

Workshop Report

Stakeholder Dialogue meeting European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials

30 June 2017

European Commission Berlaymont Building, Brussels

Introduction

ECHA invited the accredited stakeholders and Member States to participate in a Stakeholder Dialogue meeting, 30 June, under the umbrella of the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON). The aim of the meeting was to gather input from the invited parties regarding the future development of the EUON. A detailed agenda is found in Annex I and a list of participants as Annex II.

The first version of the European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON) was launched on 14 June 2017. Hosting the EUON is a new task for ECHA and is based on a formal delegation agreement with the European Commission. The agreement covers a time period until 2020 during which the EUON will continue to grow in both scope and depth of the content. ECHA's ambition is that EUON will offer neutral and reliable information about nanomaterials on the EU market to a wide and diverse audience. The role and support from stakeholders and member states remain crucial in achieving this goal. Only with the views from all relevant partners will the content of the EUON be unbiased and reflect the diverse viewpoints on issues relating to safety of nanomaterials on the market.

The Stakeholder Dialogue

Prior to the event a survey was launched to capture feedback on the first launch, see Annex III. Based on this, the event was an opportunity to both clarify comments received but also to steer the discussion towards common views across stakeholders.

In general, the meeting focused on capturing the views and ideas of how the observatory can be further developed by e.g. expanding the website content to cover the diverse needs of the users, distributing research results and existing data by making use of external databases and publications, as well as conducting new studies of interest to the EUON. This was done through a world café approach based on three themes;

1. Ideas for the future in terms of content

The content of the observatory needs to target many different audiences. In this session, a brainstorming regarding possible future content took place.

Participants were asked to keep in mind the following target audiences when proposing content:

- The general public/consumers
- Regulators
- Scientists

- Workers
- Industry

The discussion resulted in a number of key suggestions which are summarised below.

General suggestions

The participants raised a number of general suggestions and comments for ECHA to consider for the future development of the EUON. These include:

- Setting the correct level of ambition: several participants noted that while a significant amount of information may be available, the collection of the information, its validation, and curation are enormous tasks. The size of the task is further compounded by the number of different audiences being targeted. Some participants cautioned that the cost of achieving this ambition may be prohibitive. Several participants suggested focusing on a particular audience and/or sources of information.
- Setting up a body for collecting data: participants suggested setting up a body responsible for collecting the data/information needed for the EUON. Such a body could have two functions: 1) to liaise with different stakeholders/organisations in order to encourage the stakeholders to submit their data, and 2) to provide a system for controlling the quality of the information/data that is disseminated through the observatory.

Suggested content/databases

The participants suggested that the EUON should consider the following sources of information:

- Compendiums of nanomaterial related research projects:
 - o At least one member state has a compendium of research projects funded by that member state (e.g. Research Fish organised by the UK research Council). Other member states may have similar schemes
- DaNa
- SRI business intelligence tracker

In addition, it was suggested that the EUON consider making arrangements with conferences/conference organisers on nanomaterials to supply key summaries of conference output relating to nanomaterials to the EUON.

Suggested features for the EUON

The participants suggested the following features for future launches of the EUON:

- Lifecycle based entry points: the general approach to substances structures the information in a substance centered approach, whereby information is found based on the substance in question. It was suggested to have different entry points for different parts of the lifecycle: substance, workers/manufacture, products/consumer, end of lifecycle/waste. This would allow the different audiences to select the area of most interest to them.
- The participants discussed whether it would be feasible to collect information on individual products and link these to the nanomaterials they contain, but this was seen as a difficult if not impossible target. Instead, it was suggested that the EUON should focus on product categories, instead of attempting to construct a product database. Examples could be provided of individual nanomaterials within the category, and an explanation of the function of

- nanomaterials within a particular product category.
- More exhaustive information on legislation, including national legislation, was considered as necessary.

Suggested studies

The participants suggested a number of potential topics for future external studies on nanomaterials. These include:

- The regulation of nanomaterials in the workplace: how is occupational health and safety implemented for nanomaterials in different member states? The outcome of this could be a handbook/guideline.
- How is the output of different research projects can be further used.

2. *Promotion, multipliers and connection to other platforms*

ECHA has developed a number of key messages to describe the goals and objective of the EUON. The group were asked to reflect on these as well as who could act as multipliers for EUON.

- Nanomaterials have specific properties that make them useful but also in some cases these might make them hazardous for human health and the environment
- Nanomaterials are regulated by the same regulation as any other chemical
- Nanomaterials are like other substances, some are hazardous, some not, and their risks and hazards have to be assessed case by case
- There is currently a lack of information about potential hazards for many often used nanomaterials which prevents risk assessment

The discussion with the participants, of which the majority represented industry, resulted in several useful ideas and feedback on the key messages as listed below.

Reaching out to the audiences

- More visual content targeted at the general public
- Tailor and divide the content for different audiences
- Use multipliers such as: National authorities, SAICM, UNITAR, IOMC, OECD, WHO, ICCA, UNEP, FMO, scientific societies
- Engage consumer organisations
- Promote in communication networks
- Search Engine Optimization
- Initiate awards in nanotechnology
- External contributions with content but validation is needed

Feedback on key messages

- The messages lack the environmental, societal and economic benefits and potential of nanomaterials
- New proposed message: "There are no specific hazards for nanos"
- New proposed message: "There is a lack of hazard information for regulatory purposes"
- New proposed message: "Risk assessment is possible for majority of nanos"

- The message on safety is confusing; ECHA should instead give a clear statement whether nanos are safe or not

General comments on the content

- The ethical aspect is missing
- ECHA is being honest which is good – good to be truthful
- More positive approach towards nanomaterials in general

3. Identification of success factors three years from now

Success can be measured in different ways. This includes quantitative measurements of success (e.g. number of studies or substances present, number of hits on the EUON website), as well as qualitative indicators. The participants were requested to provide suggestions for both quantitative and qualitative measures of success.

- Any common denominators?
- Can those "successes" be defined in concrete terms?
- Would the success factors be different for different audiences?
- Any common denominators?
- Is there an agreement on the most important ones?

Several useful points in relation to success factors were raised in the discussion such as:

Quantitative success factors

1. Traffic on the website
2. Number of references made in media including social media
3. Yearly surveys on user satisfaction
4. Number of active partnership with stakeholders

Qualitative success factors

1. Recognition as neutral, unbiased, reliable reference site at global level
2. Aiding regulators in their work (risk management) by providing relevant information
3. Creating market trust
4. Acting as a natural focal point for discussion concerning nanomaterials in a broad sense

Potential risks

1. Too much information may risk clouding what is "important/relevant"
 - a. A need for quality control (peer review) and to carefully distil existing information
 - b. Harmonisation of reporting on data is needed
2. Becoming a political tool by external partners
3. Breaking the lack of interest among consumers (competition with google)
4. Social media is useful but has also lack of control in terms of criticisms
5. Not being able to create the needed partnerships with, in particular, green NGOs, consumer organisations and unions may risk;
 - a. Lack of important view point threatening EUON being unbiased
 - b. Failing to "get it out there", lack of use
 - c. Risking duplicating work already done
6. Management of expectations vs limitation in resources

Concluding remarks

Gratitude was expressed to the participants for their contribution to the discussions. The outcome of the world café will be used in the internal preparation for the second launch of the EUON which is scheduled for June 2018. It will offer pointers for developing of content but also important surrounding aspects such as consideration of the success factors.

ECHA will continue hosting stakeholder dialogue where the next event will be prior to the second launch. A report from the workshop will also be distributed after the event to all the participants.

**Stakeholder Dialogue
European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials EUON**

30 June 2017

European Commission Berlaymont Building,
Meeting room Jean Rey, Brussels

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Presenter
9.30	Welcome (10 min)	Jukka Malm (ECHA)
9.40	EUON – 1st Launch (20 min) <i>Presentation of content in the first release – a walk through</i>	Jenny Holmqvist (ECHA)
10.00	Next Step 2nd and 3rd launch (10 min)	Abdel Sumrein (ECHA)
10.10	Coffee Break (30 min)	
10.40	Introduction to World Café (10 min)	Jakob Aahauge (ECHA)
10.50 – 12.30	World Café <i><u>Discussion around 3 themes:</u></i> <i>1. Ideas for the future in terms of content</i> <i>2. Promotion, multipliers and connection to other platforms</i> <i>3. Identification of success factors three years from now</i>	
12.30	Summary (30 min)	World Café moderators Jukka Malm (ECHA)
13.00	Concluding remarks	Jukka Malm (ECHA)

Stakeholder Dialogue
European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials EUON

30 June 2017

European Commission Berlaymont Building,
Meeting room Jean Rey, Brussels

LIST OF REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS

NAME	LAST NAME	ORGANISATION/COMPANY	COUNTRY
Jean-Paul	Heine	ACEA	Belgium
Barbara	Cooreman	ASD Europe	Belgium
Carolin	Kranz	BASF SE	Germany
Sandra	Wagener	Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung	Germany
Magdalena	Frydrych	Bureau for Chemical Substances	Poland
Blanca	Serrano Ramon	Cefic	Belgium
Penny	Carmichael	Defra	United Kingdom
Petros	Marampoutis	ECGA	Belgium
Jakob	Aahauge	ECHA	Finland
Jenny	Holmqvist	ECHA	Finland
Jukka	Malm	ECHA	Finland
Abdelqader	Sumrein	ECHA	Finland
Daniela	Morghenti	EFA	Belgium
Ina	Hoefgen-Mueller	EFFCI (Merck KGaA)	Germany
Tine	Cattoor	essenscia	Belgium
Silvia	Freni Sterrantino	EuPC	Belgium
Dunja	Drmac	Euratex	Belgium
Katinka	Clausdatter Worsøe	EuroCommerce	Denmark
Peter	Baricic	European Commission	Belgium
Hugues	Crutzen	European Commission - Joint Research Centre	Italy
Mateo	Gallego	European Commission	Belgium
Marilena	Lungu	European Commission	Belgium
Federico	Musso	European Commission / DG GROW	Belgium
Erica	Poot	European Commission / DG Research & Innovation	Belgium
Maila	Puolamaa	European Commission / DG GROW	Belgium
Shane	Harte	European Semiconductor Industry Association (EECA)	Belgium
Alain	D'haese	FEA - European Aerosol Federation	Belgium
Divina	Gomez	FEICA	Belgium
Kathrin	Schwirn	German Environment Agency	Germany
Majella	Cosgrave	Health and Safety Authority	Ireland
Christine	Spirlet	International zinc association	Belgium
Jacqueline	Allan	JIIP - Joint Institute for Innovation Policy	Belgium

Jean-Louis	Gerstenmayer	Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances	France
Claire	Skentelbery	Nanotechnology Industries Association	Belgium
Mar	Gonzalez	OECD	France
Maria Chiara	Detragiache	Orgalime	Belgium
Jodie	Melbourne	PETA International Science Consortium Ltd.	United Kingdom
Christian	Ardhe	Sveriges Byggindustrier (BI)	Sweden
Christian	Liesegang	UBA	Germany
Franz	Brudl	UEAPME	Belgium
Marie	Zimmer	UIC	France