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Responsible Research and Innovation from an EU Commission's perspective

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Ethics and Gender

"The views expressed are purely those of the writer and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the European Commission"





WHY DO WE NEED RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION?

- Significant time lag between technical discovery and market product
- Societal perception and impacts of Technology difficult (impossible) to predict
- Early societal intervention may enable anticipation of positive and negative impacts



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S&S and SiS activities in FP6 and FP7 (10 years of research)

- *Research on the ethics and governance of new technologies*, e.g. nanotech, ICT, human enhancement, etc.
- *Promoting European and International Dialogue* on ethics and support of National Ethics Councils
- *Public Engagement with Science*, Mobilisation and Mutual Learning action plan, with focus on societal challenges (energy, ageing...)
- *Ethics Review*: FP7 Proposals should be based on fundamental ethical principles.
- *Nanocode (2008)*: Promoting Deliberative Processes, Public Debate, involvement of stakeholders



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- One objective for the SiS programme for the last two years of FP7: Responsible Research and Innovation
- 6 action lines
 - Inclusiveness
 - Gender equality in research content and in careers
 - Open Access to scientific outcome
 - Science education
 - Ethics
 - Governance



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Inclusiveness

- Involve all the actors at an early stage (Researchers, Civil society organisations, Industry and Policy makers)
- Develop innovation in a co-building mode
- Ensure co-responsibility



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Gender equality in research content and in careers

- Inclusiveness also means that all actors are on board: women and men.
- Can innovation be responsible if the gender dimension has not been taken into account?
- Examples: Security belt, mobile phone, public transport



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Open Access to scientific outcome

- Research and innovation must be both transparent and accessible
- Free online access to peer-reviewed publications and in some cases to data



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Science education

- Build up a scientifically literate society to allow full participation in the research and innovation process
- Develop the interest of children in mathematics, science and technology through Inquiry Based Scientific Education methodology



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Ethics

- The European society is based on common values
- Charter of Fundamental Rights
- Ethics guidelines





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Governance

- Models for responsible research and innovation in a changing world
- For Society, with Society, by Society



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Towards a European Model for Responsible Research and Innovation

Responsible Research and Innovation framework
for the European Research Area

- Possible soft law initiative for 2012
- Workshop 16 & 17 May 2011 in Brussels





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Purpose of the workshop:



- To bring together key players and stakeholders in Europe into a collective reflection and mutual learning on responsible research and innovation
- To collect examples of activities related to responsible research and innovation
- To develop a shared understanding of responsible research and innovation
- To formulate policy recommendations of actions and processes which would support this development



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Defining RRI



- RRI relates to outcomes or products, in terms of sustainability, safety and ethical acceptability
- RRI relates to processes and their quality: involvement of stakeholders and based on principles of accountability, transparency
- Multidisciplinary and participatory methods are recommended





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Next steps:

- Adoption of the SiS work programme
- Publication of the SiS call for proposals
- Next National Ethics Committee meeting on RRI
- Common Strategic Framework
- Set up of an expert group on RRI
- European Group of Ethics – Opinion on RRI
- ERA Framework and Recommendation on RRI