



The NanoTrust Project

A contribution to Austrian's Approach to
Risk Governance of Nanotechnology

Ulrich Fiedeler
André Gzásó
Michael Nentwich
Myrtill Simkó



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Background and Challenges (I)

- Nanotechnology (NT) is diverse with respect to:
 - scientific and technical aspects
 - ⇒ Focus on specific NTs and/or on certain issues
 - the state of (technology) development
 - ⇒ Distinction between nano-science and applications, which are close to the market

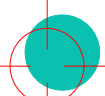


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Background and Challenges (II)

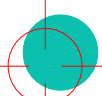
- NT is an enabling technology
 - ⇒ Context of use and resulting impact could be very different
 - Example: regulation
- Confusion about NT
 - Intensive and controversial debate on NT



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Current situation

- High expectations raise a lot of questions whereas answers are rare, so far
- impact and risk assessment have been started in the EU and USA
- Several manufactures declare that some of their products on the market are based on NT
- Research on NT is funded by a considerable amount of money: the development of further applications of NT has to be expected



Discrepancy between knowledge on impacts / risks and state of development

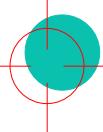


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Focus and Aims of the project

Focus: Research on potential EHS issues and on societal aspects of NT

Aims:

- Identify knowledge gaps, research questions
- Build up an expert platform to foster discussion on possible risks
- Elaborate approaches towards regulation together with relevant actors in the field of NT in Austria



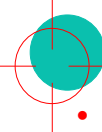
Provide knowledge tailored to and promote risk governance of nanotechnology



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Risk radar (I)

- Continually survey, analyse and summaries the state of knowledge concerning potential health and environmental risks of NT
- Observation and assessments of
 - scientific activities, technological developments, and evolving products within the field of NT
 - activities of regulation
 - activities and aims of involved stakeholders
 - debates about NT in the media and within the scientific community



Bibliographic (full text) data base

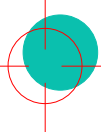


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Risk radar (II)

➔ Selection of relevant issues

issues of high relevance due to the fact

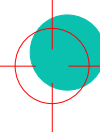
- subject of high attention
- or controversial discussion
- or show strong indications of risks.



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nano trust dossiers

- Aggregated information (4 to 6 pages)
- Policy-makers, members of administration, NT researcher, stakeholders, NGOs, interested public
- method: desk-research, interviews
quality control by internal and external reviewers

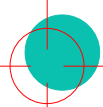


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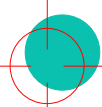
- Download NanoTrust-Dossiers
 - Access to the bibliographic data base
 - Discloses our knowledge base, resources and activities
 - Structuring knowledge
- ➔
- Making it accessible
 - Provide transparency



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Catalyser of discussion

- Organising events of different format: conferences, meetings, workshops
 - Risk Governance of Nanotechnologies: The International State-of-the-Art, 25 Sept 2007
 - Nanotechnologies - The Present State of Regulation 29 Sept 2008
- Co-organiser of third party conferences
 - Nanotechnology and Food Safety, 27 Oct 2008 panels at:
 - BioNanoMed'09, 26-27 Jan 2009
 - Viennano'09, 18-20 March 2009
- Initiating working groups

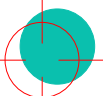


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**Thank you for
your attention!**

Ulrich Fiedeler,
ulrich.fiedeler@oeaw.ac.at
www.nanotrust.ac.at



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Situation in Austria

- Responsibility concerning EHS issues spread over different agencies, ministries, and social partners

⇒ coordination and co-operation?

Awareness of NT and related possible risks raised relatively late

- Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology (BMVIT) launched research programme on NT in 2003
- Research on potential risks and societal dimensions not included
- In 2006, two Reports (ITA, Joanneum)

⇒ Research on potential EHS issues and on societal aspects of NT is needed



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