NanoFATE focuses on developing a systematic understanding of fate and mechanisms of effects for a core set of commercial engineered nanoparticles (ENPs), investigating how current ecological risk assessment tools and practices perform with ENPs and refinements to improve their applicability.

A NanoFATE visit to the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials

Travel report - Expert Advisory Meeting

Paris, Dec. 2013

Dave Spurgeon, NERC CEH (UK)

On 9-10 December 2013, I attended the **Testing and Assessment Workshop** of the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials at the OECD headquarters in Paris, France. The invitation to attend was secured through by Maggie Charnley and Paola Cassanelli, both from Defra in the UK, after a request from the NanoFATE coordination team.

The meeting was perhaps the most formal I have ever attended as a scientist. Attendees sat as national delegates, behind country name boards and spoke only when invited by the chair – something that we are certainly not used to at NanoFATE project and open workshops! The attendees included a mixture of scientists and policy makers from some 30 countries covering all continents except Antarctica.

There were a number of key topics for the experts to consider. These included:

- proposals for the revision of existing OECD test guidelines;
- technical consideration of specific guideline on characterisation and bioaccumulation;
- gaps in current protocols where new methods may be needed (e.g. soil leaching, transformations)
- and the development of better processes for data sharing.

As the OECD Sponsorship Program for the Regulatory Testing of Nanomaterials is now complete, there was considerable attention paid to current efforts to compile the results of this large program of research prior to their ultimate free release to the wider research community. It was evident from the discussion that key issues must be resolved in order to set the timetable for release. These relate to the desire of researchers to withhold data for later publication and to protect perceived intellectual property, while on the other hand legislation encourages open access to data to support science development. In this respect the importance of good data repositories cannot be overstated, however, as of this time there appears to be no clear agreement on how such a repository should look and where it should reside.

Clearly there remains much to discuss including in many areas where NanoFATE science can play a key role, in particular

- generating a specific guideline on characterisation and bioaccumulation;
- providing new methods to address soil leaching and particle transformations.