo tool integrates on the same platform multimedia, PBPK, and dose-response models, allowing covering all the exposure assessment chain (from concentration in water, air and/or soil to internal dose to target organs and eventually pathology risks). In this way it is possible to carry out lifetime risk assessments for different human populations including exposure through multiple pathways.

The project organises a summer school, entitled “The future of environmental and human health exposure modelling of chemicals”, aimed at junior modellers, research students, post-docs and anyone in the early stages of their career. It will be run as part of the Cremona Executive Education Program (CEEP) and will incorporate a visit to the Milan Expo 2015.

The summer school is endorsed by SETAC Europe and qualifies for the SETAC Europe Certification of Environmental Risk Assessors program. More information can be found at <http://certification.setac.eu>

Please find more information about this course in the attached promotional brochure.

For additional information or for any collaboration with the 4FUN project, do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Federico Ferrari, 4FUN Project Coordinator

10 Annex C

1. Participant list of the Regulatory Workshop (Paris, March 2015).

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Hans Reynders	Beleidsmedwerker Milieu en Gezondheid
Camille Béchaux	Laser
Sandrine Fraize-Frontier	ANSES
Fabrice Elegbede	ANSES
Dominik Altmann	Umweltbundesamt, Austria
Anne-Laure Scelo	ANSES
El Hadji-Thiéma Traore	ANSES
Nelly Gourlaouen	ANSES
Alexandra Mienne	ANSES
Morgane Thierry-Mieg	ANSES
Reko Lehtilä	ECHA
Nicolas Breysse	ANSES
Liesbet Van Rooy	Flemish Agency for Care & Health
Marion Rey	ANSES
Jean-Lou Dorne	EFSA
Marie Simon-Cornu	IRSN
Sofiane MAAI	ANSES
Muriel Ismert	EDF

2. Participant list of the Scientific Workshop (Belgrade, April 2015).

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Jelena Milic	Institute of Chemistry, Technology & Metallurgy
Ivan Djurickovic	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Boris Obrovski	FTN
Jovana Djokic	University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry
Marija Arandjelovic	University of Belgrade - Faculty of Pharmacy
Mladenka Novaković	Faculty of Technical Sciences, Novi Sad
Stefan Mandic-Rajcevic	International Centre for Rural Health
Danijela Đukić- Ćosić	University of Belgrade – Faculty of Pharmacy
Ivana Stepanović	Student - Faculty of Chemistry
Marijana Curcic	University of Belgrade – Faculty of Pharmacy
Marijana Marković	Institute for Chemistry, Technology and Metallurgy

Marko Antunovic	Military Medical Academy- National Poison Control Centre
Vesna Milovanovic	Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection
Andrej Sostaric	Institute of public Health of Belgrade
Vesna Slepčević	Institute of public Health of Belgrade
Dubravka Relić	University of Belgrade - Faculty of Chemistry
Jovana Orlić	Innovation Centre of Faculty of Chemistry
Milica Dragovic	Sekretarijat of environmental protection

3. Participant list of the Short Course SETAC (Barcelona, May 2015).

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Zhongwen Bao	University of Tübingen
Agnieszka Kowalczyk	SC Johnson
Karen Silva	Universidade de Aveiro
Taeyong Shim	Korea University
Jeanne Domoradzki	Dow Corning Corporation
Katarína Bányiová	-

4. Participant list of the JRC Workshop (Ispra, May 2015).

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Nikolaos Stilianakis	JRC/IES/AIRCandLIMATE
Alicia Paini	-
Claudio Belis	JRC/IES
Marilena Muntean	JRC/IES
Alexandre Zenie	JRC/IHCP
Elisabet Berggren	JRC/IHCP
Vittorio Reina	JRC/IHCP
Laura Stecca	JRC/IHCP
Anita Radovnikovic	JRC/IHCP
Manfred Kohl	JRC/IHCP
Juan Riego Sintes	JRC/IHCP
Otmar Geiss	JRC/IHCP
Karin Ascheberger	-
Stylianios Kephelopoulos	-
Erwan Saouter	-

Michela Secchi	-
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5. Participant list of the Cremona Summer School (Cremona, July 2015).

Students

Name and Surname	Country of residence
Elena Boriani	Denmark
Lidia Ceriani	Italy
Sara Corrado	Italy
Iftiin Hassan Mohamed	Italy
Oladipo Idowu Samson	U.K.
Luca Isacco	Italy
Andreou Kostas	Cyprus
Adrien Margerit	France
Caterina Paola Milillo	Italy
Lucie Monnin	France
Nicola Montemurro	Italy
Silvia Panizzi	Italy
Artur Radomyski	Italy
Laia Sabater	Spain
Andrea Sanchini	U.K.
Giovanni Talamini	Italy
Gaia Vegezzi	Italy
Buqing Zhong	Italy

External speakers

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Emilio Benfenati	Istituto Mario Negri, Italy
Frédéric Bois	INERIS, France
Alba Brancato	EFSA, EU
Roberto Gilioli	ECHA, EU
Nicholas Roth	SCAHT, Switzerland
Andrea Saltelli	SVT, Norway

6. Participant list of the MERLIN-Expo Barcelona Workshop (Barcelona, September 2015).

7.

Name and Surname	Affiliation
Peter Saetre	SKB
Pavel Cupr	Masaryk University
Christian Prohaska	AGES
Rachel Case	Enviresearch Ltd.
Idowu Oladipo	Teeside University
Stephen Ruckman	Cambridge Environmental Assessments
Tamara Coja	AGES
Sophie Aviron-Violet	ASC Biocides
Erick nfon	Smithers Viscient

11 Annex D

Participant list of the CEN Workshop

Name and Surname	Institution
Anita Radovnikovic	JRC
Stylianos Kephelopoulos	JRC
Alicia Pains	-
Jean Lou Dorne	EFSA
Marie Simon-Cornu	IRSN
Gerhard Heinemeyer	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung
Urs Schlueter	Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
Susann Henschel	Bundesanstalt für Arbeitsschutz und Arbeitsmedizin
Wouter Fransman	TNO