

NANORA – Nano Regions Alliance

Statutes

1 October 2015

Mission Statement

NANORA, the Nano Regions Alliance, is based on the conviction that nanotechnology is a key enabling technology for the 21st century and that European regions need to engage in concerted action to be successful in the global competition for nano-enabled economic growth. NANORA consequently aims at strengthening cooperation between European regions in the development of regional and transnational nanotechnology assets.

Section I – Constitution and Purpose

Article 1 – Name

The name of the Alliance is “*NANORA – Nano Regions Alliance*”. It will hereafter be called “the Alliance” throughout these Statutes.

Article 2 – Founding Members

Founding Members of the Alliance are the partners of the project “Nano Regions Alliance: Facilitated Market Entrance of Nano-SMEs through a transnational linking of regional support schemes, the development of new, transnational support structures and the set-up of transnational competence pools” funded by INTERREG IVB NWE from 1 June 2011 to 30 September 2015:

- Hessisches Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Verkehr und Landesentwicklung (Hessen, Germany)
- NanoHouse (Southern Netherlands)
- cc-NanoBioNet e.V. (Saarland, Germany)
- CNRS / IEMN – Institut d'Electronique, de Microélectronique et de Nanotechnologie (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France)
- CREPIM – Centre de Recherche et d'Etudes sur les Procédés d'Ignifugation des Matériaux (Nord-Pas-de-Calais, France)
- Multitel ASBL (Wallonie, Belgium)
- University College Cork, National University of Ireland Cork (Dept. Tyndall National Institute) and NanoNet Ireland / CCAN – Collaborative Centre for Applied Nanotechnology (Ireland)
- Sirris (Wallonie, Belgium)
- Lancaster University (Northwest England, UK).

Article 3 – Form of Organization

The Alliance is a network that does not constitute a separate legal entity.

Article 4 – Key Objective

The Alliance's key objective is to support nanotechnology SMEs in the regions represented in the Alliance; they are the key beneficiaries of Alliance activities. The Alliance aims at supporting them by:

- Facilitating individually tailored collaborations among SMEs or between SMEs and research institutions along the value chain across sectors and across borders within the Alliance area.
- Developing new market opportunities for SMEs through joint transnational actions.
- Striving to modify and enhance existing regional policies in order to establish and implement a unique transnational support framework.
- Promoting exchange and networking between relevant nanotechnology stakeholders from European regions.
- Engaging in nanotechnology outreach activities with policymakers as well as civil society to promote dialogue on the responsible use of nanotechnology.

Article 5 – Duration

The Alliance is set up for an unlimited period. It may be dissolved at any time by decision of the General Assembly.

Section II – Structure and Activities

Article 6 – Structure

The Alliance takes the shape of an institutionalized network of organisations and associations. In addition to its official bodies (cf. Section IV) it sets up “NANORA Access Points”, gateways to the different European regions represented in the Alliance (cf. Article 7). Full Alliance Members cooperate with Associates and Supporters in reaching common goals, as detailed in Section III.

Article 7 – NANORA Access Points

NANORA Access Points (“NAPs”) are contact persons to be appointed in each region represented in the Alliance. They provide information, contacts, support and

expertise on activities and services of the Alliance as well as on their regional nanotechnology landscape to interested parties (companies, primarily SMEs, research institutions, technology transfer and business support institutions and the like throughout Europe) and undertake joint measures.

Each new Alliance Member headquartered in a region (corresponding to the NUTS 1 regional classification) previously not represented in the Alliance sets up an NAP. Alliance Members headquartered in the same region may agree to shift the regional NAP from one Member to another or to jointly host it. NAPs may also be appointed by regional authorities acting as Supporters of the Alliance (cf. Article 11).

The contact details of each region's NAP will be published on the Alliance's website and in other Alliance communication documents. The institution hosting the NAP must ensure that contact details are correct and inform the Alliance Secretariat at once of any change in the contact person/contact details.

Article 8 – Activities

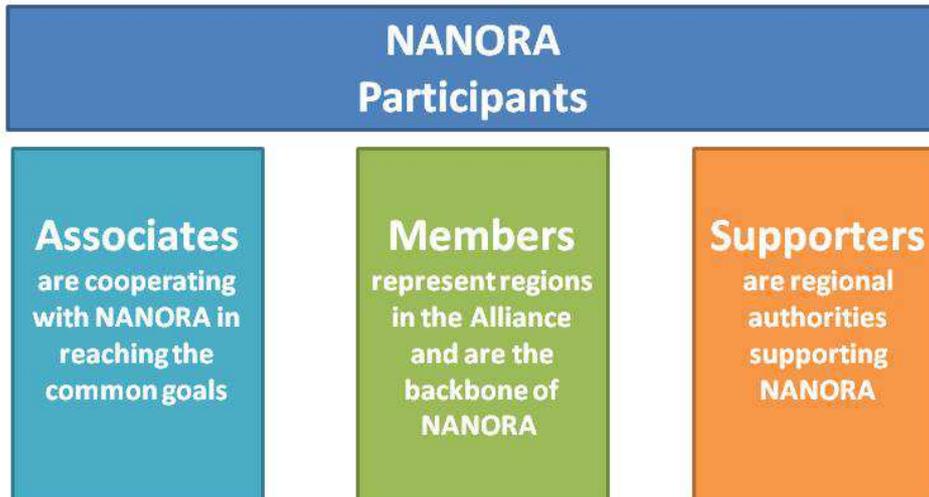
The Alliance's objectives may be achieved, inter alia, by the following activities:

- Lobbying with regional, national, and EU policymakers.
- Maintenance of an Alliance website with information on nanotechnology events throughout Europe as well as on political developments concerning nanotechnology and nano safety issues.
- Maintenance of TINCA, the “Transnational Interactive Nanotechnology Competence Atlas” containing detailed competence profiles of nanotechnology players in the Alliance area.
- Matchmaking: provision of business and research contacts in the field of nanotechnology.
- Development and sharing of new transregional support measures for nanotechnology companies (primarily SMEs) and research institutions.
- Organisation of joint nanotechnology events for different target groups, such as business representatives, policymakers, secondary and university students, and the general public.
- Organisation of joint business promotion activities in target markets outside of Europe.
- Exchange of experience, publications and information material among Alliance Members.

Section III – Modes of participation

Interested parties may participate in NANORA as full Members, Associates, or Supporters, as visualized in the following chart:

Structure of the Alliance



Article 9 – Membership

1. Eligibility

Any legal entity with full contractual capacity headquartered in Europe and active in supporting nanotechnology research and business activities (e.g., as a public policy institution, an association, a cluster or a research and technology centre) may become a full Member of the Alliance, provided that it:

- Supports the purpose of the Alliance and strives to realize its objectives.
- Is firmly anchored in its respective region and fulfils important roles in fostering technological and economic regional development (e.g., by administering regional support programmes, offering services to or representing SMEs and/or research institutions).

2. Admission and Representation

Candidates for Membership must submit their application form to the Chair of the Alliance and confirm their agreement with the objectives and statutes of the Alliance in writing. The General Assembly decides on admission.

Each Alliance Member designates an individual to represent it in the General Assembly. The representative of each Member will have one vote in the General Assembly. Voting rights may be exerted with effect from the first full month upon admission as Member of the Alliance.

3. Membership Rights and Benefits

Members have the right to take part in formulating the objectives and activities of the Alliance. They have the right to appoint a representative to participate and vote in the General Assembly.

The Alliance offers its Members added value in their efforts to support their small and medium nanotechnology players by:

- Giving them access to a growing network of regional NANORA Access Points that provide information, contacts, support and expertise on the regional nanotechnology landscape and are ready to undertake joint measures.
- Integrating their data in and giving them access to TINCA (cf. Article 8), a detailed single coherent multiregional database of nanotechnology players offering individually tailored matchmaking opportunities.
- Providing a systematic approach to harmonizing support structures.
- Offering new nanotechnology support products that may be copied across participating regions and are systematically open to beneficiaries in all participating regions.

4. Membership Obligations

Members undertake to pursue the objectives of the Alliance and engage in several of the activities proposed to achieve them (cf. Section II). Members commit to providing, as far as possible, their services to all nanotechnology business and research actors within the regional scope of the Alliance. Each member serves as or sets up a “NANORA Access Point” in his region (cf. Section II).

Alliance Members perform the activities they see fit for achieving the Alliance’s objectives on their own authority and at their own discretion. They strive to coordinate their activities with those of the other Alliance members to maximize their joint transnational impact.

Costs arising for Alliance Members from participation in the NANORA activities have to be borne by the Members themselves.

5. Membership Fees

The Alliance does not levy a Membership Fee.

6. Termination of Membership

Membership of the Alliance ends by:

Resignation from the Alliance.

A Member may resign from the Alliance effective the 30th June or the 31st December of every year by giving three months’ notice in writing to the Chair of the Alliance.

Expulsion from the Alliance.

A Member may be expelled for not abiding by the objectives of the Alliance or otherwise violating its Statutes. The decision to expel a Member is taken by the General Assembly.

Dissolution of the Member or loss of its legal identity (through, e.g., liquidation or merging).

Article 10 – Associate Status

1. Eligibility

Thematically related European organisations, associations, networks and initiatives that are dedicated to enhancing European cooperation in support of nanotechnology business and research but are not anchored in a specific region may become Associates within the Alliance, provided that they support its purpose and objectives.

2. Admission and Involvement

Candidates for Associate status must submit their application form to the Chair of the Alliance and confirm their agreement with the purpose and objectives of the Alliance in writing. The Chair decides on admission after prior consultation with the full Members.

Each Alliance Associate may designate an individual to represent it as an observer in the General Assembly. Observers may be invited to speak but have no voting rights.

3. Associate Benefits

Associates, too, may tap Alliance expertise and profit from:

- Access to a growing network of regional NANORA Access Points that provide information, contacts, support and expertise on the regional nanotechnology landscape.
- Access to TINCA (cf. Article 8), a detailed single coherent multiregional database of nanotechnology players offering individually tailored matchmaking opportunities.
- Best-practice examples of nanotechnology support products that may be copied and adapted.

In general, full Members and Associates undertake to engage in exchange and cooperation activities in the areas listed under Article 8, particularly concerning joint lobbying, matchmaking, market development and public outreach activities.

Costs arising for Alliance Associates from participation in the NANORA activities have to be borne by the Associates themselves.

Article 11 – Supporter Status

Regional authorities that endorse the Alliance's purpose and objectives and wish to further its activities may join it as Supporters and are invited to confirm this status by signing a Memorandum of Understanding furnished by the Alliance for the purpose.

Each Alliance Supporter may designate an individual to represent it as an observer in the General Assembly. Observers may be invited to speak but have no voting rights.

Section IV – Bodies

Article 12 – General Assembly

The General Assembly is the main decision-making body of the Alliance. It is composed of the authorised representatives of the Alliance Members. The powers of the General Assembly include:

1. Election of the Chair of the Alliance.
2. Approval of the annual Activity Plan and Activity Report of the Chair.
3. Amendment of the Alliance's Statutes.
4. Admission and expulsion of Members to/from the Alliance.
5. Dissolution of the Alliance.

The decisions of the General Assembly shall be binding on all Members, including those who are absent, abstain or vote against.

The General Assembly is usually physically convened and hosted by the officiating Chair of the Alliance at least once per year. It may additionally be physically convened at any other time following the request of at least one fifth of the General Assembly Members.

General Assembly meetings may alternatively be convened as phone or video conferences to save travel expenses and time.

The Assembly is valid being present at least two thirds of the Members having voting rights. Each Member shall have one vote.

Decisions shall be taken by a two-thirds majority of the votes present unless otherwise provided for by law or in these Statutes.

General Assembly decisions may also be taken by written votes between meetings, provided the quorum of two thirds of the Members having voting rights as well as the two-thirds majority rule are respected.

Article 13 – Chair

The Chair of the Alliance is elected by the Alliance Members. The position rotates among Members. The order and interval of rotation is determined by the General Assembly.

The tasks and responsibilities of the Chair include:

1. Coordination of joint Alliance activities.
2. Convocation and preparation of ordinary and extraordinary General Assemblies.
3. Preparation of annual Activity Plans and Activity Reports.
4. Conduct of external communications.
5. Coordination with outside agencies.