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**Scheme S1.** Synthesis scheme of catechol-PEG: Polymerization of ethylene oxide (EO), followed by deprotection of CA-PEG with an aqueous solution of hydrochloric acid resulting in hydrophilic C-PEG.



Composition <sub>NMR</sub>	$M_{n,\mathrm{NMR}}^{a}/$	$M_{n,GPC}^{b}$ /	$M_{\rm w,GPC}^{b}$ /	$M_{ m w}/M_{ m n}^{\ b}$
	g· mol <sup>-1</sup>	g· mol <sup>-1</sup>	g· mol <sup>-1</sup>	
CA-PEG <sub>67</sub>	3160	2450	2610	1.07

<sup>a</sup>Calculated from <sup>1</sup>H-NMR spectrum. <sup>b</sup>Determined by GPC in DMF (RI, PEG standard).

Figure S1. GPC trace (RI, DMF, PEG standard) of CA-PEG<sub>67</sub>.



**Figure S2.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum (400 MHz, methanol- $d_4$ ) of catechol-PEG (C-PEG<sub>67</sub>) after release of the protecting groups.



**Figure S3.** EDX spectrum from  $Ni_{0.95}Fe_{0.05}$  precursors after a reaction time of 6 minutes.



Fig. S4: An SEM image to confirm a better overview and hierarchical arrangements of nanodomains in three dimensional (3D) patterns



**Figure S5.** (a) HRTEM of a superparticle showing that all the rods growing on the flat surface have the same orientation, with [111] as the main direction of growth (b) z-contrast image (STEM) of a plate standing on the short side (inset) and corresponding line scan elemental analysis to confirm hierarchically organized iron oxide around nickel nanoplates.



**Figure S6.** TEM images of (a) Ni<sub>0.95</sub> Fe<sub>0.05</sub>@ $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> nanoparticles when Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub> was injected at 180 °C (b) at 240 °C and varying the amount of injected Fe(CO)<sub>5</sub>, 10  $\mu$ L (c) and 200 10  $\mu$ L (d).



**Figure S7.** Digital camera photograph of reaction flask at various temperatures in the absence of  $Fe(CO)_{5}$ 



**Figure S8.** Orientation of LAT2 (in violet) in relation with the (a) triangular and (b) hexagonal shaped superparticles. Images were taken in STEM  $\mu$ -probe mode with an extremely reduced illumination. Three-dimensional diffraction reconstructions were performed by ADT. Scale bar: 100 nm.



**Figure S9.** Geometrical relations between hexagonal LAT2 (in violet) and the commensurate cubic cell with a~3.6 Å (in yellow) determined by P-XRP and reported in literature for  $\Box$ -metals and permalloys. (a) View along (100)\* of the cubic cell, with LAT2 extra-reflections indicated by violet arrows. (b) Reciprocal lattice section showing the extra-reflections close to the 111 reflection of cubic Ni. Three-dimensional diffraction reconstructions were performed by ADT.



Figure S10. Magnetic properties of the Ni@ $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> core shell nanoparticles. Magnetic hysteresis loops at 5 K and 300 K and temperature dependence of the magnetization in field-cooling (FC) and zero-field-cooling (ZFC) of Ni@ $\gamma$ -Fe<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> heterodimer nanoparticles (a,b) and core-shell nanoparticles (c,d) respectively.