

What do stakeholders say about Nanotechnology?

Quotations from consultations

*Christina Benighaus (DIALOGIK), Andrea Porcari and Elisabetta Borsella (Airi)

*corresponding authors mail: cbenighaus@dialogik-expert.de

General idea

Nearly all technologies and applications - new and established - are perceived and seen differently by stakeholders, particularly when looking at risks and dangers. In order to shed some light on what stakeholders in Europe think about Nano-related products and Nanomaterials, what they feel, and what they would like to know, the caLIBRAte partners examined the attitudes of stakeholder from Industry and Research, and from Politicians and the General Public.

In this poster, original citations from stakeholders show some of the ideas, and give an impression of what people perceive when looking at the risks and dangers with Nano-related products and Nanomaterials .

Quotations

"Well I hope that nanotechnology can help make every day a little more comfortable for us all and maybe also even healthier, who knows."

"I don't know much about nano, but I am very concerned about the health consequences and the environmental impact ..."

PUBLIC RESPONDENTS SAY

"We should have learned from the "Late lessons from early warnings", that impacts on health and the environment should consider the whole life cycle of substances."

"Technical data and information are not transparent and understandable enough for end-users."

"Potential risks of the innovation must always be balanced against the risk of not realizing an innovation."

INDUSTRY SAYS

"Risk assessment shouldn't block research."

"Nanotechnology governance should not only consider the safety of the materials to human health and the environment, but also maintain the innovation of nanotechnology. The benefits and costs between safety and applications should be balanced well."

RESEARCHERS SAY

"The test guidelines for generating physical/chemical and hazard data applied for regulatory purposes are not adapted for NMs, thus the outcome of such tests is not easily translated into regulatory actions."

"In B2B (business to business) transactions: missing regulations and missing clarity about responsibility. In B2C (business to consumer) interactions: lack of unbiased information; lack of public dialogue about benefits and risks including a clear indication about the risk-benefit-ratio in the communication to the broad public."

POLITICIANS SAY

"The principle of REACH seems to be enough, but in many previous cases the reality has shown that that's not the case. It's quite difficult to be sure that what we know now is enough, and that there will be no surprises..."

"I think the most important factors contributing to uncertainty are the lack of research on possible adverse health effects from NMs, still a lot of doubts, nothing seems to be definite."

"Nowadays there is a lot of information related to NMs, but it is not complete, and in many cases contradictory."