



Co-creation for responsible innovation in nanotechnologies

GOVERNING NANOTECHNOLOGIES THROUGH SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT

COPENHAGEN, June 27 2019

The EU-funded project GoNano – Governing nanotechnologies through societal engagement - is built on the assumption that several types of knowledge are necessary to define sustainability, acceptability, and desirability of nanotechnologies.

We run three pilot projects to demonstrate the potential of co-creation in innovation in the thematic areas of Food (Czech Republic), Energy (Spain) and Health (The Netherlands). We combined face-to-face citizen engagement, stakeholder workshops and online consultations. Our first outputs are now ready, and show promising results:

1. across all three countries citizens point to common values of sustainable development and consumption, human health, environmental protection, safety aspects, affordability, and accessibility. In general, the discourse from the citizen workshops reproduced well-known repertoires of optimism and concern: public perception studies consistently show that European citizens are cautiously optimistic about nanotechnologies however, they also have concerns about the risks to human and environmental health and to societal well-being in general
2. translated these into needs and requirements for future application in e.g. health, asking for devices that are easy-to-use, accessible to all societal groups, and include a caring and reassuring health professional in the diagnostic loop
3. professional developers and stakeholders appreciated lay input, stating it as inspiration for both future research and product development. The project raised awareness within the group of stakeholders of the need to incorporate social needs and values in the development of nanotechnologies – and the complexity of realising this in practice. Bringing stakeholders with different backgrounds together led to interesting discussions and novel insights for product development, research projects, and policy making.

The project has so far mobilised more than 200 people. The second loop of the co-creation process with online citizen consultations feeding into a second round of stakeholder workshops will engage even more. The online consultation is expected to engage at least 100 people in 5 different countries and will take place during the summer of 2019.

The promising results so far leave no doubt that valuable lessons will be learned and that spaces for engagement and mutual learning will be provided.

For more information

GoNano website <http://gonano-project.eu>
Twitter @GoNano_EU
Project coordinator Lise Bitsch, Danish Board of Technology, lb@tekno.dk, +453113 3203

For future updates on our progress sign up here: <http://gonano-project.eu/contact/>

