



NANOSAFETY CLUSTER MEETING

Time: Monday 6 February 2017, 17.00–18.00
Venue: Hotel Barceló Málaga, Meeting Room Trinidad 1
Address: Estación Vialia Maria Zambrano C/Héroe de Sostoa, 2, 29002 Malaga

Decision on the future coordination of the NSC

Chair: Dr. Kai Savolainen

1. Welcome and opening remarks

The Coordinator of the NanoSafety Cluster, Dr. Kai Savolainen from FIOH welcomed the participants to the Meeting. Dr. Savolainen noted that electing a new Coordinator for the NSC, because the coordination of the NSC by FIOH ends at the end of March 17, is the only agenda item of the Meeting.

Dr. Nicolas Segebarth gave the opening remarks on behalf of the EC. He thanked Dr. Savolainen for the important steps made in the coordination of the NSC during the last six years. He noted that the timing of the change in the coordination is critical as regards to the Framework Programme's work programme for the next two years, and especially to the challenges related to the next Framework Programme FP9. There is a need for the Cluster to show its value as regards to FP9. Dr. Segebarth also informed the audience about his forthcoming change of Commission unit in a couple of months.

2. A proposal for the future coordination of the NanoSafety Cluster 1.4.2017-2021

Prof. Iseult Lynch, University of Birmingham, gave a presentation on the proposal prepared together with several key experts of the Cluster. She stressed that the proposal presented is a draft, which still has to be finalized.

Prof. Lynch proposed that the Meeting would agree about the general vision, the priority core activities and the general structure of the Cluster as well as the composition of the Steering Group. In addition, the aim for the Meeting was to agree the mandate and leadership of the Cluster. Prof. Eva Valsami-Jones was suggested to be the successor of Dr. Kai Savolainen as the Coordinator. To support the coordination, a Coordination Team consisting of Dr. Flemming Cassee, Mr. Andreas Falk and Prof. Iseult Lynch, in addition to the Coordinator, was proposed.

Prof. Lynch presented a list of current NSC projects, some of which are going to end relatively soon, but many are H2020 projects, which continue still for years. Integrating



projects to the Cluster activities and their sponsorship for selected Cluster activities is of a vital importance.

Prof. Lynch presented a vision for the NSC, in which the NSC functions as a high profile platform for coordination of nanosafety research in Europe. Over time, the goal is the transition of the NSC to an Innovation Governance platform, as discussed in the last NSC meeting in Grenoble. Therefore a key aspect of the period 2017-2021 will be to work with the Steering Group and the Governance Task Force to develop a profile attracting users (stakeholders from fundamental research to market players) and facilitate the transition.

The four core areas for the Cluster were proposed as follows:

- Coordination of future EU nanosafety science policy (via the Steering Group)
- Coordination of ongoing EU nanosafety science (SG via WGs and Task Forces)
- Ensuring continuity and sustainability of EU research (SG, Sustainability Task Force, Data Management WG)
- Maximizing impact and uptake by stakeholders (via dissemination activities, bespoke stakeholder events)

The proposed structure of the NSC would comprise a Steering Group, a Coordination Group, a Communication Group, Working Groups and Task Forces. The Steering Group was proposed to include the coordinators of the 9-10 NSC projects in order to integrate the projects better into the Cluster. In addition the SG would include the Coordination Team, the Communications Group lead (and potentially the Chairs of the WGs). The number of WGs would be reduced (from the current 10 to 4-5).

The proposal also included plans to increase the transparency of project contributions to the NSC and to estimate the expenses/costs of various activities. The list of proposed activities was based on the current NSC activities and proposed additional core activities such as the annual conference.

3. Discussion on the future coordination

In the discussion the following points were presented:

- The final list of activities has to be agreed by the Cluster members
- The budget issues and the 2 % contributions of the individual projects have to be agreed in more detail. The contributions in the form of person months can come from the projects but also from the organizations, if they are willing to contribute. The activities will depend on the funding available.
- Single point of contact/coordination was proposed instead of a shared coordination in order to clarify the roles and a contact point to, for example, the Commission. It is clearer to have somebody personalized as a coordinator.
- The issue of risk assessment could be addressed by a Task Force. The Cluster itself does not do risk assessment, though.



- 17 people in the Steering Group was deemed quite large; the size depends mostly on the number of project coordinators included.
- The idea of organizing an annual conference was supported. The Forum for Young Scientists is a training event and should be maintained.
- Handling the data would be an important task for the Cluster
- The role of the Coordination Team would be a coordinating unit, implementing the decisions of the SG.
- All members of the Cluster are encouraged to be active in finalizing the proposal, which will be posted on the NSC website for comments.
- The idea of Task Forces, active for a certain period and with a clear objective, was supported.
- The number of WGs and their relationship to the EU-US CoRs are to be discussed in detail.
- A manual of procedures for the coordination group, the project coordinators, the WGs and TFs etc. should be created.

4. Decision on the future coordination of the NSC

In accordance with the proposal, Prof. Eva Valsami-Jones was chosen as the forthcoming Coordinator of the Cluster. Also the proposition to form the Coordination Team composed of the Coordinator, Dr. Flemming Cassee, Mr. Andreas Falk and Prof. Iseult Lynch was accepted.

It was agreed that reducing the number of the Working Groups will be further discussed but some of the effective Working Groups are going to be maintained in any case.

The Steering Group would include project coordinators in addition to the Coordination Team and the Chair of the Communication Group. The relation between the Steering Group and the Coordination Team is still to be discussed in detail. The role of WG Chairs to be agreed.

It was agreed that the functionality of the proposed Cluster structure and the Steering Group will be evaluated in a year or two. Prof. Eva Valsami-Jones stressed that a wide involvement of the projects in the Cluster activities and decision making was desirable. Dr. Kai Savolainen concluded that the last item of the proposal, the sponsorship of the individual projects for selected Cluster activities, does not need to be agreed in this Meeting.

5. Closing of the Meeting

On behalf of the whole Cluster, Prof. Eva Valsami-Jones cordially thanked Dr. Kai Savolainen, Dr. Georgios Katalagarianakis and Dr. Nicolas Segebarth for their work and support for the Cluster.

Dr. Savolainen closed the Meeting at 18.00.