

### Current Developments in Finland

– to supplement the FI information in the Tour de Table/WPMN

1. Any national regulatory developments on human health and environmental safety including recommendations or discussions related to adapting existing regulatory systems or the drafting of laws/ regulations/ guidance materials;
2. Developments related to voluntary or stewardship schemes;
3. Information on any risk assessment decisions;
4. Information on any developments related to good practice documents;
5. Research programmes or strategies designed to address human health and/ or environmental safety aspects of nanomaterials;
6. Information on any public/ stakeholder consultation.

#### **1. Any national regulatory developments on human health and environmental safety including recommendations or discussions related to adapting existing regulatory systems or the drafting of laws/ regulations/ guidance materials**

The Finnish competent authorities in chemicals administration, the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE) and the National Product Control Agency for Welfare and Health (STTV), under the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM), respectively, have intensified their networking at different organisational levels, as well as on data collection. SYKE is preparing a survey on environmental effects of nanomaterials.

SYKE and STTV chaired (November 25, 2007) the first Nordic Seminar on Nanomaterial, arranged by the Nordic Chemicals Group under the Nordic Council of Ministries. This seminar was attended by Nordic regulators and related experts. The topics included OECD work (WPMN), German experiences, OECD test guideline work, risk communication, the role of national chemical product registers (including regulatory needs), and discussions on needs of cooperation between Nordic countries. Also the regulatory relevance of the REACH legislation was discussed, and the draft conclusion was that in the current form, without further implementation guidance or additional pieces of legislative instruments, the current legislation, including the REACH regulation, may not be appropriate for nanomaterials.

Finland is actively participating in the OECD test guideline programme and the testing activities, SG3 and SG4 in the WPMN. Recently Jukka Ahtiainen (SYKE) has been appointed to chair a sectiongroup of SG4.

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health in the STM is participating in the European and Nordic discussions on establishing specific occupational limit values for nanosized substances.

## **2. Developments related to voluntary or stewardship schemes**

Various fields of technology and research in small and nanosize particles have been brought together in a national HIUKKASFOORUMI (“Particle Forum”) network, based on the 2006 “FINE” technology programme. This forum facilitates data sharing on human exposure, air purification technology, and monitoring/measurement technology, relevant to small and nano size particles. Recently efforts have been made to bring HSE authorities to participate in this network. A recent seminar “Safe Nanotechnologies” was held 1. November 2007.

A survey on nanosafety aspects and needs in Finland is on-going as part of the FinNano Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Programme. This survey covers, in addition to technology companies, several authorities and it is carried out by Gaia Consulting Oy. The first results will be published in December 2007.

## **5. Research programmes or strategies designed to address human health and/ or environmental safety aspects of nanomaterials**

National Public Health Institute (KTL) and VTT Technical Research Centre participate in the European Nanosafe 2 project. Dr. Hänninen (KTL, Env.Health) will start 2008 in section 4.1 Health at work aspects: reduction of emissions and effluents, with an aim to apply probabilistic modelling techniques in risk assessment.

At the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health a research programme on safety of engineered nanoparticles and nanotechnologies has been initiated. The resources are about 13 person years. The activity is funded by an EU-project with an acronym NANOSH with duration of 36 months and a budget of 2.4 million euros (7 partners from 5 EU-countries). Additionally, another project funded by the Academy of Finland with duration of 36 months and a budget of 782,000 euros has been initiated, also during 2006. Earlier, smaller project on the safety of engineered nanoparticles and nanotechnologies have been carried out by the Finnish Institute (New Technologies and Risks Team). The overall external funding of this activity for next four years is about 3 million euros. Additionally, an EU-application with a duration of 48 months and budget of 11,8 million euros is now being evaluated by the Commission. This last application has 26 partners from 12 EU countries plus one EEA country.

In addition to these activities, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health organizes an EURONANOSH Conference in Helsinki on December 3-5, 2007 with a predicted number of participants of about 170-200. Co-organizers of the Congress are TEKES (Finnish funding organization for technological innovations, US NIOSH, and the Italian Institute of Occupational Health, ISPESL).