

MAPPING NANOMEDICINE TERMINOLOGY IN THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

Laia Quirós Pesudo¹, Alexandra Balahur², Gerhard Wagner² and Susanne Bremer-Hoffmann¹.

(1) Joint Research Centre (JRC) Directorate F – Health, Consumer and Reference Materials. F.2 Consumer Products Safety. (2) JRC Directorate I – Competences. I.3 Text and Data Mining.

BACKGROUND

A common terminology is critical to guarantee a harmonised regulatory governance and a consistent communication among authorities, health care professionals and scientific experts. To address the lack of a shared terminology in the nanomedicine field, the Nanomedicines Working Group of the International Pharmaceutical Regulators Programme (IPRP) has identified the need to map, compile and discuss the currently used terminology and definitions in the regulatory landscape.

Aim

- Understand and demonstrate the actual complexity and large amount of terminology used to describe nanotechnology applications in the health sector.
- Support the discussion towards a harmonise terminology that may foster the clinical translation of emerging nanomedicine products into the market.

Objectives

- Evaluate tech and text mining tools as a means to gain an objective overview of the terminology of emerging nanomedicine products
- Identify terms associated with nanotechnology application in health
- Comparing nanomedicine terminology from scientific literature vs regulatory documents
- Understanding regional differences in the use of terms by regulatory authorities

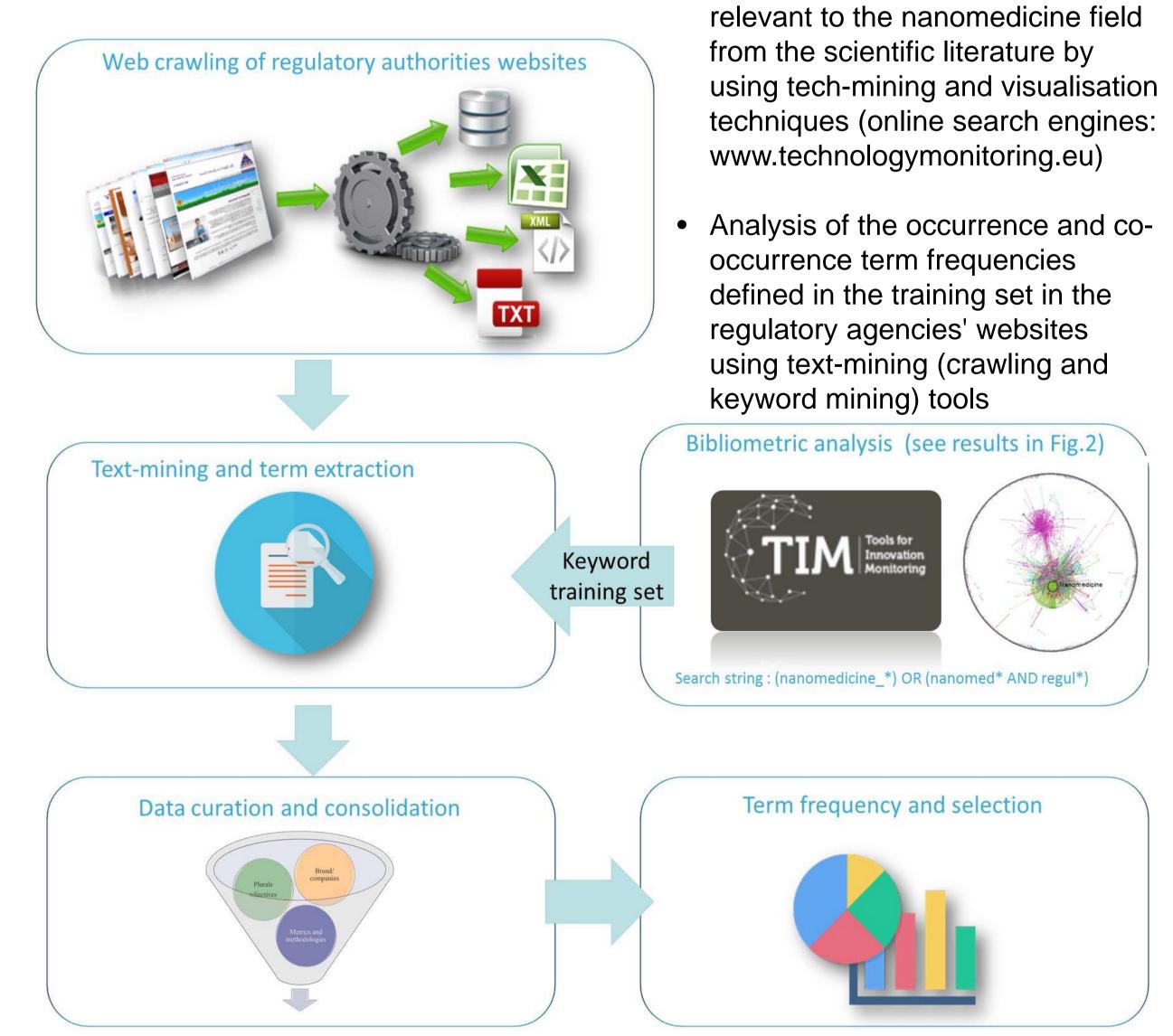
APPROACH

Table 1 List of regulatory agencies websites used for this study

Country	Regulatory authority	Websites (only English version)	Products regulated
			Medicines
Australia	Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)	www.tga.gov.au	Medical devices
			Cosmetics; Biologicals; Blood and tissues
Brazil	Brazilian Health Surveillance Agency (Anvisa)	portal.anvisa.gov.br	Drugs
	Health Canada, Health Products and Food Branch		Food; Cosmetics; Blood, tissues and organs Drugs
Canada	(HC)	www.hc-sc.gc.ca	Food
Japan			Medical devices
	Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare	www.mhlw.go.jp	Pharmaceuticals
			Food
	Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency (PMDA)	www.pmda.go.jp	Drugs
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,		Medical devices
Republic of Korea	Ministry of Food and Drug Safety (MFDS)	www.mfds.go.kr	Drugs Medical devices
			Food; Agro-Livestock and Fisheries;
			Biologics; Cosmetics
Russian Federation	Roszdravnadzor (Federal Service for Control over	www.roszdravnadzor.ru	Medicines
	Healthcare and Social Development)		Medical devices
Singapore	Health Sciences Authority (HSA)	www.hsa.gov.sg	Western medicine
			Medical devices
			Complementary Health Products; Cosmetics Tobacco control
Switzerland	Swiss Institute of Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic)	www.swissmedic.ch	Medicinal products
			Medical devices
United States of America	U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)	www.fda.gov	Drugs
			Medical devices
			Food; Radiation-emitting products; Vaccines
			blood and biologics; Animal and Veterinary; Cosmetics; Tobacco Products
European Union	, , , ,	www.ema.europa.eu	Human medicines
			Veterinary medicines
			Herbal medicines for human use
	Directorate General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG Growth)	http://ec.europa.eu/growth/sectors/medical-devices/	Medical devices
Taiwan	, , ,	www.fda.gov.tw	Human drugs
			Medical devices
			Food
			Cosmetics

Definition of a training set of terms

Figure 1 Workflow of the Approach



https://ec.europa.eu/jrc

RESULTS

Identification of terms associated with the nanotechnology application in health

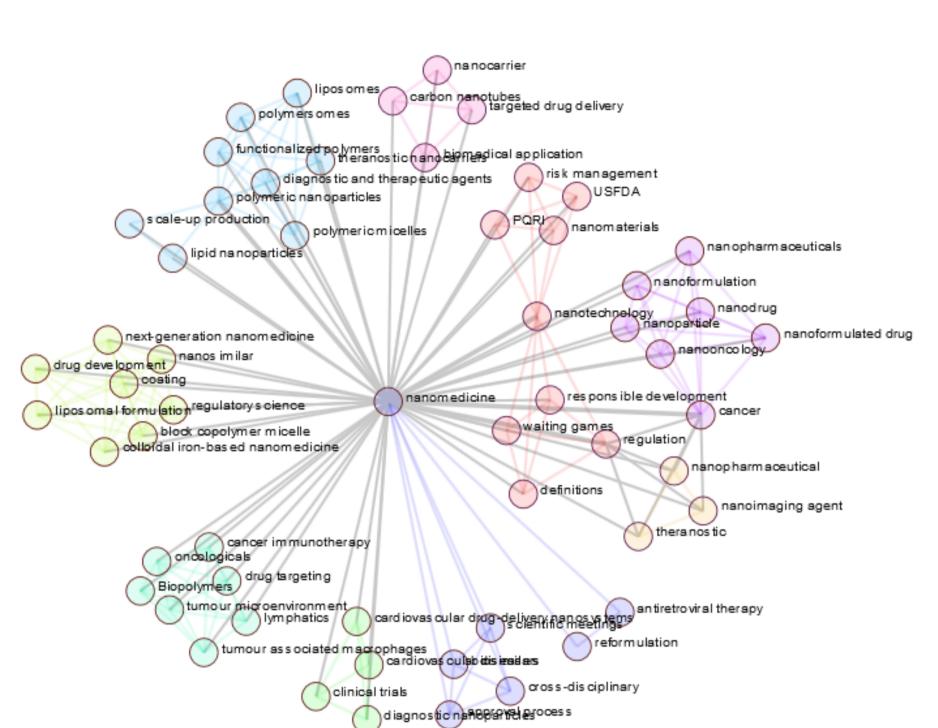


Figure 2 Visualisation of top nanomedicine terms retrieved from scientific literature

- Bibliometric analysis allowed an automatic retrieval of most frequent and relevant keywords and the relations between them (keyword co-occurrence information: two or more keywords occur together in the same publication, patent or EU project description)
- The graph visualises the complexity of terms used in the field of nanomedicine and reflects communication challenges faced by stakeholders involved in translational nanomedicine
- Nodes and edges represent terms and their co-occurrence frequency, respectively. Colours are highlighting clusters, not interpreted

Mapping nanomedicine terminology used in the regulatory authorities websites

Figure 2 Regional variability terminology in **number of terms.** This chart shows the number of terms identified in each regulatory authorities' website matching the training set (385 terms).

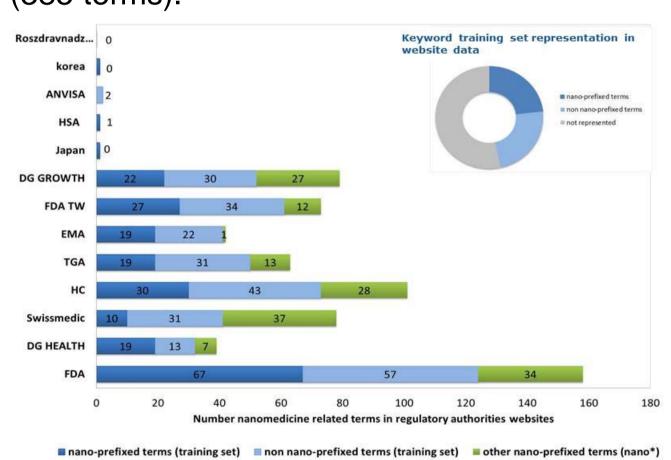


Figure Nanomedicine regulatory authorities' websites. This term co-occurrence term network reflects the complexity of the nanomedicine terminology in regulatory websites. The edge-weights reveals few strong correlations between terms suggesting a topic still in development.

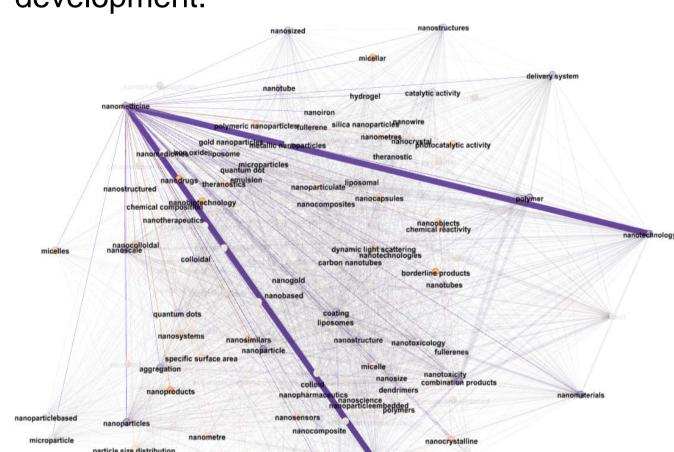




Figure 4 Regional terminology variability: most relevant top terms and nanomedicine. A) This graph shows regionals differences in term occurrence frequencies and variability; some terms are region-specific. B) Regional term variability related to nanomedicines suggests regional differences in number of applications, and nanomedicine products approved or under investigation.

CONCLUSIONS

- Tech and text mining tools are suitable methods to obtain an objective picture on the terminology used in the nanomedicine field and relevant keyword extraction.
- Training keyword set matching and term co-occurrence networks reveal differences between terminology used in the literature and regulatory authorities
- Regional differences are reflected in the number and type of terms used in regulatory documents.
- Nanomedicines is a term mainly used in Europe which can create confusion or ambiguity in the international communication among stakeholders.
- Complexity, diversity of terms, and their correlation elucidate the challenges of communication in biomedical research and regulation of nanotechnology-based products.

Laia Quirós Pesudo · Joint Research Centre Consumer Products Safety Unit Tel: +39 0332 78 3092 E-mail: Laia.quiros-pesudo1@ec.europa.eu

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