



Framing Nano Project Press Release

01/06/08

The FP7 project “FramingNano: *an International multi-stakeholder dialogue platform to regulate the development of Nanosciences and Nanotechnologies (NS&T)*” is started in May 2007 *. This 2 years support action (SA) is funded under the Programme *Capacities*, in the area *Science in Society*, within the 7^o Framework Program (FP7) of the EU. It includes 6 partners from 6 European countries.

Objective of the project is to build a deliberative process involving Nanotechnology stakeholders aiming to regulate the development of nanotechnology of help to the European Commission, EU policy makers and stakeholders in designing a model assuring that this development takes place responsibly and to the benefit of the individuals and the society.

The revolutionary characteristics of nanotechnology are the source of a huge range of new valuable applications and benefits, but also pose novel challenges in managing technological and societal implications related to its development. Cooperation, coordination and communication among all the actors in nanotechnology is mandatory to promote a proactive and adaptive process capable of framing nanotechnology development across known and accepted boundaries.

Many initiatives have been undertaken worldwide to deepen our understanding about human health and environmental risks, ethical and societal implications of the different materials and applications related to nanotechnology, and different approaches are being proposed or developed, but a commonly accepted, and comprehensive, framework for the regulation and governance of nanotechnology is still missing.

Although in its infancy, nano-relate products are already available and this market is rapidly growing, bringing nanotechnology closer and closer to the society and the need of a governance action is ever more necessary. European policy makers and stakeholders have the challenging task to define a constructive and practicable model to manage and regulate the development of nanotechnology.

The FramingNano project will favour such endeavour, sustaining a debate at European level among the scientific, institutional, industrial communities, the broad public. The ultimate objective is to come up with a proposal of a Governance Plan with actions and recommendations at different level, to regulate the development of nanotechnology.

The activity of the two years project will be geared around 4 key actions:

- An analysis and review of existing-proposed regulatory and governance processes;
- The collection and analysis of positions and needs of stakeholders, enacted through a two stage Delphi Panel and a dedicated International Workshop;
- The design of an appropriate proposal of a Governance Plan, through the consultation of experts and a debate among all stakeholders in a dedicated International Conference;
- A capillary action of communication and dissemination of information on the project and NS&T governance.

A dedicated website and a quarterly Newsletter will be a pivotal tool to provide a unique source of information on nanotechnology governance. The two International events and five national workshops will stimulate the debate about Governance, deepen and discuss these issues also at national level.

The project is led by AIRI/Nanotec IT (Italy) and includes: The Innovation Society (Switzerland), The Institute of Nanotechnology-IoN (UK), National Institute for Public Health & the Environment- RIVM (The Netherlands), Fondation EurActiv (Belgium), Technology Centre (Czech Republic).

For further information please contact the project coordinator Dr. Elvio Mantovani (mantovani@nanotec.it)

* *subject to completion of grant agreement*