European Advisory Group of the NMP theme of the 7th Framework program began a work in order to help the European community to better focus its calls.

There are using three approaches:

- Trying to define “fundamental breakthrough” listing all technical and scientific advances that seem very important for the future of Europe in the NMP domain.
- “Industry needs”, listing all needs from industry that are relevant for future economic growth of Europe.
- “Grand challenges”: a very limited list of very large objectives and challenges, which are very important for the European society.

The objective of an important challenge: sustainable development.

This challenge is fostering a lot of industrial needs, some of which are relevant for NMP.

- Avoiding large use of non renewable raw materials, water and energy
- Avoiding important environmental footprint

The focus is mainly on goods produced following the 1st and 2nd Industrial revolution: Coal, steel, petrol, chemical industry, electricity, automotive, building & construction (“old and dirty industries”). The society requires a change in these production schemes toward minimal consumption of non renewable raw material and minimal environmental footprint for a given unit of production.

In the “cooperation” part of 7th Framework program, there are important themes mostly devoted to this challenge. These are:

- Energy
- Environment
- Transport (for the most part)

Besides, the new “recovery plan”, is focused on this same target, mainly through:

- Green Car
- Energy efficient building
- Factory of the future (for some part)

This shows already that NMP is an important actor along this very important challenge since two of these PPP initiatives are under its umbrella.

**Author did not supply full text of the paper/poster.**