

International activities

The global debate on the safety of nanomaterials takes place in many international fora: the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the United Nations (UN) all contribute to the development of knowledge on nanomaterials.

> euon.echa.europa.eu/international-activities

EUON is the one-stop shop for information on nanomaterials, presented in an easily understandable way. Its goal is to increase the transparency of nanomaterials on the EU market by ensuring that all perspectives are taken into account. EUON is hosted and maintained by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA).

Research & innovation

Scientists and regulators want to understand how nanomaterials can affect our health and the environment, and whether the current ways of assessing the safety of chemicals apply to nanomaterials. The EU has funded many research projects aimed at unlocking the promise of nanomaterials and making sure they are safe for people and the environment.

> euon.echa.europa.eu/research-innovation



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EUON

EUROPEAN UNION
OBSERVATORY
FOR NANOMATERIALS



European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials

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Nanomaterials are particles that are so small that we can only see them using a microscope. And they are everywhere. They are present in nature and increasingly in our daily lives through consumer products. Because they are small, they sometimes behave differently compared to the same substance in bigger size. This may also influence their potential risks.

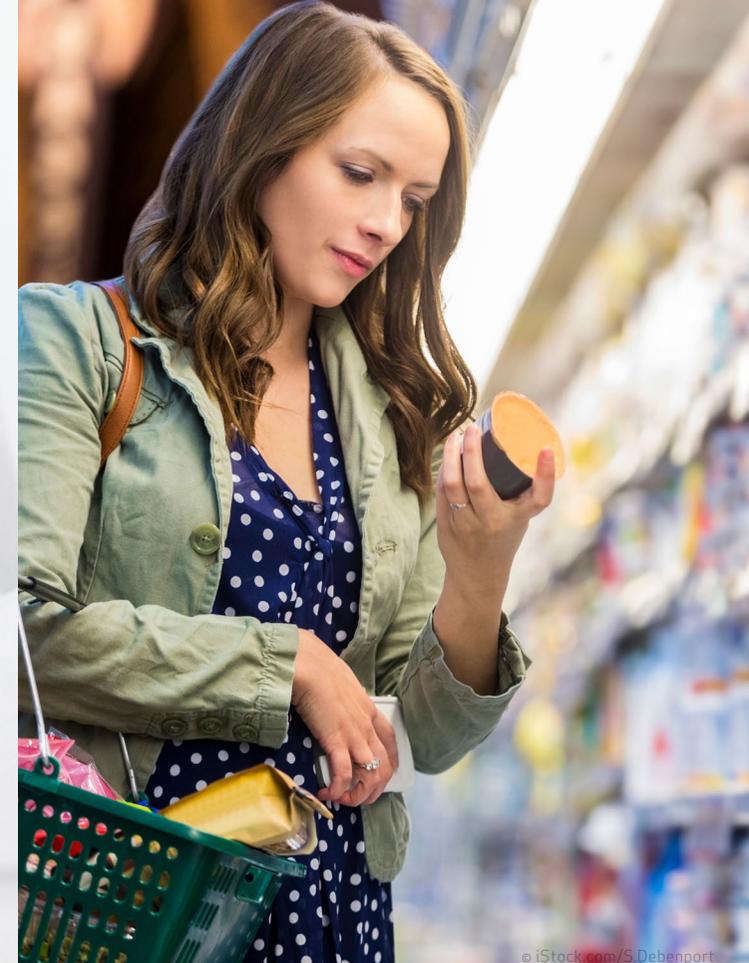
EUON gives reliable, transparent and user-friendly information on the safety and use of nanomaterials in the EU. It is aimed at workers, consumers, researchers, regulators – anyone with an interest in nanomaterials.



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Regulation

In the EU, nanomaterials belong to the rigorous regulatory framework that ensures the safe use of chemicals – the REACH and CLP regulations. The hazardous properties of nanomaterials have to be assessed and their safe use needs to be ensured. Sector-specific legislation such as food, biocides and cosmetics legislation also covers nanomaterials.

> euon.echa.europa.eu/regulation

Safety

Are nanomaterials more harmful than other substances? Some are and some are not. Just like any other chemical substance, nanomaterials have to be assessed separately. Although scientists have gained a lot of experience in assessing the safety and toxicity of chemicals in general, nanomaterials continue to pose additional technical and scientific challenges and questions.

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Uses

Nanomaterials are used in almost all industrial sectors and product categories from cosmetics and medicines to industrial chemicals. Because of their widespread use, consumers, workers, and the environment may be exposed to them in many different ways.

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