# 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.

Another key aim of the study is to examine the current state of the art for safe by design (SbD) of nanomaterials, as it relates to the degradation and persistence of nanomaterials. We aim to examine how SbD of nanomaterials considers the (bio)degradation of nanomaterials and provide recommendations to adapt existing SbD principles to consider the knowledge collected from literature on (bio)degradation of nanomaterials to reduce their persistence in the environment.

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 In any case, any information shared with us will be treated, if desired, as confidential and will not be published.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 SbD definition

1. Are you currently studying or have studied the SbD of nanomaterials? Yes/No
   1. If yes, what is the type of nanomaterials that you worked with?
2. How would you define SbD for nanomaterials?
3. Do you believe that a common definition for nanomaterials SbD 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?
4. Do you think that the SbD of nanomaterials exists?
   1. Examples?
5. Do you think that SbD of nanomaterials is being implemented in nanomaterials production?
   1. Examples?
6. Should any provided information be treated as confidential? Yes/No
   1. If yes, please tell us which.

## Section 3 SbD strategies and techniques

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

## Section 4 SbD and regulation

1. Are you aware of standardised techniques and/or approaches existing for the SbD of nanomaterials?
2. Are you aware of techniques and/or approaches existing for the SbD of nanomaterials that are accepted in a regulatory context?
3. Which existing standardised techniques and/or approaches can be used for the SbD of nanomaterials?
   1. What modifications, if any, would be required?
4. Which existing regulatory guidelines can be used for the SbD of nanomaterials?
   1. What modifications, if any, would be required?
5. Will the use of modified strategies for the SbD of NMs lead to the need for their re-evaluation under a regulatory context? (Yes, No, Partly)
6. Are you aware of any ongoing actions for the development of standardised techniques and/or strategies for the SbD of nanomaterials?
   1. If yes, can you please tell us more?
7. Should any provided information be treated as confidential? Yes/No
   1. If yes, please tell us which.

## Section 5 SbD gaps and future steps

1. Which do you think are the current gaps for the SbD of nanomaterials?
2. Which are the emerging strategies for the SbD of nanomaterials?
3. Where do you think research should focus?
4. Do you think that public funding is required for the SbD of nanomaterials?
5. Should SbD be part of regulatory requirements?
6. Can public communication of SbD strategies help with the societal acceptance of NMs-containing products?
7. Should any provided information be treated as confidential?
   1. If yes, please tell us which.
8. 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?
9. 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?