



Avilés (Asturias - Spain): *Nano4m* partners and authorities at the final conference of the European project.

After three years since its beginning, *Nano4m - Nanotechnology for Market* has come to its final months. The project, funded by INTERREG IVC, began in fact in October 2008 and is going to end in December 2011. Its total budget is €1,845,892.00 with an ERDF contribution of €1,384,419.00. The transnational project involves four regions (Asturias in Spain, Tuscany in Italy, Lorraine in France, North Rhine-Westphalia in Germany) with twelve partners from local governments, research centers and centers of businesses' services.

After having met several times in these three years, the partners met for the final conference, which took place in Avilés, Asturias (Spain) on the 29th September, at the ITMA Foundation facilities.



Asturias has in fact invested in micro and nanotechnology infrastructures and equipment, building a consortium that brings together technological and scientific infrastructures at regional and national level.

Besides the partners of the project, the conference in Asturias was attended by authorities and local speakers. After the introduction by Mr. José Manuel Rivero Iglesias (Regional Minister of Economy and Employment, Government of Principality of Asturias), Mr. Santiago García Granda (Vice-Chancellor for Research, Oviedo University) and Mr. Nicolas de Abajo (ArcelorMittal; Director of Global R&D Asturias Centre and Global R&D Spain; President Fundación ITMA) hold their speeches; other important personalities were present at the conference, such as Mr. Christophe Choserot, Regional Councillor of Lorraine Region. Moreover, Ms. Marie Lebre (Interreg IVC Joint Technical Secretariat Lille) attended the event, expressing Interreg's satisfaction in the results of *Nano4m*.



Of course, the project results and the recommendations for regional and local authorities were the focus of the final conference of the 29th September. It was a very interesting conference, also thanks to the panel with Technological and Research Centers: Mr. Bernard Gey (Cinn), Mr. Andrea Caneschi (Asev-Grint) and Mr. Abdallah Ougazzaden (GeorgiaTech Lorraine) illustrated the results of their expert groups about different fields of applications of nanotechnologies. Panel moderator was Mr. Wolfgang Buscher (CeNTech GmbH).



In the afternoon of the same day, the Steering Committee met for the last time, while on Friday 30th, the partners made an interesting study visit to ArcelorMittal in Avilés: ArcelorMittal is the

world's leading steel company, the leader in all major global steel markets.

The final conference in Spain was another useful step to strengthen the transnational cooperation amongst *Nano4m* partners, which will continue also after the end of the project.

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