

Developing innovative outreach and dialogue on responsible nanotechnologies in EU civil society FP7 NMP – July 2013 – June 2016

Expected impact:

- Enhance and raise the levels of engagement of European citizens, expert and non-expert, on nanotechnologies and their related social, ethical and legal implications
- Increase the clarity of the role of public authorities, industry and society in formulating appropriate governance of nanotechnologies
- Policy feed-back with a view to Horizon 2020 and responsible Research&Innovation



Multiple engagement activities along the innovation value chain, including surveys, interviews, student competition, multi-stakeholder dialogues, user committees

Engaging with:
policy-makers, researchers, industry, students and education institutes, civil society, consumers, trade unions



The NanoDiode project

Stakeholder engagement and dialogue are essential to the responsible development of nanotechnologies in Europe. The European FP7 project NANODIODE, launched in July 2013 for a period of three years, establishes an innovative, coordinated programme for outreach and dialogue throughout Europe to support the effective governance of nanotechnologies.

The project integrates vital engagement activities along the innovation value chain: at the level of research policy, research & development (R&D), and the diffusion of nanotechnology innovations in society. Importantly, it combines ‘**upstream**’ **public engagement** (by way of dialogues that integrate societal needs, ideas and expectations into the policy debate) with ‘**midstream**’ **engagement** (by organising innovation workshops at the level of the R&D practices that are at the heart of the R&I enterprise) and ‘**downstream**’ **strategies** for communication, outreach, education and training.

As Horizon 2020 unfolds, the project’s findings will feed into nanotechnology policy debates, R&D, outreach and dialogue activities on nanotechnologies and Responsible Research and Innovation.

The project’s objectives are to:

- **DEVELOP new strategies for outreach and dialogue along nanotechnology value chains**, based on a thorough analysis of current European information and communication needs and by using the results of previous experiences and European projects.
- **INSPIRE: organising engagement and dialogue in order to determine European citizens’ views on priorities for nanotechnology innovation**, by way of surveys and interviews, school kids’ and students’ competitions and multi-stakeholder dialogues.
- **CREATE**: carrying out ‘**3rd generation deliberative processes**’, bringing together researchers, civil society organisations, industrial partners and policy makers; establishing ‘**User Committees**’, groups of potential ‘users’ who will identify and discuss key challenges for the coming products; developing ‘**Supporting responsible research**’ **workshops** to discuss sensible ways forward and appropriate risk governance approaches.
- **EDUCATE**: through a robust education strategy and **a series of education activities for secondary education** and by bringing together experts and trade unionists and to **create a “living” workers-oriented capacity building module** for health and safety governance of nanotechnologies at the workplace.
- **ENGAGE**: establishing a coherent programme for outreach and communication on nanotechnologies. “**Guerilla stores**”, **video clips on nanotechnologies (“nano-tube”)**, **and NanoDiode’s website** will play a key role in the dissemination and outreach of the project.
- **Assess the impact of the project’s activities**, establish links between the various levels of governance, and provide policy feedback with a view to Horizon 2020.

The consortium brings together a strong network of partners from various backgrounds and extending across Europe. Many partners bring their experience as coordinators or participants in earlier European nanotech projects and this will allow the project to look back and identify best practices based on existing experience.

1. **IVAM** - Research and Consultancy on Sustainability (NL)
2. **DPF** - De Proeffabriek (The Pilot Plant) - Consultancy for Responsible Innovation (NL)
3. **USTUTT** - Universität Stuttgart - Interdisciplinary Research Unit on Risk Governance and Sustainable Technology Development (DE)
4. **CEA** - French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (FR)
5. **AIRI** - Italian Association for Industrial Research (IT)
6. **SIFO** - Norwegian National Institute for Consumer Research (NO)
7. **NFA** - Nanofutures Association (EU)
8. **ETUI** - European Trade Union Institute (BE)
9. **BNN** – BioNanoNet (AU)
10. **EUSJA** - European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (EU)
11. **NN Nanonet** - Polish Foundation of Nanotechnology and Nanoscience Support (PL)
12. **HB** - Studio HB (NL)
13. **Inserm Transfert** (FR)

A timetable of the project initiatives in 2013/2014 is given below:

- Launch of the NanoDiode website: Nov 2013
- Survey on European Citizens' Priorities for Fields of Nano-Innovation: Spring 2014
- School Kids' and Students' Competition on Innovative Ideas: Spring – Autumn 2014
- Series of User Committees and Citizen and Multi-Stakeholder dialogues for developing and discussing desired fields of innovation, in Austria, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Poland: 2014-2015

Contacts

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