

preliminary results –
citizen dialogue in Israel



Preliminary Results from the Citizen Dialogue in Israel

On Thursday, the Bloomfield Science Museum in Jerusalem held a dialogue session with Israeli citizens on the subject of nanotechnology in medicine. Nanotechnology products and materials are strengthening their grip on many fields and enabling a variety of new features and capabilities. Starting with smart medication, materials that will be used to mark damaged areas for imaging, rehabilitative materials that will help tissue regeneration, and ... There is probably no end to it. Like any new technology with rapid expansion and assimilation, it is expected that these technologies will also have unpredictable consequences.

At the dialogue held at the Science Museum in Jerusalem, 12 citizens of different ages and backgrounds participated. Participants developed models of future medical nanoscale products and through writing and analysing future scenarios, identified, concentrated and rated those needs, concerns and values, in parallel to similar meetings held in other science centres in the EU.

The citizen dialogue is the first of two to be held at the Museum as part of an EU program, NANO2ALL, that deals with responsibility in research and innovation. The purpose of the program is to formulate strategies for supporting technological research and development taking into consideration the needs and wishes of the public, as well as the views of different stakeholders. At the second dialogue session, which will be held in the museum in about six months, stakeholders in the field of nanomedicine in Israel will gather to discuss the needs, concerns and values that are important to the public, that came up in the citizen dialogue and serve as a basis for the game and creative processes that will take place in this second event.

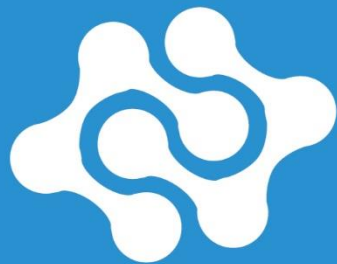
New technologies are usually financed and promoted through grants and investments of various entities - some public and some private. To determine the criteria for financing and supporting emerging technologies, it is important to know what the public wants, what it doesn't want, and what it values. The EU has set a goal of building a support methodology based on the public's will as well as that of different stakeholders.

Below are summarised the short conclusions of the citizen dialogue in Israel:

- It seemed that the participants of the citizen dialogue in Israel were not afraid of new technologies.
- It is important for them to be able to solve problems on their own without having to approach an expert. Nanotechnologies may have an important role in this. Regarding this technology, they fear that technology and robotization that it creates may occupy human professions, causing the loss of jobs

- It is important for them to ease the integration of people with disabilities in the society, and they feel nanotechnology can have a role in developing preventive treatment for the same disabilities.
- Personal responsibility for one's fate and individual freedom was an important value though it sometimes stands in contrast to the comfort provided by the society's responsibility for the individual which also received emphasis and was perceived as a negative issue. Nanomedicine can empower the individual but can also strengthen social control of individuals depending on the ways in which it is implemented.
- They seem concerned about the ability of new technologies to improve natural abilities and create needs that only rich people can afford.

It is interesting to see how stakeholders will relate to the same needs, concerns and values at the meeting in six months.



NANO2ALL