

Cristina Africh is research manager at CNR-IOM in Trieste (Italy), where she heads the *Surface structure and reactivity at the atomic scale* group. In parallel to her research activity, which led to the publication of more than 70 papers in high-impact journals, including 4 research articles in *Science*, since 2008 she is strongly involved in the design, management and operational coordination of NFFA-Europe, the European distributed research infrastructure for nanoscience and nanotechnology. She is currently infrastructure manager of NFFA-Europe and coordinator of its Italian counterpart NFFA-DI (Nano Foundry and Fine Analysis – Digital Infrastructure), which upgraded eleven leading Italian research institutes/departments belonging to four different Institutions into a single, centrally coordinated, research infrastructure for material science and innovation, with a totally digital access work flow and aiming at being the first FAIR-by-design RI.