

# Project fact sheet 1

## The NanoDiode project Enabling dialogue on nanotechnologies

- 30+ outreach and dialogue events organised throughout Europe, engaging citizens and stakeholders in the debate on nanotechnologies
- 70+ videos, posters, newsletters, presentations and articles
- 20+ activity reports, project fact sheets and policy briefs, available at: [www.nanodiode.eu](http://www.nanodiode.eu)

The NanoDiode project establishes a programme for outreach and dialogue to support the responsible development of nanotechnologies in Europe. The consortium brings together a range of stakeholders including industry, civil society organisations, researchers from the natural and the social sciences and artists.

From July 2013 to June 2016, the NanoDiode project has organised a wide range of outreach and dialogue activities. Different work packages addressed different stages of the research and innovation process: from policy making and research to the diffusion of research outcomes in society.

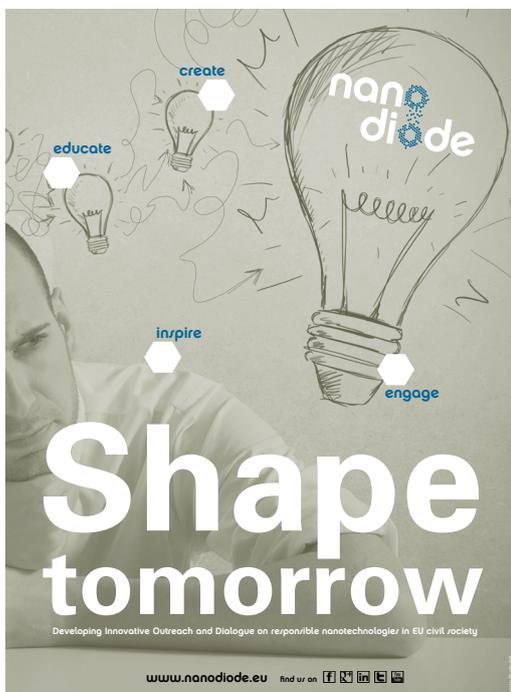
**WP2 INSPIRE** initiated engagement and dialogue at the 'upstream' level of nanotechnology research policy, organising a survey on public perceptions, a school competition and a series of citizens' dialogues on nanotechnologies;

**WP3 CREATE** sought to enable processes of co-creation at the 'midstream' level of concrete nanotechnology research and innovation processes, organising a series of 3rd generation deliberative processes, user committees and regulatory research workshops throughout Europe;

**WP4 EDUCATE** aimed to professionalise nanotechnology education and training, identifying and selecting the best tools for nanotechnology education and establishing a community of practice to produce capacity-building tools for safe working with nanomaterials;

**WP5 ENGAGE** organised activities at the 'downstream' level of public communication on nanotechnologies including the NanoTube, NanoBazaar, NanoGallery and NanoSlams.





nanotechnologies may shape our societies. This perspective encompasses the hopes and fears, the promises and concerns, the opportunities and risks of nanotechnologies. This matters to the question of nanotechnology governance, because effective governance requires viable mechanisms for stakeholders to cooperate despite differences.

NanoDiode has presented opportunities to integrate societal considerations in research and innovation decisions. But it has identified challenges as well, such as the voluntary nature of stakeholder engagement, the lack of effective integration mechanisms and the dominance of vested interests. Indeed, a deeper understanding of these challenges may be as valuable as knowing the opportunities: it points out that the capacity of research and innovation to effectively respond to societal challenges is a systemic challenge. There are complex interdependencies between decisions at the level of policy making, research and production. A more responsive research and innovation system therefore requires a culture change in the way research and innovation are funded, performed and evaluated.

NanoDiode has contributed to nanotechnology governance by elucidating opportunities and challenges to the integration of societal considerations in nanotechnology research and innovation. The individual work packages provide recommendations for outreach and dialogue at the different levels of governance.

On a more general level, the activities have enhanced mutual understanding between different stakeholders within the consortium. NanoDiode was in fact a social dialogue in itself: as a multi-stakeholder initiative, it brought together opposing views towards the purpose of engagement. The need for an approach towards outreach and dialogue that carries broad support led to an 'all-partial' perspective, where the purpose of public engagement is not to promote or oppose nanotechnologies, but to engage in dialogue on the different ways that

#### MORE INFORMATION



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#### PROJECT PARTNERS



NanoDiode is a project for outreach and dialogue on nanotechnologies, funded by the European Commission.

From July 2013 to June 2016, NanoDiode has organised a range of engagement activities across Europe, involving stakeholders in a dialogue on the funding, performance and outcomes of nanotechnologies research.

The NanoDiode fact sheets present the different activities carried out as part of the project and discuss the main findings and recommendations. This is the first of a series of 14 fact sheets, see: [www.nanodiode.eu/factsheets](http://www.nanodiode.eu/factsheets).



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