



The mission of the **Joint Research Centre (JRC)** is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of EU policies.

As a service of the **European Commission**, the **JRC** functions as a reference centre of science and technology for the Union. Close to the policy-making process, it serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

The **Institute for Health and Consumer Protection (IHCP)** of the JRC provides scientific support to the development and implementation of EU policies related to its specific area. It carries out research to improve the understanding of potential health risks posed by chemicals, biocides, genetically modified organisms, contaminants released from food contact material and consumer products.

The institute's involvement in the field of nanobiotechnology has provided a fruitful source of collaboration. **IHCP** is partner in several large competitive European projects such as **ACTECO**, which address a number of pertinent issues with far-reaching implications.

The institute's NanoBiotechnology team participates in the **ACTECO** project through its expertise in advanced surface modification and characterisation techniques for the development of bio-interfaces.

The specific role of the **JRC** team within **ACTECO** is to develop surfaces which have antifouling and/or antibacterial properties for biomedical applications, using low-pressure plasma processes. These surfaces and processes will be used to functionalise biomedical products manufactured by other **ACTECO** partners.

**European Commission  
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