

**SIXTH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME**



**Project contract no. 043363**

**MANMADE**

**Diagnosing vulnerability, emergent phenomena and volatility in man-made networks**

**SPECIFIC TARGETED PROJECT**

*NEST PATHFINDER*

*Sub-Priority Tackling Complexity in Science*

**Work Package 1– D1.2b**

*The Forum*

*Revision [2]*

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<b>Dissemination Level</b>		
<b>PU</b>	Public	X
<b>PP</b>	Restricted to other programme participants (including the Commission Services)	
<b>RE</b>	Restricted to a group specified by the consortium (including the Commission Services)	
<b>CO</b>	Confidential, only for members of the consortium (including the Commission Services)	

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## FORUM ACTIVITY

### 1. The scope

The forum is accessible from the MANMADE web page <http://www.manmadenet.eu/> running on a server hosted by QMUL. We have chosen the *phpbb* freeware as it is widely used and currently offers a comprehensive suite of options that are expected to cover sufficiently the necessities of the project. All the transactions of the Forum are stored in a MySQL database from data compiled by the *phpbb* system. The e-traffic compiled from the database will serve as the input to the network analysis of the project transactions to be reported in deliverables D1.3-D1.5.

The MANMADE Forum is intended to work as a notice board that will allow the partners to keep in touch with all project developments. It is expected that by having a central repository of all major transactions we will eliminate the cumbersome process of compiling panoplies of e-mailing lists, which through omissions, may leave out key personnel out of the information loop.

The underlying reason for having a project forum is that by ensuring that the project's activities are made available to all, the responsibility of keeping up with the project's progress lies exclusively with each partner. In this way we hope to avoid the 'I wasn't informed' condition; thus, lack of knowledge relating to project developments will therefore boil down to either not posting a given item on the Forum or not having read the developments of the forum in a regular manner. In this way project partners have two major responsibilities:

1. Posting relevant items under the appropriate topic subject.
2. Regularly checking the Forum for developments.

As regards the first point, although it is onerous on all parties to check for posted news that have a bearing on tasks and deliverables, senders should try to accelerate the process of knowledge dissemination to other partners whenever these are directly involved in the topic at hand. It is expected that postings that are directly relevant to a given partner should be flagged by means of the 'pm' (*personal message* button available in the Forum), which will also be logged directly to the Forum database.

The Forum is not intended as the sole means of e-transaction thus it is expected that standard e-mailing will be used whenever circumstances require. However, such communications should be limited as much as possible as transactions outside the Forum will not be considered for the purposes of the social network analysis of the MANMADE project.

The advantages of having a broad readership of the project's business will, hopefully, have other positive knock-on effects.

In the first instance it opens up new channels to engage project partners in problem- solving tasks in which, although some readers may not be a main topic participant, they may have new ideas, insights or techniques that may be useful to the core task leaders.

For consistency the topic list selection will be fixed so as to avoid duplication of a topic subject by having more than one variation of the name assigned to it: for example Topic D1.1 may be erroneously referred to as D1,1, D1:1, D11 by any number of partners. If multiple name versions were assigned to a topic, the grouping of statistics by topic name would become cumbersome. In order to avoid

multiplicity we shall start from a given list of topic palette. New topics will be added to the palette after making a request to the Forum moderator.

## 2. Forum Topics

The following list provides an initial set of topics, most of which correspond to structures explicitly defined in the MANMADE technical annex.

### Forum

**MMC Manmade Management Committee**

**External Academic Advisors**

**External stakeholder Advisors**

**Gender Action Plan**

Topics relevant to generic management activities

Thus:

**Project Meetings** (plenary and other meetings between MANMADE parties relating specifically to MANMADE output).

**Other meetings** (including workshops conferences where non MANMADE parties may participate).

**Administrative issues** (relating to contractual and admin issues such as payments, project reporting etc).

**Announcement** (important information from any of the topic fields that needs to be flagged)

All **work packages** as numbered in the MANMADE Technical Annex

Thus:

**WP1**

**WP2**

**WP3**

**WP4**

**WP5**

All **deliverables** as numbered in the MANMADE Technical Annex

Thus:

**D1.1 to D1.6**

**D2.1 to D2.4**

**D3.1 to D3.4**

**D4.1 to D4.3**

**D5.1 to D5.5**

All **tasks** as numbered in the MANMADE Technical Annex

Thus:

**T1.1 to T1.6**

**T2.1 to T2.6**

**T3.1 to T3.7**

**T4.1 to T4.6**

**T5.1 to T5.7**

All **milestones** as numbered in the MANMADE Technical Annex

Thus:

**M1.1 to M1.3**

**M2.1 to M2.3**

**M3.1**

**M4.1 to M4.4**

**M5.1 to M5.4**