

NORWAY

Highlight of developments since the 2nd meeting of the WPMN

- The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority has initiated literature review on fate, mobility and ecotoxicity of manufactured nanoparticles.
- Bioforsk has established a national network for health, environment and ethics aspects of nanotechnology.
- A network between authorities responsible for regulating production and uses of nanomaterials has been established.

Work completed, underway or planned

1. Any national regulatory developments on human health and environmental safety including recommendations or discussions related to adapting existing regulatory systems or the drafting of laws/ regulations/ guidance materials;

As a member of the European Economical Areas (EEA), Norway follows the regulation in EU.

2. Developments related to voluntary or stewardship schemes;

For the time being there are no voluntary or stewardship schemes.

3. Information on any risk assessment decisions;

No risk assessments on specific nanomaterials have been conducted in Norway.

4. Information on any developments related to good practice documents;

Documents related to good practice have not been developed in Norway.

5. Research programmes or strategies designed to address human health and/ or environmental safety aspects of nanomaterials;

The Research Council of Norway has since 2002 had a research program called NANOMAT, for nanotechnologies and new materials, which also support research on health and environmental effects. The Council published in 2005 a report where questions related to human health, environmental safety, ethics and social aspects on nanotechnologies and new materials are discussed. A national strategy for nanoscience and nanotechnology was adopted by the Council in autumn 2006 and forward to the Minister of Education and Research.

With support from The Norwegian Research Council, Bioforsk Soil and Environment has established a national network for health, environment and ethic aspects of nanotechnology. The aims of the network are among other things, to define research needs and exchange ideas on research projects both nationally and internationally and to communicate contact between scientists and trade and industry in relation to any need for health, environmental and ethical assessments.

The Norwegian Pollution Control Authority has initiated a literature review on fate, mobility and ecotoxicity of manufactured nanoparticles. The report should be finished at the end of 2007.

6. Information on any public/ stakeholder consultation.

The report from the Research Council of Norway has been presented on an open meeting. The work on the national strategy has also been an open process and a draft strategy was put out for public hearing.

Additional information:

For exchange of information on ongoing activities and possible coordination of work a network group has been established between different authorities responsible for the regulation of production and use of nanomaterials