



AUTOSUP

Newsletter #3

January 2026

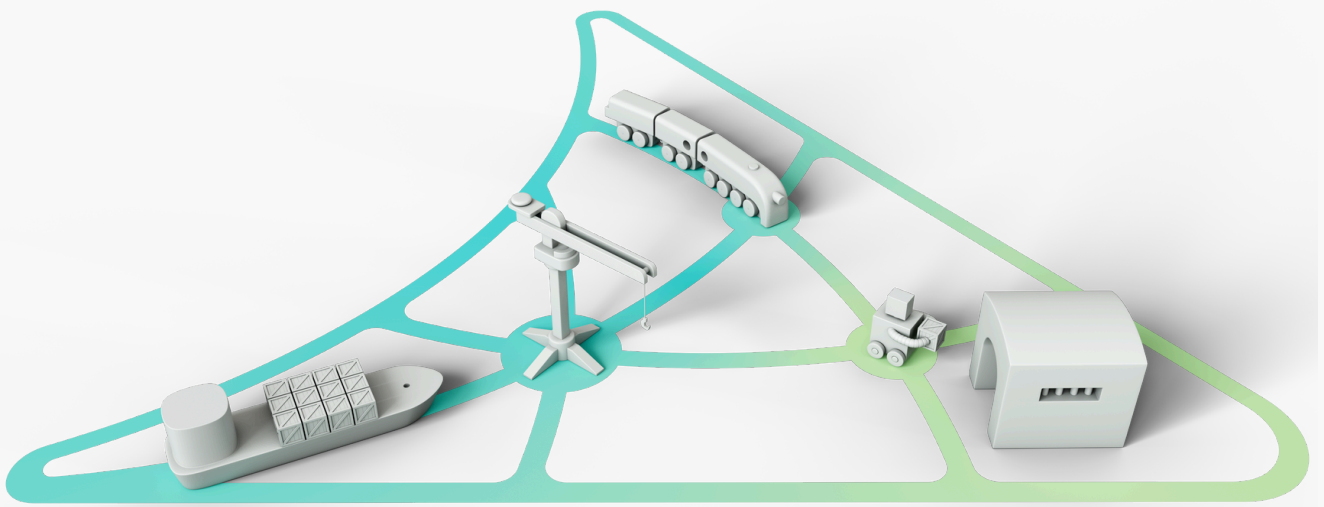


Welcome to the AUTOSUP 3rd Newsletter!

The landscape of European logistics is undergoing a profound transformation, driven by digitalisation, data, and automation. Recognising your role in shaping this change, AUTOSUP's Decision Support System (DSS) stands as a key enabler, empowering logistics decision-makers with actionable insights and thoughtful scenario planning.

In this edition, we spotlight how AUTOSUP's DSS is translating complex data into clear strategies for the Living Hubs in Antwerp-Bruges and Trieste. Discover how our platform supports real-world use cases, from automated maintenance to advanced slot management, and how stakeholders can confidently compare automation strategies for efficiency, sustainability, and investment potential.

We also share highlights from recent AUTOSUP activities, policy developments, and collaborative workshops that are shaping the future of automated logistics across Europe. Whether you're a policymaker, industry leader, or innovation enthusiast, this newsletter brings you the latest on how AUTOSUP is building the foundations for a seamless, data-driven, and automated logistics ecosystem.



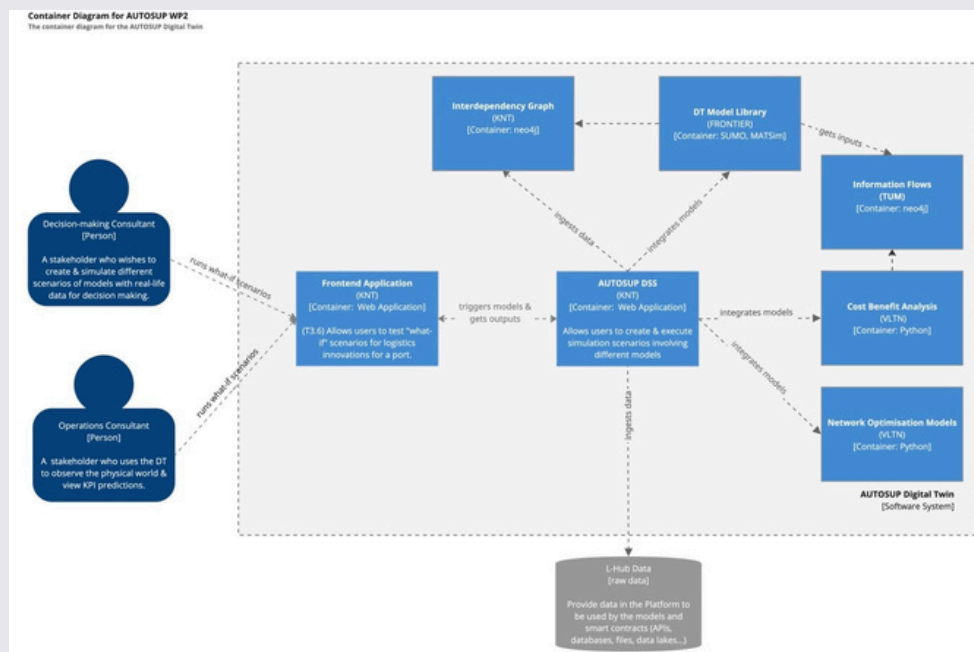
AUTOSUP Decision Support System (DSS): Empowering smart, automated logistics

The future of European logistics is digital, data-driven, and automated. At the heart of this transformation is the AUTOSUP Decision Support System (DSS), a powerful digital platform that translates complex data into actionable insights, designed to empower logistics decision makers.

The DSS is built around the real-world needs of the Living Hubs (L-Hubs) in Antwerp-Bruges and Trieste. Each L-Hub has defined specific use cases, such as automated maintenance, slot management, and the use of autonomous systems. The DSS offers configurable “what-if” scenario creation, intuitive user interaction, and robust comparison of automation strategies. To address these needs, the DSS incorporates functional requirements such as an easy-to-use interface for non-technical decision-makers, seamless scenario definition and comparison, integration with Digital Twin and Cost-Benefit Analysis models, and dynamic visualisation of results through dashboards and maps. Non-functional requirements ensure the system’s reliability, scalability, and security, mandating fast response times, concurrent simulation support, secure user authentication, and extensibility for future analyses.

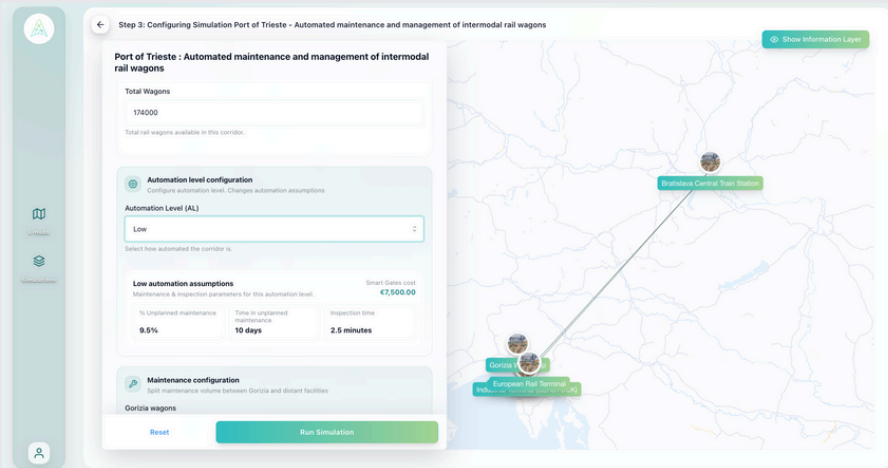
At the heart of the DSS lie several integrated technical components and services:

- Interdependency Graph: Visualises the network of logistics infrastructure and its interdependencies.
- Digital Twin (DT) Model Library: Simulates transport operations and automation scenarios.
- Information Flows: Maps and optimises data exchange processes.
- Network Optimisation Models: Streamline flows and improve scheduling.
- Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) Model: Quantifies the financial and environmental impacts of automation strategies.



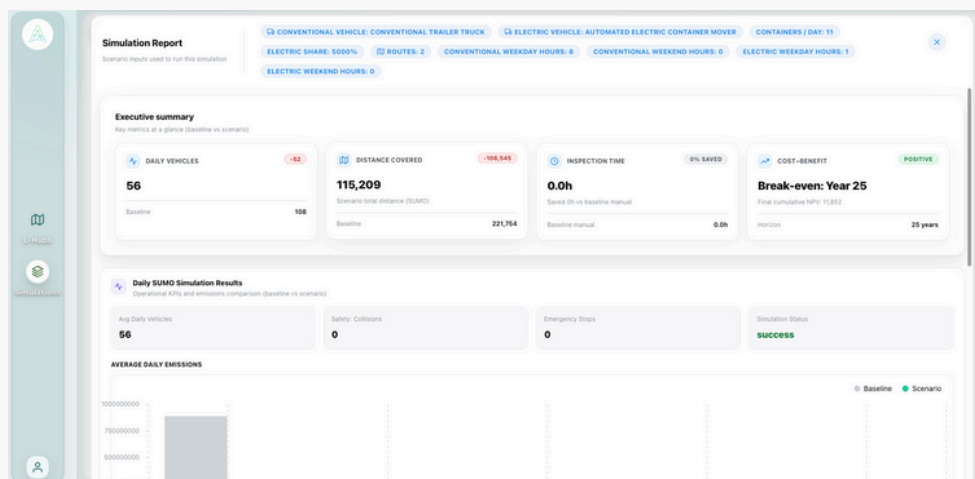
How does it work?

1. **Define a scenario:** Select a multimodal logistics hub (e.g., Antwerp-Bruges or Trieste), choose a use case, and set scenario parameters (e.g., container flows, vehicle types, or automation levels).
2. **Run simulations:** The DSS executes a sequence of models, first simulating transport operations, then evaluating costs, benefits, and environmental impacts.
3. **View results:** Outputs are visualised in interactive dashboards that display key performance indicators (KPIs), including travel time, emissions, and financial returns.
4. **Compare alternatives:** Users can compare multiple scenarios to support strategic investment and operational decisions.



Actionable outputs

The DSS provides users with clear, actionable insights that support their role in advancing sustainability and operational efficiency. After users define and execute scenarios, the DSS delivers a comprehensive set of results through interactive dashboards and map-based visualisations. These outputs include KPIs such as total and average trip duration, delays, fuel and energy consumption, greenhouse gas and pollutant emissions, and noise levels, all calculated by the integrated Digital Twin models. Additionally, the DSS presents the results of Cost-Benefit Analysis, quantifying the financial and environmental impacts of different automation strategies. Users can compare these outputs across multiple scenarios, enabling evidence-based evaluation of operational efficiency, sustainability, and investment potential. By transforming complex simulation data into clear, visual summaries, the DSS enables stakeholders to make meaningful contributions to sustainability initiatives and operational improvements.



AUTOSUP released its 1st policy brief: “Enabling seamless automation – EU Policy pathways for Multimodal Freight Collaboration”

This policy brief provides concrete recommendations for EU policymakers to foster collaboration, data sharing, and regulatory alignment across all transport modes, while also discussing potential implementation barriers and strategies to overcome them, creating the foundation for a truly seamless and automated logistics ecosystem.

Methodology

Built through a stakeholder-driven methodology, combining:

- Insights from project deliverables (automation requirements & Living Hubs in Antwerp-Bruges and Trieste)
- Two high-level workshops and webinars on collaboration, data sharing & cybersecurity
- Stakeholder interviews
- Review of EU regulations (eFTI, NIS2, General Safety Regulation, EU Ports Strategy)
- Cross-project cooperation with other EU projects such as TRANSCEND and SARIL

Key elements of the policy brief

The policy brief identifies critical regulatory gaps and proposes targeted policy directions to accelerate automation and digital collaboration in freight logistics. Here are the key findings:

Key gaps

1. Interoperability & standards: Lack of harmonised data formats and protocols.
2. Legal & liability frameworks: Unclear rules on accidents, failures, and data breaches.
3. Cybersecurity & data protection: Inconsistent certification and enforcement.
4. Workforce adaptation: Limited training/reskilling for new roles.
5. Economic & sustainability incentives: Few mechanisms to support investments aligned with decarbonisation.

Policy directions

- Harmonised EU standards for interoperability and data exchange.
- EU-wide framework for electronic transport documents.
- Clear liability and governance rules to build trust.
- Data sovereignty & secure sharing through common data spaces.
- Investment in training and capacity building.
- Stronger cybersecurity awareness & certification schemes.
- Ports as integrated multimodal hubs adopting EU-wide standards.

The way forward

Europe must move from fragmented initiatives to coherent, cross-sector frameworks. Harmonised standards, legal clarity, and secure data governance will enable certainty for investment, while training and incentives ensure that automation benefits industry, workers, and society.

Read the full policy brief [here](#).



The Cost-Benefit Analysis Framework: A structured approach to evaluating automation

Deliverable D3.2, “Cost-Benefit Analysis,” led by VLTN, provides a robust framework for evaluating the financial, operational, and environmental impacts of automation-driven technologies in multimodal freight hubs and transport legs.

Why this matters

As supply chains become more complex and sustainability targets more ambitious, automation is emerging as a key enabler for efficiency, resilience, and greener logistics. D3.2 delivers a comprehensive methodology to assess whether investments in automation are not only technologically sound but also economically and environmentally viable.

What was analysed?

The analysis focused on six real-world Use Cases in the Living Hubs of Trieste and Antwerp-Bruges, covering:

- Automated maintenance and management of intermodal rail wagons
- Automated management of multimodal slots and last-mile routes
- Automated cross-border Roll-on/Roll-off (Ro-Ro) transshipment
- Cargo Hubs and night-time freight operations
- Port-shipping collaboration towards increased modal shift
- Automated Shunting between terminal operations and MagRail feasibility for last-mile rail automation

Key Elements of the Framework

Incremental Logic Model: The analysis compares the current “AS-IS” scenario with the projected “TO-BE” scenario based on automation-driver technologies. This isolates the added value generated by AUTOSUP interventions, such as improved operational efficiency, reduced costs, and sustainability gains.

Standardised Economic Appraisal: All future cash flows are evaluated using an annual discount rate of 4%, in line with the European Commission’s standards. The assessment of impacts spans 25 years, representing the expected economic lifetime of the relevant assets. To ensure the robustness of the project evaluation and to identify potential risks, a sensitivity analysis is performed.

Modular Components: The framework is structured into distinct modules:

- **Cost Module:** Captures all investment (CAPEX) and operational (OPEX) costs, including technology, infrastructure, labour, training and maintenance.
- **Benefit Module:** Quantifies direct financial savings, productivity gains, and new revenue streams, as well as strategic and qualitative benefits (including the economic analysis and quantifications by Net Present Value and ROI)
- **Environmental Module:** Calculates reductions in CO₂ emissions, air pollution, and other externalities, monetised using EU reference values.
- **Sensitivity & Risk Module:** Applies uniform sensitivity tests to highlight which variables most affect project outcomes and automation models’ sustainability.

Integration with the Decision Support System

The CBA model is designed for integration into AUTOSUP’s DSS, enabling partners and stakeholders to run scenario-based assessments and “what-if” analyses for automation investments.

After conducting CBA for the six real-world Use Cases, the methodology was generalised and embedded within the AUTOSUP DSS, allowing the replication of CBA logic across hubs and supporting “what-if” analyses.

This integration lays the foundation for DSS-enabled experimentation environments and contributes to advancing TRL 5 decision-support tools.



ALICE Automation in Logistics: Engage with AUTOSUP to shape the roadmap



AUTOSUP is connected to ALICE's Automation in Logistics thematic group and serves as a key source of evidence and operational insights. The collaboration is mutually beneficial: AUTOSUP provides Living Hub-driven use cases, requirements, and decision support system (DSS)-based learning, while ALICE engages a broader pool of experts and peer projects to challenge assumptions, benchmark approaches, and enhance the adoption of innovations.

For AUTOSUP, this partnership strengthens the project roadmap by helping to prioritise the most relevant automation building blocks, identify gaps, and assess the replicability needs beyond the Living Hubs. It also uncovers opportunities and weaknesses related to governance choices, particularly regarding trusted data-sharing models, whether or not an "offline trustee" is involved.

Stakeholders are invited to participate and subscribe to stay engaged: contribute use cases, access cross-project expertise, and help guide the development of scalable, interoperable, and trustworthy automation for multimodal logistics hubs and corridors.



News and events

PREMIER PARTNER THE PORT OF THE FUTURE - AUTONOMOUS SUMMIT AT THE PORT OF ANTWERP-BRUGES

On September 16th, the Port of Antwerp-Bruges brought together 350+ industry leaders and policymakers for a truly inspiring showcase of 20+ groundbreaking live demonstrations of autonomous technology across air, sea, and land.

Highlight of the day? The first fully autonomous truck on public roads in Belgium successfully navigated the port's roads in real time: a milestone proving that the autonomous future is no longer a concept, but a reality in motion.



Unlike a traditional conference filled with back-to-back presentations, this summit brought autonomy to life by showcasing autonomous systems in real-world operations, allowing participants to experience the technology firsthand. The AUTOSUP project was proud to join forces with **ALICE (Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe)**, **PAVE Europe**, and the **MODI Project** to co-host an interactive World Café workshop on the future of autonomous logistics. Together, we explored how collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing can accelerate the safe and sustainable adoption of autonomous technologies.

AUTOSUP TEAM PRESENT AT THE ETC 2025 CONFERENCE IN ANTWERP



Together with our twin project AutoMoTIF, we showcased our shared vision for the future of automated and multimodal logistics in September 2025.

Our project coordinator, **Ilias Gkotsis from Inlecom Innovation**, also took the stage to present the AUTOSUP project to the audience, sharing how we aim to set common standards and foster collaboration for safe, trustworthy automated freight transport across Europe.

AUTOSUP WAS PRESENT AT THE ANTWERP XL FAIR

Our partner, the Port of Antwerp-Bruges, hosted an engaging WISTA workshop on autonomous mobility in October 2025, where AUTOSUP was showcased, highlighting our ongoing efforts to shape the future of safe, efficient, and sustainable autonomous logistics.

Antwerp XL, under the theme “Shape Tomorrow’s Logistics Today”, is the premier event for the breakbulk, project cargo, and heavy-lift industry. It offers unparalleled opportunities to connect with decision-makers, showcase cutting-edge solutions, and explore the latest innovations driving logistics forward.



Participating in this event at a leading logistics hub demonstrates AUTOSUP’s dedication to collaboration, innovation, and the advancement of standards for autonomous transport systems.



AUTOSUP AT THE ALICE LOGISTICS INNOVATION SUMMIT 2025 @ BRUSSELS

On 23-24 October 2025, AUTOSUP participated in [the ALICE Logistics Innovation Summit 2025 in Brussels](#), presenting our vision for safe, interoperable, and trustworthy automated logistics systems.

At the exhibition, the AUTOSUP booth offered an excellent opportunity to exchange insights, engage with stakeholders, and discuss the future of automated logistics across Europe.



Contributions to the Conference Programme

During the event, the AUTOSUP project was featured prominently on stage:

- Project overview and progress: Dirk Staelens from VIL (Flanders Innovation Cluster for Logistics) presented the objectives and ongoing work of AUTOSUP, highlighting the project's role in the automation of multimodal supply chains.
- Panel: *"From data to decisions: AI and Digital Twins in the Physical Internet era"*, AUTOSUP project coordinator Ioanna Fergadiotou (INLECOM) emphasised the importance of collaboration between European R&I projects to accelerate innovation and ensure interoperability across digital and physical systems.
- Panel: *"The rise of automation in logistics"*, Karen Van Brussel from the Port of Antwerp-Bruges shared practical insights into real-world automation initiatives, demonstrating how ports and logistics hubs are advancing toward smarter, more connected operations.



Strengthening Cross-Project Collaboration

AUTOSUP was also pleased to support the launch of ALICE's new Automation Community, a cross-project initiative aimed at fostering collaboration and knowledge exchange among European research and innovation projects working on logistics automation. This aligns closely with AUTOSUP's ambition to build shared frameworks and accelerate Europe's transition to automated, multimodal freight systems.

AUTOSUP AT THE PAVE EUROPE CONFERENCE 2025

On 20 November, AUTOSUP participated as an exhibitor at [the PAVE Europe Conference 2025](#). An event that gathered leading experts, policymakers, and industry stakeholders shaping the future of autonomous mobility in Europe. The conference created a valuable platform for discussing how Europe can move toward a safe, efficient, and large-scale deployment of automated systems.

Key outcomes

Co-design from the outset: A clear message throughout the event was necessary for collaborative development from the earliest stages. The successful deployment of autonomous systems relies on the coordinated involvement of industry, authorities, researchers, and citizens to ensure relevance, safety, and societal acceptance.

Transitioning from pilots to large-scale initiatives: Participants emphasised that Europe must move beyond isolated pilot projects. Achieving meaningful impact requires harmonised, cross-border, large-scale efforts to accelerate the rollout of autonomous mobility solutions.



Learning-by-doing through expanded testbed activities

The community highlighted the importance of increasing real-world testing. Testbeds play a crucial role in maturing technologies, generating operational insights, and informing policy and safety frameworks.

Parallel development of supporting frameworks

A strong consensus emerged around the need to develop and test multiple frameworks simultaneously, including:

- Harmonised legal and regulatory structures
- Insurance models and risk clarification
- Robust and sustainable business models



Advancing these elements in parallel is essential to enabling scalable, trustworthy automation.

Showcasing the AUTOSUP Decision Support System (DSS)

At the AUTOSUP booth, we presented the AUTOSUP Decision Support System (DSS), a core outcome of the project. The DSS supports decision-makers by offering:

- Evaluation of environmental, safety, and economic impacts
- Comparison of alternative deployment scenarios
- Strategic planning for large-scale automated logistics
- Clear visibility into benefits, risks, and trade-offs

By providing structured, data-driven insights, the DSS helps public and private stakeholders make informed choices that support the safe and responsible scaling of autonomous logistics across Europe.

PAVE EUROPE IN HAMBURG FOR THE MODI PROJECT EVENT!



On the 2nd of December 2025, PAVE Europe represented the AUTOSUP project at the final event of the MODI project.

Nicola Hare (PAVE Europe) moderated the closing panel on the Future of Logistics with Aria Etemad (Volkswagen Group), Fernando Liesa (ALICE, Alliance for Logistics Innovation through Collaboration in Europe (ETP LOGISTICS)), Mats Rosenquist (Volvo Group), and Hermann D. Grünfeld (Hamburg Port Authority).



The panel explored how Europe is moving from pilots to real-world deployment, why scaling matters, and what it will take to build an automated freight ecosystem that is safe, interoperable and sustainable.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUTOSUP will be present at:

- Road Transport Research (RTR) Conference 2026, 10-12 February @ Brussels, Belgium
- Transport Research Arena (TRA) 2026, 18-21 May @ Budapest, Hungary



AUTOSUPs stakeholder forum

Stakeholders are central to the AUTOSUP project. We depend on a diverse group of partners, industry experts, technology providers, policymakers, and researchers to shape the project's outcomes and promote innovation in logistics automation. As a stakeholder, your role is vital in identifying key requirements, pointing out gaps, and influencing the future development of autonomous logistics solutions.

STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES

AUTOSUP is committed to engaging stakeholders through a series of interactive activities, such as:

- Workshops and strategic consultations: Engage in interactive discussions with industry experts to enhance insights on automation technologies and address any identified gaps.
- Surveys and interviews: Participate in surveys and interviews to share your expertise, capturing diverse perspectives that ensure a thorough analysis of the requirements and challenges in automated cargo transport.
- Living lab demonstrations: Join us at key hubs such as the Port of Antwerp-Bruges and the Port of Trieste to observe and provide feedback on innovative solutions being tested in real-world environments.
- Technical working groups: Collaborate to establish technical standards, operational guidelines, and regulatory recommendations to shape the future of multimodal freight transport.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR STAKEHOLDERS?

By joining the AUTOSUP stakeholder community, you will:

- Shape the future of logistics: Influence the development of next-generation autonomous solutions that will set new benchmarks for the industry.
- Gain early access to innovations: Be the first to explore and test cutting-edge technologies that boost efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness.
- Network with industry leaders: Connect with key players in logistics, technology, and policy to exchange knowledge, build partnerships, and explore new business opportunities.

INTERESTED TO JOIN?

<https://www.autosup-project.eu/stakeholder-community/>



Project details

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Partners: 16 (+1 AE)

Project Coordinator: Inlecom

Communication & Dissemination: VIL

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