Co-create and develop better technology

The development of future technologies is a common concern. Therefore, early user involvement is the answer to tomorrow's needs.

Many companies have the user in mind when developing products and technology solutions. But why not include them before we even think of the product, why not invite and include them in the initial research and innovation stages of the technology?

Co-creation is the way forward

The EU project GoNano has raised the bar and involved citizens and civil society organizations together with industry, scientist, and politicians to create visions for nanotechnologies in Europe.
The GoNano project is more than just involvement in the product development of nanotechnology, it is also about articulating and involving the various values and ethical issues associated to the technology in a societal perspective, now and in the future. Are scientists aware and able to make this involvement? How can technology evolve when it interacts with the concerns and visions of ordinary citizens? This and many other topics will be addressed in the online conference that the GoNano project is hosting three Thursdays in October and November.

Together we must find sustainable solutions

We face the need to find solutions to food security, future pandemics, economic sustainability that go hand in hand with sustainability. All these issues must be dealt with, and here a pattern emerges, technology helps to shape the society we live in, therefore it makes perfectly sense for a wide range of societal actors to participate in the design of that technology. Instead of leaving it up to only the scientists and industry.
GoNano has indirectly explored these aspects by letting citizens and stakeholders look at nanotechnology in food, health and energy. And here in the final phase of the project, we can share the experiences of what can happen when we involve ordinary citizens around Europe to participate in the development of technology, even at a nanoscale. The experiences from the project have i.a. shown that a co-creation approach between different stakeholders and citizens can create a better common understanding of actors they do not normally interact with.

One of the participating scientists in the project, Burcu Gümüscü post-doc, experienced the value of co-creation:

> *"I discovered questions that I had never thought off (during the development of the research idea), and now I have a more concrete understanding of how to pursue, and what steps to take and what steps not to take during the rest of my research."*

Thereby considerations and issues that have not previously been given a thought into the decision-making processes of research and innovation are integrated from an early stage. This has in the project shown that involvement and co-creation can lead to new ways of looking at what future applications of nanotechnology could look like in the future.

Join GoNanos online conference

Over the course of three afternoons, the GoNano partners will share and discuss their experiences at the online conference *Responsiveness to societal needs and values in nano-tech and beyond on October 29, November 5 and November 12.* The event is free but requires registration here http://gonano-project.eu/sign-up/

You can read more about the conference here:

http://gonano-project.eu/about-the-conference/

If you want to know more about the GoNano project, we are available via:

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