



The ETHNA System **Ethics Governance System for RRI in Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres**

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Number:	872360
Project Full Title	ETHNA System. Ethics Governance System for RRI in Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres
Project Acronym	ETHNA System
Funding Scheme	SwafS
Call identifier:	H2020-SwafS-2019-1
Start Date of Project:	01/01/2020
Duration:	36 months
Project Website	ethnasystem.eu

DELIVERABLE INFORMATION

Deliverable No.	D7.3
Deliverable Title	Project website with internal and external areas
WP Number	WP7
Lead	BIOCOM
Contributing Partners	All partners
Related Task(s):	
Type:	Website
Author(s)	Uta Mommert
Due Submission Date:	30/04/2020
Actual Submission:	

DISSEMINATION LEVEL

CO	Public
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ABSTRACT: This deliverable includes the reporting procedures, a quality management manual and a set of templates and organisation issues to be used within the project.

VERSIONING AND CONTRIBUTION HISTORY

VERSION	DATE	MODIFIED BY	REASON FOR MODIFICATION
1.0	24/04/2020	Uta Mommert	First Version
1.1	30/04/2020	Uta Mommert	Peer-reviewed version

ABBREVIATION	
AB	Advisory Board
AP	Associated Partners
CA	Consortium Agreement
CM	Communication management
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
GA	Grant Agreement
IM	Innovation Management
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
PC	Project Coordinator
PMC	Project Management Committee
PO	Project Officer
STC	Scientific and Technical Coordinator
TL	Task Leader
TMC	Technical Management Committee
WPL	Work Package Leader



Abstract

As part of the ETHNA System communication and dissemination strategy, the project website's goal is to inform about the work of the ETHNA System project and ethics in research in general. It will make the project's achievements publicly accessible and works as a strong dissemination tool addressing all target groups. It will be used to publish results, videos, press releases etc. The website is updated as part of WP7 according to specific communication needs. Project progress and results will be prepared in consultation with the website editors for publication in the News section of the web site.

Methods and Results

The Project website <https://ethnasystem.eu> was built on a WordPress commercially available template. Overall technical realisation and the website design (fonts, colour codes, overall appearance) was done by BIOCOM AG. Content for the project sections was collected from the consortium partners by BIOCOM and reviewed and edited by the project coordinator. The website serves as a regularly updated “business card” of the ETHNA System project with prominent links to individual projects subpages and clearly structured sections:

- **Home:** Introduces the ETHNA project and links onto individual pages and enables users to subscribe to the AMR Accelerator Newsletter
- **About ETHNA:** Provides background material on the project, with the sub sections:
 - **About the project**
 - **About the consortium**
 - **About the workpackages**
- **About RRI:** Provides information on Responsible Research and Innovation
- **About Ethical Governance System:** Provides insight into the objectives of and background on the ethical governance system to be developed as part of the ETHNA System project.
- **News** Informs about current progress and results
- **Events:** Indicates relevant upcoming congresses and meetings
- **Contact:** Creates a user-friendly access to the responsible persons

The **internal website** used for consortium members is currently being substituted by a shared folder using Owncloud services. In future, a user-restricted area within Wordpress using the inbuilt feature will be implemented which will allow the consortium partners to upload and share internal documentation.

Conclusion

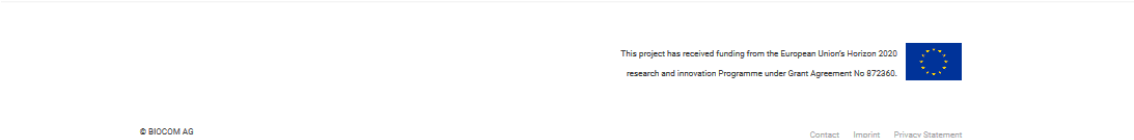
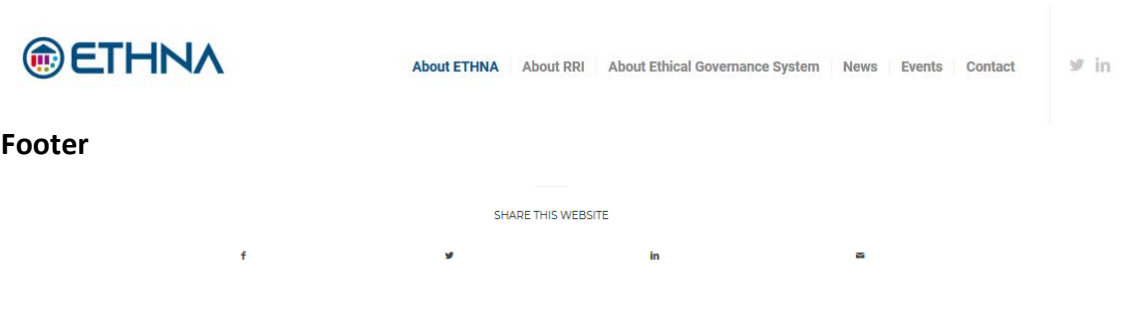
The joint project website <https://ethnasystem.eu> is a key communication tool, offering current information, background material and multiple options to stay up-to-date. The website is updated regularly and in close cooperation with the ETHNA System project partners who will provide BIOCOM with information on their respective work packages. Prominent contents will be actively promoted in parallel via social media



channels, newsletters and press releases. The design of the website reflects the latest readability and design standards. The website will remain active for at least three years after the end of the project.

Graphical abstract

Header/Navigation



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme according to grant agreement No. 872360



The role of responsible research and innovation (RRI) as conceived by the EU is instrumental in designing and promoting sustainable research and innovation practices. ETHNA System project intends to develop and apply an ethics governance system for the use of RRI in higher education, funding and research centres (HEFRCs). The system is composed of an ETHNA office and four tools and work methodologies for RRI: ethical code, ethics committee, ethical hotline and process indicators to report.

The ETHNA System will implement and validate an ethics governance system by integrating an ETHNA office into the management of six organisations from the consortium from Spain, Norway, Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria and Portugal. The purpose is to develop a governance structure that is sustainable over time and can be transferred to other centres, favouring a more responsible research and innovation based on engagement with citizens and society.

[More about ETHNA System](#)



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News & Events

FEBRUARY 15, 2020

Bringing ethic into research



Partners from all over the EU have joined forces to develop a framework that will help European research institutions to implement ethics in their research.

[Read more](#)

ETHICOMP 2020

17. June 2020 - 19. June 2020

Logroño, Spain

18TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION, MEDICINE, AND ETHICS

1. July 2020 - 2. July 2020

Aalborg, Denmark

EFC RESEARCH FORUM CONFERENCE 2020

8. October 2020 - 9. October 2020

Lisbon, Portugal

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About ETHNA – The project

THE PROJECT

The goal of the ETHNA System project is to implement and enforce an **internal management and procedural system of the Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)** within 6 European **Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres** (hereinafter HEFRC). It aims to generate a process of Ethical Governance of the Responsible Research and Innovation (hereinafter RRI) where Gender equality, Open Science, Citizens' Engagement and Integrity Research (ethics) dimensions will be also necessarily addressed through a multi-stakeholder governance. It will be translated into a new formal organisational structure that will facilitate the compliance with all RRI dimensions in all scientific disciplines as well as assuring the innovations accomplished are made according to the needs of civil society demands.

The project uses "ethics" to refer to the proposed management and governance system: ETHNA System, which involves an office and ethical governance and management tools. And "integrity research" to refer to the dimension of the RRI that in various documents of the European Commission is named as the ethical dimension, but whose definition points to integrity and good practices.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Grant agreement ID: 872360

Status: Ongoing project

Start date: 1 January 2020

End date: 31 December 2022

Funded under: H2020-EU.5.f.

Overall budget: € 1 490 718,75

EU contribution: € 1 490 718,75

Coordinated by:

Universitat Jaume I de Castellon, Spain

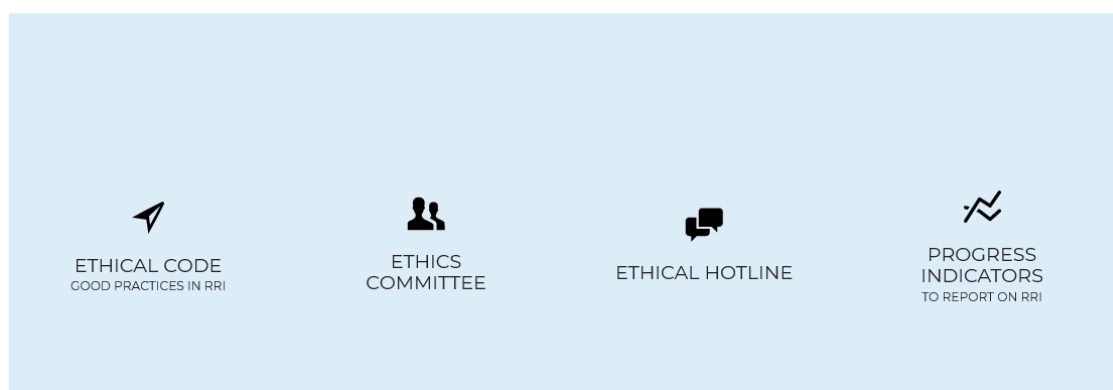
➦ PROGRESS



Summarizing, the implementation of ETHNA System will put into practice institutional changes in HERCs that will contribute to the science with and for society in EU. ETHNA System will be implemented in 6 HEFRCs which come from 6 different countries (Spain, Norway, Bulgaria, Estonia, Austria and Portugal) and 3 types of contexts (Universities, Funding research organisations and Technological Parks). It is expected that ETHNA System will be institutionalised so that the changes will be sustainable after the project life-cycle.

ETHNA System is based on the discourse, deontological and procedural Ethics which will be adopted in the Project. This is a discourse ethics methodology which is based on the principle that governance models should be based on the equal participation of all actors involved and/or affected by the R&I activities (García-Mará, 2017). To guarantee this theoretical principle ETHNA System will use a participatory methodology based on a living-labs methodology that focuses on co-design in a QHM (quadruple helix model) and innovation-camp method to allow participants to communicate and co-create. And to move from theory to practice, an ethical infrastructure is developed: an Ethna Office of the RRI that offers guidelines as well as a system to ethically manage the dimensions of the RRI through four tools (ethical code, ethics committee, ethical hotline and progress indicators to report). The Ethna Office will be implemented in each HEFRC that will use the same protocol but adapted to its idiosyncrasy and specificity. Moreover, tools will be the same to all the HEFRC.

ETHNA Toolbox



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About ETHNA – The consortium

THE CONSORTIUM

Universitat Jaume I

Project coordination

Main contact: **Elsa González-Esteban**

The Universitat Jaume I in Castelló (UJI), founded in 1991, is the public university serving the north of the Valencian Community (Spain). After 25 years of history, the UJI is now among the Top 500 universities in the world, according to the Academic Ranking of World Universities 2017 (ARWU). UJI seeks to promote social, economic and cultural development through the creation of knowledge, in this regard UJI has obtained a rating of excellence in teaching and research in the international U-Multirank ranking and the 500+ Gold Seal of European Excellence by the Excellence in Management Club.

The Applied Ethics and Democracy Research Group has developed from 1991 a research line based in the discourse ethics perspective in a theoretical and practical way by the definition of applied ethics models to different kind of activities: business, ONG's, universities, research centres, hospitals, governance and working on gender, corporate social responsibility, open access and communication aspects.

www.uji.es



Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Main contact: **Lars Ursin**

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology/Norges Teknisk-naturvitenskapelige Universitet (NTNU) is Norway's largest university and Norway's primary institution for educating the nation's future engineers and scientists. NTNU currently participates in 105 EU H2020 projects. The interdisciplinary Research Group on the Ethos of Technology (RESET) is one of four leading research groups at the Faculty of Humanities at NTNU. The research group was formally founded in 2013 building on collaborations among senior RESET members that started in the late 90s and early 2000s through projects combining humanities and scientific expertise to study emerging genetic engineering and genetic sequencing technologies. RESET continues to develop thinking, engagements and collaborations within bioethics and science and technology studies with a focus on biotechnology and health science. A strong feature of RESET is its interest in constructive collaborations among social scientists, humanists, philosophers and scientists with the aim of understanding of how to do good science and put it to use.



(continued)



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About ETHNA – The work packages

THE WORK PACKAGES

– WP1. Management, Coordination & Internal Communication
WP LEADER UJI TASKS T1.1. Coordination and project management T1.2. Quality assurance and data management T1.3. Internal communication
+ WP2. State of the Art & Benchmarking
+ WP3. Needs assessment
+ WP4. Designing Implementation Plans
+ WP5. Implementation of ETHNA System
+ WP6. Evaluation & Feedback
+ WP7. Communication and Dissemination
+ WP8. Ethics workpackage

About RRI

ABOUT RRI

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) is an emerging concept that proposes to change the science and technology system through more transparent, participatory and reflective processes and that calls for the co-responsibility of different actors in deciding where research and innovation go.



The European Commission's vision of RRI

Responsible research and innovation is an approach that anticipates and assesses potential implications and societal expectations with regard to research and innovation, with the aim to foster the design of inclusive and sustainable research and innovation.

RRI implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

In practice, RRI is implemented as thought a multi-actor and public engagement process in research and innovation, enabling easier access to scientific results, the take up of gender and ethics in the research and innovation content and process, and formal and informal science education.

The RRI Policy Agendas for the UE are:

- **Ethics:** To ensure research integrity and ethical acceptability.
- **Governance:** To provide tools to promote shared responsibility in R&D.
- **Participation:** To promote collaborative and multi-stakeholder R&D processes.
- **Gender equality:** To integrate the gender perspective into research.
- **Scientific education:** To increase citizens' scientific knowledge.
- **Open access:** To guarantee access to scientific knowledge and transparency.

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About Ethical Governance System

ABOUT THE ETHICAL GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

Objectives of the Ethical Governance System

OVERALL OBJECTIVE

- To implement a new **formal organisational structure** within the management structure of the HEFRC in order to manage the R&I activities from an ethical perspective

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

- To align the management of the HEFRC with best practices on RRI systems that will serve to the promotion of similar ethical governance systems in European countries.
- To implement a number of core ethical orientations and/or guiding principles that the HEFRCs themselves may recognise, incorporate and promote, so that R&I actors can carry out their activity in line with the ethical perspective of RRI.
- To implement advice structures to all the stakeholders involved in R&I activities in the HEFRC from the highest ethical standards about the paths that they can undertake.
- To help raise the ethical standard of the science infrastructure across Europe.
- To guarantee ethics or fairness in the activity of Research and Innovation, as well as an open and inclusive dialogue with all identified stakeholders where the public engagement with citizens and Civil Society Organisations and citizens' associations in science will be pursued and always in line with the SDGs. A way to promote science with and for society.

Why embrace an Ethical Governance System?

- **Institutionalization of ethical reflexivity on the processes of R&I.** This will make it possible to recognize the expectations of the interlocutors and promote an internal reflection on them, so as to discern which of the expectations are legitimate and should be incorporated into the R&I processes.
- **Support to professionals through an ethical toolkit and an ethical structure to R&I** that define a number of core ethical orientations and/or guiding principles that the HEFRCs themselves may recognise, incorporate and promote, so that R&I actors can carry out their activity in line with the RRI.
- **Promote RRI among the actors of R&I processes.** A R&I that enhances its ethical perspective in accordance with the legitimate expectations of its stakeholders involves making the concept of RRI known and asking all actors to be involved in achieving it.
- **Encourage a R&I that tackle with an active perspective to integrity research, gender equality, public engagement and open access.** That will mean an impact on the kind of research and innovation that society will receive from the HEFRCs.
- **Guarantee correctness or fairness in the activity of Research and Innovation,** as well as an open and inclusive dialogue with all identified stakeholders where the public engagement with citizens and Civil Society Organisations and citizens' associations in science will be pursued and always in line with the SDGs.
- **Reduce internal and external coordination costs** that shall have a financial impact in HEFRCs



Elements of the Ethical Governance System

The functions of each of these instruments are specified to grounding RRI practices:

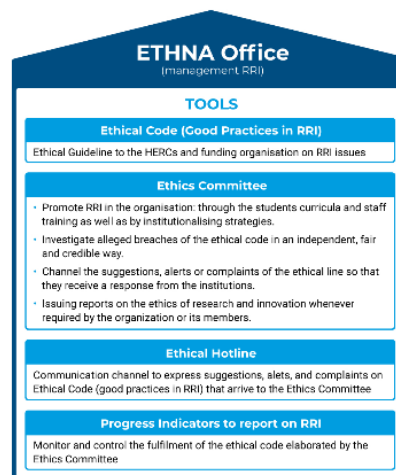
Ethna Office: is the management structure of the R&I processes where the guidelines and policies for an RRI are defined in order to allocate funds and projects under the best standards of RRI, for this it has the follow four tools:

Ethical code: It is the formal document where we find an explicit declaration of the values that should orient the conduct of the actors involved in the R&I process, the promotion of good practices and indicators about the organisation's nature and personality. In the case of the activity of RRI it is necessary that the ethical code shows the best practices in the field of RRI related with: gender equality, open access, public engagement and integrity research.

Ethics committee: It is a space for participation and dialogue among the different interest groups in an organisation. In the case of R&I activities, the committee is in charge of monitoring and controlling the ethics and compliance program included in the ethical code. This committee has the following three functions: advising on the subjects regarding the interpretation and application of an ethical code; resolving notifications concerning suggestions, alerts, and complaints that are made through an ethics hotline; promoting the informing of employees and managers on the ethics and compliance program and their inclusion in its formation. Trust in the committee will depend on the trust that its members can generate and it is relevant that all the R&I views are presented. This ethics committee should have gender parity of representation and must ensure that the best standards demanded by the actors of the R&I activities are considered.

Ethical hotline on R&I: It is a communication channel to express suggestions, alerts and complaints. In any format (i.e., postal mail, electronic mail, web, etc.), it is a matter of communicating a lack of compliance with an ethical code and suggestions for its improvement. Of course, communication should always be confidential, but never anonymous. Protocols that are necessary to ensure confidentiality and avoid all possible reprisals should be established and the best practices in RRI could be advised and analysed and cut the bad practices.

Progress indicators to report on RRI: Monitoring and controlling the fulfilment of the ethical code. These reports provide information on the impacts that are generated by an organisation in this case through the R&I activities considering its economic, social and environmental impact. Transparency may be justified by these reports that provide information regarding management policies and strategies and also results in the form of indicators. However, these reports do not create trust in ethics and compliance programs, and they do not generate trust overall. They must be linked to the code of ethics and report on their compliance with measurable and comparable indicators over time.



News

NEWS

FEBRUARY 15, 2020

Bringing ethic into research



Partners from all over the EU have joined forces to develop a framework that will help European research institutions to implement ethics in their research.

In the kick-off meeting for the ETHNA System project, the ten partners from eight countries met in Castellón to outline the first steps. ETHNA System aims to establish a management system of the Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) within 6 European Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres: two universities, two research funding centers and two technology parks in Spain, Norway, Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria and Portugal. To do that, the consortium will implement Living Labs, an approach uniquely suited to identify approaches to successfully put ETHNA System into action.

"This project will allow us to work so that what is good can be real," said project coordinator Elsa González from the Universidad Jaume I. "Our goal is to bring ethics from theory into practice." The rector of the Universitat Jaume I, Eva Alcón, welcomed the partners in Castellón. "There are three years of hard work ahead of you, but also the challenge of making visible the importance of Human and Social Sciences in research and the transfer of knowledge to society," she said.



Events

UPCOMING EVENTS

Due to the Corona-crisis, these events are subject to change.

ETHICOMP 2020

17. June 2020 - 19. June 2020

Logroño, Spain

18TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNICATION, MEDICINE, AND ETHICS

1. July 2020 - 3. July 2020

Aalborg, Denmark

EFC RESEARCH FORUM CONFERENCE 2020

8. October 2020 - 9. October 2020

Lisbon, Portugal

Contact

CONTACT US

Any questions? Please get in touch!

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Project management



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