



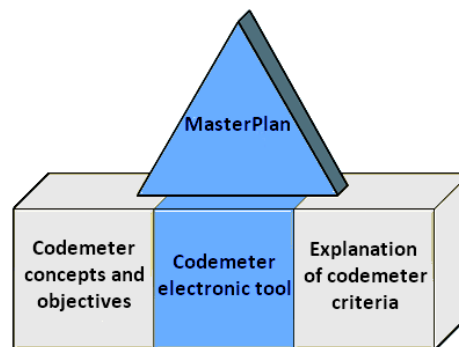
Newsletter

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Final NanoCode Project outputs now available online
- 2** Videos from NanoCode International Conference now available to view
- 3** NanoCode Project concludes with a series of national events
- 4** Commission adopts definition of a nano material
- 5** New European Commission report on corporate social responsibility shows how responsible strategies can benefit businesses

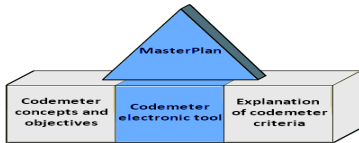
Final NanoCode Project outputs now available online



The final documents from the NanoCode Project are now available online at www.nanocode.eu. These comprise:

- NanoCode's recommendations to the European Commission on the key issues and way forward with the EC code of conduct (EC CoC) for responsible nanotechnologies research (the [MasterPlan](#));
- the finalised [CodeMeter](#) electronic self-assessment and learning tool based on the EC CoC's principles and values;
- a report on the concepts, objectives and application of the [CodeMeter](#)
- an annex providing additional information on the criteria incorporated into the [CodeMeter](#)

As well as providing information on the outcomes of the NanoCode Project, it is envisaged that these final documents, which are based on extensive stakeholder consultation, will be a rich resource for all parties involved in both nanotechnology research and in responsible innovation activities in general, and will provide a firm basis for ongoing initiatives and discussions on these topics.



The European Project NanoCode: a multistakeholder dialogue providing inputs to implement the European Code of Conduct for Responsible Nanosciences & Nanotechnologies Research commenced in January 2010. This two-year project is funded under the Programme Capacities, in the area Science in Society, within the 7th Framework Program (FP7).

Videos from NanoCode International Conference now available to view.



Videos of the presentations from the NanoCode International Conference Promoting Responsible Innovation: The Future of the European Code of Conduct for Nanotechnologies are now downloadable from the NanoCode website as a resource for interested stakeholders. For ease of downloading, the video proceedings have been edited into 14 separate videos by agenda item/presenter.

NanoCode Project concludes with a series of national events.



One of the key strengths of the NanoCode Project has been the involvement of partners from 11 countries, in Europe and beyond. This wide spread has ensured that the Project was able to collect input from and carry out surveys amongst a wide and representative range of stakeholder groups internationally, adding a great deal of value to the information obtained. The NanoCode Project culminated at the end of November 2011 with a series of national conferences or workshops (or, in the case of Argentina, an extensive consultation procedure), held in its member partners' countries with the aim of disseminating the results of the Project as well as contributing, on a national basis, towards initiatives promoting responsible innovation. The following are selected reports from these national conferences, workshops and consultations.

Argentina



The National Conference in Argentina was replaced by an extensive consultation procedure together with a dissemination process that included the CodeMeter (CM) and MasterPlan (MP). This had to be done due to the impossibility of realising the meeting in Bariloche, the home town of the Argentine partner and an eruption of the Puyehue-Caulle volcano which disrupted air travel.

The results of this delocalised dissemination process were very satisfactory and enabled the gathering of information and opinions of important stakeholders that can be used both to contribute to improvement of the CodeMeter and MasterPlan and, importantly, to analyse the possibility of adopting an Argentine National Code of Conduct following the European example.

The consultation and dissemination consisted of a series of emails, personal interviews and phone calls with the stakeholders. The CodeMeter, MasterPlan and a special ad-hoc questionnaire in Spanish with points concerning both NanoCode documents were also sent to stakeholders with the aim of using the general concepts in the CM and MP to trigger a reflection and analysis of the current situation in research and development in nanotechnology in Argentina, and to evaluate the possibility of implementing or adopting a CoC similar to the European model (with logical local adaptations).

The diversity of points of view and of professional backgrounds obtained contributed to a rich spectrum of suggestions and analysis that were forwarded to the Nanocode coordinator.



Czech Republic



The Czech national conference “NanoSafety and NanoCode project outputs”, organised by the Czech Technology Centre, took place in Prague on 1 November 2011 and was attended by researchers from universities, public and private research institutions, representatives from companies, public authorities, health care organisations and NGOs.

The main presentation concerning the results of the NanoCode Project was given by its coordinator, Dr Elvio Mantovani, and the conference also included a lecture “Risk Assessment of Engineered Nanomaterials” given by Dr Lang Tran, scientist at the Institute of Occupational Medicine in Edinburgh, and a guided panel discussion on responsible research and applications of nanomaterials and nanotechnologies in the Czech Republic.

During the panel discussion participants made short presentations on: the filtration of aerosol nanoparticles (V. Zdimal, Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ASCR)); the creation of undesirable nanoparticles in different industrial processes (D. Nohavica, Institute of Photonics and Electronics, ASCR); Czech participation in the new EU project NANOFORCE (I. Stancek, Association of Chemical Industry of the CR); Czech standardization activities regarding nanotechnologies and nanomaterials at the EU level (T. Velat, Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing); and on the activities of CZECHINVEST in promoting nanotechnologies (V. Helikar, Czech Investment and Business Development Agency (CZECHINVEST)).



France

The French national NanoCode conference took place on 30 November in Paris at L'École normale supérieure and was organised by the French NanoCode partner the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique (CEA).

As well as presentations on the NanoCode MasterPlan and CodeMeter, the conference included sessions covering the perspectives of researchers and industry, links with standardization activities and points of view from a non-governmental organisation, France Nature Environnement, together with a final discussion session. Key recommendations included proposals that a future revised EC CoC should clearly define rights, duties and guidelines for different stakeholders, be linked closely with standardization activities of CEN/TC 352 and ISO/TC 229, and that a future EC CoC is fully compatible with soft law at both EU and Member State levels and with the legal responsibilities of stakeholders.



Germany

The German national NanoCode conference took place in Berlin on 15 November 2011 under the responsibility and organisation of the German NanoCode partner, Universität Stuttgart.

The agenda comprised introductions from Dr. Antje Grobe, Universität Stuttgart, the German partner to the NanoCode Project and Wolf-Michael Catenhusen, Chairman of the German Nano Commission. The final NanoCode outputs (MasterPlan and CodeMeter) were outlined by Nico Kreinberger of the Universität Stuttgart. Issues surrounding the opportunities and limitations of voluntary measures such as codes of conduct and practical challenges relating to them were considered by Julia Hertin of the German Advisory Council on the Environment and Dr. Günther Tovar of the Fraunhofer Society.

Further discussions addressed challenges for the successful implementation of a code of conduct for responsible innovation in Germany; the balance between voluntary self evaluation and compulsory audits; views from industry and commerce (Dr. Jacques Ragot, Bayer Material Sciences) and an open plenary discussion which resulted in a number of key conclusions and recommendations concerning the possible way forward with a proposed new EC Code of Conduct for responsible research and innovation.



Italy

Dissemination of the NanoCode project outcomes, namely the MasterPlan and the CodeMeter, took place within the framework of the International Conference “NanotechItaly 2011: Promoting Responsible Innovation” held in Venice (November 23-25, 2011).

This communication comprised a presentation “*Voluntary measures for responsible innovation: outcomes from the NanoCode project*” as part of the Conference session devoted to responsible development and nanotoxicology, together with a dedicated NanoCode project booth in the Conference exhibition area to illustrate the MasterPlan and the CodeMeter. A quite large audience attended the presentation at the Conference session and many delegates paid a visit to the booth to ask further information and see the CodeMeter at work.



South Korea

The Korean national NanoCode conference was held in Seoul on 28 November 2011 at the premises of Korean Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), the Korean NanoCode partner.

Chaired by Jungil Lee, the agenda included the following topics: a description of the EU CoC and the NanoCode MasterPlan and Codemeter (YoonSuhn Chung, KIST); the Korean NanoResearch Safety Guidelines (Jungwon Lee, University of Seoul); Communication among Stakeholders - Necessity and Methodology (SangHoon Kim, KIST); Bioethics vs. Nanoethics (Hanjo Lim, Ajou University); Researchers and Innovation (SunYang Chung, Konkuk University) ; General and Social Aspects of Innovation (Wi Chin Song, STEPI).



Netherlands

The Netherlands national NanoCode conference took place on 25 November 2011 at Delft University of Technology. The event was free-of-charge and open to representatives of public authorities, politicians, industry, NGOs, interested stakeholders and members of the wider public with an interest in responsible nanotechnology.

As well as presentations on the final outputs of the NanoCode project and Dutch stakeholders perspectives on the European Code of Conduct, the conference included discussions concerning policies on responsible nanotechnologies in the Netherlands (Jacqueline Mout, OCW); information flow - KIR Nano and other supporting projects (Dr Adrienne Sips, RIVM); the implementation of the precautionary principle (Dr Pieter van Broekhuizen, IVAM); industry's strategies on self-regulation (Willem-Henk Streekstra, VNO-NCW); Nanopodium - the experience of a national communication platform (Prof. Peter Nijkamp, NanoPodium) and vision for the European Commission Code of Conduct (Dr Rene von Schomberg, DG Research & Innovation, European Commission).



South Africa

The South African national NanoCode conference took place on 25 November 2011 in Gauteng. Conference themes included; the whys of the Code and making it work; the strategic role of the Code and its strengths and weaknesses; a description of the MasterPlan for the further implementation of the Code and of the CodeMeter; a discussion of global trends in ELSI of emerging technologies and lessons to be learned from other technologies.

Perspectives on international best practices for responsible innovation were also discussed. The event was open to public and private researchers, academics and policy makers, industry, business associations, NGOs and all those interested in the responsible innovation of emerging technologies. A number of recommendations were made during the presentations and plenary debate and it was concluded that the MasterPlan and Codemeter formed a very useful basis for elaboration of a future code of conduct in South Africa tailored for local conditions.



Spain

The Spanish national NanoCode conference was held in two separate complementary sessions; in Madrid on 10 November 2011 with a specific event for industry, funders, decision-makers and NGOs; and in the Canary Islands, on 22 November 2011 with a specific session for researchers which included the following topics:

Engineering Aspects of Nanosafety (Francisco Balas, INA/CIBER-BBN); Research Ethics and NanoScience (Fernando Briones, IMM-CSIC); Nanocode EU project results - CodeMeter and MasterPlan (Maite Fernández Jiménez, Phantoms Foundation); Spanish contribution to the sponsorship program for the safety testing of manufactured nanomaterials (Philipp Rosenkranz, INIA); Nanotechnology: European and Spanish regulatory frameworks (Ruth Jiménez Saavedra, ISTAS-CCOO) and a French perspective on the Nanocode project (Yves Sicard, CEA, France).



Switzerland

The Swiss national NanoCode workshop was held in Bern on 8 November 2011. The major landmarks of the NanoCode project and its final major outputs, the MasterPlan and CodeMeter, were described by Sascha Schwarzkopf and Christoph Meili of the Innovation Society, who organised the event.

Further presentations covered the Swiss Action Plan on nanotechnology (Dr. Kaspar Schmid, Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft (SECO)); industry perspectives (Helmut Elbert, Innovation Society) and the IG DHS code of conduct for nanotechnologies (Dr. Thomas Gude, SQTS). The workshop also included a plenary discussion session involving all participants chaired by Dr. Sergio Bellucci (TA Swiss) which resulted in a good perception of the CodeMeter as a useful practical tool and a number of recommendations regarding the scope and implementation of a future revised EC CoC.



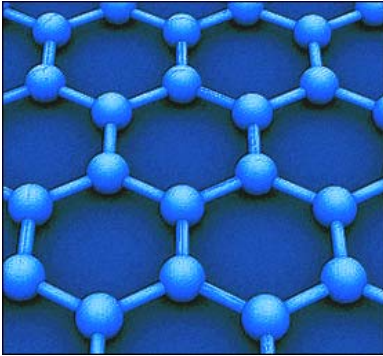
United Kingdom

The UK national workshop took place in London on 24 November 2011 and was organised by NanoCode's UK partner, the Institute of Nanotechnology (IoN). IoN's Scientific Director, Richard Moore, described the key stages of the project and its principle output, the recommendations to the European Commission on the future of the EC Code of Conduct on responsible nanotechnologies research (MasterPlan) and the electronic self-assessment tool (the CodeMeter).

Mrs Hilary Sutcliffe, Director of Matter, presented a paper describing proposals for a system for responsible innovation prepared at the request of the European Commission; Professor Robert Lee of the Centre for Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society (BRASS), Cardiff University, explored issues of accountability and responsibility and what these terms mean in relation to responsible innovation; Dr Sally Randles of the Manchester Institute of Innovation Research (MIOIR) gave a presentation describing a recent transatlantic dialogue on "actor strategies and international perspectives on responsible innovation and responsible governance (RI-RG)"; a discussion session was then chaired by Dr Barry Park of the Nano Knowledge Transfer Network (NanoKTN).

The free event provided an important opportunity for a number of important UK stakeholders to engage on the topic of how to take responsible innovation forward and for a detailed exchange of views to take place on possible strategies for this.

Other key news



Commission adopts definition of a nano material

On 18 October 2011 the Commission adopted a Recommendation on the definition of a nanomaterial.

According to this Recommendation a "nanomaterial" is defined as:

A natural, incidental or manufactured material containing particles, in an unbound state or as an aggregate or as an agglomerate and where, for 50 % or more of the particles in the number size distribution, one or more external dimensions is in the size range 1 nm - 100 nm.

In specific cases and where warranted by concerns for the environment, health, safety or competitiveness the number size distribution threshold of 50 % may be replaced by a threshold between 1 and 50 %.

By derogation from the above, fullerenes, graphene flakes and single wall carbon nanotubes with one or more external dimensions below 1 nm should be considered as nanomaterials.

The definition will be used primarily to identify materials for which special provisions might apply (e.g. for risk assessment or ingredient labelling). Those special provisions are not part of the definition but of specific legislation in which the definition will be used.

The relevant [Commission webpage on nanomaterials](#) goes on to say

"Nanomaterials are not intrinsically hazardous per se but there may be a need to take into account specific considerations in their risk assessment. Therefore one purpose of the definition is to provide clear and unambiguous criteria to identify materials for which such considerations apply. It is only the results of the risk assessment that will determine whether the nanomaterial is hazardous and whether or not further action is justified.

Today there are several pieces of EU legislation, and technical guidance supporting implementation of legislation, with specific references to nanomaterials. To ensure conformity across legislative areas, where often the same materials are used in different contexts, the purpose of the Recommendation is to enable a coherent cross-cutting reference. Therefore another basic purpose is to ensure that a material which is a nanomaterial in one sector will also be treated as such when it is used in another sector."

The official text of the definition may be downloaded at the following link

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2011:275:FULL:EN:PDF> (page 38).

New European Commission report on corporate social responsibility highlights how responsible strategies can benefit businesses

A new European Commission report [A renewed EU strategy 2011-14 for Corporate Social Responsibility](#), published on 25 October 2011, suggests that businesses can benefit by becoming more responsible and can also make Europe more competitive.



The report provides a new EU definition of CSR based on core business purposes and strategies and how businesses make their money. It highlights CSR as "the responsibility of enterprises for their impacts on society", focusing on minimising negative environmental, social and economic impacts and maximising the positive impacts.

The report contains a clear endorsement of global standards such as the [OECD guidelines for multinationals](#), the [UN guiding principles on business and human rights](#), and the recent [ISO 26000 guidance on social responsibility](#). The report also supports a smart mix of laws, market incentives, and collective self- or co-regulation as the best way to advance CSR to maximise shared value for business and society.

This newsletter has been prepared by the NanoCode Project consortium.

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