

Consortia and SIEFs: lessons learned and how to move on

ReachCentrum shares its consortia experience in Chemical Watch

Just ahead the November registration deadline, ReachCentrum reported in Chemical Watch its three-year experience in the field of Consortia and SIEFs management, highlighting some lessons learnt and sharing some practical tips with a view to the new deadline of 2013.

Pre-consortium phase

[...] Two different models Consortium Agreement (CA), or templates, were proposed but eventually, due to the numerous inputs received from members, each CA appeared to be a different “animal” owning a specific template, with the main focus on data sharing (cost, ownership/access) and the decision making process. Indeed we found that the variety of customised CAs may, in some specific cases, have caused confusion inside companies, particularly in those which were part of different consortia.[...]

A useful solution for the future would therefore be the strict use, as far as possible, of an industry-wide CA template, mutually accepted by companies, as happened afterwards for the other model agreements.

Consortium work

[...]We sometimes experienced a mismatch between SIEF members, downstream users and consortium members. SIEF members, mainly downstream users, tended to submit all possible combinations of the use descriptors. This contribution was not always valuable for the compilers of the joint dossier. A solution could be that, first of all, the uses are mapped using the normal marketing terms to describe them, and then the market terminology is transferred into the principles of the use descriptors system.

Cost and data sharing

[...]The SIEF members did not always fully “appreciate” the work involved, questioning sometimes the administrative costs that were transparently available. And yet, cost sharing is one of the most sensitive issues of the entire process, both between consortia members and between SIEF members. [...]The difficulty was that different consortia tried to come up with good solutions for cost calculation, which immediately led to different ways of calculation. For 2013, it would be easier for consortia to communicate with a common cost sharing principle, in line with the use of a unique industry-wide developed CA template.

Enhanced communication

The need for better communication is the lesson that ReachCentrum learned during these years.

[...]Ideally, in the future we would need a consortium lead registrant or SIEF leadership team informing the SIEFs on a regular basis via surveys and documents. At the same time the SIEFs should constantly respond in a reliable way, giving specific indications of their needs. To facilitate this process, the need for a professional, trustworthy and dedicated IT platform to stimulate the communication becomes vital, especially for the 2013 deadline, when smaller companies will be involved in the registration. [...]

The entire piece is available on Chemical Watch at <http://chemicalwatch.com/5976> via on line subscription.

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