

Environmental Nanotechnology Innovation

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The world is experiencing a set of wicked problems, as confirmed by the US National Academy of Engineering that identified a family of grand challenges facing humanity in the 21st century (e.g. access to clean water, pollution reduction). Also the United Nations elaborated the 17 Sustainable Development Goals initiative as an urgent call for action by all countries. In such context, the environmental sustainability plays a central role and represents a key challenge for companies, governments and society. It also reveals a promising field of experimental research and business applications for the environmental nanotechnologies, through a wide range of initiatives worldwide. The resolution of such wicked problems relies not only on a strong technological background, but also on inclusive organizational models that encourage collaboration, openness, and collective intelligence.

After a brief introduction on the importance of environmental sustainability and some examples of environmental nanotechnologies applications, the talk aims at sensitizing the audience to the importance of adopting networked models to pursue business innovations and boost research on environmental nanotechnologies.