

NanoRegion

A network of *nanolaboratories* open to the small-medium enterprises

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The NanoRegion initiative is funded in the framework of the Italian Slovenian Interreg program for filling the existing gap between the state-of-the-art research in nanoscience and nanotechnology performed in the universities/research centers, and the need of the local industrial sector.

Nanotechnologies offer new opportunities to innovate company's business models, especially for Small and Medium Enterprises, usually very dynamic but still based mostly on traditional technologies. The initiative created a network of public research institutions to offer characterization, fabrication and prototyping at the nanoscale, flanked by a network of industrial parks and universities to reach-out the local community, with particular attention to the local companies.

In order to demonstrate the potentiality of the nanotechnological approach to address and solve industrial problems, and to improve companies value proposition from the simpler characterization at the nanoscale to the technology-driven creation of new needs and consequently new markets, the Nanoregion Initiative proposes the realization of a number of proof-of-concept (PoC) activities, triggered by the needs of individual companies, and aimed at establishing a continuous and fruitful collaborations between public research institutions and local companies.

In this contribution, we will illustrate the structure of the network, giving the details of the outreach strategies, the activities on the territory and the technological offer provided by the network.

Then we will describe the structure of the local industrial sector, analyze the main obstacles of its economical development and identify the fields where nanotechnology could be implemented either to enhance the company existing productivity or to introduce innovative business models thus fostering the local development.

Finally, we will provide some examples of PoC activities already started and future perspectives.