Dr. Lya Soeteman-Hernandez
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Dr. Soeteman-Hernandez is a toxicologist by training (Queen's University, Canada) and is currently an Expert in applying the Safe and Sustainable Innovation Approach (SSIA) for the development of safer and more sustainable materials, chemicals, products and processes. She is experienced in developing system approaches and translating them into operational tools. She is one of the main developers of the Safe Innovation Approach which contains the concept of Regulatory Preparedness, Safe-by-Design and Trusted Environment. These concepts originate from the awareness that new technologies like nanotechnology have uncovered the limits of present regulatory systems and demand more agile governance systems.

She is co-chair and Leading Expert at the OECD Working Party on Manufactured Nanomaterials Safe and Sustainable Innovation Approach Steering Group, where she assesses how the international community apply innovative ideas/approaches in the context of regulatory frameworks. Here, we gather experiences and insights on which factors and actions are pivotal in international regulatory frameworks to move away from the traditional checklist mentality and towards pro-active, co-creative and inclusive approaches to improve nano risk governance. Recent important products from the OECD WPMN SSIA SG are working descriptions and webinar for safe and sustainable innovation approach and for safe-and-sustainable-by-design. The main focus of her work is the operationalization of SSIA and safe-and-sustainable-by-design in the context of the recently published EC JRC framework and EC recommendation. This is reflected in her role as a work-package or task leader in many European projects working on the operationalization of safe-and-sustainable-by-design (SUNSHINE, IRISS, SURPASS, SAbyNA, PARC) for materials, chemicals, products and processes.