NMBP-13 NANO RISK GOVERNANCE PROJECTS
THE OUTCOMES

WELCOME

European innovation policies are focused on their supportive role to accelerate the green and digital transition in Europe. Advanced materials like nanomaterials are prioritised as one of the Key Enabling Technologies within these policies. Meanwhile the Commission acknowledges in its 2019 Communication on Better Regulation the need "to have regulation that fosters and, at the same time, harnesses innovation to the benefit of the environment, the economy and EU citizens". The three H2020-projects Gov4Nano, NANORIGO and RiskGONE (shortened as NMBP-13 projects) have gathered meaningful insights about challenges and issues in risk governance of nanomaterials. We regard these insights relevant for efficient and effective risk governance of advanced (nano)materials.

ABOUT THE NMBP-13 PROJECTS

Gov4Nano, NANORIGO and RiskGONE are three H2020 projects that joined forces to address the same goal: to ultimately ensure a sustainable and equitable nano risk governance infrastructure is developed in Europe and beyond. While each project has had its own unique approach and objectives, all have shared common goals and visions strengthened by constructive cooperation involving all stakeholders.

The partners' long history of research to understand the impacts of nanomaterials on human health and the environment, and their participation in major European and National projects dealing with these topics, has ensured a strong, comprehensive knowledge base and engagement with key stakeholders. The partners have worked together to develop and establish a robust public policy framework for the use of nanomaterials, based on scientific evidence supporting a clear understanding of risks, their assessment, and management within wider societal considerations.

The projects have coordinated activities in the following topics:
- → Effective risk governance for advanced (nano)materials through developing a guidance framework and proposing a new organisation to complement and work with existing initiatives
- → Developing and consolidating tools, instruments and guidance for all stakeholders' use through an online portal
- → Pursuing FAIR data management
- → Developing new approaches for harmonisation and standardisation of advanced (nano)materials

This has been achieved through inter-project working groups and engagement and consultation with a broad spectrum of key stakeholders from NGOs, industry, research organisations, EC, EU Member States and international organisations such as the OECD.

THE PROJECTS

Website	www.gov4nano.eu/
Coordinator:	Monique Groenewold
Institution:	National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), NL

Website:	www.nanorigo.eu
Coordinator:	Janeck James Scott-Fordsmand
Institution:	Aarhus Universitet (AU), DK

Website:	https://riskgone.eu/
Coordinator:	Maria Dusinska
Institution:	Norwegian Institute for Air Research (NILU), NO

FAST FACTS

Financial resources
Budget: € 18.3 million

Duration
January 2019 – February 2023

Collaboration
82 partners
17 EU countries, Brazil, India, Iran, Switzerland, South Africa, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom and USA

THE ROUNDTABLE and THE HOUSE

WHY

To support the EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability (CSS) – recognising that advanced (nano)materials present new governance challenges that are not fully addressed by existing initiatives which focus more on chemicals and also neglect wider societal aspects.

WHAT

An organisation comprising all relevant and interested stakeholders including from industry, research, civil society, policy, regulation amongst others. This will be a place to convene to gather evidence, identify relevant issues, discuss possible conflicting views, and formulate joint positions on these issues (for example, as input for research programs). This would enhance connectivity between stakeholders across the nano-risk governance field.

HOW

Two options for the organisation are proposed: a 'House' or a 'Roundtable':

A Roundtable — essentially a 'problem-solving capacity', that would address technical, industrial and societal issues relating to CSS implementation. It can be mobilised upon request from the EC or by autonomous decision of its Governing Board to address particular challenges outside of but in connection with existing institutions. However, with limited or no budget, the resources developed by NMBP-13 projects would not be maintained, and the opportunity to add knowledge resources from future projects would be lost.

A House — incorporates and builds upon the roundtable, substantially improving access to and curation of knowledge, data and tools produced or shared by the current projects. However, it would require substantial investment from a range of actors and regular funding.

The projects are seeking support from external stakeholders to pursue one of these options.

The Roundtable
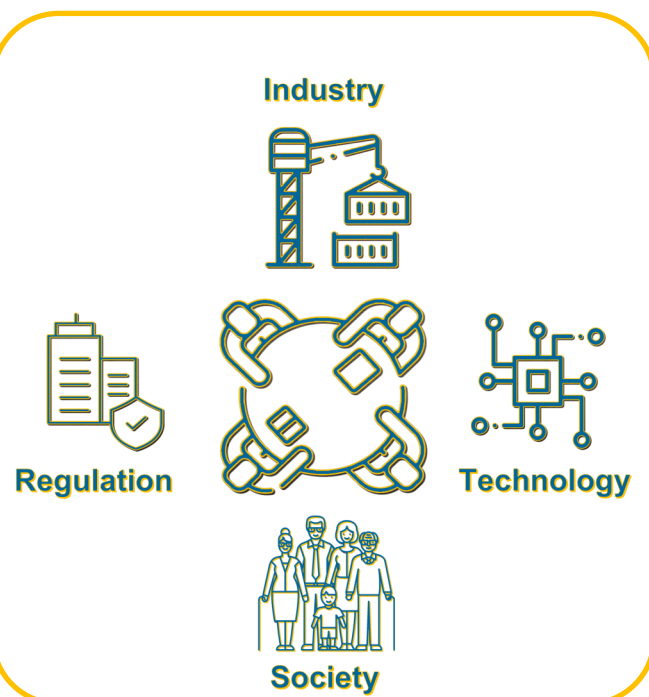
The House
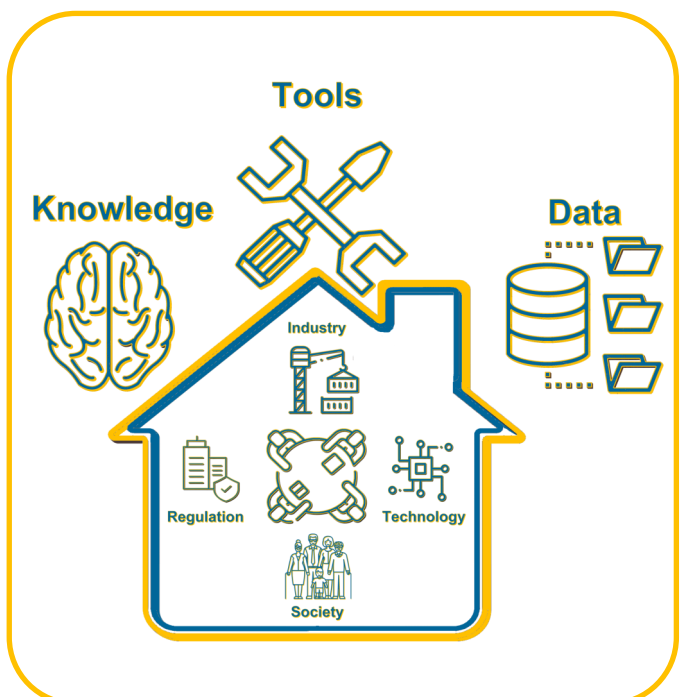
THE PORTAL PLATFORM and TOOLS

WHY
Stakeholders lack access to validated tools that can help guide their decisions regarding the governance of advanced (nano)materials.

WHAT
An online platform, or portal, has been developed that provides centralised access and guidance to a range of tools, developed though a number of EU-funded projects, including those funded under NMBP-13. It also provides an open platform for data(bases) and next generation tools for advanced materials and SSbD. The portal will guide users through the wide landscape of existing governance elements, for example: approaches for nano-risk governance and related guidance; new tools that provide decision support for ethical aspects and complex multi criteria issues; framework for quality and regulatory readiness testing of tools; and new guidelines for testing and activities towards harmonisation and standardisation.

HOW
The portal will be established before the end of the projects. However, it will require resources to host, maintain and further develop the tools. A memorandum of understanding is being developed between interested partner and external stakeholder organisations to collectively support the portal and identify additional means for its support.

DATA

WHY
Effective risk assessment of advanced (nano)materials requires data that is Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable (FAIR).

FINDABLE **A**CCESSIBLE **I**NTEROPERABLE **R**EUSABLE
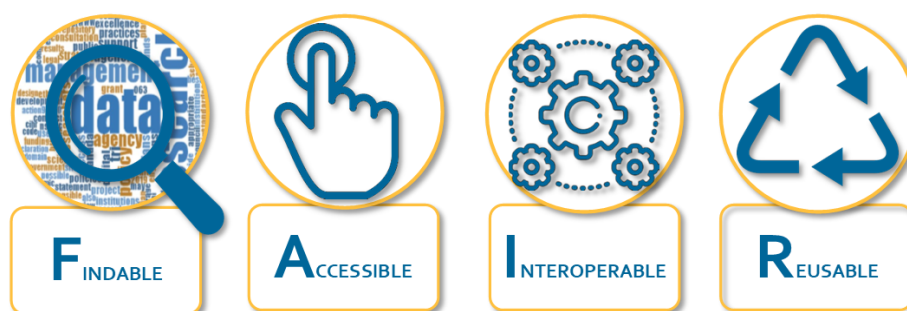
WHAT
The projects are developing templates and processes to store and make (meta)data accessible through working with and extending existing initiatives including eNanoMapper and the AdvancedNano GO FAIR Implementation Network.

HOW
Project partners have engaged with a wide range of stakeholders that produce data to understand obstacles to data sharing, and possible means to incentivise sharing. In addition, they are improving the means by which data can be made FAIR through guidance on data quality and how it is stored. This will be realised through more open collaboration of data generators, database developers and users in the AdvancedNano GO FAIR Implementation Network.

HARMONISATION and STANDARDISATION

WHY

Harmonised and standardised test guidelines may not be keeping pace with innovations in advanced (nano)materials, yet they are critical for societal and regulatory acceptance.

WHAT

The projects propose to build on existing activities through establishing a global network and trusted environment that will share knowledge and identify gaps within existing test guidelines. This will ensure that next generation risk assessment methods are not suitable for both chemicals and advanced (nano) materials.

HOW

The partners expect that representatives from Member States, research and industry will advocate and sign a European Test Methods Strategy to promote international cooperation and ensure continuous financial support for the systematic (further) development of OECD Test Guidelines.

LEGACY

We invite you to join us for our final online conference, taking place on Tuesday 31st January 2023 from 11:00 – 14:00 CET, where we will present and discuss the practical application of our key results and recommendations in the following thematic areas:

- Harmonisation and standardisation
- Data management (and FAIR data)
- Accessibility of tools, instruments and guidance via an online portal
- Effective organisation of risk governance

These have been informed by extensive stakeholder consultations, and will complement and support the work of others on risk governance of advanced (nano)materials.

Please register via this link:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/future-proof-approaches-for-risk-governance-online-tickets-492333872867