



ACTION PLAN 2017 – 2021

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INTRODUCTION

The Nanosafety Cluster (NSC) has acquired a strong identity over the past 10 years and, moving forward under a new leadership, it must capitalise on this identity by becoming more ambitious and outreaching, with clear structures for allocating tasks to projects and greater responsibility for ensuring delivery of the allocated tasks by projects.

Although currently communication and information exchange exists among NSC projects, there is less exchange with stakeholders that are not automatically partners in the NSC. Effective communication to project partners and a wider audience of stakeholders (e.g. regulators, policy makers, industry, NGOs, public) are fundamental to the success of projects, and the translation of project outputs into practice. A more governance-oriented structure and function of the NSC would address the issues related to task coordination across the NSC and communication/dissemination, allowing greater effectiveness and impact.

At present, safety and hazard issues are either not well addressed or are not addressed at all, in nanomaterials innovation. The development of governance¹ of nanotechnology in general, involves a close connection between safety and innovation, in which approaches are needed that address safety without disproportionate hindrance of the potential for innovation. NSC safety research should work to facilitate innovation projects and shape the effective and proportionate governance of nanotechnology by EC member states, as well as facilitating reflexive and inclusive decision making that is vital to gaining and retaining societal acceptance of the use of nanomaterials

This document outlines how the current NSC can be reorganized to address the issues mentioned above.

¹ As there are several interpretations on governance, we should leave it up to the dedicated task force to describe this.

CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Vision.....	3
Current Bottlenecks	3
Factors for success	3
Revised NSC Structure.....	5
Roles and responsibilities within the NSC.....	7
Steering group.....	7
Coordinator	7
Coordination team 2017-2021	7
Communication group	8
Working groups.....	8
WG A: training and education.....	9
WGB: Materials and Standards	9
WG C: Exposure & Hazard Assessment	10
WG D: Models and Tools for Risk Assessment.....	10
WG e: SaFe by Design, Innovation and Regulation	10
WG F: Data management.....	10
Task forces	11
Examples of Current Task Forces	11
Annexes.....	13
I. Defining NSC core activities	13
1. Coordination of future EU nanosafety science policy (via the Steering Group).....	13
2. Coordination of ongoing EU nanosafety science (SG via WGs and Task Forces)	13
3. Ensuring continuity and sustainability of EU research	14
4. Maximizing impact and uptake by stakeholders.....	14
II. Future Activities (dependent on securing funding)	16
iii. New initiatives to secure funding to support NSC	16

VISION

The NSC functions as a high profile platform for coordination of nanosafety research in Europe, (i) providing strategic direction for the EU and member states, (ii) enhancing synergies between running and newly starting projects, (iii) preserving the outputs and data from ended projects, and (iv) integrating and synthesising nanosafety knowledge to provide a unified message to stakeholders including regulators, industry and civil society. Over time, the goal is to transition the NSC to an **Innovation Governance platform**, so 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.

Further details of the specific actions proposed / planned / under consideration under these different headings are given in Annex I.

CURRENT BOTTLENECKS

- Perceived lack of sufficient attention to regulatory relevance and engagement.
- Lack of a clear operating budget for the NSC – all projects nominally contribute 2% of their total budget, but this has not been coordinated, nor have there been formal checks on how the contribution is spent to the benefit of the NSC.
- Working groups are largely voluntary comprised of representatives from each relevant NSC project, but lack the power to make and enforce choices and decisions. While some function effectively, some lack clear leadership, terms of reference, and clear short, medium and longer term goals.
- Lack of commitment (e.g. from projects and the wider NSC membership) regarding the implementation of decisions / recommendations by the NSC.

FACTORS FOR SUCCESS

To enable a step-change in the NSC's empowerment, effectiveness and visibility, the following actions/activities are proposed:

Coordination Team

- The NSC leadership to implement transparency on decision making by fully describing their own terms of reference, as well as those of Working Groups and Task Forces – effective from circulation of this document, subject to any changes resulting from the consultation process.
- The NSC leadership to agree (via consultation with the NSC projects and members) the set of **core tasks** to be funded from the NSC project budgets, and a set of *stretch-tasks* for which additional funding (such as COST, a CSA, a research infrastructure etc.) must be sourced. Costs for delivery of core tasks to be estimated (based on current experience) in terms of Person Months and other direct costs and agreed with the Commission as a basis for NSC projects to allocate their NSC contributions, and for the SG and Commission to evaluate project contributions to the NSC.

- Implementation team to work with SG and the Governance TFs to develop a profile attracting users (stakeholders from fundamental research to market players) and facilitate the transition of the NSC to an innovation Governance platform. Central to this will also be the new Internationalisation Flagship.
- Alignment with EC4SafeNano-CSA; the existence of EC4SafeNano can boost the chances to create the long-term profile of NSC and can support in communication with the “stakeholder communities”. Implementation team to initiate discussions of how best to integrate and align.
- Monthly teleconferences (TCs) of the NSC Implementation Team and bimonthly TC with all Project coordinators – effective immediately.

Cluster Steering Group level:

- SG to agree dates for standing events which NSC meetings / workshops can be aligned to (e.g. EuroNanoForum, Industrial Technologies conference etc.) and get these into the NSC calendar in an effort to reduce number of *ad hoc* meetings.
- NSC Annual conference and nanosafety days to be implemented in February annually. NSC Young Scientists Forum to continue biannually in September.
- SG to agree a list of workshop topics as basis for NSC workshops for development of consensus on key topics, both to increase the effectiveness of NSC events and to address the gap in regulatory relevance by developing NSC consensuses and position papers integrating results across multiple projects into a coherent whole (discussed also in stakeholder panels at Malaga 5-projects conference, Feb 2017).
- SG to set up and/or support Task Forces for rapid action and to respond to specific questions and needs as they arise; these will be ad-hoc groupings with a well-defined mandate and a deadline to deliver. The first set of Task Forces to be nominated/re-confirmed summer 2017.

NSC project level:

- Project Coordinators need greater engagement in decision making and stronger role in verification of project contributions to NSC. Each project to nominate one representative (and a substitute) responsible for NSC-activities / SG representative at the beginning of the project – effective immediately.
- Project Coordinators to commit to delivery of one (or more) **Core NSC activity** for them to “count” towards their 2% commitment - final allocations and distributions of work to projects to be agreed Summer 2017.
- WG and TF Chairs also need to verify contributions (outside meeting and Workshop participation costs) via timesheets and delivery of actions as promised – ongoing via SC meetings.
- Delivery of agreed actions to be verified by project coordinator in the first instance, and WG/TG Leader / SG – effective from the next NSC SG meeting.

NSC members:

- Active participation of people that sign up for a Working group or Task force (and not just be a subscriber as overall NSC information flows via the Communication Group).

REVISED NSC STRUCTURE

The revised NSC coordination structure is shown in Figure 1 below.

Cluster members are self-appointed individuals with an interest in nanosafety; they provide an email address as a means of participation to the cluster. They can be beneficiaries in an EU-funded project, but this is not necessary. Can be European or international, business, regulatory, academic or NGO.

Steering Group (SG) consists of the overall NSC coordinator and the coordination team (see below for details), along with the budget-holding members of the NSC, i.e. the FP7 and H2020 nanosafety project coordinators (see Table 1 for details of current projects – this will be revised periodically as new projects are funded and older projects finish). The overall NSC Coordinator will be elected by the NSC members from the pool of NSC-funded project coordinators.

Project	Approx. End dates
eNanoMapper, NanoMILE	Jan / Feb 2017
Sun, GuideNano, NanoSolutions	March / April 2017
NanoDefine, ProSafe	Oct 2017
FutureNanoNeeds	Dec 2017
NanoFASE, NanoReg II	August 2019
Calibrate	June 2019
EC4SafeNano, NanoGenTools	Oct 2019
HiSents, SmartNanoTox	Dec 2019
AceNano, npSCOPE	Dec 2020
SIINN ERANET: CeraSafe, NanoFARM, FATENANO, FENOMENO, ICONS, NANOaers	Ending 2018/2019
OpenRiskNet (infrastructure)	Nano case study for data mining
Potentially NanoCommons / RRI one	
WP 2018-2020 includes 2-4 topics	

Table 1: List of current and potential forthcoming NSC projects

Coordination Team will be responsible for day-to-day activities including the execution of decisions taken by the steering group.

Communication Group is to be a cross-cutting activity as significant aspects of its activities are Core activities of the NSC and as such need direct sponsorship from projects. A new cross-cutting activity on innovation governance is also proposed.

The **working groups** are also being revised and merged where appropriate by 1st April 2017 (following the consultation period and a consensus agreement), in order to reflect the current State of Science, the reduced number of nanosafety projects, the innovation oriented approach to which the NanoSafety cluster needs to be aligned/coordinated, and to ensure areas that are working well continue to flourish while those less productive are reinvigorated. The nature of the **Task Forces** is that they exist for a finite duration to achieve a specific goal agreed with the SG and EC project officers.

Clear guidelines will be developed by the **Coordination Team** (for approval by the SG) for proposal and approval of NSC activities, and all agreed actions will have named persons responsible for their delivery (a SG member, a WG or TF (where appropriate) and the specific project(s) that will provide effort and/or direct costs (from their project 2% NSC contribution).

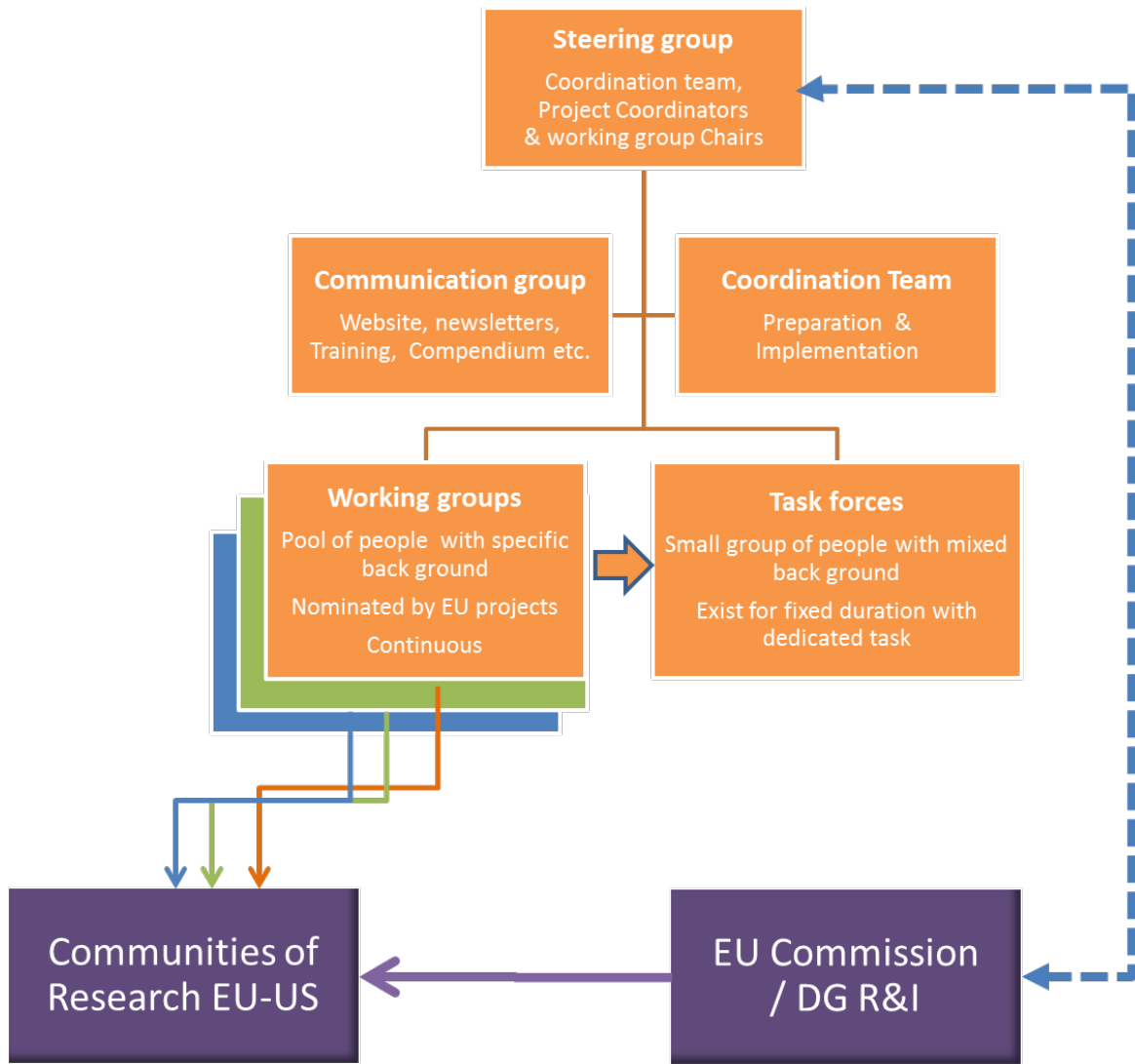


Figure 1: Coordination and management structure for the NSC. More information on CoRs: <http://us-eu.org>

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE NSC

STEERING GROUP

Consists of the project coordinators from all running EU NSC projects plus the coordination team, led by a Chair selected from the pool of project coordinators. Composition may be extended to WG and TF Chairs - this is a topic for consultation and discussion within the NSC community.

The Steering Group role is to:

- Act as the focal point for questions received by the coordination team and secretariat
- Initiate task forces to address key challenges (e.g. from stakeholders including the EC) and review the progress and output
- Oversee activities of all working groups.

Links with individual projects to be made as soon as a contract (Grant Agreement) is signed, the project coordinator will be invited to the NSC SG and to discuss what role they intend to play in the cluster.

COORDINATOR

The coordinator is chosen by the NSC at a plenary meeting for a term of two years from the pool of NSC project coordinators (as these are the NSC budget holders and have been selected for their expertise by a competitive peer-review process). He/she can only be re-elected for a second term in a row.

The role of the coordinator is to:

- Arrange and chair steering group meetings (e.g. two f2f/ and four telcons per year)
- Arrange and chair coordination team meetings on a monthly basis or whenever needed
- Chair plenary meetings of the NSC and facilitate TFs as required
- Support NSC core activities such as the Annual conference,
- Act as the contact point for representatives of EC (e.g. EU DG R&I)

COORDINATION TEAM 2017-2021

Coordination team consist Eva Valsami-Jones (University of Birmingham, UK; coordinator), Iseult Lynch (University of Birmingham, UK), Andreas Falk (BioNanoNet BioNanoNet Forschungsgesellschaft, Graz) and Flemming Cassee (National Institute for Public Health and the Environment RIVM, Bilthoven, Netherlands). The team will get secretarial support via H2020 project ACEnano for the coming years.

The role of the Coordination team is to:

- Support for WGs and TFs, communication group and Innovation Governance
- Facilitate key NSC decisions via online voting to enhance member participation
- Facilitate enhanced transparency around membership of WGs and cluster activities
- Support to the NSC projects for implementation of Core activity, and where no project available to sponsor a Core activity the Coordination team will bridge the gap.

- Organization of biannual NSC plenary meetings (which will be mainly hands-on events designed to build consensus on key topics) as well as providing updates to the wider NSC membership , including preparation of agendas together with Steering group and the Commission
- Preparation of the minutes from meetings of Steering group and NSC plenary meetings
- Maintaining communication between members of the Steering group, WGs, TFs, CoRs,
- Conducting special tasks such as publishing NSC documents, liaising with EC4SafeNano, etc.
- Supporting the development of the strategy for the transition to an innovation governance platform.

COMMUNICATION GROUP

Given the central role of communication and the need to enhance the external-facing communications from the NSC, including towards regulatory acceptance, the Communication Group is now elevated to a similar level as the Coordination Team (and indeed the Communication Group Chair will also be a member of the SG).

The communication group is responsible for:

- Dissemination and communication activities within and on behalf of the NanoSafety Cluster (NSC) Community. This includes internal communications to the cluster, and to external stakeholders and will increasingly include dedicated regulatory/industry communication and public engagement in nanosafety research.
- Delivery of a number of the NSC *Core Activities*, such as maintaining the NSC website, and other communication channels the NSC Twitter account, NSC YouTube channel and LinkedIn community; producing the annual Compendium of Nanosafety Projects (which will in future include also a section in support of the Internationalisation Flagship), and supporting the EU nanosafety communities days / annual conferences etc.
- Support the dissemination of NSC project events, ideas, etc.
- Support WGs, TFs and CoRs to achieve their goals to increase the impact of Cluster projects and CoRs, by making the research, methodologies, tools and outcomes more widely known.
- Build up engagement with the general public to support societal acceptance (new activity)

An annual communication plan will be developed and presented to the steering group for approval and assignment of projects to the various aspects.

WORKING GROUPS

WGs provide a platform for scientists to provide updates on nanosafety developments arising mostly from EU funded nanosafety projects. The community should have the possibility to propose new WGs as the field develops in certain directions and then the SG would discuss and decide whether to accommodate changes to the cluster structure.

The chairs are chosen by the members of the WG for a term of 2 years. He/she can only be re-elected for a second term in a row. By default, the WG chair will be member of one of the NSC projects (as each project nominates members to the relevant WGs).

The WGs function to:

- Address environmental, health, and safety questions about nanomaterials and to collaboratively advance the field
- Identify gaps in knowledge and research priorities for future funding

- Address collaboratively an agreed programme of activities, which can be linked with activities of the EU-US CoRs or can be bespoke activities designed to bridge the activities planned in the collaborating projects to enhance their interconnectivity.
- Agree protocols, templates, methodologies, etc., including for data harmonisation.

The work done in WGs will continue to be funded by the running projects (but with a clear budget determined at the start of each project / activity in order to ensure they are realistic, and to allow identification of a suitable delivery date).

The WGs will be largely self-run with the NSC Steering group providing administrative support. Future funding should be sought to strengthen the inter-WG-collaboration (e.g. via an EU coordination support action).

The proposed reorganisation / revision of the NSC WGs is given in Figure 2. Details on the proposed scope of each of the new WGs are provided below.

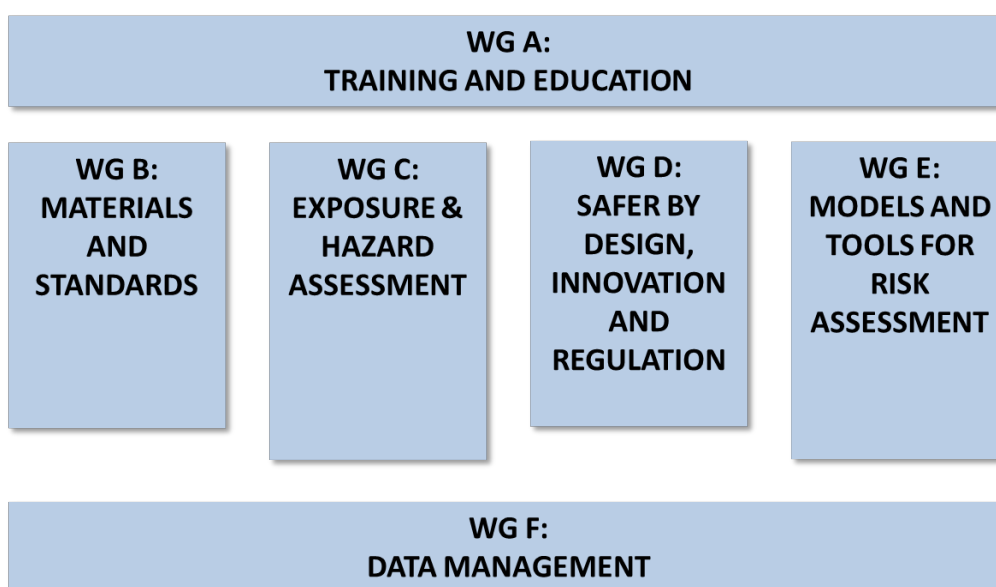


Figure 2: Proposal for merging and reformation of NSC Working groups

WG A: TRAINING AND EDUCATION

WG Training & Education was formerly a sub-group of WG7 Communication, but is now a stand-alone WG. Focus will be on developing strategies for harmonisation of training provision across NSC projects, facilitating training secondments for young researchers, organisation of the Young Nanosafety researchers biannual events, as well as beginning a focus on development of CPD (Continuous Personal Development) and stakeholder-focused events (e.g. for SMEs, for regulators etc.). Liaison and interaction with EC4SafeNano training activities also needed.

WGB: MATERIALS AND STANDARDS

WG Materials and Standards will include the old WG1 materials, and the Standardisation sub-group from the old WG7 (which is no longer a working group but is replaced by the Communication cross-cutting core activity)

and should have just 1 chair. Activities could focus on provision and upscaling of nanomaterials libraries, support for pilot lines projects, as well as supporting applications of nanomaterials in related areas such as counterfeiting, traceability etc.

WG C: EXPOSURE & HAZARD ASSESSMENT

WG Exposure & Hazard Assessment merges the old WG 2 (Hazard), WG3 (Exposure), and WG8 (Systems Biology) – we suggest retaining a set of focus groups here and should ensure cross-talk where appropriate. Focus here should be on consensus building, agreement on protocols, validation of new and alternative (*in vitro*) methodologies, and translation to regulation, etc.

WG D: MODELS AND TOOLS FOR RISK ASSESSMENT

WG Models and Tools for Risk Assessment integrates the old WG5 and WG6 with the suggestion for just one Chair. A focus should be on integrating existing tools, and developing strategies for community evaluation of the tools to build (regulatory) acceptance.

WG E: SAFE BY DESIGN, INNOVATION AND REGULATION

Safe by Design, Innovation and Regulation working group integrates the proposed WG9 and WG10 and for the moment will have a single Chair, but could have a second chair for regulatory aspects in due course as they develop sufficient critical mass of activities. The proposal is to have one sub WG “Innovation” and the other subgroup on WG “Regulation”. It would make it easier to create a strong profile of the “new NSC” dedicating work to each of these two disciplines. SbD is a “tool” that underpins both of these activities.

WG F: DATA MANAGEMENT

Data management is the old WG4 (Databases), which is functioning well, but this change enhances its status as a cross-cutting WG that all others need to feed into / cooperate with and highlights its important role in securing longevity of access to NSC datasets. This working group would also take up the responsibility of securing and sharing data produced by finished projects.

Decision needed as to whether some of these activities should become “NSC Core Activities” of the NSC and thus prioritised for funding.

- Maintain and expand the nanosafety ontology (follow-up eNanoMapper).
- Data Mining of data from ongoing or completed projects, and their storage
- Data curation: monitoring the quality of the available incoming data
- Ensure continuity of data storage and accessibility of data
- Control of the formal aspects of data management; include: commitment to providing data, what type of license; removal of existing formal barriers to data sharing. Note also that interaction with EC4SafeNano is essential, as they are planning a route from research to regulation also.

TASK FORCES

Unlike a working group, a task force (TF) is a unit or formation established to work on a single defined task or activity with a clear output and deadline for delivery.

A TF is initiated by the steering group and consists of volunteers from the pool of NSC members and is given a specific budget² by the steering group. The members choose their own chair, who will maintain contact with the NSC coordinator. The following topics serve as **ideas/questions** for task forces:

Strategy:

- Are there any specific nanotechnologies for which risk is likely to be relatively high?
- How do we move toward nano/innovation risk governance?
- What should, and can, be the relation of upstream scientific assessment to downstream risk management, and to economic development of what has been designated a "key enabling technology" for Europe?
- How to include the area of risk perception (emotion) and its close links to risk assessment (ratio) into ongoing NSC activities

Enhanced coordination and gap assessment:

- NM risk assessment: Can the activities of existing projects funded be mapped out in order to identify what is addressed and where the gaps remain? Which questions are asked, which methods are applied, and which answers are found?
- "Safer by design" of NMs: Can the activities of projects funded be mapped out in order to identify what is addressed and where the gaps remain?
- How to identify the needs and challenges in important application fields / sectors? How to assess the necessity of NanoSafety work in the specific sector?
- a REACH dossier for different materials (e.g. TiO₂) based on NSC projects data – what we are confident on versus where are gaps still (methods not available, no data available etc.)?
- Comparison evaluation of same material through cosmetics / REACH / food and medicine and see what issues arise?

EXAMPLES OF CURRENT TASK FORCES

Risk Governance task force. This action was launched at the NSC meeting in Grenoble and Keld Altrup Jensen (H2020 project "caLIBRAte" Coordinator) volunteered to lead this task force and will use some of the 2% financial commitment caLIBRAte has made to the NSC as part of our grant agreement. The TF will define nanorisk governance and its elements and what an EC nano risk governance body should consist of and do.

Sustainability Task Force: Initiated at the eNanoMapper/NSC meeting in February 2016, and lead by Barry Hardy (coordinator of eNanoMapper) this TF is addressing issues around sustainability of NSC project outputs. Has not been especially active or visible, and will need re-focussing as part of the overall reframe of TFs.

² This will most likely be virtual, as we cannot have a unique budget unless we can get support from a CSA or COST action. So for the time being this is from the "2%" or in kind contributions. The allocation will help partners to justify their efforts on behalf EU NSC projects.

Next work programme for nanosafety (2018-2020) led by Claus Svendsen at the request of the Commission (GK) whose task is to define the technical scope and the expected impact of the forthcoming 2-year workprogramme.

I. DEFINING NSC CORE ACTIVITIES

The four key areas of activity for the NSC, defined in the vision on page 3 are broken out into a range of sub-tasks in the sections below. The plan is that going forward, there will be a transparent, web-based process whereby projects, WGs, and NSC members can sign-up to sponsor or contribute to activities endorsed by the Steering group, which will also facilitate monitoring of progress towards targets and visibility of contributions from members, projects and WGs.

1. COORDINATION OF FUTURE EU NANOSAFETY SCIENCE POLICY (VIA THE STEERING GROUP)

Activity	Responsible	How / When	Resources ³
To provide a forum for discussion and agreement of future NSC Core activities (including <i>transition towards an innovation governance structure</i>) and assignment of tasks (Task Forces, WGs, Communication group, workshops, CoRs etc.);	Steering Group	Quarterly Telecons Annual F2F	
To develop future research priorities, e.g. via updating of roadmap, development of call texts, Task Forces horizon scanning activities etc.	Steering Group	Annually Ad hoc workshops	
Development of funding proposals for further NSC activities.	Coordination Team & SG	Ad hoc (e.g. goal of 1 application/year)	

2. COORDINATION OF ONGOING EU NANOSAFETY SCIENCE (SG VIA WGS AND TASK FORCES)

Activity	Responsible	How / When	Resources
To develop relationships and promote open collaboration among researchers as well as among projects (including hand-over of knowledge from ending projects to starting projects), and for running projects including sharing of project methods, techniques, results etc. thereby avoiding unplanned duplication of work and improving efficiency of EU-funded research	SG WGs (specify) Projects (specify)	Compendium Database Annual Conference Jointly organized project workshops Retreats for consensus building	
To plan collaborative research / training actions (workshops, training events, conferences, etc.)	SG WGs Projects	Annual Conference Jointly organized project workshops Communication Group calendar Project alignment	

³ The effort (Person months) and cost (other direct) of all core and future NSC activities will be mapped out, as part of the process whereby projects can sponsor specific activities as part of their 2% contribution to the NSC. Costs will be estimated based on past project contributions (e.g. for NSC Compendium, newsletter etc.).

To facilitate the formation of a consensus on nanomaterial characterization, exposure and hazard assessment in Europe e.g. To improve the coherence of nanosafety hazard and exposure studies through harmonization of methods;	SG Secretariat WGs Projects	2-day writing workshops on key topics – agree a schedule of topics for 2-3 years White papers / joint publications from workshops	
To provide a single European voice to respond in a cohesive and representative manner to consultations from EU and member states – this will require development of a culture of collecting relevant project inputs in a timely manner and will require coordination team to horizon scan for consultation opportunities that we should be responding to and managing this process.	Secretariat SG Project Coordinators	Communication with Project Coordinators on Open consultations and calls for input and consolidation of responses. (May need Telecon to reach consensus).	
To ensure appropriate inputs into US-EU CoRs on Nanosafety, reducing duplication of effort – need to develop a culture here of NSC representatives to CoRs collecting inputs from all relevant projects before CoR teleconferences and F2F meetings. Facilitated via updated website? Or via secretarial support to WGs?	SG WGs	Teleconferences Bi-annual F2F meeting	

3. ENSURING CONTINUITY AND SUSTAINABILITY OF EU RESEARCH

Activity	Responsible	How / When	Resources
To develop a business plan / model to support sustainably and secure accessibility to project outcomes beyond project lifetime – e.g. tools, datasets, materials, protocols & SOPs etc.	Steering Group WG Data Curation	Quarterly Telecons Annual F2F	
To provide advice / support for proposal developers for forthcoming NMBP nanosafety related calls regarding data curation, existing tools and how to access them etc. – Could be supported via NSC website – costs for accessing existing tools / datasets / materials / databases and the expertise to utilise etc. for proposal development. <u>Can be supported through NanoCommons data infrastructure (if funded).</u>	Communication Group WG Data curation	Website – NSC tools section with details of how can be integrated / utilised developed further in projects	

4. MAXIMIZING IMPACT AND UPTAKE BY STAKEHOLDERS

Activity	Responsible	How / When	Resources
To provide cluster members, the Commission and stakeholders (including ISO, OECD, Commission Scientific Committees as well as industry, regulators, standardisation bodies, governments) with up-to-date information on the activities of cluster members and projects	Communication Group WGs Projects	Compendium Annual conference & stakeholder-targeted events Quarterly newsletter	

To provide industrial stakeholders and the general public with appropriate knowledge on the risks of nanomaterials for human health and the environment, and how these can be managed in a way that allows nanotechnology research and development to proceed in a safe and responsible way. <u>General public will need some dedicated activities via new funding.</u>	SG Communication Group WGs Projects	Training activities Industry showcase Demonstration day?	
To assure synergy and collaboration among projects for maximising impact	Communication Group Projects	Stakeholder workshops White papers from consensus workshops	

From this list of activities, which were extracted from the original scope of the NSC as well as from inputs collected as part of the reorganisation of the NSC, it is clear that some are ongoing activities of high value (e.g. the newsletter, the compendium etc.), some are new initiatives that have been agreed at recent NSC meetings (e.g. the annual conference and nanosafety days), and some are activities that need some considerable re-working to maximise their impact (e.g. the NSC website). Thus, as part of the re-structuring of the NSC, a set of Core Activities is being defined, which will be funded from the 2% budgetary contributions of the FP7 and Horizon2020 projects, in an organised, and transparent manner.

The current proposal for the Core Activities is presented in Table 2. Please feel free to add your comments or suggestions if you think something that the cluster currently does should be core, or something it doesn't yet do that should be core.

Table 2: Proposal for NSC Core activities, to be ongoing activities supported by named projects who declare this as their contribution to the NSC when reporting to the Commission.

NSC activity	PM required	Budget required
Quarterly newsletter		
NSC compendium of projects		
Website re-design & maintenance		
Annual Conference		
Semi-annual Young Researchers Forum		
Stakeholder event		
Training Event		
Compilation of inputs to Consultations (e.g. REACH, TiO ₂ genotoxicity etc.)		
Consensus meeting organisation		
Consensus report drafting & finalisation		
Roadmap updating		

II. FUTURE ACTIVITIES (DEPENDENT ON SECURING FUNDING)

Ideas for activities that the NSC could undertake to support the community and the translation of research to regulation or industrial use are always welcome.

Current proposals for future activities that the NSC could address include the following:

- NSC helpdesk - this would be a centrally operated helpdesk available to reporters, schools, SMEs, regulators etc. to address specific technical or non-technical questions. The helpdesk would field the queries, identify the relevant experts to collate answers and feedback in as quick a time as possible – having a pool of experts available across Europe will facilitate faster responses and allow several perspectives to be collected / aligned easily.
- Regional Champions – to develop a set of actions / activities to support the development of excellent in new member states – could include help for writing proposals, support to link to key partners in EU countries, a match-making service for proposals etc.
- NSC events for stakeholders to identify specific stakeholder needs and pull together specific responses from across NSC projects - engage directly with regulatory bodies from across the member states as a dedicated activity and bring them closer. Similarly, develop dedicated links with industrial platforms (NIA) and major companies and, again, bring them closer.
- Other?

III. NEW INITIATIVES TO SECURE FUNDING TO SUPPORT NSC

The Coordination team will look for ways to support and expand the NSC activities longer term. Options include:

- COST networking
- Coordination Support Action (we would need to draft the text)
- Research infrastructure
- Link into EC4SafeNano's business plan
- Proposal to add 5% to NSC projects and collect it in a central pot (like the guarantee fund) for essential activities such as databasing, data curation etc.
- Etc.

These options will be assessed and a feasibility plan drawn up to support NSC activities