

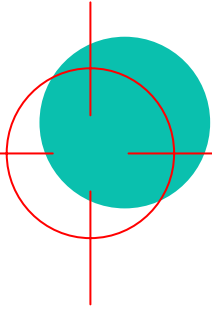
# Technology Assessment, Risk Governance and NanoTrust

2<sup>nd</sup> international NanoTrust workshop on  
„Nanotechnologies – The Present State of Regulation”  
Vienna, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008

**Dr. Michael Nentwich**  
Institute of Technology  
Assessment  
Austrian Academy of  
Sciences

A-1030 Vienna, Strohgasse 45/3  
Tel.: +43-1-51581-6583  
Fax: +43-1-710 98 83  
mnent@oeaw.ac.at  
nanotrust.ac.at





Risk governance

Technology Assessment

NanoTrust

Regulatory issues

...

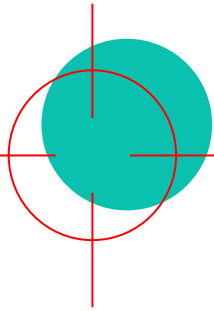
...

...

...

...



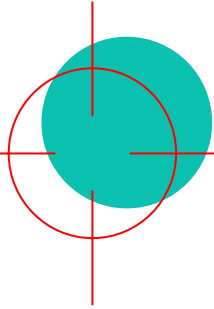


# What is risk governance?

Dealing with emerging risk issues:

- evaluation of R&D projects with regard to risks and safety issues
- encouragement of research into
  - risk and safety issues (EHI)
  - ethical, legal and societal issues (ELSI)
- communication with the wider public
  - dialogue, public understanding of science
- **possibly regulation**, approval procedures

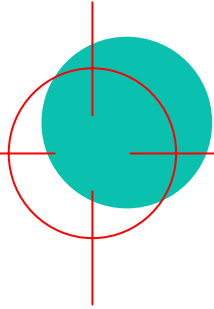




# Why risk governance?

- Early warning function:
  - detect, establish and mitigate emerging risks
  - discard unwarranted risk claims
- Establish a credible system
  - dealing with potential hazard in order to facilitate a sustainable technology development
  - avoid the biotech trap (i.e. loss of trust in the governance system)

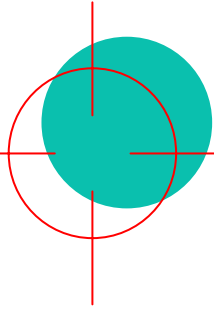




# What is Technology Assessment?

- analyses possible social, economic, **legal**, political, cultural and ecological **effects**
- interdisciplinary – multi-perspective
- no "super expert opinions", but points out
  - areas of general agreement, of controversy
  - what assumptions or fears lie behind the differences of opinion

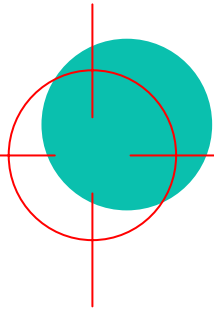




# Why Technology Assessment?

- provides policy-makers with a rational basis for their decisions
- gives early warning about technology induced risks, early recognition of technological potentials
- analyses options for action (possibly **regulation**)
- reveals societal interests and values





# Regulatory issues

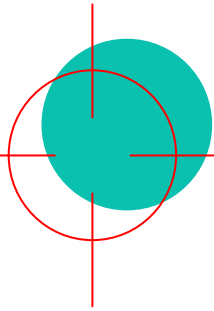
Among other issues

- risk governance observes whether there is need for regulatory action
- technology assessment analyses consequences of technology developments in the legal sphere

→ Project NanoTrust

- is carried out at the Institute of Technology Assessment
- is commissioned to contribute to the emerging Austrian risk governance

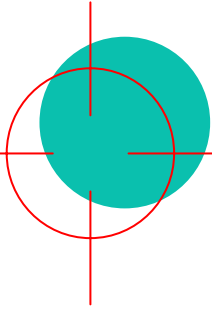




# Risk governance in Austria

- 2006: beginnings  
(studies by Joanneum Research and ITA)
- 2007 ff.: a more explicit and systematic approach
  - Coordination “Nano platform”
  - Communication “Risiko:dialog”
  - Research „NanoTrust“

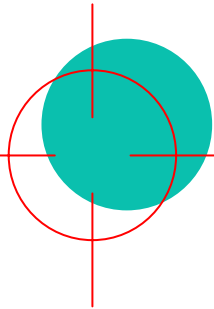




## NanoTrust: overview

- commissioned to ITA by the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology
- October 2007 – September 2010
- 3 researchers (biomed/physics/social sciences) plus director, internal SAB, and external contractors
- external advisory board (Austrian stakeholders)

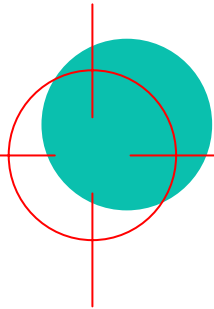




## NanoTrust: four aims

- **clearing house:** continually survey, analyse and summarise the state of knowledge regarding potential health and environmental risks of nanotechnology
- **risk radar:** to **flag out** knowledge gaps and **possible regulatory deficits**
- **information hub & platform** for politics, administration, industry, research and civil society to **discuss** research issues and **regulatory matters**
- **observatory** of national & internat. reporting and debates; analysis of societal issues





nano trust

- Homepage:  
<http://nanotrust.ac.at>
- Team: (+43 (1)) 51581 -  
Dr. Ulrich Fiedeler - 6577  
Dr. André Gzásó - 6578  
Doz. Michael Nentwich - 6583  
Prof. Myrtil Simkó - 6589
- Contact:  
[nano.ita@oeaw.ac.at](mailto:nano.ita@oeaw.ac.at)

