# Proposed questionnaire for the “Study on (bio)degradation, persistence and safe by design for nanomaterials”

Dear Participant,

We are conducting a survey on the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and organic coatings on behalf of the EU Observatory for Nanomaterials (EUON) and the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). You can see here the letter for endorsement from EUON/ECHA. The aim is to improve the transparency of information on the safety and markets of nanomaterials.

The key aim of this study is to address the degradation of nanomaterials (including biodegradation where relevant, for either organic nanomaterials or organic coatings on nanomaterials). In addition, the study aims at examining what tools are available for the assessment of (bio)degradation, and how these can be used in different regulatory processes.

Therefore, we are sharing this questionnaire, which should not take more than 15 minutes to complete, to help us gather the necessary information. We would appreciate your participation in our study. Following participation, if you wish, you can gain early access to the report that we will compile with EUON/ECHA. In any case, any information shared with us will be treated, if desired, as confidential and will not be published.

If you don’t wish to fill in the questionnaire and would prefer a live interview, we would be happy to arrange this with you. Please mail us at XXX@novamechanics.com

Thank you very much in advance for your time and participation.

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## Section 1 Personal information

* Name:
* Organisation
* Position:
* Email:
* Phone number:

## Section 2 (Bio)degradation definition

1. Are you currently studying or have studied the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials? Yes/No
   1. If yes, what is the type of nanomaterials that you worked with?
2. How would you define nanomaterials degradation?
   1. Does this definition fit the degradation of organic coatings?
   2. If no, how would you define it for organic coatings?
3. How would you define nanomaterials biodegradation?
   1. Does this definition fit the biodegradation of organic coatings?
   2. If no, how would you define it for organic coatings?
4. Do you believe that a common definition for nanomaterials (bio)degradation is possible?
   1. If yes, what would be a possible definition?
   2. If no, which nanomaterials could be possibly grouped together under a common definition?
5. Should any provided information be treated as confidential? Yes/No
   1. If yes, please tell us which.

## Section 3 (Bio)degradation strategies and techniques

1. Are you aware of specific approaches/strategies used for the study of (bio)degradation for nanomaterials?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
2. Are you aware of specific approaches/strategies used for the study of (bio)degradation for organic coatings?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
3. Are you aware of specific techniques used to monitor the (bio)degradation for nanomaterials?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
4. Are you aware of specific techniques used to monitor the (bio)degradation for organic coatings?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
5. In your opinion, can strategies and/or techniques used for the study/monitoring of traditional/bulk chemicals used for the study of (bio)degradation of nanomaterials? (yes, no, with modifications)
   1. What modifications would be needed to be able to use such techniques for the study of nanomaterials (bio)degradation?
6. In your opinion, can strategies and/or techniques used for the study/monitoring of traditional/bulk chemicals used for the study of (bio)degradation of organic coatings? (yes, no, with modifications)
   1. What modifications would be needed to be able to use such techniques for the study of nanomaterials (bio)degradation?
7. Should any provided information be treated as confidential? Yes/No
   1. If yes, please tell us which.

## Section 4 (Bio)degradation and regulation

1. Are you aware of standardised techniques and/or approaches existing for the study of (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
2. Are you aware of techniques and/or approaches existing for the study of (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings that are accepted in a regulatory context?
   1. If yes, which are these techniques?
3. Which existing standardised techniques and/or approaches can be used for the study of (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings?
   1. What modifications, if any, would be required?
4. Which existing regulatory guidelines can be used for the study of (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings?
   1. What modifications, if any, would be required?
5. Are you aware of any ongoing actions for the development of standardised techniques and/or strategies for the study of the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings?
   1. If yes, can you please tell us more?
6. Should any provided information be treated as confidential? Yes/No
   1. If yes, please tell us which.

## Section 5 (Bio)degradation gaps and future steps

1. Which do you think are the current gaps for the study of nanomaterials (bio)degradation?
2. Which do you think are the current gaps for the study of (bio)degradation of organic coatings?
3. Where do you think research should focus?
4. Do you think that public funding is required for the study of (bio)degradation and/or organic coatings?
5. Should any provided information be treated as confidential?
   1. If yes, please tell us which.
6. Would you be interested to participate in a focus group regarding the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings? Yes/No
   1. If yes, can we contact you to discuss further?
7. Would you be interested to give us a personal perspective regarding the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and/or organic coatings? Yes/No
   1. If yes, can we contact you to discuss further?