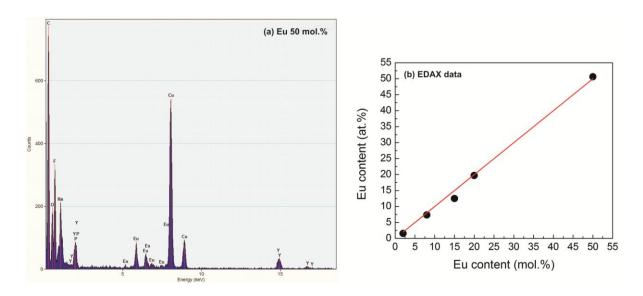
## **Supporting information**

## On the nature of carriers relaxation and ion-ion interactions in ultrasmall $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub>: Eu<sup>3+</sup> nanocrystals – effect of the surface

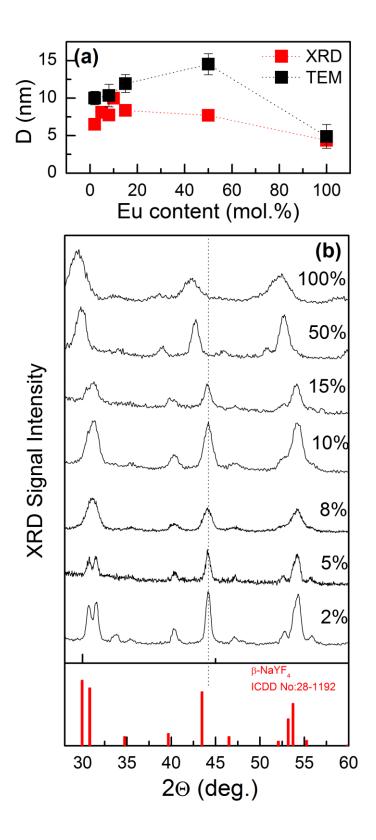
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**Figure S1**. EDXS spectra for β-NaYF<sub>4</sub> NCs obtained with different Eu concentration.



**Figure S2.** XRD spectra of Eu<sup>3+</sup> doped  $\beta$ -NaYF<sub>4</sub> NCs with (a) different Eu<sup>3+</sup> molar fraction and (b) obtained at different synthesis times.

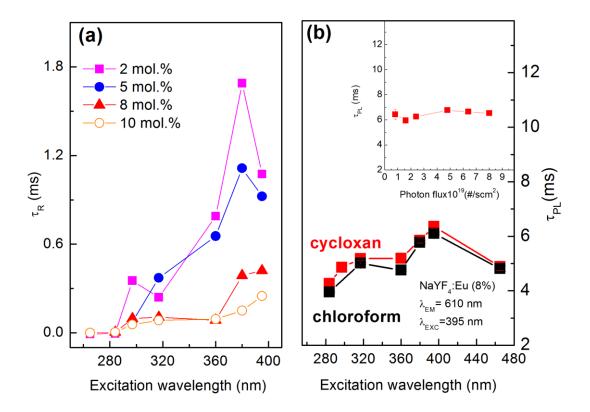


Figure S3. (a) Emission rise times vs. excitation wavelengths obtained for β-NaYF<sub>4</sub> NCs obtained with different Eu concentration. (b) Emission decay times vs. excitation wavelengths obtained for sample with 8 mol.% of Eu recorded in two different in polarity solvents. Inset: Emission decay time recorded as function of excitation flux.