

NANORIGO

	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY D 4.4
DELIVERABLE TITLE	Mandate, composition, structure of the NRGC
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The nanotechnology Risk Governance Council (NRGC) that NANORIGO is designing will result from work done in NANORIGO in collaboration with Gov4Nano and RiskGONE, the other two projects funded under the NMBP-13 call. This report presents analysis conducted by NANORIGO, contextualised with other aspects developed in the NMBP-13 collaboration. The report summarizes progress achieved so far, without concluding on the optimum design for the Council, which would be premature given the request to produce one unique design across the three projects and the need to test hypotheses before formulating a main recommendation.

Progress achieved since the publication of D4.1 in March 2020 results from a range of activities to consult NMBP-13 project partners and external stakeholders from policy and regulation, industry, non-governmental organisations, and research and academia. While the NMBP-13 taskforce to develop the Council focused on *institutional design and role* (governmental vs non-governmental organisation, and role to provide information vs role to recommend and advise) and possible *services* that the Council could provide, NANORIGO has pursued work started in 2019 about the *mission and thematic focus*, in other words, which 'problem' should the Council aim to address. These three aspects are complementary, and all together will progressively shape the vision, mission, objective, role, activities and funding of the Council. Ultimately the goal is to design a Council that will stimulate safe and sustainable development, use and disposal of engineered nanomaterials. The Council will be a transparent, self-sustained and science-based organisation. The vision suggested by NANORIGO is to better balance precaution and innovation towards the future, especially through the development of new, advanced and innovative materials, considering responsibility, environmental sustainability, trustworthiness and legitimacy.

The Council will not compete with or duplicate existing organisations. Instead, it will work to complement and add value. Analysis of needs and gaps in existing institutions suggest that the Council could: (a) work to support regulatory coordination, harmonization and implementation, where possible, in Europe and internationally; (b) engage stakeholders in deliberative approaches for informed decisions; (c) understand, reduce and learn how to cope with uncertainty and ambiguity; and (d) support responsible research and innovation. It should acquire legitimacy and authority through various means, including a mandate from the EC, trusted members and creating value for stakeholders.

In terms of thematic focus, this report suggests that the Council could: (a) prioritize the effective implementation of risk governance, considering the two priorities of precaution and innovation; (b) address a specific new problem, such as the need to better understand and address emerging risks, in particular from advanced materials; (c) work to help stakeholders make the best use of the life cycle concept, both in developing and using LCAs and in supporting the development of circular economies; (d) work for the long-term sustainability of engineered nanomaterials and nano-based systems; (e) work to implement Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI); and (f) be European-focused but with global relevance and outreach.

This report also includes a tentative exploration of one possible scenario: if the Council was a multistakeholder 'Roundtable for Sustainable and Responsible Nanomaterials and Nano-based Systems'.

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