

## **WORK PROGRAMME 2021-2022**

### **WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA**

**CALL:** [European Research Area](#)

#### **1. ENSURING RELIABILITY AND TRUST IN QUALITY OF RESEARCH ETHICS EXPERTISE IN THE CONTEXT OF NEW/EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES**

**SUBMISSION:** 23 September 2021

**BUDGET:** 4.50 MILLION Euro

**TYPE OF ACTION:** Research and Innovation

Scope: The first objective should be to identify the main ethics challenges resulting from the most impactful new and emerging technologies, including the specific challenges arising from research activities involving those new technologies in collaboration with non-EU partners and outside the EU. From this analysis, the action should develop education, awareness actions and trainings for research ethics experts. This should be done by involving the key stakeholders. Structured cooperation with the e-platform Embassy of Good Science<sup>70</sup> and the European networks ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics Committees and Research Integrity Offices)<sup>71</sup> and ENRIO (European Network of Research Integrity Offices) is necessary. The cooperation with other relevant networks can be envisaged. In addition, where feasible these activities should be based on the analysis of case studies, including from non-EU countries where relevant research activities take place, to facilitate the development of practice-oriented trainings as well as the identification of good practices. The material produced, as well as all other outputs of the action, must be made available in the platform Embassy of Good Science, a one stop shop for all Commission produced ethics and research integrity reference materials and trainings, which can be readily used by all Member States and beyond. Where relevant, the EU Digital Education Action Plan<sup>72</sup> should be taken into account.

In addition, this cooperation with the main actors should aim at disseminating widely the material produced. The action should in this context foresee the training of the 250-300 Horizon Europe ethics appraisal scheme experts, paying close attention to gender balance, as well as to gender equality and diversity related ethical aspects, and make use of their feedback to improve the trainings. More largely, the institutions organising ethics reviews (universities, research centres, etc.) should be invited to ensure that the experts they rely on are also trained, as part of their quality process and standard operating procedures

Finally, the action should aim at valorising the work produced beyond the community of ethics and integrity experts and in particular by promoting its use for the students and young researchers that will constitute the next generation of ethics experts and reviewers. In this perspective, cooperation should be sought with large university/research networks (such as EUA, YERUN, LERU, CESAER, EARMA etc.) in order to enrich the relevant ethics related curriculum with the material produced by the action. In order to achieve the expected outcomes, cooperation with actors from China, Korea and/or African countries non-associated to Horizon Europe is required.

## **2 THE CHALLENGES OF RESEARCH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN RESPONSE TO CRISIS: THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND BEYOND**

**SUBMISSION: 23 September 2021**

**BUDGET: 4.50 MILLION Euro**

**TYPE OF ACTION: Coordination and Support**

**Scope:** The first priority is to analyse what characterises, from an ethics perspective, a crisis of a global, sudden and unexpected nature of the type of the Covid-19 pandemic, and isolate what are the related ethics and integrity challenges as regards the production, sharing and use of scientific knowledge and data in designing and implementing responses as well as in anticipating future global urgencies.

The action should result in (A) the identification of policy options at EU level (including those to address possible legislation gaps) and practical ways to support the work of relevant stakeholders notably the ethics committees and integrity bodies. The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity<sup>60</sup> should be a main reference.

The work undertaken should also result in (B) operational (“how-to”) guidelines to support the work of research teams. The need to complement the European Code<sup>61</sup> with specific guidelines should be assessed and a proposal (C) for short documents complementing the Code should be made, focusing for example on fast track processes (ethics review, publication etc.). In addition, this action should produce (D) traditional and online training material (reflecting the guidelines) for students, early career and experienced researchers.

Case studies (for example on mobile tracing apps) should be included in order to facilitate practical learning. The material, as well as all other outputs of the action, must be made available on the eplatform Embassy of Good Science<sup>62</sup>. Where relevant the EU Digital education plan<sup>63</sup> should be taken into account. Although the main focus should be on the recent Covid-19 pandemic, it is also important to have in mind the wider objective of addressing the ethics of global crisis of the same kind (manmade or not). The action should in this regard present a generalised version of the produced recommendations and guidelines and training material.

Improved impact forecasting and early warning systems supporting the rapid deployment of first responders in vulnerable areas

## **3. SUPPORT FOR POLICY MAKERS – PROGRAMME LEVEL COLLABORATION BETWEEN NATIONAL R&I PROGRAMMES**

**SUBMISSION: 23 September 2021**

**BUDGET: 3 MILLION Euro**

**TYPE OF ACTION: Coordination and Support**

**Scope:** Since the introduction of the European Research Area (ERA) and starting of FP6, Programme level collaboration among Member States and their research and innovation programmes has become a cornerstone of the ERA, with annual investment from Member States of more than EUR 800 million per year. More than 250 networks among research funders have been created over time, serving different

research needs but always coordinating public research investments across borders and allowing researchers to apply for calls for transnational research projects funded by the participating states. The new policy approach to European Partnerships limits co-funding to Member State collaboration to Union and Horizon Europe priorities. Therefore, the ERA part of the Horizon Europe provides the possibility for Member States, Associated Countries and civil society organisations such as foundations, to maintain existing and establish new collaborations on priorities of their choice.

The successful proposal should align national and regional research funding programmes (managed by national or regional programme owners / managers) on agreed common priorities and implement joint calls for transnational R&I projects as well as other joint calls. Applicants have to demonstrate clear commitments from participating programmes to pool resources and ensure complementarity between activities and policies with those of the Framework Programme and relevant European Partnership Initiatives.

Proposals should pool the necessary resources from the participating national (or regional) research programmes as well as, where appropriate, leverage resources from pertinent foundations, charities and transnational initiatives, with a view to implementing calls for proposals resulting in grants to third parties without EU co-funding in this area. The proposal should also demonstrate potential impact at national, regional and transnational level research and innovation. The proposal should demonstrate that activities exclude overlaps with on-going actions co-funded by the EU under Horizon 2020 or Horizon Europe. Participation of legal entities from third countries and/or regions including those not automatically eligible for funding is encouraged. The actions should envisage a duration which is appropriate to the ambition and complexity of the proposed topic.