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e-Newsletter

Responsible Research & Innovation

“The RESPONSIBILITY project aims to create a network of stakeholders that would adopt and diffuse a common understanding in Responsible Research and Innovation between different actors in Europe and around the globe”.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is a transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view on the (ethical) acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the innovation process and its marketable products (in order to allow a proper embedding of scientific and technological advances in our society).

In an increasingly globalised world, RRI is not constrained within the boundaries of one state or a region. Consideration of responsibility has to be embedded in all research so as to cope with the future needs and goals of the world society. It has no meaning if RRI is an imperative in Europe and not in other parts of the world and vice-versa. Therefore, dedicated efforts should mainstream in order to engage stakeholders in an international cooperation for creating a common language for RRI in different parts of the world.



The RESPONSIBILITY project aims to create a network of stakeholders that would adopt and diffuse a common understanding in RRI between different actors in Europe and around the globe. In doing so it will develop a model and provide a tool for international cooperation, involving the societal, policy and research stakeholders to these activities.

It intends to provide practical means and structure a crucial interaction between society and research, providing a set of recommendations and tools to policy makers and active RRI stakeholders in order to take the necessary measures to nest responsible research and innovation into products and services from the very beginning (“efficient RRI by design”).



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“The RESPONSIBILITY project kicks-off” in Berlin the 19th February 2013 bringing together 13 partners from 7 EU and 3 non-EU Countries .

The RESPONSIBILITY Coordination Action project was launched on 1st February 2013 and it will run for 3 years. It aims to create a Forum and a virtual Observatory, which facilitates the network of stakeholders to adopt and diffuse a common understanding in Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) between different actors in Europe and around the globe.

Indeed, in an increasingly globalized world, dedicated efforts should mainstream in order to engage stakeholders in an international cooperation for creating a common language for conducting and managing responsible research and innovation.

The RESPONSIBILITY consortium consists of 13 partners, from 7 EU and 3 non-EU countries. The Fraunhofer-Institut für Produktionsanlagen und Konstruktionsanlagen IPK in Berlin is coordinating the project. The total budget of the RESPONSIBILITY project is estimated to reach the amount of approx. € 1, 77 M.

During the Kick - off meeting that was hosted by Fraunhofer Institute on the 19-21 February 2013 the RESPONSIBILITY partners drew the action list for the different work packages defining the details for the key deliverables of the project and especially the strategy for the optimum implementation of the Network, the Forum and the Observatory. In addition strategies were discussed and modern tools were assessed in order to disseminate the results of the project in the most efficient way.

Finally the RESPONSIBILITY partners discussed in-depth possibilities of expanding Cooperation with projects Great, Res-Agora and Progress especially on issues such as defining a common Glossary for RRI, bridging websites and information material and defining common dissemination approaches and organize events.

For more information you can visit our website: www.responsibility-rri.eu



Project Objectives & Expected Results

The RESPONSIBILITY Forum will be a body that does not negotiate decisions and is self-regulated, while the participation is open, transparent and remote. The main objectives of the Forum are to be an interface between politicians, society and industry, researchers and CSOs; to determine approaches to the RRI and to construct a virtual meeting place (forum of discussion) for RRI stakeholders. The discussions in the Forum and their outcomes will provide the necessary content for the Observatory.

The virtual Observatory of Responsible Research and Innovation will be a structure aiming to support the enhancement of common understanding, the diffusion of knowledge and the deployment of practical tools. The Observatory will improve the interaction among research outcomes and policy making, exploit the full potential of scientific achievements to be incorporated in the policy development and implementation.

Practical and theoretical information will be easily assessable and usable by the societal stakeholders on this organised virtual place. It will be accessible for all interested citizens besides the policy makers and the researchers. Important societal issues interrelated to ethics, human dignity and privacy will be on the core of the Observatory outlook towards societal stakeholders.

The RESPONSIBILITY project also intends to provide a set of recommendations and tools to policy makers and active RRI stakeholders in order to take the necessary measures to nest responsible research and innovation into products and services from the very beginning. The RESPONSIBILITY project will have an extensive societal, economic and research impact.

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The Network of Networks (WP2) has two main functions: the theoretical landscape function and the case study comparison function.

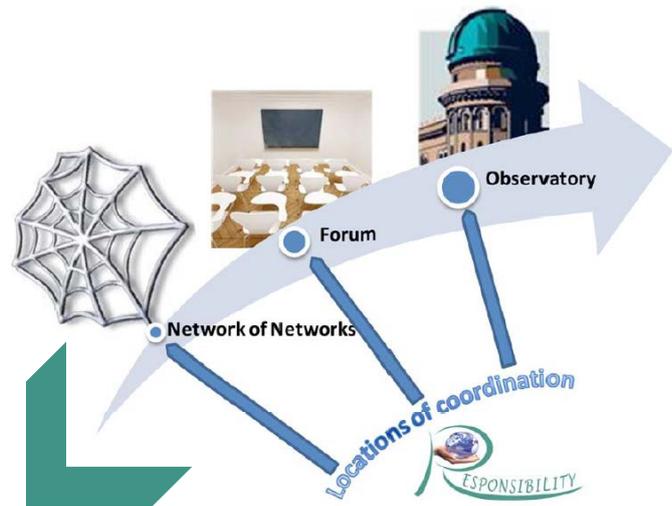
In WP2 the problem that both the research community and society are confronting should be addressed and defined in detail. The outline of the problem could start with the determination and implementation of the conditions that allow the efficiency of RRI reflexivity and continuity inside the technical development (innovation process). In order to meet these objectives this WP of the coordinating action will set-up a crosspoint for existing networks and extract the main issues for responsible research and innovation (network of networks). The stakeholders engagement will be to identify the pool of case studies and provide a critical feedback.

The Forum (WP3) has two main functions: political function and implementation function. A forum is a body that does not negotiate decisions. Self-regulated. Open, transparent, remote participation. It is defined through three major components: political, industrial and societal.

Main objectives:

- definition of networking and educational tools (teaching material, experimental discussions, construction of the context etc)
- to be an interface between politicians, society and industry, researchers and CSOs
- determination of guidelines to determine approaches to the RRI
- to construct a virtual meeting place (forum of discussion) for RRI stakeholders
- to create a place of deliberation concerning RRI, at the same time as an issue and as an answer
- to create “caucus” that allow to address a problem in specific field e.g. security, nanotechnology

- political advisor function
- guidelines for CSOs, for the political level and for the industry level
- responsible innovation package
- to build a proactive tool for implementing RRI in any project, by capacitating the actors to do so

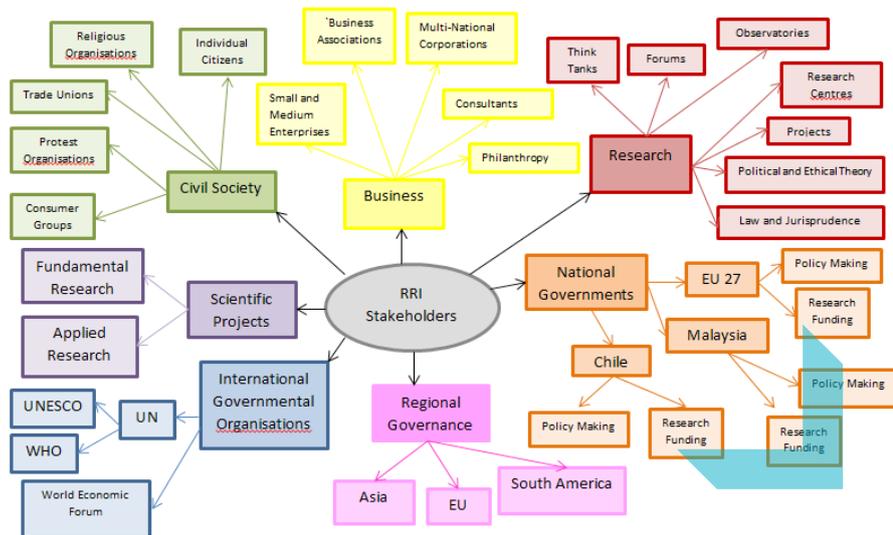


The objective of the **Observatory (WP4)** is to implement the Observatory of Responsible Research and Innovation and provide the necessary support to establish it as a permanent point of reference and actual fore-thinking regarding the current concept and developments in the field of RRI. RRI is fast changing with revolutionary technologies and attitudes towards them still developing (including, particularly, attitudes about what would constitute responsible innovation). The project will maintain relevance and impact over a longer period by producing and maintaining an Observatory of RRI. This Observatory will be a repository of findings from the project, but will also be designed to harness the involvement of the broader network of researchers and innovators to provide information on:

- Current and emerging technologies and the issues they are likely to raise for RRI
- Governance arrangements suitable for addressing RRI
- Case studies, examples of good practice and training materials in RRI

These last two will be designed so research and innovation in one field can learn from good practice in another field. A snapshot will be taken of them at M26 and synthesised as a major input into the best practice guide.

The Observatory will be evaluated and seeded by the network and will then be opened up to the global RRI community. It will be developed by extending an ICT Ethics observatory that is already being developed by DMU. It employs established and novel technologies, including some of collaborative “web 2.0” tools. The Observatory will allow researchers to identify areas in need of more detailed research and it will show where public engagement on particular issues may be relevant.



Progress in WP2: Network of Networks

This deliverable examines RRI networks by examining five main features of such networks:

- the main actors,
- the theoretical structures,
- the funding sources,
- the dissemination structures,
- and the possibility of expanding RRI beyond the European context.

RRI Actors: In order to structure the analysis from the outset, it is worth distinguishing six main actor groups in RRI networks: national governments; regional governments; international governmental organisations; civil society actors; businesses, scientific research projects (those carrying out research relevant to RRI, regardless of whether they are aware of RRI), and policy researchers (those researching RRI as a policy tool, or those with an interest in similar concepts). This set of groups is not intended to be exhaustive, and neither is it intended to exclude the possibility of making further distinctions

Forthcoming Events:

- 11.02.2014 - RESPONSIBILITY pre-FORUM Workshop in Brussels, Belgium.
- 19.02.2014 - 1st Asia Pacific Responsible Business Innovation 2014 in Kuching, Malaysia.
- 20-22.02.2014 - RESPONSIBILITY General Project Meeting in Kuching, Malaysia.

within the main categories. It is merely intended to organize the discussion at this stage, and hopefully to prompt further reflection on the categories of actors to be included in the Forum and Observatory.

Two main issues emerged from the analysis: first, awareness of RRI among civil society actors seems low on the basis of the research so far; business actors also have a low level of awareness: some businesses use terms such as Responsible Research and Innovation and related terms such as Responsible Innovation. However, the usage of these terms seems much less widespread than influential concepts such as corporate social responsibility.

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A further urgent problem is the need to distinguish RRI from similar concepts such as Corporate Social Responsibility, not least because we need to show that it is worthwhile researching what extra value a new concept such as RRI can bring to research ethics and governance...

...full analysis on the RRI Networks will be soon available through our website.

RESPONSIBILITY CONSORTIUM:

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