



NANO*utures*
**A cross-ETP Coordination Initiative
on nanotechnology**

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1 Introduction

The present document constitutes Deliverable D4.2 in the framework of the NANO*futures* project titled “NANO*futures*: A cross-ETP Coordination Initiative on nanotechnology” (Project Acronym: NANO*futures*; Contract No.: NMP4-CA-2010-266789).

The aim of this Yearly Public Report is to disseminate to the NANO*futures* platform a description of the project contest, the work performed since the beginning of the project and the main results achieved so far, describing also their potential impact.

This deliverable is intended to a draft version of the NANO*futures* Publishable Summary, to be included into the NANO*futures* Periodic Report.

2 Project Contest

Nanosciences contribute to scientific and technical progress across disciplines and sectors, with potential to help overcoming the various grand challenges our society is facing. Nanotechnology-based innovation however calls for a horizontal approach that includes cross-sectorial strategic needs and broader socio-economic challenges going beyond technological gaps, if nanotechnology development and commercialization is to be accomplished.

In this framework, **NANO futures Initiative** started in 2009 in order to address these issues and coordinate the ongoing initiatives and projects to reduce dispersion of efforts. This **Integrating and Innovation Platform** aims to be a long-lasting **nanotechnology hub**, connecting all relevant nanotechnology stakeholders.

NANO futures Coordination Action (NANO futures CA, a FP7 project) funds part of the Platform activities.



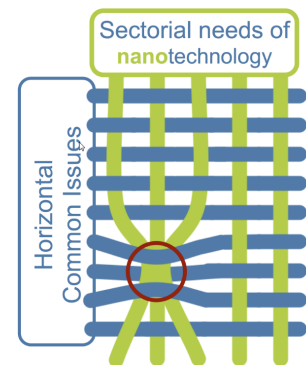
3 NANO futures CA objectives

The strategic objectives of NANO futures CA are:

1) to identify and optimize **synergies** between European and National Platforms, research programmes, JTI, ERA-NETs and other CSAs and research projects related to **nanotechnology**, in order to reduce the fragmentation of the European nanotechnology and coordinate future strategies.



2) to identify **key strategic nanotechnology nodes** addressing issues of **cross-sectional and nano-specific relevance** for the **innovation and rapid uptake of nanotechnologies** in order to increase EU competitiveness .



3) to **construct and disseminate an integrated Industrial and Research Roadmap** for European Nanotechnology. The Roadmap will address European key nodes in terms of cross-sectional research, technology and innovation issues as well as broad socio-economic challenges to the implementation and commercialisation of sustainable and safe nanotechnology enabled solutions.



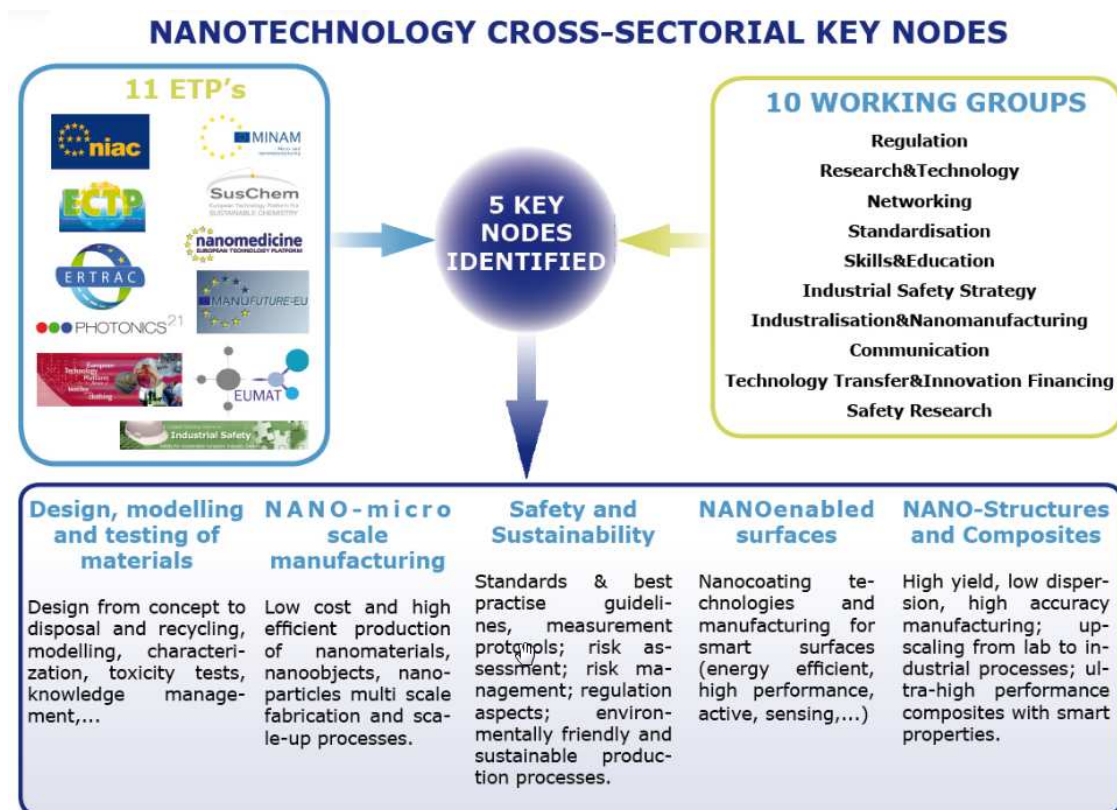
4 Main results achieved

The first twelve months of project activity brought significant results to the Consortium. NANO futures collected more than **50 European Technology Platform (ETP) research and innovation needs** from the ETPs supporting the initiative.

NANO futures community (600 stakeholders up to September 2011) divided into 10 Working groups, dealing with cross-sectorial horizontal aspects (e.g. regulation, safety, skills and education). **Discussion into Working Group Meetings and on-line surveys** led to an in-depth analysis and clustering of ETP needs.

Activities led to the approval of the following **nanotechnology cross-sectorial key nodes** on which to develop the NANO futures Roadmap:

- Design, modelling and testing of materials;
- NANO-micro scale manufacturing;
- Safety and Sustainability;
- NANO-enabled surfaces;
- NANO-Structures and Composites.



Each key node is relevant for a number of industrial sectors (ETPs) and addresses several non-technological horizontal issues such as: technology transfer, innovation financing, skills and education, communication and networking, cost optimization, research on smart properties...

Key node expert groups were formed and are currently meeting during fall 2011: on these key nodes they will define the Industrial and Research Roadmap for European Nanotechnology.

Dissemination activities were also conducted resulting in:

- an updated project website (www.nanofutures.eu), containing user-friendly information, innovation services and educational material. In the private area of the website platform members can interact for example to find collaborations, business, and/or project opportunities by direct contact with other members or by creating polls and forum topics.
- periodic promotional leaflets and newsletters;
- press notes and Web 2.0 tools (e.g. NANO futures Twitter account, Linked-in group and Youtube channel);
- dissemination material (booth, general project presentation, slogans etc.) for the public and to be used at dissemination events;
- participation to several events and conferences, also in coordination with other nano-related projects and initiatives.
- A broad communication flow, that involves more than 100 regional and local nano-networks;
- The launching of NANO futures National mirror platforms and clusters related to NANO futures: the Italian Platform of Nanotechnology in Italy and NANO futures Romania already started, while others, e.g. NANO futures Poland, Swiss and Greece, are under development.

5 Potential impact of results

NANO futures CA is expected to develop and broadly disseminate a **cross-ETP vision** of European nanotechnology, by the release of an integrated Industrial and Research Roadmap.

This strategy will have a great impact on the ability of Europe to address cross-sectional needs that currently hinder nanotechnology full development and commercialization. Moreover, NANO futures open environment, that aims to involve all relevant private and public nanotechnology stakeholders, will contribute to **align European strategies on nanotechnology to meet the grand challenges of our time** (e.g. climate change, constraints in energy production and shortage of resources, insufficient access to clean water and food safety, widespread diseases and affordable health care worldwide), which cannot be addressed with a limited sectional approach.

NANO futures activities will also promote private investments on nanotechnology through the organisation of technology transfer and brokerage events, involving in particular SMEs, large industries, innovative associations and clusters and financial investors. Moreover, the strategies developed within NANO futures roadmap will support European Commission in proposing corrective actions (e.g. fiscal incentives, innovation and education policies etc.) that can promote investments and technology transfer in nanotechnology.

6 Contact Information

Dr. Eng. Margherita Cioffi – D'Appolonia S.p.A.

Tel: (+39) 06 59450300

Fax: (+39) 06 59450399

E-mail: margherita.cioffi@dappolonia.it

NANO futures website: www.nanofutures.eu



7 Consortium

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