

**IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR JOURNEY... MORE *fun* AWAITS**  
**Barcelona, 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

The Mid-Term meeting, as well as, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Training Days of *Nano2fun* was held in Barcelona (Spain), from 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Researchers from all over Europe, as well from overseas countries including India and US, have spent three pleasant days in this beautiful city, enjoying its beauty and weather.

The Meeting gave the opportunity to all *Nano2fun* partners (including full and associated partners) to exchange informations about the progress of their work and to discuss the status of the whole project as to make sensible plans for future developments. Furthermore, four new fellows, and precisely four Experienced Researchers, have recently joined the network and the meeting offered them the first opportunity to meet others fellows and to introduce themselves to the *Nano2fun* community.



The first day, the 4<sup>th</sup> Training Day, was devoted to training activities for the fellows on the important themes of intellectual property and research at industry. Often Researchers are totally absorbed by their research activities and they are not fully informed about the proper way to manage their discoveries and to protect them. In science new breakthrough devices or theories are developed, and the Research groups either at academic institutions or in the private sector must be able to protect them properly. Thanks to the captivating presentation from a patents attorney, followed by a lively discussion, the Fellows have received a thorough description of the different alternatives available to protect industrial and intellectual properties. Also they were clarified about why industries sometimes keep their secrets without filling any patent. They also had the opportunity to prove themselves with some different patent applications: a practical exercise with which they learned how to really read and thoroughly examine this kind of legal document. Something quite outside a scientist's "comfort zone"!

The second day has been fully dedicated to the mid-term review, organized following the guidelines from the EU-Commission through its Research Executive Agency (REA). The day started with an introduction given by the Officer of the Research Executive Agency (REA), followed by a presentation held by Coordinator of the *Nano2fun*. Thereafter all the Fellows gave a short presentation introducing themselves, their tasks and their main results in the frame of *Nano2fun*. The lunch time was not just refreshing but brought in some more scientific exchange with a very lively poster session.

The last day of the meeting (5<sup>th</sup> Training Day) was again devoted to training activities. In the morning, invited speakers coming from different sectors, including industries and universities, shared their personal and professional experiences with the *Nano2fun* Fellows and the PhD students of UAB (Autonomous University of Barcelona), also attending the meeting.



The presentations, in which the invited speakers briefly summarized their life after the PhD, were followed by a lively discussion. Topics as the choice of the career to pursue after the PhD, the difficulties that nowadays young people encounter when searching a job and the evolution of the working conditions for most of the workers, who go through different “temporary” jobs before getting a permanent position, have been discussed. The audience was very active and involved, sharing various opinions and ideas. *Nano2fun* Fellows have been then engaged in another training activity dealing with the concepts of “personal skills useful at the job place”. This training activity has been provided by the Principal Investigator of an industrial partner of the network, P&G. The fascinating topic of the lecture was important for the fellows and more generally for young scientists of knowing really well their own personality and also of the people with whom they are working. This would definitely enhance the productivity as well as improve the quality of the time spent at work.

The meeting was very successful with all the Fellows having improved considerably their presentation skills and they presented really good scientific works, demonstrating once more that *Nano2fun* is working properly towards its ambitious aim of nurturing a new generation of scientists. The REA officer and the appointed external expert also enjoyed the presentations and evaluated the project with positive comments. Furthermore, the city of Barcelona has been a perfect frame because of its vitality, good weather and food.



We are now waiting for the next meeting in Hannover, for spending some more enjoyable days together!