

## Electronic Supplementary Information

# How Insignificant Modifications of Photocatalysts Can Significantly Change their Photocatalytic Activity

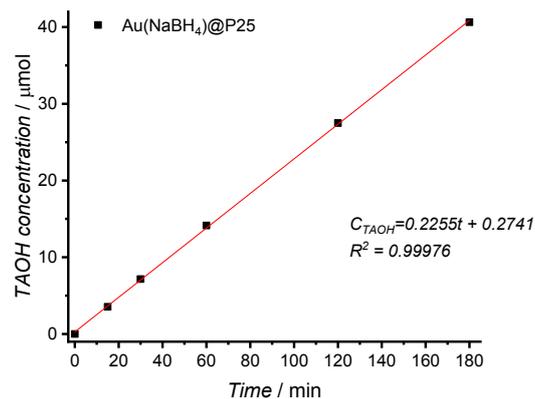
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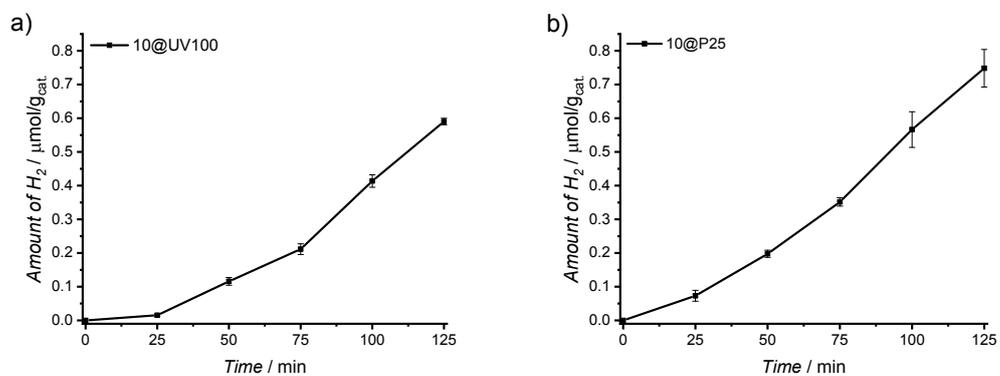
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### **1. Materials and methods**

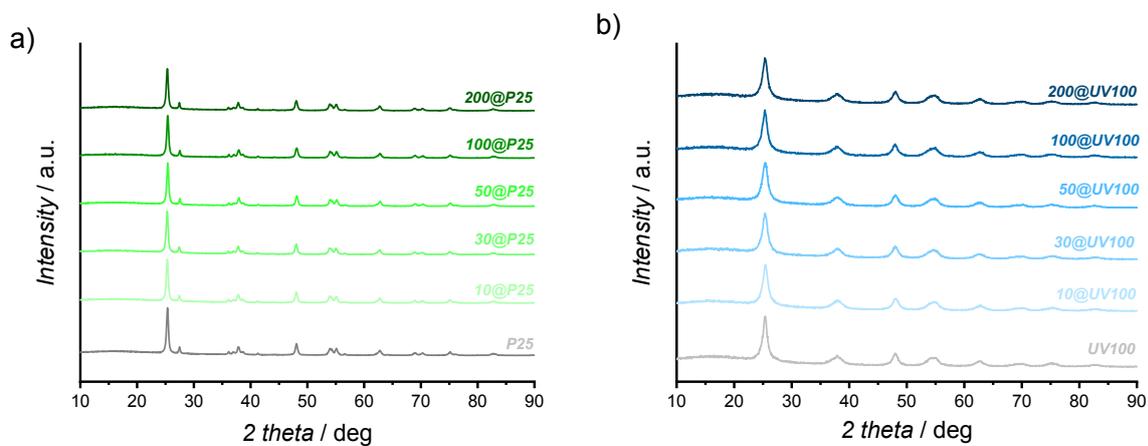


**Figure S1.** An exemplary plot of TAOH formation upon the visible light irradiation with a linear fit for Au(NaBH<sub>4</sub>)@P25.



**Figure S2.** Exemplary plots of hydrogen formation upon the UV light irradiation for 10@UV100 (a) and 10@P25 (b).

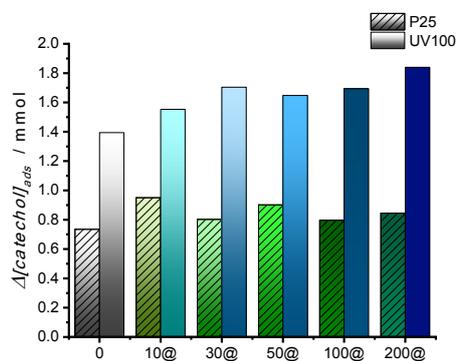
## 2. Results and discussion



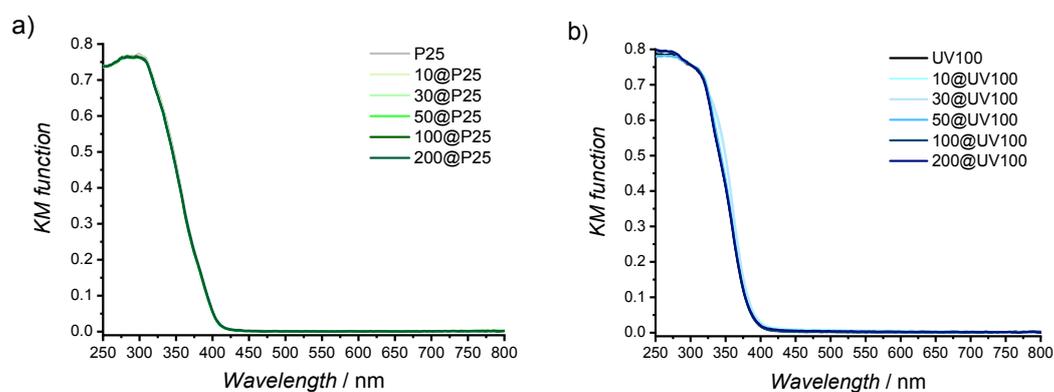
**Figure S3.** XRD patterns of the studied TiO<sub>2</sub> samples: a) P25 series, b) UV100 series.

**Table S1.** Specific surface area, pore size and pore volume of investigated materials. Errors within  $\pm 1\%$ .

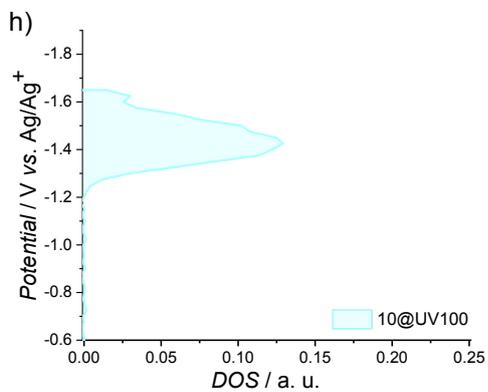
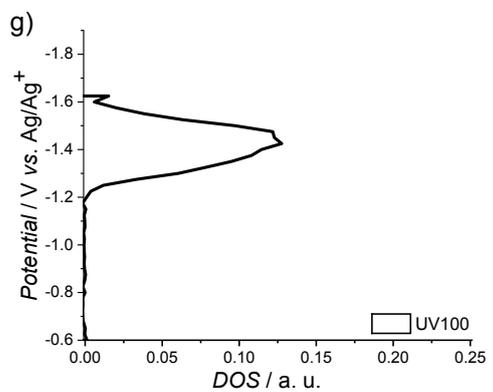
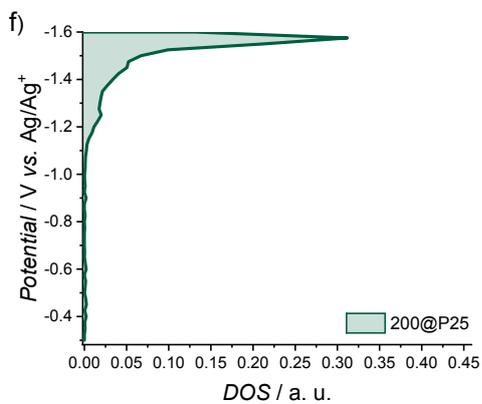
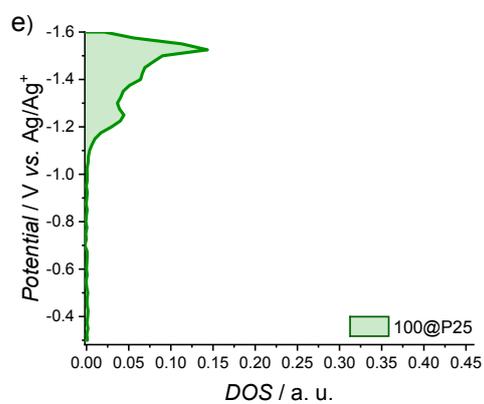
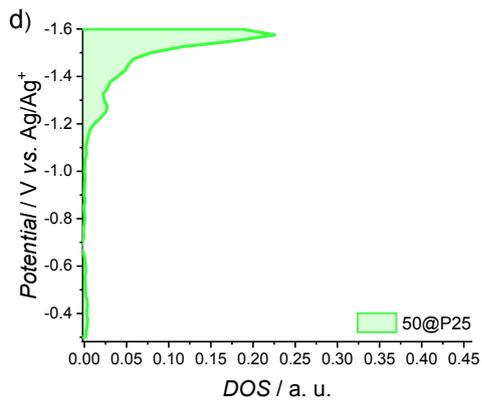
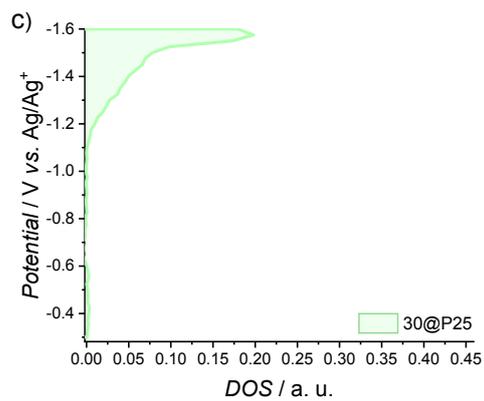
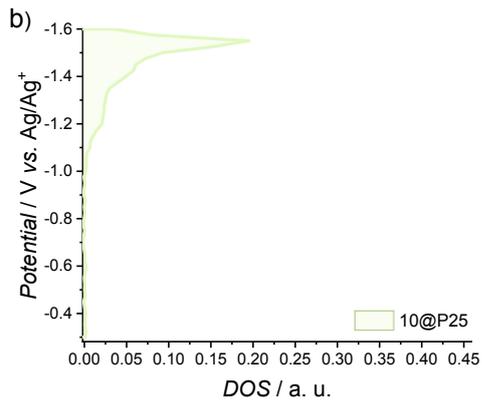
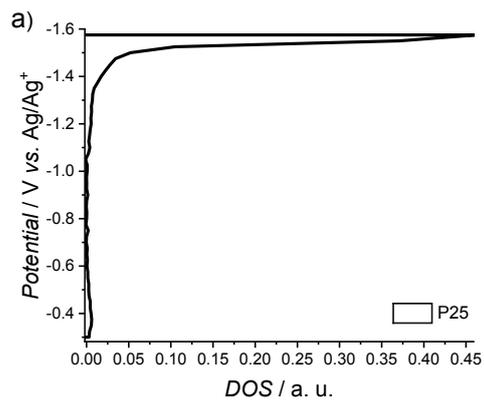
Material	Specific surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore size (Å)	Pore volume (cm <sup>3</sup> /g)
UV100	321.7	45.2	0.363
10@UV100	315.5	44.9	0.354
30@UV100	311.6	45.8	0.357
50@UV100	302.9	47.2	0.357
100@UV100	280.6	48.2	0.338
200@UV100	296.9	48.3	0.358
P25	52.7	132.5	0.175
10@P25	52.6	124.9	0.164
30@P25	51.7	125.4	0.162
50@P25	53.0	145.9	0.193
100@P25	52.4	135.4	0.177
200@P25	51.7	129.7	0.167

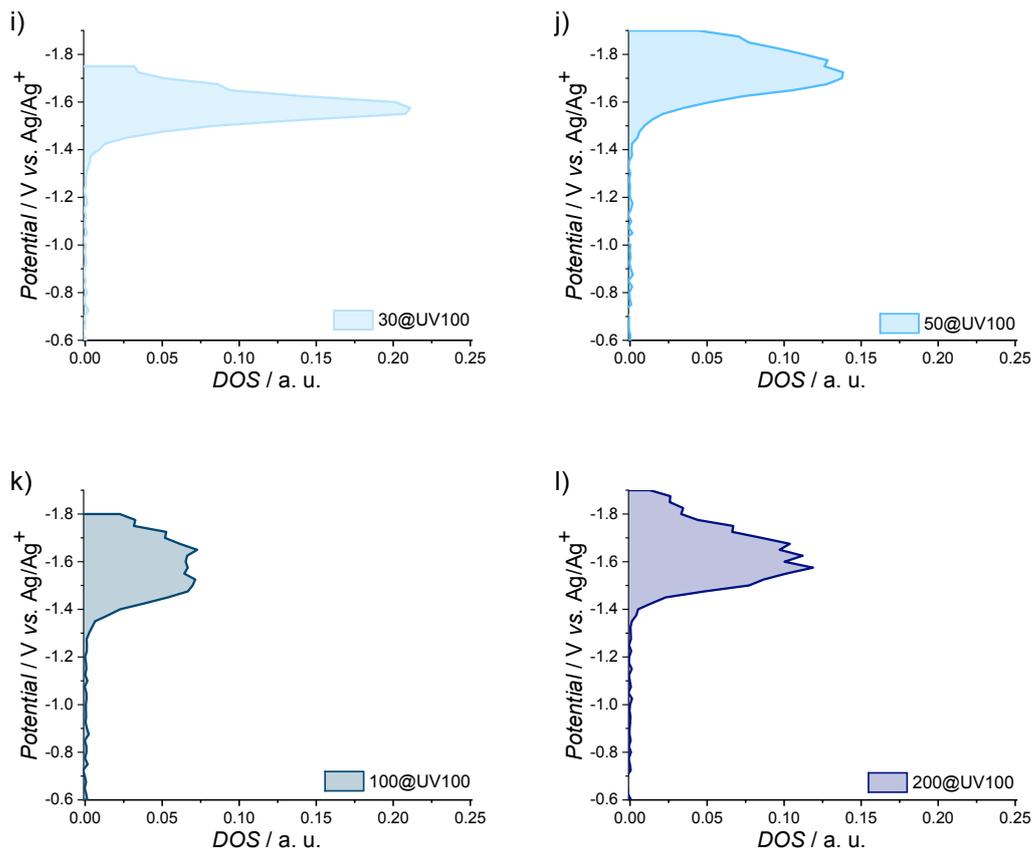


**Figure S4.** Amounts of catechol adsorbed at the surface of studied materials. The reproducibility of the measurements was within 1-2%.

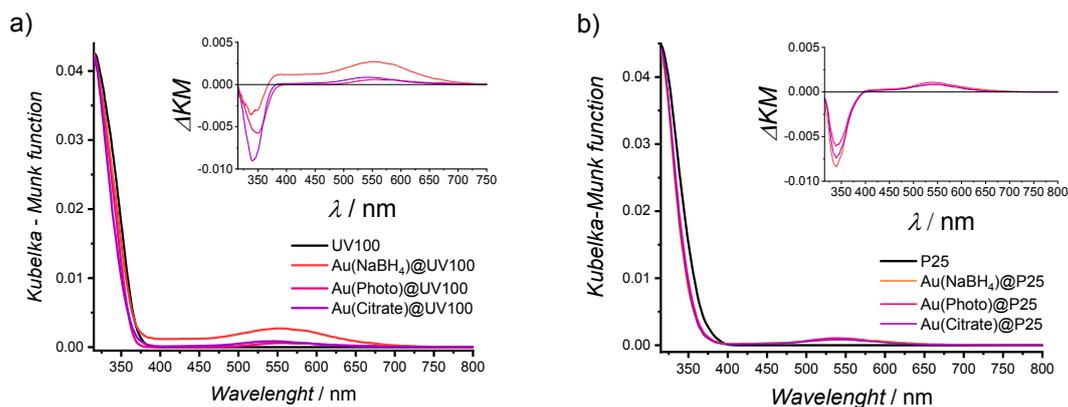


**Figure S5.** Diffuse reflectance spectra of surface modified TiO<sub>2</sub> (P25 – (a) and UV100 – (b)) materials.

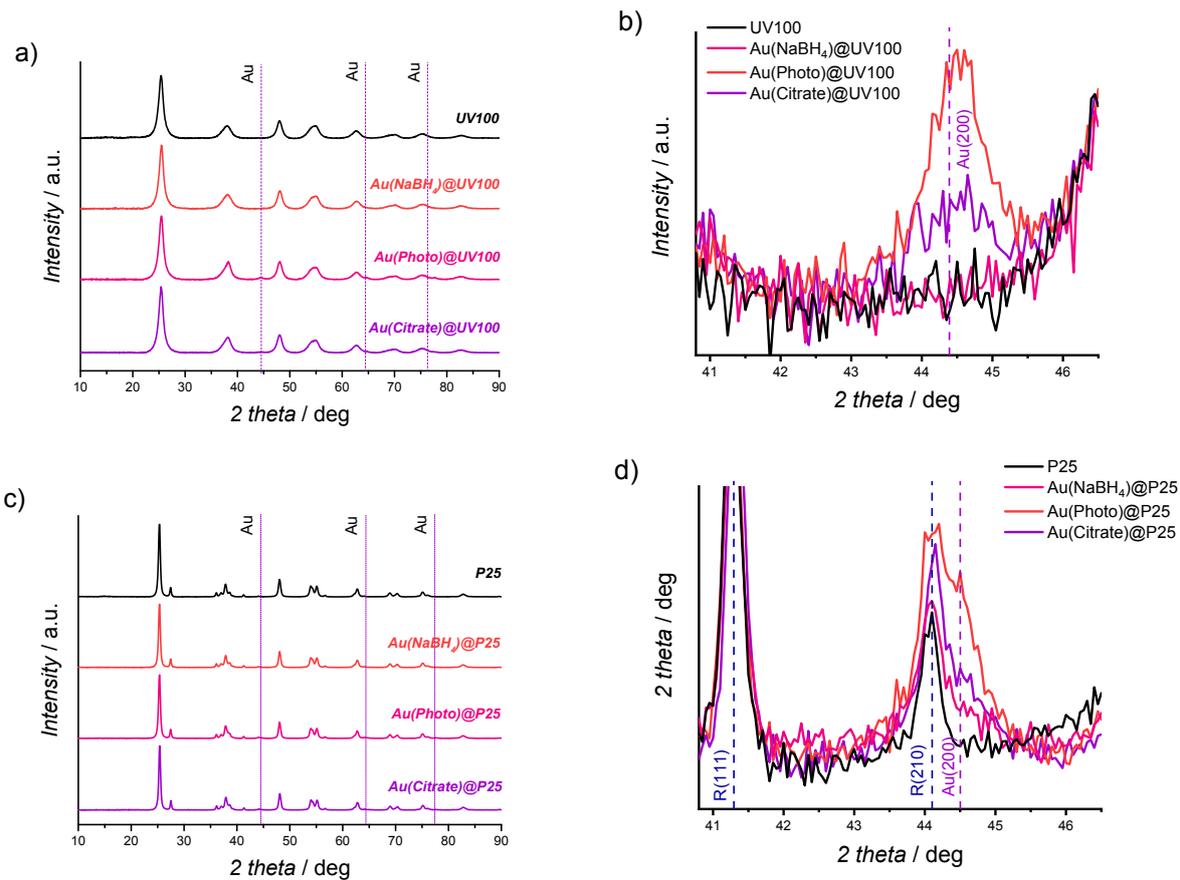




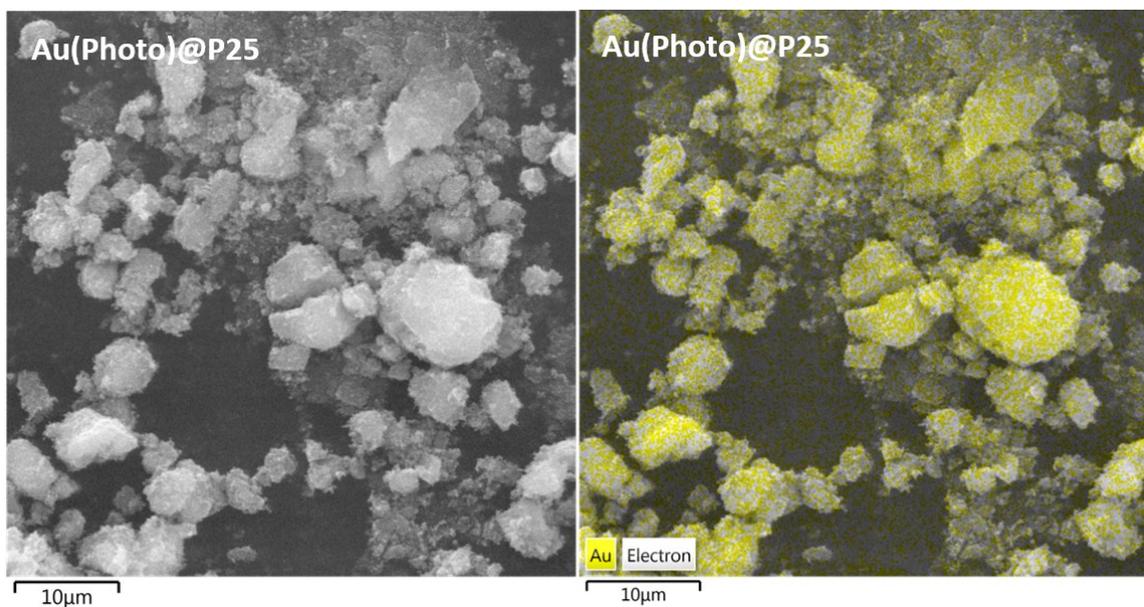
**Figure S6.** Representative density of states patterns for P25 (a), 10@P25 (b), 30@P25 (c), 50@P25 (d), 100@P25 (e), 200@P25 (f), UV100 (g), 10@UV100 (h), 30@UV100 (i), 50@UV100 (j), 100@UV100 (k) and 200@UV100 (l) after ALD application

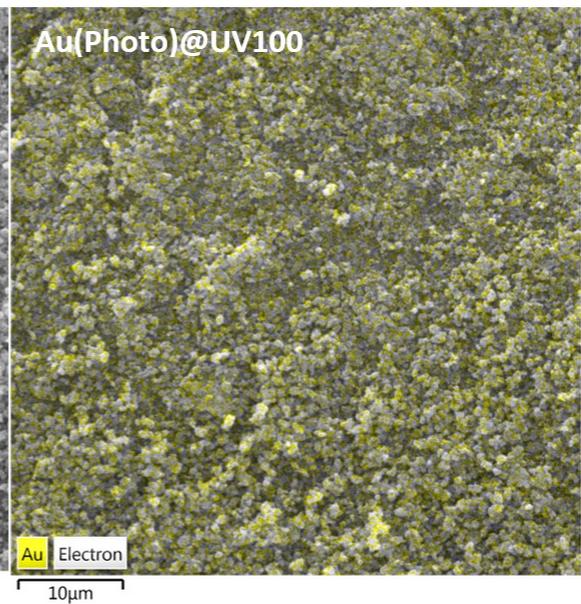
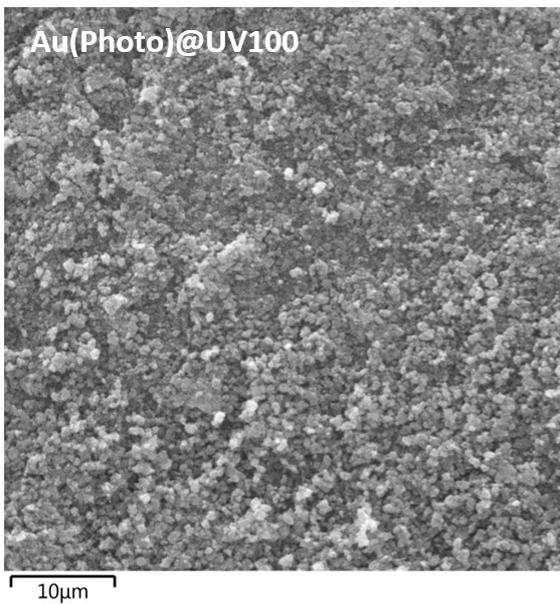
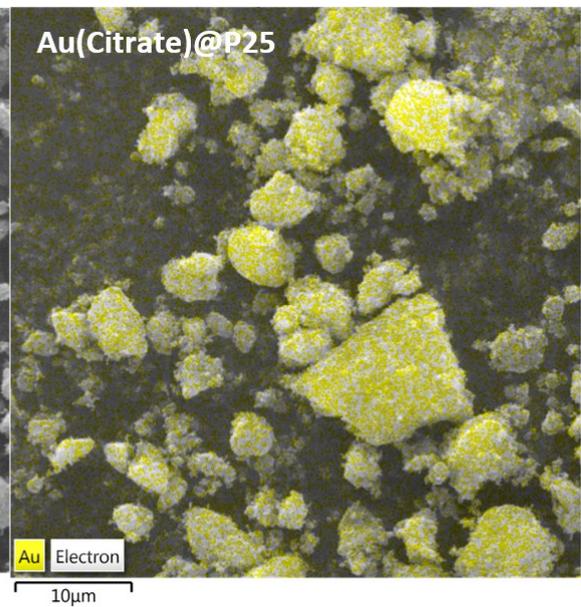
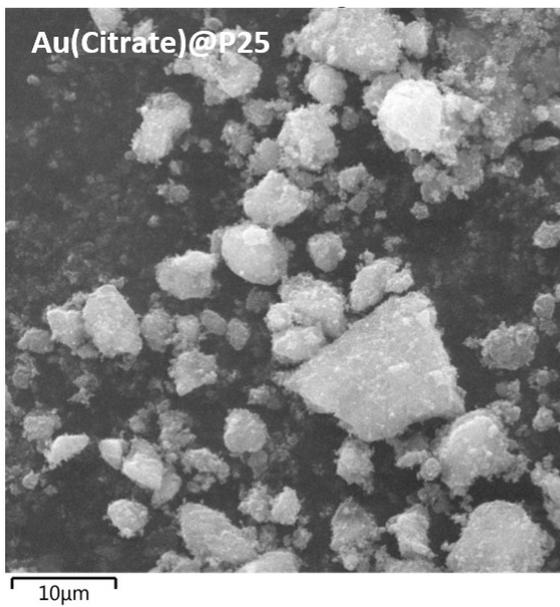
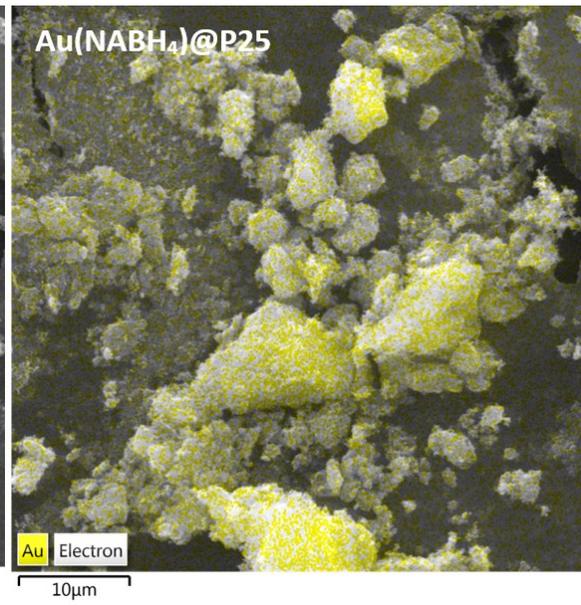
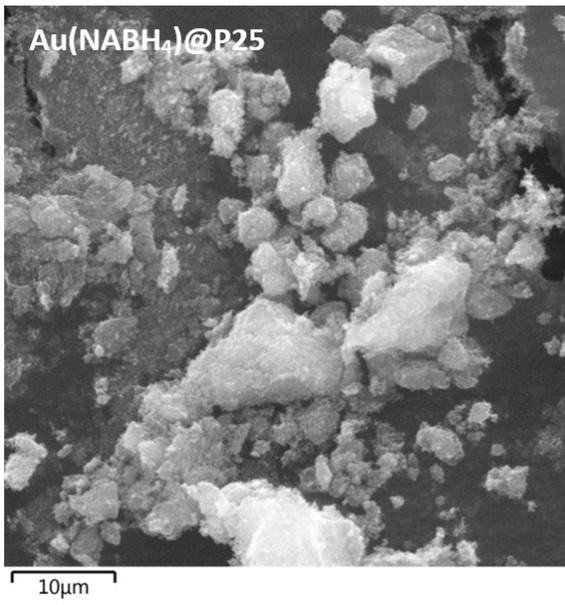


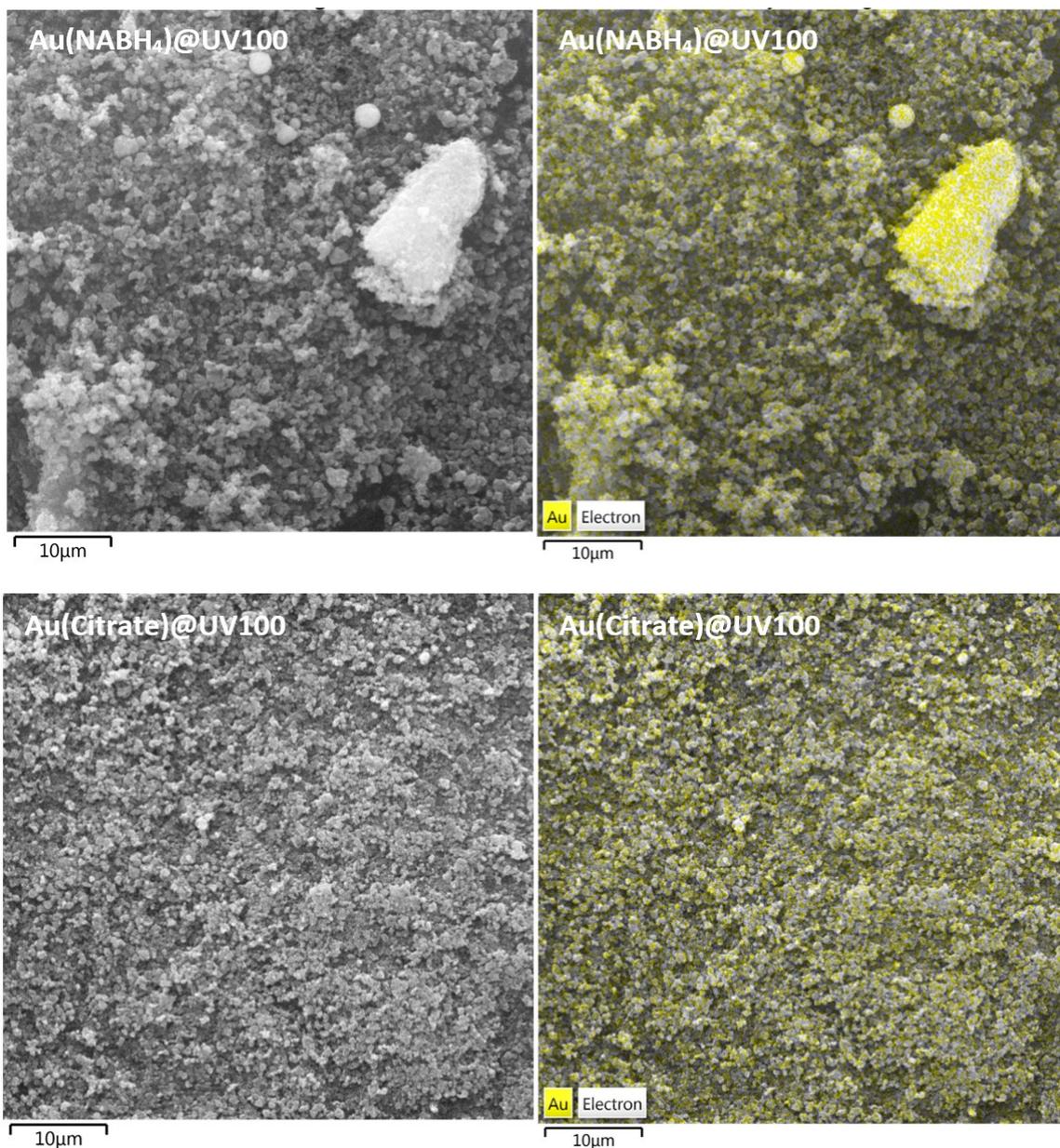
**Figure S7.** Diffuse reflectance spectra of TiO<sub>2</sub> (P25 – (a) and UV100 – (b)) materials with gold nanoparticles.



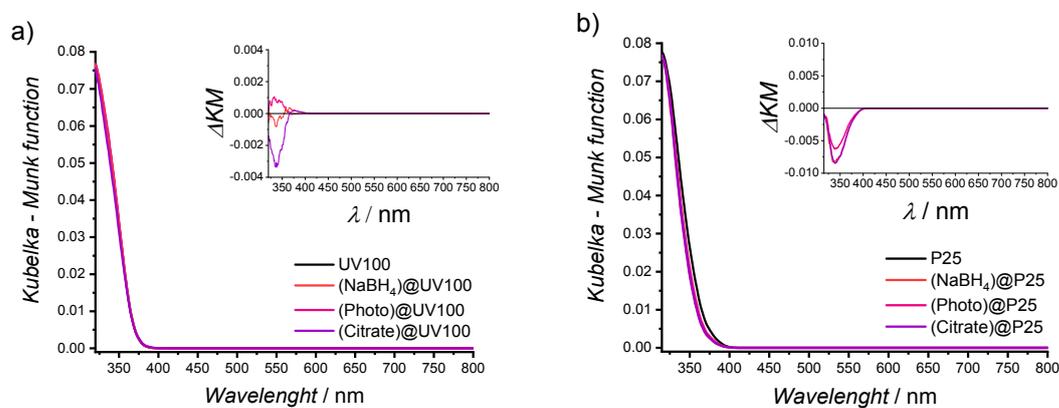
**Figure S8.** XRD patterns of investigated TiO<sub>2</sub> samples: a), b) UV100 and c), d) P25 synthesized in the presence of gold ions with marked reflexes (Au – gold).



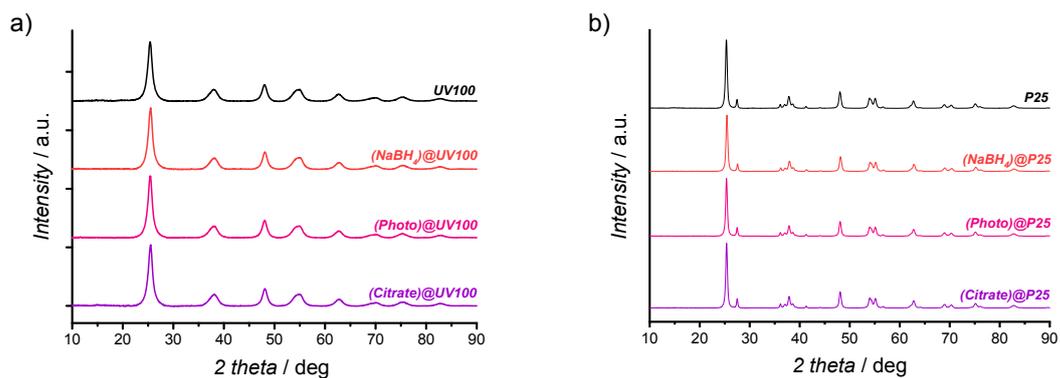




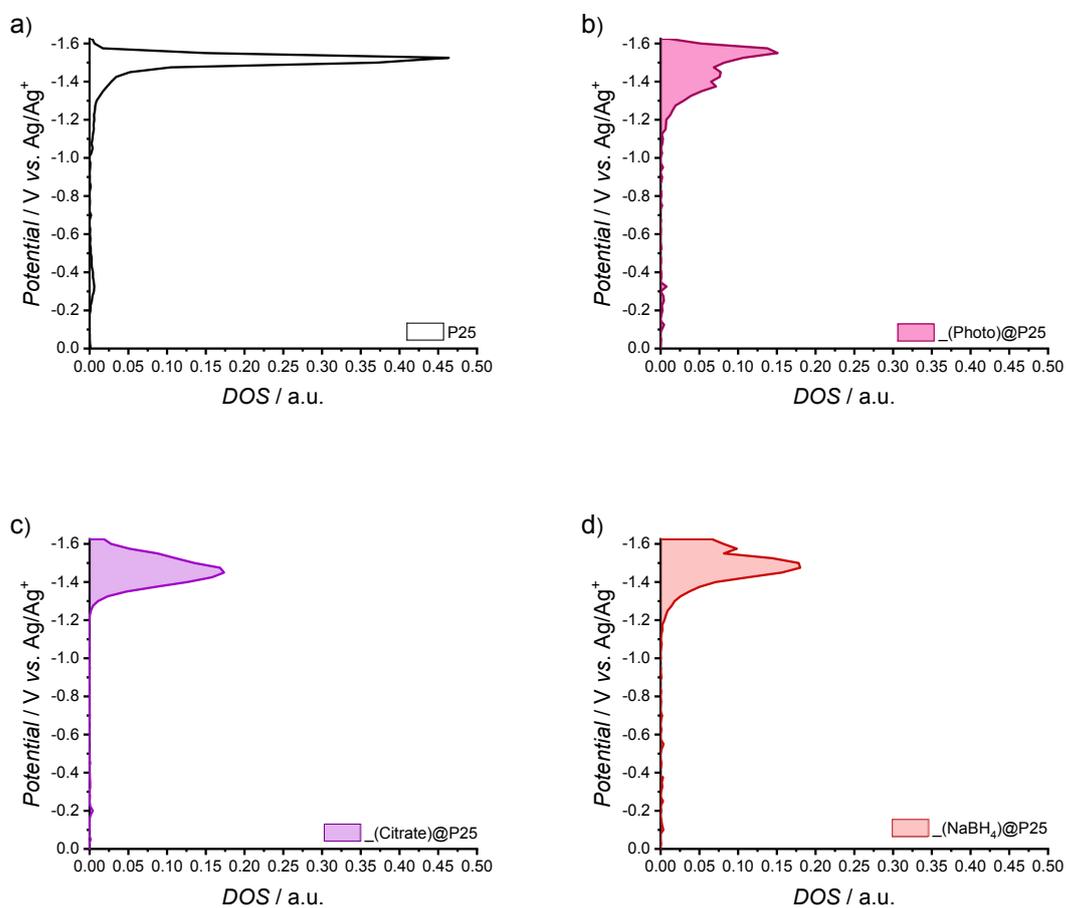
**Figure S9.** EDS analysis of materials based on P25 and UV100 synthesized in the presence of gold.

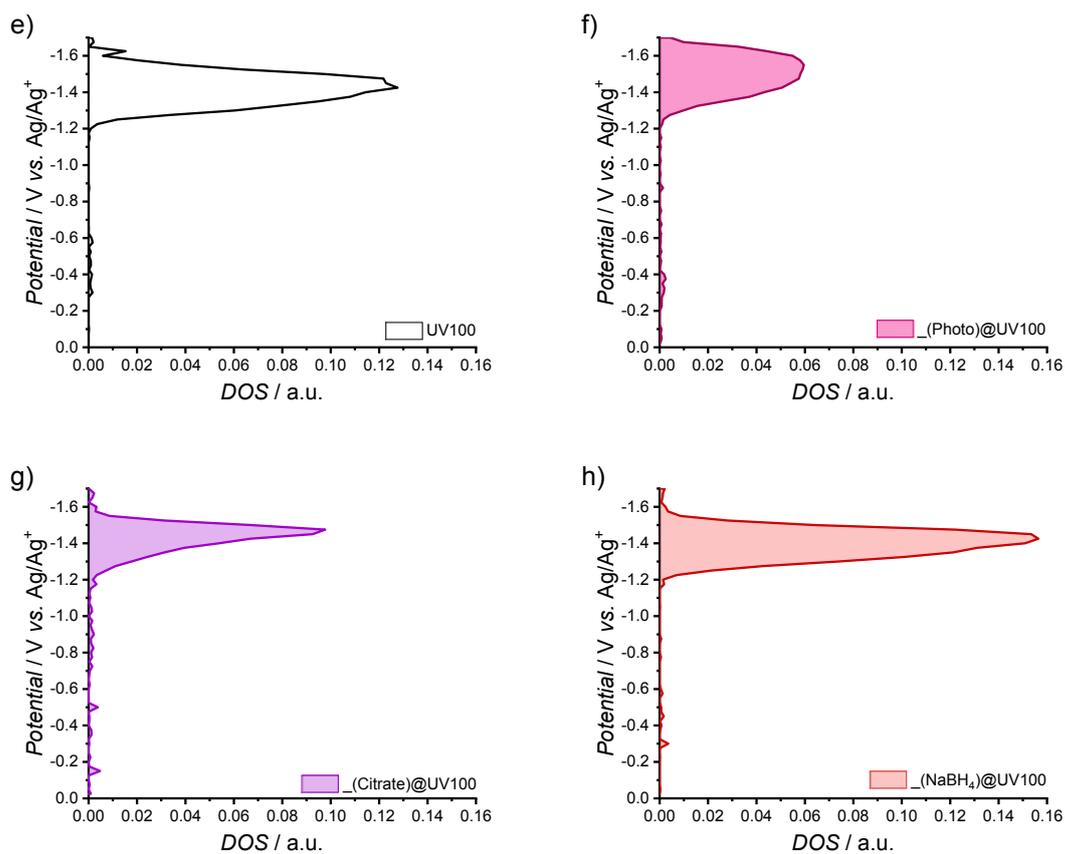


**Figure S10.** Diffuse reflectance spectra of TiO<sub>2</sub> (UV100 – (a) and P25 – (b)) materials without gold.

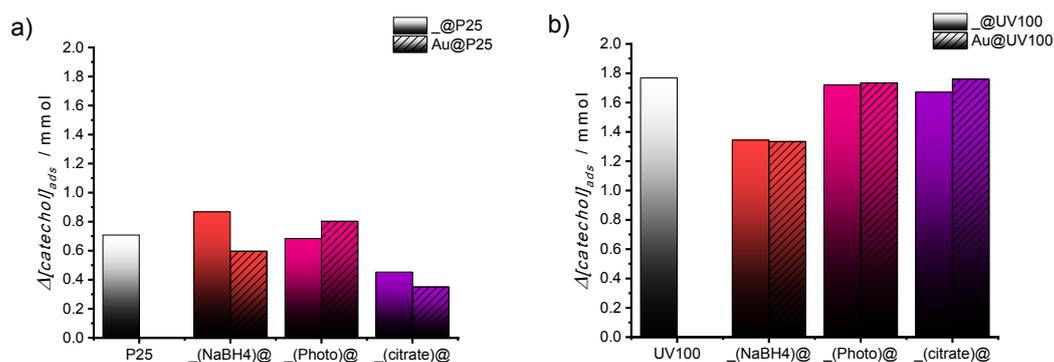


**Figure S11.** XRD patterns of investigated TiO<sub>2</sub> samples: a) UV100 and b) P25 synthesized in the absence of gold ions.





**Figure S12.** Representative density of states patterns for P25 (a), \_(Photo)@P25 (b), \_(Citrate)@P25 (c), \_(NaBH<sub>4</sub>)@P25 (d), UV100 (e), \_(Photo)@UV100 (f), \_(Citrate)@UV100 (g) and \_(NaBH<sub>4</sub>)@UV100 (h) for materials prepared without gold precursor.



**Figure S13.** Amounts of catechol adsorbed at the surface of materials based on P25 (a) and UV100 (b). The reproducibility of the measurements was within 1-2%.