



Press Release

6 November, 2015

Sugar and newsprint – nano experiments NANORA releases brochures for kids

The European Nano Regions Alliance offers a fun and safe way to introduce children to the wonders of nanotechnology using everyday items.

The German network cc-NanoBioNet has released not one but two brochures with do-it-yourself nanotechnology experiments for both smaller children and teenagers that are bound to spark enthusiasm. The brochures are part of the outreach activities of NANORA, the Nano Regions Alliance. With “Nanokits for Nanokids” the NANORA partner from the German Federal State of Saarland, Germany’s largest nanobiotechnology network, addresses children between four and ten years. The brochure features coloring games and quizzes as well as three experiments that children can tackle in a playful way together with their parents, carers or teachers. “Nanokits for School” is designed to appeal to children between ten and fifteen years, containing six experiments that are suitable for chemistry as well as physics or biology lessons. The experiments offer fascinating insights in nanotechnology phenomena complete with easy to understand explanations. Both brochures are available for download from www.nanobionet.de or www.nanora.eu and can additionally be ordered in print from cc-NanoBioNet for a 5€ service charge.

“Nanotechnology is a science that certainly belongs not only in highly specialized companies or research institutes but also in schools”, cc-NanoBioNet manager Ralph Nonninger said. “Kids want to explore, find out and know. These are perfect preconditions for giving kids a taste of such an exciting science.” But where nanotechnology lessons in school are concerned both Germany and Europe in general are lagging behind in international comparison. “And it’s so easy and at the same time extremely exciting to explain scientific phenomena. You can actually make your point using sugar cubes – they’re perfect for explaining different reactions of certain materials”, the network manager described.

Based on these convictions, which are shared among the European partners of NANORA, cc-NanoBioNet developed the two brochures, made possible by the funding NANORA receives through the European Union’s INTERREG IVB Northwest Europe programme. The experiments for small children rely on materials that are in stock in most households, such as sugar, newsprint or tap water. The requisites for the “Nanokits for School” brochure are ordinary consumer goods as well as materials, chemicals and further resources usually available in schools.

Nanotechnology phenomena can be observed in nearly all domains of everyday life and are at the heart of a broad range of products such as sunscreen, mobile phones or computers. They enable exciting innovations and new products that are changing our world. So it is with good cause that nanotechnology is considered one of the key enabling technologies in the 21st century.



NANORA, the Nano Regions Alliance, is a network of public policy institutions, associations, clusters and research and technology centres from currently eleven European regions, based on a project funded by the European Union through the INTERREG IVB NWE Programme. The Alliance aims at improving framework conditions and support infrastructures for nanotechnology stakeholders. It supports nanotechnology SMEs and research institutions with matchmaking activities based on a unique transnational database of nano players, advice on suitable funding opportunities, and the organisation of joint trade missions to exciting nanotechnology market. In addition, NANORA supports nano safety initiatives and develops outreach materials and activities for the general public.