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Conceptual framework for Sustainable Nanotechnologies Decision Support System (SUNDS)

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Nano-innovation can be impeded by significant knowledge and data gaps in the Environmental Health and Safety effects of Engineered Nanomaterials. The European Commission has funded a project on sustainable nanotechnology (SUN, <http://www.sun-fp7.eu/>) that aims to build tools to assess ecological and human health risks, environmental impacts, risk management measures and benefits of nano-enabled products. These tools will be integrated within an overarching decision framework and support tool for Sustainable Nanotechnology to support the selection of risk management alternatives (e.g. safety by design technological alternatives, personal protective equipment) and benefit-risk evaluation of nano-enabled products. Design of the SUN Decision Support System (SUNDS) framework is also supported by a comprehensive elicitation of user needs from the industry, regulatory and insurance sector. The framework will be implemented in a user-friendly modular software and will be tested on the SUN case studies. We present SUNDS conceptual framework and user needs with respect to SUNDS features.

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