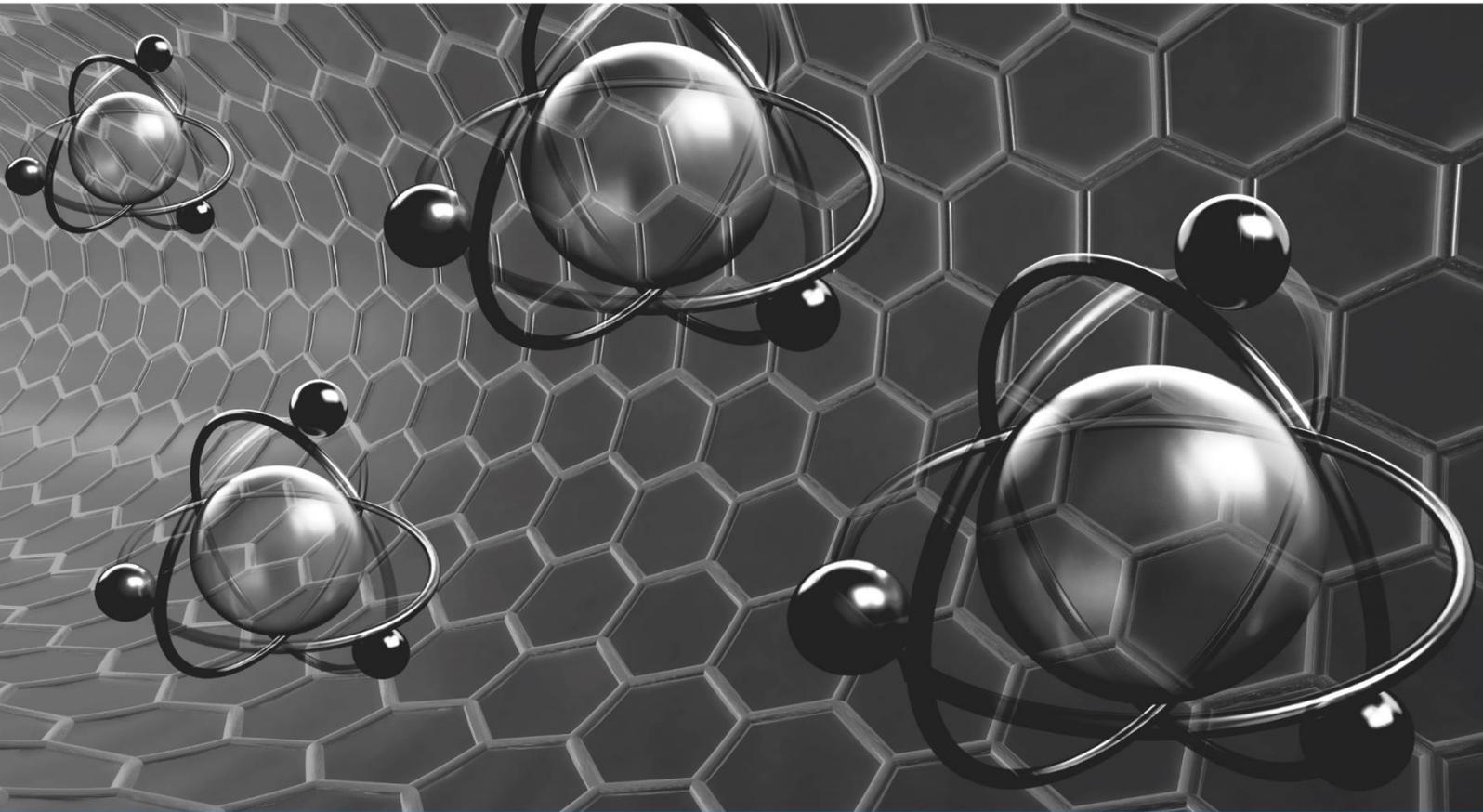




**NANO2ALL**  
SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE NANOTECHNOLOGY



# preliminary results - citizen dialogue in Sweden



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## NANO2ALL – CITIZEN DIALOGUE

### A Successful Dialogue Event at Innovatum Science Center – Sweden

Trollhättan Sweden- April 22, 2017

#### Context

On Saturday 22 April the science centre Innovatum, in Trollhättan Sweden, held its first dialogue event about nanotechnology, with focus on nanomedicine. 12 persons, both men and women participated in the event. Innovatum is part of the European project Nano2All which aims to contribute to Responsible Research and Innovation in nanotechnologies.

The Dialogue workshop started at 09:00 and continued until lunch around 13.00. The first task in the workshop was for the participants to come up with ideas of future objects related to nanomedicine. They got to design models of their ideas and then they created narratives around their objects in future situations, which they shared with each other and discussed. From the contents of the narratives needs, concerns and values were listed.

After an extra special lunch, the participants got to listen to a lecture given by the researcher Björn Wickman, a doctor in materials science from Chalmers Technical University. The title of the given lecture was "Nanotechnology – possibilities, trends and risks - from the laboratory to new products." After the lecture, the participants could have all their questions about nanotechnology answered by Björn.

All participants contributed to a successful event during the day. They felt involved in the subject even without previous knowledge to it. During the day, the participants had a fruitful dialogue on how to concretize an idea, to foresee opportunities and to picture a future user.

An important part of the workshop was to get new insights, and one participant said "This technology has infinite possibilities, nano is more than I could ever imagine." Another one reflected, "How little I know. Interesting to meet people who are engaged and curious and want to take action in building the future of society"

Some subjects that the participants would have liked to further discuss in the dialogue were how nanotechnology would affect economy, business and greed and eventual side effects on health and environment.

#### Needs, concerns and values

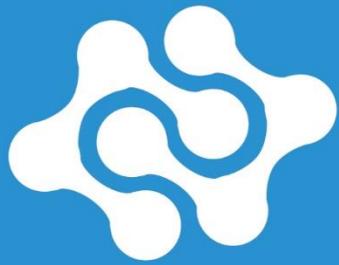
From the listing of needs, concerns and values, extracted from the participants narratives we collected the following findings:

- **Needs:** Need for health to define shortcomings of today, and to replace them. Another narrative was about needs to reduce the cost for society and individuals, at home, reduce divergences in society, boost comfort

and confidence, gain time and reduce the level of discomfort for individuals, while another narrative pointed out needs as, a long and happy life.

- **Concerns:** The concerns of the participants were on how the solutions to their needs could turn out to be exclusive between individuals (or between countries) or that by allowing to know so much about our flaws, nanotechnologies could potentially make people feel sicker than what they really are (hypochondriasis). Side effects on the body, disappearance or transformation of jobs and the manipulation of genes, consequences in aesthetics were other concerns. "What if nanotechnologies fall into the wrong hands?" were also a concern that the group brought up.
- **Values:** When it came to values, participants wanted nanotechnologies available to everyone, cheap so that anyone can access them but maybe also expensive so that it becomes exclusive. Some general positive values that came out of the dialogue event were that the proposed solutions could work for equality, contribute to increased normalisation and must be based in existing legal frameworks.
- The participant-group agreed that technological development in general and nanotechnologies in particular are supposed to work for society, to provide people with a good and dignified life. They were overall content with the day and had ideas about other subjects for future dialogue events.

The outcomes of this citizen dialogue event will be collected and used as input in the upcoming national dialogue events, which will be organised in six countries this autumn.



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