



PRESS RELEASE

NanoForCE project has started

The theme: „Nanotechnology for Chemical Enterprises – how to link scientific knowledge to the business in the Central Europe“.

September 2011

Milano, Italy

The NanoForCE Kick-off-meeting took place in Milano, Italy. The project is being founded within European Territorial Cooperation Objective CENTRAL EUROPE Program, application round 3.

The 30 months long NanoForCE project is performed in 8 regions of Central Europe belonging to 7 Countries. It is developed by 9 project partners, national & regional chemistry associations and R&D Centers of the Central Europe area. The Leading Partner of this project is the company SC - Sviluppo Chimica spa from Italy. Project Partners are: Veneto Nanotech S.C.p.A. (Italy), Association of Chemical Industry of the Czech Republic (SCHP), Chemistry Cluster Bavaria (Germany), Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry (PIPC), University of Nova Gorica (Slovenia), BioNanoNet Forschungs GmbH (Austria), Association of Chemical & Pharmaceutical Industry of the Slovak Republic and Institute of High Pressure Physics, Polish Academy of Sciences.

Nanosciences and nanotechnologies are new approaches to research and development (R&D) that concern the study of phenomena and manipulation of materials at atomic, molecular and macromolecular scales. Nanotechnology currently underpins many practical applications (medical, ICT, energy production, food-water, security, broad range of materials etc.) and has the potential to enhance quality of life and environmental protection, and boost industrial competitiveness. Even if the knowledge in the field of nanosciences and the industrial application has been gradually increasing over the last 10 to 20 years in Europe, there is the necessity of a larger international cooperation and research's coordination to overcome disciplinary boundaries, to fill the gap between more and less experienced regions and to turn investments in R&D in industrial innovations.

This is challenge for EU economy and for the Central Europe regions: indeed, Europe's main competitors are characterized by coordinated/ centralized R&D programs in nanotechnology and it appears unlikely that the EU, which is characterized by a relatively fragmented nanotechnology landscape, can not remain competitive at world-level without better focusing and coordination.

The general objective of NanoForCE is to foster the innovative nanotechnology-sector networks across Central Europe regions by bringing together public and private organizations (enterprises, research centers, venture capitalists and public institutions) to carry out collaborative & interdisciplinary researches on

nanomaterials (in the frame of REACH Regulation) and to turn the most promising laboratory results into innovative industrial applications.

The main results of the project will be the White Book of recommendations for the European Commission to advance potential changes of REACH regulation for some specific nanomaterials according to the risk assessment carried out on the selected nanomaterials; the identification of 100 potential deals between R&D Centers and large SM Enterprises of Central European region to turn researches into industrial processes; the concrete development of (up to) 8 of Transnational business (e.g. joint ventures) after the end of the project that go through the industrial application of innovative nanoproducts; create Nanotechnology roadmap for CE space composed by the Technological Rating and Business Plan to design the Venture Capital Fund of 30M€ by Transnational investors.

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