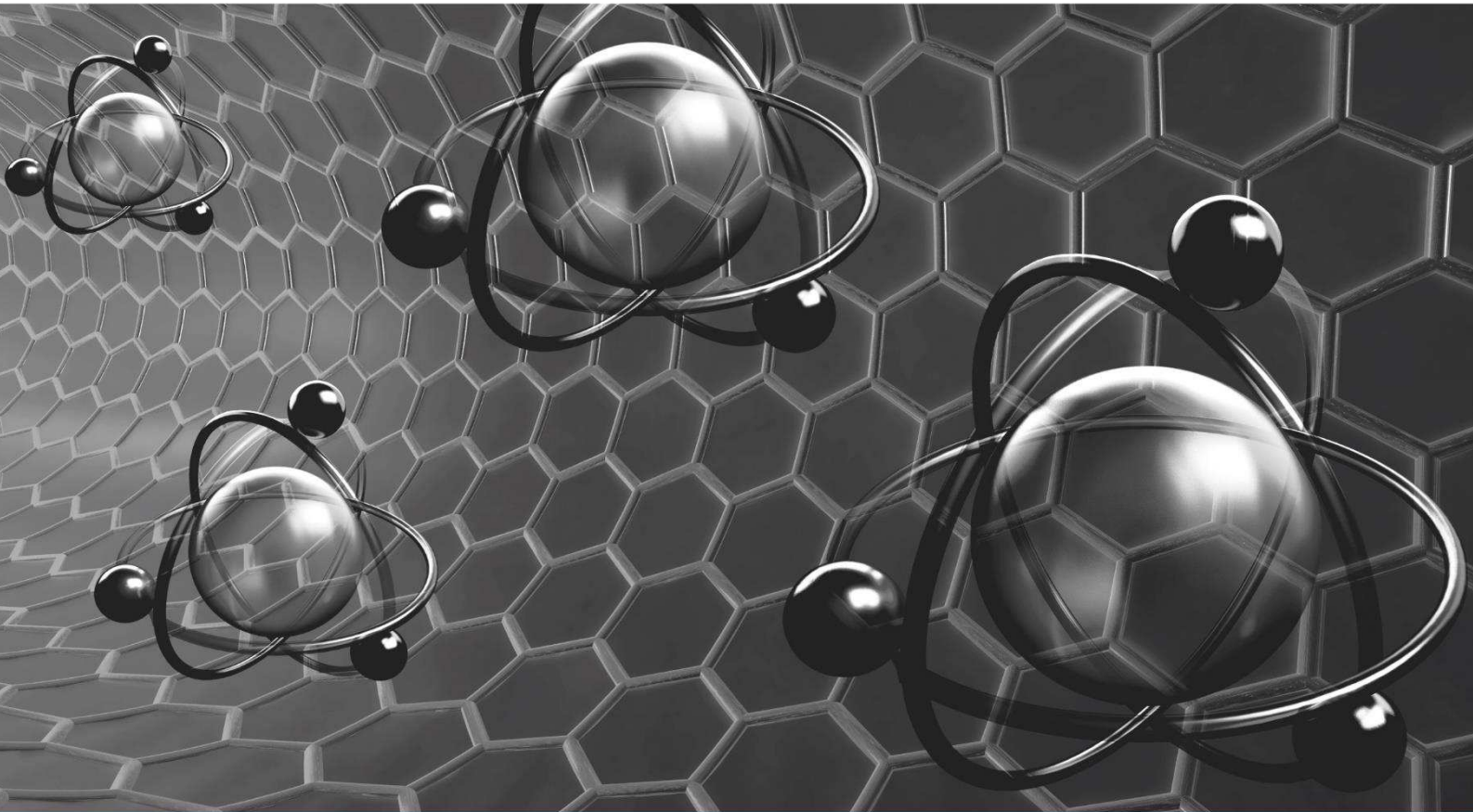




**NANO2ALL**  
SOCIETAL ENGAGEMENT ON RESPONSIBLE NANOTECHNOLOGY



# preliminary results - citizen dialogue in Italy



THE NANO2ALL PROJECT HAS RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION'S HORIZON 2020 RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME, UNDER THE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER 685931. THIS PUBLICATION REFLECTS ONLY THE AUTHOR'S VIEW AND THE COMMISSION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY USE THAT MAY BE MADE OF THE INFORMATION IT CONTAINS.

## NANO2ALL – CITIZEN DIALOGUE

### **MUSE – Science museum**

Trento. Italy - May 5, 2017 (15:00 – 19:30)

#### **Context**

The citizen dialogues on nanotechnology is a relevant event of the project NANO2ALL. The aim is to give voice to citizens about an emergent field, as nanotechnology is. In this event, citizens are asked to express their feeling and possible concerns.

Nowadays, some nanotechnology products are already applied in various fields and offer interesting promises to improve our life quality. Therefore, nanotechnology innovations are expected to have a considerable impact on our lives over the next few years. Applications of this emergent technology raise public concerns about potential risks and about ethical issues. In the view of improving trust, NANO2ALL believes that the demand for transparency and information coming from the society must be taken into account to adopt a responsible research approach, which may produce an informed technology transfer into the daily-life.

On May 5, 2017, MUSE organized the Italian citizen dialogue on nanotechnology, whose focus was the nanotextile sector. MUSE, as a scientific museum of contemporary conception, is a privileged arena for addressing controversial science topics and for engaging citizens in discussions that help investigate their needs, concerns and values.

To engage citizens in the dialogue session on nanotextile, different channels and methods were used which included the launch of the call for the participation, explanations on the project and the specific event, and the approach to specific groups to ensure a variety of participants: (i) associations known to be highly active on the local territory in the area of Trento were directly contacted; (ii) teachers, students and MUSE's volunteers were personally invited; (iii) population was informed through MUSE's social media. Then, interested citizens contacted MUSE and requested to participate by filling an on-line form.

35 people indicated their interest and the most suitable date for the event. The date that had the most votes was picked. In the end 19 participants took part in the dialogue: 10 women and 9 men, aged between 20 and 80 years, with different social and cultural backgrounds. The group was interestingly heterogeneous and the age gap was suitable to represent different points of view.

Participants seemed to be quite interested in taking part in this experience and were very collaborative with each other during all phases of the dialogue. They also seemed to be comfortable with sharing and accepting each other's ideas. The atmosphere was cozy and constructive.

**Findings and conclusions**

In the framework of nanotextile, the objects created and the narratives written by citizens focused mostly on health and well-being. During the discussion of needs, concerns and values, the term *health* was recurrent, resulting in being the most important one. As for the concerns, participants gave more importance to social issues, like employment crisis or discrimination, rather than to technological issues.

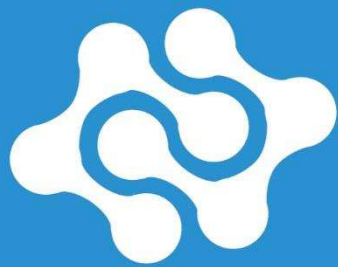
The group showed a positive attitude towards the development of nanotechnology in the medical field and expressed trust in research and development that aims to provide technologies that are beneficial to society. Transparency and responsibility were stressed as crucial values to be adopted by the various actors involved in research and development concerning nanotechnology, in particular those that are in charge of governing research, researchers themselves as well as lay citizens. It is worth stressing that participants emphasized the role of lay citizens in adopting a responsible attitude towards innovation. Last but not least, the group stressed the importance to respect the freedom of research and to support 'research free from constraints', whose application should be regulated when leaving the laboratory and entering in everyday lives.

In conclusion, the group was able to agree on a message to be addressed to the stakeholders who will participate in the upcoming NANO2ALL multi-stakeholder dialogue: *"The group is positive with regard to nanotechnology development in the field of health and supports research aimed at pursuing the benefit and the real needs of the society. However, the group wants this research to be managed by all the actors and in particular by those who are in charge of governing it in a responsible way. Moreover, the group stresses the importance of the responsibility of each person and claims research to be governed as soon as it leaves the laboratory and becomes a technology entering the society (here it is not free: here, research should be responsible, i.e. governed)".*

A motto was finally produced: *"Free research and responsible management"*.

The following table key words stated during the discussion of the citizens dialogue. They were classified according to their importance, by marking in green the high-priorities and in blue the low-priorities.

Needs	Concerns	Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Medical innovation</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Psychophysical well-being</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Satisfaction of hedonistic needs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Privacy</li> <li>• Security/safety</li> <li>• Intrusion/Invasiveness of technologies</li> <li>• Social discrimination</li> <li>• Economic interest</li> <li>• Terrorism and crime</li> <li>• Enormous occupational crisis</li> <li>• Technocratic elitist</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedom</li> <li>• Respect for the person</li> <li>• Solidarity/Sympathy</li> <li>• Ethics</li> <li>• Protection of the community</li> <li>• Happiness</li> <li>• Beauty</li> <li>• Responsibility</li> <li>• Care</li> <li>• Protection of the person</li> </ul>



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