

SARA TOTARO

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER

Project manager of the EU-funded project CONCERTO

@CMCC - Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Climate Change

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SENIOR PROJECT MANAGER @ CMCC - EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

13 JAN 2025 - CURRENT

- Ensure timely delivery of CONCERTO project deliverables and results, monitoring developments and budget execution.
- Manage contacts with partners and stakeholders, assess synergies with other projects and enhance collaboration.
- Align project objectives with broader research initiatives to maximise impact.

PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING OFFICER @ EC JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

JUNE 2017 – MAY 2023

- Manage JRC key performance indicators and Programme indicators (H2020, Horizon Europe). Participated in inter-service steering working groups on performance indicator methodologies for Horizon Europe programme monitoring.
- Carry out statistical analysis (trends, outliers) to assess performance and advise on risk mitigation.
- Draft and contribute to (multi)annual strategic planning documents and annual activity reports, liaising with scientific units to align strategic objectives.
- Produce scorecards, infographics, and visual materials to support reporting and communication strategies.
- Organise and facilitate collaborative workshops, fostering knowledge exchange and strategic discussion.

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL OFFICER @ EC JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

OCT 2013 – SEPT 2016

- Lead and co-manage scientific tasks/work packages in NANoREG (FP7) and ProSafe (H2020), ensuring timely deliverables.
- Lead a multi-disciplinary team to develop a harmonised data logging system for nanomaterial, supporting human health and environmental risk assessment.
- Quality manager of the JRC Nanomaterials Repository, ensuring compliance with health and safety requirements, and operational standards.
- Coordinate project deliverables, technical reports, peer-reviewed publications, and engaged with stakeholders to translate scientific findings into policy-oriented recommendations. In particular:

CONSULTANT AND INVITED EXPERT @ Dutch Ministerie Van Infrastructuur en Milieu Min

10-14/10/2016

- Invited expert to the National Coordination Workshop (October 2016) to present scientific evidence in clear, accessible messages tailored for policymakers and non-experts.
- Bridge the gap between complex scientific results and policy recommendations to support the regulation of nano-enabled materials.
- Engage with national coordinators, policy advisors, and government representatives to ensure the practical application of research findings.

RESEARCHER @ VENETO NANOTECH

OCT 2013 – SEPT 2016

- Lead the establishment and full operability of the physico-chemical characterisation laboratory for nanomaterials.
- Define operating procedures and developed analytical methods for nanomaterial characterisation. Key role in NanoSustain and NanoValid EU-funded projects, participating in round-robin tests, validation of analytical procedures, and development of new testing methods.
- Perform physico-chemical characterisation of engineered nanomaterials for risk assessment related to human and environmental health.

FELLOWSHIP @ UNIVERSITY OF MODENA AND REGGIO EMILIA

DEC 2007 – JUNE 2008

- Research project: Characterisation and quantification of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in medical and surgical coverages (bags) after sterilisation processes using gamma radiations. In collaboration with multinational company Gambro & Dasco S.p.A.

EDUCATION

PHD IN ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY

UNIVERSITY OF MODENA AND REGGIO EMILIA

2008-2010

Research project: Geographical traceability: development and optimisation of analytical procedures for traceability models of Protected Designation of Origin food

POST-DEGREE COURSE

University of Parma

07/2007 – 02/2008

Application and use of Sciences (biology, chemistry, etc.) in forensic investigations.

Experimental research project: Assessment of Gunshot Residues through VOCs Analysis

MSc. PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY

University of Modena and Reggio Emilia

10/1999 – 11/2005

DIGITAL SKILLS

Data Analysis & Statistical Tools

- Proficient in data processing, statistical analysis, and visualisation
- Advance use of MS Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, Visio)
- Intermediate knowledge in LaTeX for technical and scientific documentation
- presentations using Pecha Kucha, infographics, and other visual formats

Graphic Design & Data Visualisation

- Skilled in Adobe Illustrator, Adobe InDesign for infographics and report design. Basic knowledge of Qlik Sense
- Experience in developing dashboards for data visualisation

IT for Scientific Research

- Hands-on experience with analytical instrumentation software for mass spectrometry (ICP-MS, GC-MS) and other instrumentation (DLS, A4F, etc.)
- Development of harmonised data logging systems for nanomaterials research

Virtual Collaboration & Communication

- Experienced in video conferencing platforms (Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Skype, Webex)
- Expertise in creating and delivering

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- Rock Climbing & Hiking – Passionate climber and member of the Italian Alpine Club, often seeking new climbing challenges.
- Volunteer Activities for the JRC Mountain Club – Organising mountain excursions, courses, and events related to alpine environments and outdoor activities.
- Yoga & Sports – Regularly practices yoga and other sports, enhancing focus, resilience, and stress management.
- Reading – Avid reader with a keen interest in a variety of topics.
- Travel & Exploration – Enjoys discovering new places, often combining travel with outdoor adventures like climbing.
- Swimming – Holds a first-level swimming instructor license, previously teaching children, teenagers, and adults.