



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Directorate F – Health and Food

**Technologies for Health**

DIRECTORATE GENERAL HEALTH AND FOOD SAFETY

Directorate E – Food and feed safety, innovation

**Food processing technologies and novel food**

ISPRA, BRUSSELS,

JRC.F2/JB

SANTE.DDG2.E2/TD

**Subject: Appreciation for the collaboration with member state competent authorities and laboratories in the area of nanomaterials in food.**

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Directorate General Health and Food Safety (SANTE) of the European Commission would like to express to you their gratitude for the continuous support and consolidated collaboration in the field of nanomaterials in food. The analysis of nanomaterials in food is known to be of high complexity, and well characterized and validated methods are scarce; however official control laboratories need such methods for the execution of their duties.

The development and validation of analytical methods for the analysis of (engineered) nanomaterials in food is very demanding in terms of expertise and resources. Sharing existing knowledge and protocols and working together towards common objectives has been the main driver for the establishment and consolidation of the ongoing collaboration with Member State laboratories in Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy and The Netherlands. The outcomes of such collaboration also benefit, at a later stage, less experienced MS labs (e.g. via dedicated trainings and/or Interlaboratory studies) and the whole scientific community (e.g. via joint peer-reviewed journal articles)

Some of the regulatory relevant working items in 2023-2024 are related to the strategy to test compliance with the ban of E 171 and the analysis of the primary particle size of Iron hydroxide adipate tartrate (IHAT) which is the first engineered nanomaterial authorised by the EU as novel food<sup>1</sup>. The commitment, contribution and collaborative spirit of your experts is highly appreciated and it is crucial for the current efforts to improve the detection and quantification of nanoparticles in food matrices. In particular we are grateful to their contributions with existing data and test samples and the willingness to analyse some samples and participate in an interlaboratory study that is currently under preparation.

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<sup>1</sup> Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2022/1373

JRC and SANTE intend to continue their activities in the field of (engineered) nanomaterials in food and hope to keep counting on your valuable continuous support and collaboration.

Sincerely,

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