

Report on execution of Regulatory Road and Research Map including joint calls – initial list

Introduction

The **1st Joint Gov4Nano-SAFERA-Workshop** was held on the 18th and 19th June 2019¹. The workshop delegation decided to set up the SAFERA 2020 Joint Calls on the Gov4Nano-recommended topic of '**electrical energy storage containing nanomaterials**'.²

Description of Work

In February 2019, a potential collaboration between SAFERA and Gov4Nano was outlined between the SAFERA secretariat and the Gov4Nano coordinator; in the course of this decision, it was decided that the best next step would be a workshop between the SAFERA members and Gov4Nano representatives, in order to inform one another about the SAFERA organisation and the Gov4Nano project, and to decide on a number of topics that could form the basis of joint calls for funding of nanosafety-relevant research. Box 1 below describes the background of the SAFERA ERA-NET initiative.

SAFERA

A partnership between 21 research funding organizations from 10 European countries who collaborate on research programming and launch joint calls in the field of industrial safety.

SAFERA is a partnership between 21 research funding organizations from 10 European countries who collaborate on research programming and launch joint calls in the field of industrial safety. It prolongs the work developed in the [SAFERA ERA-NET](#), which was funded by the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for research, technological development and demonstration during the period April 2012 – March 2015. Industrial safety is an enabling success factor in the pursuit of beneficial and sustainable business activities.

The scope of SAFERA includes research on the prevention of major accidents, with off-site consequences and risks to the environment and society, and in particular the economic benefits of industrial safety solutions, safe innovative processes, preparedness and response as well as protection of the environment, new methods to enhance the creation of a safety culture and prudent attitudes, risk reduction strategies, reference technologies for life extension of aged and repaired structures, as well as products and systems required to improve industrial safety.

Box 1; Excerpts of the SAFERA website (www.safera.eu)

Workshop Outline (excerpt from the Preliminary Workshop Agenda)

- On **Day 1 (18. June 2019; 9:00 – 18:05)** of this 1st Gov4Nano-SAFERA-Workshop, the invited nano-safety research and regulatory experts will take stock of past and currently ongoing nano-safety research projects in Europe, with a view to identifying (and prioritising) the remaining gaps and upcoming research needs.
- On **Day 2 (19. June 2019; 8:30 – 12:45)** of the workshop, the identified nano-safety research topics will be put forward to a meeting of the research funding agencies of the EU Member States (and collaborating countries), who are invited to volunteer funding for joint calls on specific topics of their choice.

¹ The joint meeting was kindly hosted by the Austria Ministry for Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT), whose name has since been changed to 'Ministry for Climate Action, Environment, Energy, Mobility, Innovation and Technology' (BMK).

² The SAFERA 2020 Joint Calls were launched in November 2019; five pre-proposals had been received, all of which were allowed to go through to stage 2 and submit full proposals.



Main Results

The delegation of research funding organisation (RFOs) decided on the following list of joint call topics (see Box 2); the Gov4Nano-recommended topic was further elaborated, in order to draw up a number of subcategories for the call-text formulation (see Figure 1). This elaboration reflects well the relevant risk governance topics discussed within the Gov4Nano project (e.g. consideration of regulatory aspects, safe by design approaches, etc.).

Topics for the short-term (subsequently taken forward to the upcoming SAFERA Meeting by BMVIT and BAM for a call-opening in January 2020)

Gov4Nano-recommended Topic:

- o Focus on the industrial safety concerns that arise from **electrical energy storage containing nanomaterials**

Other topics (suggested by BAM):

- o Calibration of measurements of absolute aerosol mass concentration
- o Ageing of NM with release of CNT and release of NM by leaching
- o End of life scenarios of CNT based products
- o Carbon-Concrete (Carbonbeton)
- o Explosion tendency of nanoparticles
- o Solubility of NM-shells
- o Marker nanomaterials for life-cycle assessment (Env/Tox)
- o Defined surface functionalisation of NM as positive/negative control
- o Use of nanoparticles in medical-clinics (pros/cons)

Box 2: Topics for the short-term; the selected topic is highlighted in red.

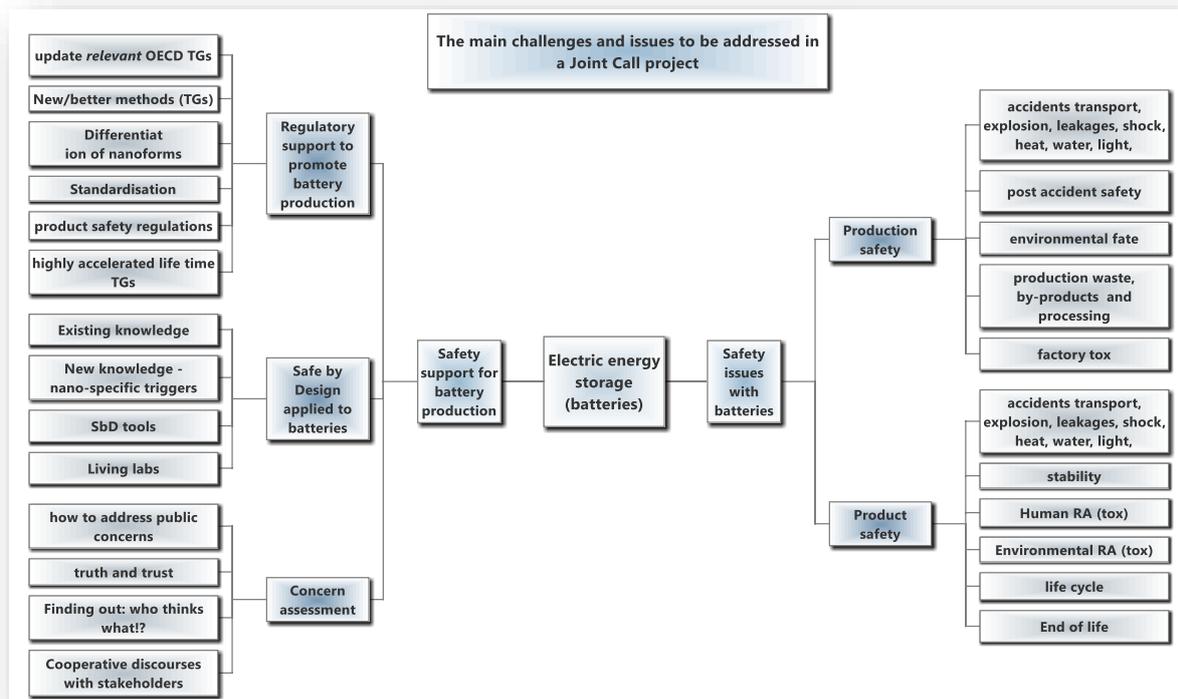


Figure 1: Elaboration of sub-topics, challenges and issues for the Gov4Nano-recommended topic of 'electrical energy storage containing nanomaterials' (source: James Baker, NIA).

Conclusions

The **Joint Gov4Nano-SAFERA Calls** process provides an interesting example on how the future Nano Risk Governance Council (NRGC) could interact with RFOs; it furthermore helped to build a significant network of RFOs at the EU Member State level, that could be helpful in the following phases of the Gov4Nano project and the development of the NRGC

For more details about the Gov4Nano project please visit the [Gov4Nano website](#). Public deliverables will be made available in due time via this website.