

NSC Face-to-Face Meeting

The EU NanoSafety Cluster face-to-face meeting took place on Wednesday October 18th at the University of Birmingham Brussels Office.

The overall aim of the workshop was to bring together EU coordinators of recently completed, ongoing and newly starting projects and other interested parties, including ECHA, to discuss accessibility to, and curation of, nanosafety data. A key objective of the workshop was to increase the NanoSafety Cluster (NSC) community's ability to pool data, enhance data sharing and collaborations within the NSC, and facilitate future data import into ECHA's [European Union Observatory for Nanomaterials \(EUON\)](#).

[Report of Meeting](#)

[Introduction \(view slides\)](#)

Eva Valsami-Jones gave a warm welcome and summarised the changes the Coordination Team had been introducing since taking over the lead of the NSC in February. The previous Working Groups (WG) have been overhauled and revised into the following structure:

- Dissemination Team
- WG A: Communication, Training and Education
- WG C: Exposure & Hazard Assessment
- WG D: Models & Tools for Risk Assessment
- WG E: Safer by Design, Innovation & Regulation
- WG F: Data Management

Due to the overlap between WGs D & E, the Chair of one WG would Co-Chair the other.

Co-Chairs still to be confirmed

[Forthcoming NSC Meetings & other events](#)

Future NSC meetings would ideally be linked to live projects' 6-monthly meetings, and to this end a list of all forthcoming meetings from all live projects would be collected to help choose dates and locations. The following meetings are being planned:

- Delegation to Iran (end November 2017) and South Africa (beginning December 2017)
- NSC meeting February/March 2018 – Date and location to be decided
- NSC Meeting, Valetta, Malta, 12 September 2018 – to be organised alongside Young Scientist Forum (10-11 September) and ACEnano Project Meeting (13-14 September)
- NSC Meeting, Vienna, Austria, 29 October 2018 – to be organised alongside Industrial Technologies Conference (29-31 October)

[Website](#)

The current design and platform of the NSC website was discussed, and ideas for updates were put forwards, including plans for a database of NSC member expertise/areas of interest, establishing links with EUON, and overall responsibility for administering the site and whether this could now fall under WG A. Alternative options for webhosting were discussed, with the request

for any other suggestions and recommendations to be forwarded to Tassos Papadiamantis (a.papadiamantis@bham.ac.uk).

Survey of Action Plan 2017 ([view slides](#))

Flemming Cassee took the platform outlining the responses to the survey of the action plan for 2017-2020, and the proposed next steps. This summarised plans to refine the overall purpose and function of Steering Group (SG), the role of the Coordination Team (CT), links with the EU-US Communities of Research (CoRs), the definition of a Working Group versus a Task Force, and the future communication channels of the NSC via Twitter and the newsletter.

Task Force Presentations

The proposed NSC Task Forces then delivered incisive presentations on the following specialist areas:

- NanoTiO₂ – Damjana Drobne ([view slides](#))
Proposal to write a guidance document/opinion piece from the NSC in response to the CLP [report](#) on TiO₂
- A definition of Safe-by-Design – Claire Skentelbery ([view slides](#))
Proposal to produce a formal definition for SbD within nanotechnology
- Sustainability – Thomas Exner ([view slides](#))
[Proposal](#) to create a sustainable model for NSC Knowledge Resources.
- Data exposure and management – Wouter Fransman ([view slides](#))
Proposal to bring data to a platform such as EUON or eNM and deliver a publicly available database
- ENM/Protein membrane interactions – Andrew Nelson ([view slides](#))
Proposal to understand the important of interactions in generic nanotoxicity of the material and its environmental fate and explore commercial application for HTP screening devices

US-EU nanoinformatics roadmap ([view slides](#))

Andrea Haase presented an update on the nanoinformatics 2030 roadmap, noting the objectives and current situation.

Nanosafety: The next calls ([view slides](#))

George Katalagarianakis gave an overview of the forthcoming calls, their main directions, scope and expected impacts.

Individual projects database structure presentations

Project representatives delivered brief presentations on strategies (past, present, future) for data capture, storage and archiving and data formats. The following projects provided valuable input:

Completed projects – Legacy	
NanoMILE (Iseult Lynch)	View slides
SUN (Peter Ritchie)	View slides
NanoSolutions (Peter Ritchie)	View slides
Bioinformatics (Roland Grafström)	View slides
GuideNano (Soco Vázquez-Campos)	View slides
eNanoMapper (Thomas Exner)	View slides
NANoREG (Nina Jeliaskova)	View slides
Ongoing projects – Plans	
OpenRiskNet (Thomas Exner)	View slides
ACEnano (Thomas Exner)	View slides
NANOREG2 (Nina Jeliaskova)	View slides
CaLIBRAte (Martine Bakker)	View slides
HISENTS (Andrew Nelson)	View slides
EC4SafeNano (Anthony Bochan)	View slides
SmartNanoTox (Vladimir Lobaskin)	View slides
NECOMADA (Neville Slack)	View slides
Nanogentools (Iris Garcia-Iglesias)	View slides
NanoStreeM (Dimitar Prodanov)	View slides
EU-US Data Harmonisation initiative: CEINT NIKC (Camille de Garidel)	View slides
NanoFASE (Tassos Papadiamantis)	View slides
npSCOPE (Tommaso Serchi)	View slides
Newly started projects – Plans	
NanoCommons (Iseult Lynch)	View slides
GRACIOUS (Danail Hristozov, Nina Jeliaskova)	
PATROLS (Peter Ritchie)	View slides

[Open discussion on barriers to harmonisation](#)

The day concluded with open discussions that enabled participants to identify and understand what barriers may exist in data harmonisation. The NSC now represents a large commitment of data resources, which could be pooled where possible; new projects, GRACIOUS and PATROLS, would be data-heavy projects, and NanoCommons should be considered for data-sharing support. An important consideration is the issues that may exist around integrating the different legal frameworks and sectors involved with nano, and the approaches and data they use. The role of the WGs in this was discussed, with any specific activities or gaps being filled by TFs. Public bodies (RIVM, INERIS, BfR), together with JRC and other EU agencies could look at the data and guide TFs, with academia providing the research and models.

Data curation and data discipline would be significant but important obstacles to overcome if data produced by projects is to be harmonised. Furthermore, the inclusion of protocols linked to datasets and the use of agreed ontologies is essential. One possible way to tackle this would be develop guidance on best practices for Data Management Plans (DMP), which are then peer reviewed by the NSC. This could be further supported via the NanoCommons Help-desk, which could also insist on all new data being Open and FAIR.

Attendees

1	Eva Valsami-Jones	University of Birmingham (NSC Coordination Team)
2	Iseult Lynch	University of Birmingham (NSC Coordination Team)
3	Flemming Cassee	RIVM (NSC Coordination Team)
4	Martine Bakker	RIVM
5	Anthony Bochon	ULB
6	Tom Carney	UoB
7	Costas Charitidis	NTUA
8	Damjana Drobne	University of Ljubljana
9	Maria Dusinska	NILU
10	Thomas Exner	Douglas Connect
11	Lucian Farcas	Douglas Connect
12	Wouter Fransman	TNO
13	Iris Garcia-Iglesias	UBU-ICCRAM
14	Camille de Garidel	CEREGE
15	Roland Grafström	Karolinska Institute
16	Arno Gutleb	LIST
17	Andreas Haase	BfR
18	Danail Hristozov	GD
19	Nina Jeliaskova	Idea Consult
20	Elias Koumoulos	NTUA
21	Vladimir Lobaskin	UCD
22	Marianne Matzke	NERC-CEH
23	Andrew Nelson	University of Leeds
24	Tassos Papadiamantis	University of Birmingham
25	Alexander Pogany	BMVIT
26	Dimiter Prodanov	IMEC
27	Peter Ritchie	IOM
28	Christa Schimpel	BioNanoNet
29	Tommaso Serchi	LIST
30	Neville Slack	CPI
31	Tom van Teunenbroek	Ministry of Infrastructure & Environment
32	Soco Vazquez Campos	LEITAT
33	Mar Viana	CSIC
34	Egon Willighagen	Maastricht University
35	Henrik Wolff	FIOH
36	Jana Drbohlavova	European Commission
37	Georgios Katalagarianakis	European Commission
38	Abdelqader Sumrein	ECHA