

NANoREG – A common European approach to the regulatory testing of nanomaterials

The innovative and economic potential of Manufactured Nano Materials (MNMs) is threatened by a limited understanding of the related EHS (Environmental Health and Safety) issues. While toxicity data is continuously becoming available, the relevance to regulators is often unclear or unproven. The shrinking time to market of new MNM drives the need for urgent action by regulators. NANoREG is the first FP7 project to deliver the answers needed by regulators and legislators on EHS by linking them to a scientific evaluation of data and test methods.

Based on questions and requirements supplied by regulators and legislators, NANoREG will:

- provide answers and solutions from existing data, complemented with new knowledge,
- provide a tool box of relevant instruments for risk assessment, characterisation, toxicity testing and exposure measurements of MNMs,
- develop, for the long term, new testing strategies adapted to innovation requirements,
- establish a close collaboration among authorities, industry and science leading to efficient and practically applicable risk management approaches for MNMs and products containing MNMs.

The interdisciplinary approach involving the three main stakeholders (Regulation, Industry and Science) will significantly contribute to reducing the risks from MNMs in industrial and consumer products.

NANoREG starts by analysing existing knowledge (from WPMN-, FP- and other projects). This is combined with a synthesis of the needs of the authorities and new knowledge covering the identified gaps, used to fill the validated NANoREG tool box and data base, conform with ECHA's IUCLID DB structure.

To answer regulatory questions and needs NANoREG will set up the liaisons with the regulation and legislation authorities in the NANoREG partner countries, establish and intensify the liaisons with selected industries and new enterprises, and develop liaisons to global standardisation and regulation institutions in countries like USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, and Russia.

The main objectives of NANoREG are the following:

- providing legislators with a set of tools for risk assessment and decision making instruments for the short to medium term, by gathering data and performing pilot risk assessment, including exposure monitoring and control, for a selected number of nanomaterials used in products;
- developing for the long term, new testing strategies adapted to a high number of nanomaterials where many factors can affect their environmental and health impact.

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- establishing a close collaboration among authorities and industry with regard to the knowledge required for appropriate risk management, and create the basis for common approaches, mutually acceptable datasets and risk management practices.

Facts and figures:

- The NANoREG project is funded by the EU Framework 7 Programme with € 10.000.000.
- The project started on March 1st, 2013 and runs until August 31st, 2016 (42 months).
- Kick-off Meeting with more than 130 participants May 14th – 15th, 2013, Amsterdam, Netherlands
- 59 partners from 15 countries (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom) participate in the NANoREG project.

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For more details about NANoREG please visit the official website www.nanoreg.eu

