CALL FOR THREE SCIENCE JOURNALISTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NANODIODE PROJECT

Introduction

EUSJA is participating in the NANODIODE project that started in July 2013 and will end June 2016. In the framework of this project and in order to fulfill its obligations (see EUSJA's role below) we will need to recruit at this stage of the project 3 science journalists in order to carry out journalistic work within the project's activities. The main aim of the work will be to strengthen science journalism. This new, much more "involved", but totally independent journalism will provide many opportunities for all stakeholders, e.g., researchers, journalists, and citizen/tax-payers. Journalists will have close contact with researchers in order to be able to exercise a critical view of their on-going work. Researchers will get more publicity for the importance of their work, and many more aspects of it. Citizens will be informed earlier about the latest developments in order to better understand European research in the field of nanotechnologies. This will provide the basis for critical and best-informed acceptance or to ask for modifications to obtain the best results for citizens. Thus, journalists will be able to broaden their influence on ongoing research in nanotechnologies, acting as independent and critical moderators between researchers and the EU-community.

The role of EUSJA in NANODIODE

EUSJA's main role in the NANODIODE project is to provide the experience of its network of journalists in Europe and be involved in several activities about the project. Specifically EUJSA will organise workshops and science debates as well as trainings for science journalists. Three main workshops are foreseen within the lifetime of the project but also workshops should be organised in the framework of large events (like ESOF and WCSJ). The involvement of journalists, researchers as well as the public will contribute to the project's activities as well. Also EUSJA should motivate science journalists to start discussions about the latest developments in the field of nanotechnologies by creating a dialogue between science journalists (e.g. blogs, forums, small or large scale surveys within the community of science journalists) and the results of these dialogue activities will be integrated in the recommendation documents of the project. Finally within the project's activities will be the organization of a investigative science journalism award where two selected journalists will have the opportunity to investigate a specific topic that they will propose in the field of nanotechnologies. EUSJA will be responsible for running the award procedure.

The requirements and obligations for the 3 positions:

EUSJA would like to involve at this stage of the project three persons that will come from the Associations' members. The three categories of activities will be:

1. Organisation and realization of workshops and science debates (Code of the position: SJ01)
2. Organisation and realization of trainings for science journalists (Code of the position: SJ02)
3. Support to the above mentioned activities, organisation of the investigative science journalism award and motivation and engagement activities in order to get science journalists involved in projects dialogue activities (Code of the position: SJ03)

The requirements and obligations for each one of the above mentioned positions are:

SJ01: Organisation and realization of workshops and science debates

1. Experience in science journalism of at least 7 years. The experience will be proven by presenting a working experience as a science journalist in national or international magazines, newspapers or e-newspapers.
2. He/she should have experience on organizing workshops (and science debates preferably within international or national events).
3. Good knowledge about nanotechnologies field.
4. He/She should have a very good level in speaking and writing in English
5. He/she should have the ability to travel as well as to work from home
6. He/she should report to EUSJA's EU projects Working Group and Board about the activities within the project at least once every month
7. Attend to the organisation of the workshops and science debates meetings

SJ02: Organisation and realization of trainings for science journalists

1. Experience in science journalism training of at least 5 years. The experience will be proven by presenting courses that participate as tutor in national or international training events.
2. He/she should have experience on organizing training courses (materials, developing the programme of the course etc.).
3. Good knowledge about nanotechnologies field will be assessed positively.
4. He/She should have a very good level in speaking and writing in English
5. He/she should have the ability to travel as well as to work from home
6. He/she should report to EUSJA's EU projects Working Group and Board about the activities within the project at least once every month
7. Attend to the organisation of the trainings and science debates meetings

SJ03: Support to the above-mentioned activities, organisation of the investigative science journalism award and motivation and engagement activities in order to get science journalists involved in project's dialogue activities

1. Experience in science journalism training of up to 3 years. The experience will be proven by presenting a working experience as a science journalist in national or international magazines, newspapers or e-newspapers.
2. Experience in organising workshops and training events for journalists will be assessed positively
3. Knowledge about nanotechnologies field will be assessed positively.
4. He/She should have a very good level in speaking and writing in English
5. He/she should have the ability to travel as well as to work from home
6. He/she should report to EUSJA's EU projects Working Group and Board about the activities within the project at least once every month
7. Attend to the organisation of the workshops or/and trainings and science debates meetings

Financial issues

The selected journalists will receive a salary according to the position. The budget for each one of the positions is as follows:

1. SJ01: 12.000,00 euros for a period of one and a half year (estimated full time equivalent 2-3 months)

2. SJ02: 12.500,00 euros for a period of two years (estimated full time equivalent 3-4 months)
3. SJ03: 12.000,00 euros for a period of two years (estimated full time equivalent 4-5 months)

All the persons that will be selected will sign a contract with EUSJA and they should be able to issue invoices for their services.

Expression of interest and selection procedure

The interested science journalists should submit their CVs and a Letter of Interest by e-mail in the following e-mail address:

sotiriou@scienceview.gr

The deadline for submissions is the 1st of December 2013

Please indicate in the subject of the e-mail for which position you are applying by including the code of the position (e.g. SJ01)

All the applications will be gathered and EUSJA's EU projects Working Group, consisting of Menelaos Sotiriou, Jan-Olivier Loefken and Jesper Odde Madsen, will make a first round of selections and will report to the Board. Then the Board will choose the science journalist that will be involved in the project for each one of the positions.

It might be needed to realize a skype interview in order to finalise the selection procedure and if so the applicants will be informed in due time.

The selected applicants will have to be aware that they should start working for the project from 1st January 2014.

Summary Description of the Project

Stakeholder **engagement** and **dialogue** are essential to the **responsible development of nanotechnologies** in Europe. **NANODIODE** establishes an innovative, coordinated programme for outreach and dialogue throughout Europe to support the effective governance of nanotechnologies.

From July 2013 to June 2016 the project will integrate vital engagement activities along the innovation value chain: at the level of research policy, research & development (R&D), and the diffusion of nanotechnology innovations in society. Importantly, it combines **'upstream' public engagement (by way of dialogues that integrate societal needs, ideas and expectations into the policy debate) with 'midstream'** engagement (by organising innovation workshops at the level of the R&D practices that are at the heart of the research and innovation enterprise) **and 'downstream' strategies for communication,** outreach, education and training. The overall objectives of NANODIODE are to:

- Develop new strategies for outreach and dialogue along nanotechnology value chains (WP 1);
- Organise engagement and dialogue at the 'upstream' level of research policy (WP 2);
- Enable processes of co-creation during research and innovation (WP 3);
- Professionalise nanotechnology education and training (WP 4);
- Establish a coherent programme for outreach and communication on nanotechnologies (WP 5);
- Assess the impact of the project's activities, establish links between the various levels of governance, and provide policy feedback with a view to Horizon 2020 (WP 6).

NANODIODE consortium brings together a strong network of partners from various backgrounds and extends across Europe (representing technological and social research, industry, policy, civil society, education and media). Many partners bring their experience as coordinators or participants in earlier European projects within the NMP programme (such as NANOCHANNELS, NANOPINION, NANOEIS, OBSERVATORY NANO, and NANOHOUSE) as well as from Science in Society (NANOCODE, FRAMING NANO, NANOCAP, NANOPLAT and Nanobio-RAISE).

This allows the project to look back and **identify best practices based on existing experience** and **make use of existing products and tools** that have proven to be successful – and **developing new, innovative models and tools for outreach and dialogue when necessary**. The project will also look ahead towards Horizon 2020 and operationalise the concept of **Responsible Research and Innovation. As Horizon 2020 unfolds, the project's finding**s will feed into nanotechnology policy debates, R&D and outreach and dialogue activities on nanotechnologies.

NANODIODE will answer the following key questions to respond to the European policy mandates identified above:

- How to ensure that 'societal impacts are examined and taken into account'?
- How to 'foster critical reflection' in the very early stage of research and development? How to: 'involve citizens and civil society organizations in research and science policy'?
- What are appropriate mechanisms to include society into research practices and innovation processes?

This is why this project aims to combine downstream communication and outreach activities (to

support the next generation of innovators) with the involvement of citizens and civil society organisations in the policy and research processes.

Building on experiences from previous projects NANODIODE will **organise a series of innovation workshops and science debates**. The underlying assumption for these activities at the level of R&D is that **CSOs can learn from researchers, but researchers can learn from CSOs and Science Journalists as well**. An element of this upstream learning is the CSOs' demand for inherently safe products, which holds especially for nano-enabled products that are being placed on the market. It is imperative that existing knowledge gaps need to be addressed to allow for a reliable risk assessment. This calls for a paradigm change in risk assessment, putting the emphasis on an exposure-based risk assessment approach rather than on a hazard-based risk assessment approach. This demands a source-oriented 'safety by design' approach. Effective risk assessment should include the behaviour of nanomaterials along their life cycles. In addition to providing robust input to responsible policy making for nanotechnologies, these workshops are themselves also a form of social innovation, functioning as a prototype for new forms of governance at the midstream.

Dialogue, however, is not a singular concept: it is in fact a container term, covering a range of activities with different intents and purposes. Within the context of nanotechnologies, dialogue therefore requires multiple conversations between actors at various levels of governance, for instance between:

- researchers and policy makers, regarding the implementation of research objectives;
- researchers and industry, regarding the translation of research findings into tools, products and processes;
- researchers and science journalists, regarding the needs, the risks and ethical issues for the wider public
- regulators and compliers, exploring possibilities and barriers of applying the subsidiary and precautionary principles (in relation to responsible nanotechnological innovations) into practice;
- producers and consumers: regarding co-responsibility on product benefits (what responsibilities of communication do parties have; and how are these modified by known/unknown risks);
- employers and workers: co-responsibility regarding work-place safety (rules for informationsharing, identification of best practices, mechanisms of communication, etc.);
- educators/mentors and young professionals/students that are ready to make career choices, and universities and industries involved in nanotechnology applied research

NANODIODE is structured around four main programme lines along the various levels of governance identified above:

1. **INSPIRE:** Engagement and dialogue at the policy level to gear nanotechnologies towards addressing societal challenges (**'upstream engagement'** - WP 2);
2. **CREATE:** Co-creation at the level of R&D to enable responsible research and innovation (**'midstream engagement'** - WP 3);
3. **EDUCATE:** Innovative education strategies and activities to professionalise education and training (**'downstream' education and training** - WP 4);
4. **ENGAGE:** Innovative strategies and activities for interest- and curiosity driven communication of nanotechnologies ('downstream' outreach and dialogue - WP 5).