



Stakeholders Acting
Together
On the ethical
impact assessment
of Research and
Innovation

Policy developments in the ethics of research and innovation

SATORI Newsletter Issue 5

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Compiled by Trilateral Research Ltd. on behalf of the SATORI consortium
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Contents

- SATORI policy brief: Improving the organisation of research ethics committees (RECs)
- The Brussels declaration on ethics & principles for science & society policy-making
- Study on the rights of children in biomedicine
- Robots: Legal Affairs Committee calls for EU-wide rules
- EU Parliament public consultation on future of robotics and artificial intelligence
- Commission proposes new legislation for stronger privacy in electronic communications
- Communication on building a European data economy
- Next steps for a sustainable European future
- Science tackles RRI benefits and risks and presents round-up of RRI programs
- RRI Tools project concludes
- Improving gender equality in research organisations
- Scientists initiate first ethical guidelines for organs cultivated in vitro
- Plagiarism scandal and the weakening of ethics committee powers
- New bill proposed to create a board to deal with serious cases of scientific dishonesty
- GEC latest infobrief covers genome editing
- Transplantation of human organs for treatment purposes
- Draft law on application of human cells and tissue
- Code of medical ethics
- The Civil Society Monitor of Ethics in Science: Open meeting and discussion on the public image of science
- SNSF approves 20 new projects aiming to share research with the public
- New portal launched for open government data
- The UK Science and Technology Committee undertakes inquiry on research integrity
- AfRE – ARMA merger
- Call for ban on R&D activities if directed at technology for fully autonomous weapons
- The Asilomar principles for AI
- Public consultation on the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research closes
- NAS & NAM Report: Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance
- U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides further guidance on scientific integrity for its researchers

Europe

SATORI policy brief: Improving the organisation of research ethics committees (RECs)

SATORI has issued a policy brief with recommendations for promoting good practice in research ethics committees.

Source: <http://satoriproject.eu/media/SATORI-policy-brief- January-2017-C2-1-FINAL.pdf>

The Brussels declaration on ethics & principles for science & society policy-making

The Brussels Declaration text was adopted on 17 February 2017 during an announcement symposium at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Annual Meeting (AAAS) held in Boston, MA, USA.

Source: <http://www.euroscientist.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Brussels-Declaration.pdf>

Study on the rights of children in biomedicine

The Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) of the Council of Europe has published a [study](#) on the challenges posed to the rights of the child by scientific and technological developments in biomedicine. The study will be used to analyse existing international legal instruments, assess their relevance to address challenges, and where appropriate, define further action at IGO level.

Source: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/bioethics/-/study-on-the-rights-of-children-in-biomedici-1>

Robots: Legal Affairs Committee calls for EU-wide rules

MEPs have stressed that that EU-wide rules are needed to fully exploit the economic potential of robotics and artificial intelligence and to guarantee a standard level of safety and security. They have urged the European Commission to consider creating a European agency for robotics and artificial intelligence to supply public authorities with technical, ethical, and regulatory expertise.

Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/news-room/20170110IPR57613/robots-legal-affairs-committee-calls-for-eu-wide-rules>

EU Parliament public consultation on future of robotics and artificial intelligence

This consultation seeks to launch a wide debate with a wide range of stakeholders and seeks views on how to address the challenging ethical, economic, legal, and social issues related to developments in robotics and AI for civil use. It is open from 8 February 2017 to 30 April 2017.

Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/juri/public-consultation-robotics-introduction.html>

Commission proposes new legislation for stronger privacy in electronic communications

The European Commission has [published](#) its final draft of the new e-Privacy Regulation concerning the respect for private life and the protection of personal data in electronic communications and repealing Directive 2002/58/EC (Regulation on Privacy and Electronic Communications).

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/proposal-regulation-privacy-and-electronic-communications>

Communication on building a European data economy

The European Commission has published a Communication looking at proven or potential blockages to the free movement of data; options to remove unjustified and or disproportionate data location restrictions in the EU; barriers around access to and transfer of non-personal machine-generated data; data liability; and issues related to the portability of non-personal data, interoperability, and standards.

Source: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/communication-building-european-data-economy>

Next steps for a sustainable European future

The European Commission has issued a Communication on next steps for a sustainable European future, encompassing the economic, social, environmental dimensions of sustainable development, as well as governance, within the EU and globally.

Source: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/sites/devco/files/communication-next-steps-sustainable-europe-20161122_en.pdf

Science tackles RRI benefits and risks and presents round-up of RRI programs

Science features an informative article by Elisabeth Pain on responsible research and innovation, covering its progress, benefits, and risks, the challenges it faces, RRI training programs etc.

Source: <http://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2017/01/be-responsible-researcher-reach-out-and-listen>

RRI Tools project concludes

The RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) Tools project has concluded. Its most significant result includes a single portal that draws together tools and best practices for RRI collected from 30 participating countries. The project strongly

recommends that citizen's perspectives should be included in future research projects.

Source: <https://www.rri-tools.eu/>

Improving gender equality in research organisations

Science Europe has issued a guide for improving gender equality in research organisations to facilitate mutual learning between Science Europe member organisations.

Source: http://www.scienceeurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/SE_Gender_Practical-Guide.pdf

Austria

Scientists initiate first ethical guidelines for organs cultivated in vitro

Organ models, cultivated in the laboratory from human stem cells and grow into living tissue, are one of the most important scientific breakthroughs of recent years. Leading scientists and international experts have now presented ethical guidelines for research in human organ models.

Source: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1126/science.aaf9414>

Croatia

Plagiarism scandal and the weakening of ethics committee powers

Nature carries a report (by Mićo Tatalović & Nenad Jarić Dauenhauer) about a plagiarism scandal in Croatia, that allegedly involves a clash between the country's highest-level research ethics committee and Croatia's science minister.

Source: <http://www.nature.com/news/croatia-s-science-minister-rejects-calls-to-resign-amid-plagiarism-scandal-1.21301>

Denmark

New bill proposed to create a board to deal with serious cases of scientific dishonesty

The Danish minister for education and research, Søren Pind, has proposed a bill to set up a central board, the Board of Scientific Dishonesty, to consider cases of scientific dishonesty to maintain high credibility and integrity in research.

Source: <http://ufm.dk/aktuelt/nyheder/2017/klarere-rammer-for-behandlingen-af-sager-om-videnskabelig-uredelighed#cookieoptin>

Germany

GEC latest infobrief covers genome editing

The German Ethics Council (GEC) has published its latest [infobrief](#). The current issue addresses the GEC's views on the recent international meeting on genome-editing between the Ethics Councils of France, the UK, Austria, Switzerland, and Germany, and other items on its current working program.

Source: <http://www.ethikrat.org/publikationen/infobrief>

Poland

New regulations introducing economic incentives for business investing in R&D; further reforms planned

On 1 January 2017, new measures aimed at promoting innovation came into force. New regulations include, among others, abolishment of income tax on in-kind contributions of intellectual property rights to a company, tax deductions on patent costs for SMEs and extension of the tax deduction period for R&D costs.

Source: <http://naukawpolsce.pap.pl/aktualnosci/news,412797,gowin-bedzie-podwojenie-ulg-dla-firm-inwestujacych-w-badania-i-rozwoj.html>

Serbia

Transplantation of human organs for treatment purposes

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia conducted a public debate on the [Draft Law on "Transplantation of human organs for treatment purposes"](#) in December 2016. The new law aims to ensure quality and safety standards for human organ transplantation and quality working conditions and organisation of the health care system to ensure the sufficiency of organs for transplantation and high level of human health protection.

Public debate report:

http://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/downloads/2017/Januar/Izvestaj_o_sjr_celije.pdf

Draft law on application of human cells and tissue

The [draft law](#) stipulates the adoption of a unique transplant program that encompasses the acts of donating, receiving, testing, processing, preserving, storage, distribution and application of human cells and tissues in humans, either from a living donor or from a deceased person. It precisely defines which health care institutions may apply to carry out activities in this field, and conditions tissue banks must meet. The public debate was conducted in December 2016.

Public debate report:

http://www.zdravlje.gov.rs/downloads/2017/Januar/Izvestaj_o_sjr_celije.pdf

Code of medical ethics

A new Code of Medical Ethics of the Serbian Medical Chamber was enacted on 26 December 2016. The Code aims to preserve the freedom and reputation of the medical profession, raise the quality of medical services, and strengthen the trust between doctor and patient with respect to autonomy and rights of patients.

Source:

http://paragraf.rs/propisi/kodeks_medicinske_etike_lekarske_komore_srbije.html

Slovenia

The Civil Society Monitor of Ethics in Science: Open meeting and discussion on the public image of science

[ZRC SAZU](#) and [Kvarkadabra](#) (society for interpreting science) organised a meeting and discussion on the public image of science in Ljubljana on 19 January 2017. The meeting focused on: the public reputation of scientists and academics, the social role of science and universities, and what could be done to improve the reputation of Slovenian academia.

Source: <http://www.zrc-sazu.si/sl/dogodki/ugled-znanosti-v-javnosti-javni-posvet>

Switzerland

SNSF approves 20 new projects aiming to share research with the public

Under the Agora funding scheme, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) has allocated 3.6 million Swiss francs to 20 of the 54 proposed research projects aiming to share their research with the public. Areas covered include: the role of women in research, biodiversity, and recent history.

Source: <http://www.snf.ch/en/researchinFocus/newsroom/Pages/news-170127-agera-20-new-projects.aspx>

New portal launched for open government data

As part of the Open Government Data Strategy for Switzerland 2014-18, the new Swiss portal for open government data *opendata.swiss* is online. Aimed at making it easier for interested parties to exploit the data, the portal provides access to 17 organisations on diverse topics e.g. population, health, politics, transport, and the environment.

Source: <https://opendata.swiss/en/>

United Kingdom

The UK Science and Technology Committee undertakes inquiry on research integrity

The Science and Technology Committee is carrying out an inquiry on the issues raised in the POSTnote on [Integrity in Research](#), and following up the [2011 report](#) on [Peer review in scientific publications](#). Written submissions are welcome till 10 March 2017 through the [research integrity inquiry page](#).

Source: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/science-and-technology-committee/news-parliament-2015/research-integrity-inquiry-launch-16-17/>

AfRE – ARMA merger

The Association for Research Ethics (AfRE) is amalgamating with the Association of Research Managers and Administrators (ARMA) in 2017. A press release states, “the amalgamation will allow ARMA to provide expert training on research ethics to administrators and academics involved in research in human participants”.

Source: <https://www.arma.ac.uk/news/related-documents-news/AfREARMA%20pressrelease2016.pdf>

Global

Call for ban on R&D activities if directed at technology for fully autonomous weapons

A global coalition of NGOs suggests research and development activities should be banned if they are directed at technology that can be used exclusively for fully autonomous weapons or that is explicitly intended for use in such weapons. This would help prevent unconstrained development of fully autonomous weapons systems.

Source: <http://hir.harvard.edu/growing-international-movement-killer-robots/>

The Asilomar principles for AI

The list of 23 principles (ranging from research strategies, data rights to future issues including potential super-intelligence) was developed in conjunction with the [2017 Asilomar conference](#).

Source: <https://futureoflife.org/ai-principles/>

Australia

Public consultation on the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research closes

The 2007 Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research was recently under review. The Code guides institutions and researchers in responsible research practices by setting the required standards, and provides advice on managing departures from these standards.

Source: https://consultations.nhmrc.gov.au/public_consultations/australian-code

USA

NAS & NAM Report: Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance

The National Academy of Sciences and National Academy of Medicine have issued a report by an expert committee that considers important questions (e.g. benefits, risks, respecting cultural differences) about the human application of genome editing. The report outlines criteria for heritable germline editing, and presents seven general principles for the governance of human genome editing.

Source: <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24623/human-genome-editing-science-ethics-and-governance>

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) provides further guidance on scientific integrity for its researchers

The document sets out a policy intended to: (1) ensure a culture of scientific integrity; (2) strengthen the actual and perceived credibility of the Federal Government and Federal Government-sponsored research; (3) facilitate the free flow of scientific and technical information consistent with privacy and classification standards and applicable laws, regulations, and DOE orders and policies; and (4) establish principles for conveying scientific and technological information to the public.

Source:

<https://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2017/01/f34/DOE%20Scientific%20Integrity%20Policy%2001112017.PDF>

The Signal Code: A Human Rights Approach to Information During Crisis

The Signal Program on Human Security and Technology at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) of the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health has published the [Signal Code: A Human Rights Approach to Information During Crisis](#) that identifies five human rights related to information during crisis: right to information; right to protection; right to privacy and security; right to data agency; and the right to rectification and redress.

Source: <http://reliefweb.int/report/world/signal-code-human-rights-approach-information-during-crisis>

SATORI invites suggestions for policy items to include in future issues of the newsletter. To send suggestions and feedback, please email Rowena Rodrigues: rowena.rodrigues@trilateralresearch.com
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