

Minutes of NanoSafety Cluster Meeting, Helsinki, 15 April 2015

Time: Wednesday, 15 April 2015; 14:10-18:00

Venue: Marina congress Centre, Helsinki, Finland, meeting room: Fennia II

Participants: Members of NanoSafety Cluster

1. Welcome and opening remarks

The Coordinator of the NanoSafety Cluster, Dr Kai Savolainen (FIOH), welcomed the participants to the meeting and gave a short introduction to the agenda. The agenda items were changed in reverse order due to the schedules of the presenters. Dr Georgios Katalagarianakis gave the opening remarks on behalf of the Commission, and the meeting was opened at 14:10.

2. Regulatory Research Roadmap

Dr Vicky Stone gave an overview of the Regulatory Research Roadmap. There has been strong international interest and input in this activity. The purpose of the roadmap is to identify and structure the research that is required to deliver effective regulation of nanomaterial safety. The research priorities have been categorized into three distinct areas that are methods development, data generation, and refinement of risk assessment strategies. They include also a time perspective and take into account the need for interim guidelines and regulation, as we cannot afford to wait with this guidance. The guidelines can then be updated to more sophisticated and accurate ones as more knowledge becomes available. Dr Stone summarized the plans for the next few months. The first draft of the roadmap will be finished early May and it will be circulated to Cluster members around mid-May. The document will be finalized based on the received comments and the final version will be made available towards late summer.

Dr Katalagarianakis requested to group the hexagons into topic suggestions for the next two years. In addition, risk monitoring, risk reduction and risk mitigation should be covered and aligned together with the Closer to the Market Research Roadmap to see if they could be brought more downstream. It was noted that there is interaction with regulatory representatives, but probably not enough industrial people have been involved in contributing to the roadmap. On the other hand, it was emphasized that the roadmap is produced from the research point of view. Dr David Carlander noted that from an industry perspective, the regulations may not always be the solution, but industry is looking for guidance. Dr Andreas Falk noted that maybe the selection of priorities could be organized around the list of questions posed by NANoREG to find synergies.

3. Closer to the Market Research Roadmap

Dr Falk presented the outline of the Closer to the Market Research Roadmap. Networking is the key element of this proposed activity, including building capacity and reliable tools to

bring market aspects on board. Several competence centres and knowledge platforms already exist that can join forces to develop collaborative activities, including not only researchers but also industry players and platforms. Science and evidence-based communication, tools and guidelines to industry are among the key outputs of the activity. Dr Falk highlighted that communicating to industries in their own national language is a key to reach them. A CSA call addressing this topic is expected next spring.

Dr Katalagarianakis emphasized that only a single proposal will be funded from this call, and that the Member States have to pay for their own centres and the work, but the EC pays for the coordination activity of the centres. Dr Katalagarianakis reminded also about the Lisbon Treaty and its Article 8B about participatory democracy (civil society and various stakeholders to be included and consulted). A brainstorming event, with the national competence centres and other stakeholders, will be organised in November 2015. It was noted that the event should be announced early to the target audiences because of various competing activities. Dr Olivier Salvi emphasized the importance of a bottom-up approach, and the need of competence centres to define their own way to organize themselves.

Dr Barry Hardy pointed out the importance of data sharing, access to data and assuring quality of data. It was discussed that data management and sharing aspects have to be addressed in general within the projects and after they end. Dr Savolainen noted that collaboration between the projects has been considered very useful and that NANOSOLUTIONS is working actively to collaborate e.g. with eNanoMapper and NanoMILE. Dr Katalagarianakis noted that the Commission requirements in Horizon2020 are different, highlighting the need to be open about your data.

4. Towards the European Centre for the Risk Management of Nanotechnologies
Dr Emeric Frejafon introduced the context and objectives of the Centre. A group of expert institutions has decided to create the European Centre to promote a harmonized vision of risk assessment and management. The initiative has been created to bridge the gap between science and applications and gather the available multidisciplinary expertise as well as stream expertise, knowledge and tools. Furthermore, the aim of the Centre is to facilitate access to research infrastructure and make available a set of services that support research programming and transfer of knowledge. Interested parties are requested to contact Dr Frejafon or Dr Salvi (see the presentation for contact details).

It was noted that this is a great opportunity, but there is still a long way to go to negotiate the terms, rules and business model and achieve a common view. Dr Salvi noted that there is a clear need for this kind of centre from the industry side, and that they witness it every day. There is a need to provide the available knowledge to help those who want to use the nanomaterials in a safe way. INERIS is committed to pushing the initiative forward whether there is an EC call for proposals or not.

5. NanoSafety Cluster Review: Outcome and recommendations
Dr George Katalagarianakis summarized the main results of the review. The Cluster has achieved an impressive record of activities. There is some room for development, especially in terms of visibility of our work and accountability in delivering results.

Organization of the working groups

It was decided that each project assigns a representative to each of the (relevant) working groups, and each of the working groups elects the WG chair. It was noted that many of the large nanosafety projects are ending, but people from the ending projects (and other

motivated persons) may be involved as well. It was noted that the assigned persons have to be committed to deliver results, and that they are accountable to the NSC via the projects, as are the Project Coordinators. Furthermore, cross-cutting aspects between the WGs should be taken into account. This will be addressed in more detail once the groups have been formed to see if this is properly covered. Dr Teresa Fernandes pointed out that the CoR activities have been working well and it is fine if the working groups are not parallel with the CoRs.

After an intense discussion it was agreed that the working group chairs shall constitute or select a steering group that is responsible for proposing a strategy for the Cluster. One of their tasks is also to streamline the outputs of the various WGs to some degree. This can mean e.g. writing a review article or an opinion paper, as one of the WGs has already done. The goal is to add the visibility of the work and results of the NanoSafety Cluster.

It is recommended that the working groups organise a teleconference once a month to put some structure to their work. There will be annual reporting to the Commission on the work and deliverables achieved. In terms of funding, a certain percentage of the budget can be allocated to Cluster activities. A project may use e.g. around 100 000e for Cluster activities, meaning dissemination, training and conferences as well as travel costs. Furthermore, there is a need to coordinate the presence of the projects better in events organised outside Europe or at various international platforms.

The review text

Dr Katalagarianakis noted that the next step is to summarize the review results into a publishable paper that will be also available on the website. This should be a generic paper that includes the main achievements, critical remarks and ways to address them. Dr Lynch noted that the results of the self-assessment of the Cluster will be published in an event organized in the context of the EuroNanoForum in June.

6. FIOH's offer to continue the coordination of the NSC

Dr Savolainen made an offer to continue the NSC coordination after the end of current period, starting January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2018. After a thorough discussion, the proposal was accepted in a following form:

1. To continue NSC technical coordination including organizing NSC meetings and Forum for Young Scientists together with the host organization (preparing invitations, agendas, minutes, reporting)
2. Conceptual Coordination of the NSC activities in concert with Commission (RRR & CTTM roadmaps, updating the SRA) together with the responsible parties
3. To chair and support the steering group and jointly propose a NSC strategy and support the implementation of the strategy, as agreed with the Commission and the NSC.
4. To provide support to the EU-US CoR activities, such as logistics support and technical coordination.

Danail Hristozov noted that SUN project is also able to provide support for EU-US CoR activities.

Communication

It was discussed that the communication aspect needs to be stronger and the current website does not serve external stakeholders (outside the Cluster community). It was decided that Dr Lynch will remain as the communications manager, supported by a communication manager to be hired by NIA. The SUN project also offered to help if there is need for more capacity.

It was also suggested that each working group would have one deliverable on communication aspect. It was concluded that the next step is to come up with a communication strategy and address the communication needs outside the Cluster with various stakeholders, such as industry, other DGs and general public.

Upcoming events

- 10-12 June 2015, EuroNanoForum, Riga, Latvia.
<http://euronanoforum2015.eu/>
- 15-17 July 2015, QualityNano-NANoREG joint conference, in Heraklion, Crete, Greece.
<http://www.qualitynano.eu/conference/welcome.html>
- 29-30 September MARINA and NanoValid final meeting, OECD, Paris, France
http://www.marina-fp7.eu/news/detail.php?we_objectID=101
- 7-8 July 2015, QEEN Workshop: Quantifying Exposure to Engineered Nanomaterials from Manufactured Products - Addressing Environmental, Health, and Safety Implications. Arlington, USA
<http://www.nano.gov/node/1327>
- 20-21 August 2015, EU-U.S. bridging nanoEHS efforts - Databases and modelling CoR Meeting (contact Barry Hardy for details)
- 18-22 October 2015, 7th International Symposium on Nanotechnology: Occupational and Environmental Health, South Africa
<https://www.nanoeh2015.co.za/>
- 9-10 November 2015, Systems biology in nanosafety research, 3rd Mini-Conference on Nanotoxicology at the Nobel Forum, Stockholm, Sweden
<http://www.nanosafetycluster.eu/news/148/66/Systems-Biology-in-Nanosafety-Research-3rd-Mini-Conference-on-Nanotoxicology-at-the-Nobel-Forum.html>
- 13-17 March 2016, Society of Toxicology 2016 Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
<http://www.toxicology.org/AI/MEET/AM2016/index.asp>
- 8th International Nanotoxicology Conference, Boston, June 2016

7. Any other business

Topics for the Work Programme

Dr Katalagarianakis noted that the topics for 2016-2017 Work Programme are almost final. He called for suggestions for the topics of the 2018-2019 Work Programme. They must include scope, challenge and impact and be future oriented, as the time perspective is 8 years ahead. The topics for the following Work Programme should be proposed on time, in October 2016 at the latest. The nanosafety community should also be aware of that because of the budget cuts, there will be lower level of funding allocated to nanosafety research, meaning around 15-20 million euros annually.

Compendium

Dr Lynch reminded the participants about the Compendium that will be published in the next couple of weeks.

8. Next meeting

The next NanoSafety Cluster meeting will be organised in Paris, 28 September 2015, in the context of the MARINA and NanoValid final meeting. Dr Lang Tran will arrange the venue.

9. Closing

The meeting was closed at 18.00.

The presentations of the meeting are available on the Cluster website, and the list of participants is available by request (info@nanosafetycluster.eu).

To: Members of the NanoSafety Cluster