



New strategies for responsible innovation in nanotechnology

GOVERNING NANOTECHNOLOGIES THROUGH SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT

PRESS RELEASE

COPENHAGEN, JANUARY 15 2017 - Nanotechnologies – the purposeful engineering of matter on the atomic or molecular scale - have given rise to great expectations in recent years, unlocking new research opportunities in areas as diverse as energy, healthcare, electronics, food and construction. At the same time, concerns have been raised about possible unintended consequences of particular uses of nanomaterials.

GoNano is a new EU-funded initiative aiming to demonstrate how future nanotechnology products can be aligned with societal needs and concerns. It does so by including publics, industry, civil society organizations, policy makers and researchers in three concrete co-creative processes within the areas of food, health and energy.

The processes will result in nine novel product suggestions for future nanotechnology and in policy recommendations to support the responsible future development of nanotechnology. Further, by demonstrating in a concrete way how innovation processes can be directed towards products which take societal concerns into account and address societal needs, and by providing learning material on how to organize co-creative innovation, the GoNano initiative will serve as inspiration for future responsible innovation in nanotechnology.

The three co-creation processes will take place in the Czech Republic, Spain and The Netherlands.

Project coordinator Lise Bitsch from the coordinating partner, the Danish Board of Technology Foundation, explains:

“Societal engagement is necessary for nanotechnology to develop responsibly.”

“Together citizens and researcher can develop sustainable, acceptable and desirable suggestions for future nanotechnology products which take the fulfilment of societal needs as their starting point.”

Carolin Kranz, Senior Manager at Communications and Government Relations Department at BASF, welcomes the project:

“At BASF we know that the alignment of innovation with societal needs and concerns is important for our success as a company. The GoNano project stands out because it is aiming at delivering very concrete strategies on how to do so.”

We are available via:

Our website: <http://gonano-project.eu>
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