

# Trusted Environment

Safe information exchange in the innovation process

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# Why do we need a Trusted Environment?

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- Nanotechnology is moving fast, regulation can't keep up.
- A need for more flexible processes for innovation and regulation.
- Proposed solutions like 'Safe Innovation Approach' or 'Responsible Innovation' *require a certain amount of trust* between innovators and regulators.
- Innovators and regulators value the possibility of 'safe' and 'informal' knowledge sharing. This allows for better decisions on business case and for more 'relevant' regulation.

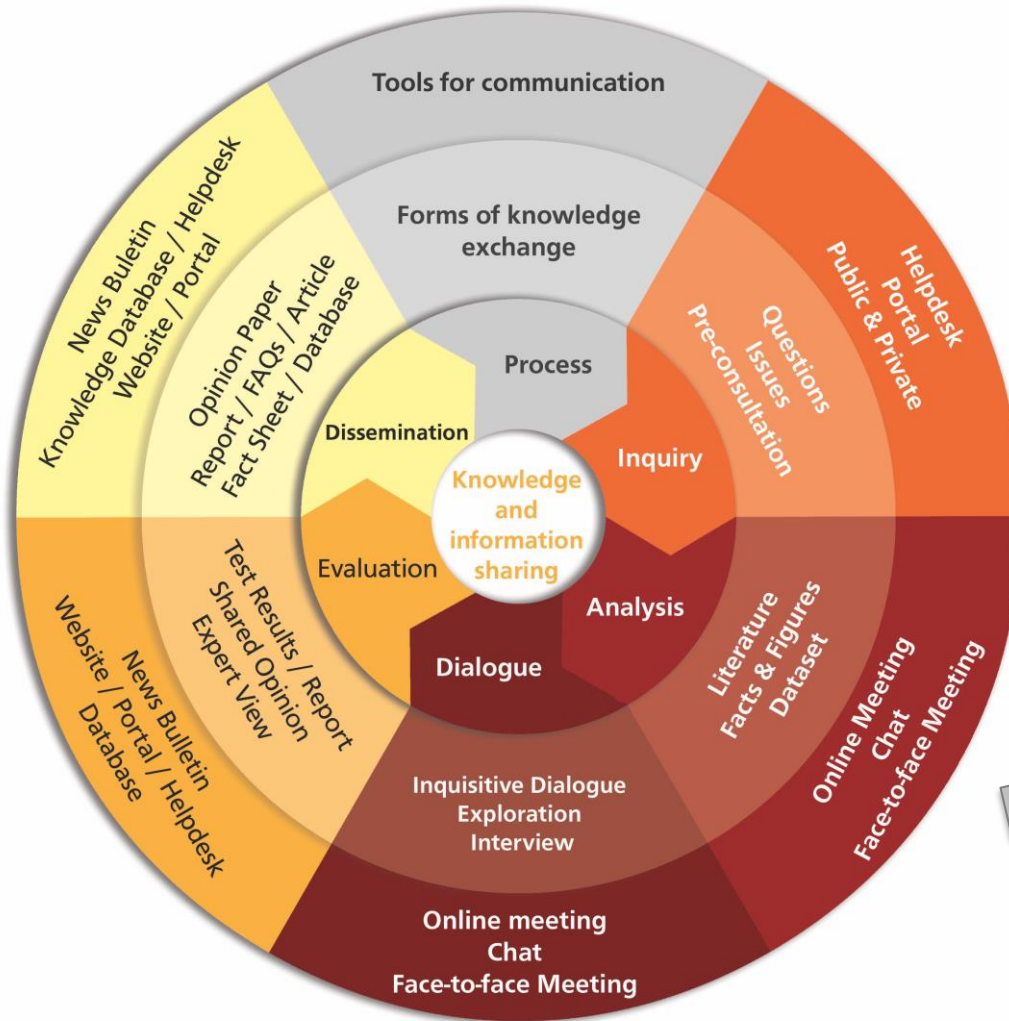
# What is a Trusted Environment?

- A physical or virtual environment in which *innovators* and *regulators* can share and exchange information on new technologies, for example nano-enabled products, in a safe way, without damage to organizational interests.
- It stimulates transparency on the information exchanged while maintaining confidentiality as far as requested by participants.

This requires upfront:

- technical requirements (anonymity, confidentiality, logging of actions etc.),
  - juridical requirements (non-disclosure agreements, regulations, non binding statements etc.),
  - social requirements (rules of behaviour on dealing with the obtained information).
- It also requires an organization, defining and supervising the technical, juridical and behavioural aspects of the Trusted Environment (including mediation in situations of conflict) and facilitating a virtual meeting point for actors involved.

# Trusted Environment in the innovation process



# Benefits of a trusted environment: why use it?

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1. 'Safe' communication between regulators, and innovators during the innovation process.
2. Main principles: confidentiality, anonymity, non binding statements.
3. Receive trustworthy feedback on your innovation questions and issues.
4. As innovator: improved decision making in the innovation process (exclude bad innovations earlier, use 'strategic spill over' knowledge).
5. As regulator: keep up with technological development: develop adequate regulation, act pro-actively.

# Current situation

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- Collaborative design of the Trusted Environment with 40 partners of Nanoreg2 project (Horizon2020, grant 64221).
- Trusted Environment is a key component of the Safe Innovation Approach.
- First evaluation of the design shows positive results, concept is of high value to innovators and regulators.
- Key value points (for future design and real life testing):
  - Confidential questions-answers between innovators and regulators
  - Anonymous information exchange
  - Handling non binding statements
- We are exploring possibilities for next design steps and a ‘real life experiment’: if you are interested please contact us!