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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

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ABSTRACT

This deliverable includes the press release 1 covering the first result of the project: the state-of-the-art report by NTNU (D2.1).

The press release targets those members of the scientific community that may be interested in the report itself. Target audience is part of academia and well acquainted with pertinent jargon.

We will disseminate the report and accompanying press release via the partners' organisations, but also via all communication channels (website, newsletter, Social Media).

Press Release

Towards more responsible research

Scientists working under the umbrella of the EU project ETHNA System have identified a comprehensive overview of good governance practices towards responsible research and innovation (RRI) in Europe.

The partners of the EU project ETHNA System have presented a literature review and state of the art description mapping examples of good governance of research and innovation (R&I) in European Higher Education, Funding and Research Organisations. "The findings form an essential basis for advancing our goal of developing a governance structure characterised by transparency, participation and co-responsibility", said Elsa González Esteban, project coordinator and professor of the Department of Philosophy and Sociology of the Universitat Jaume I de Castelló (UJI).

The XX¹-page "Report on the state of the art and best practices" is the first publication of the project consortium involving ten partners from eight countries. Researchers at the ETHNA System partner institution Norwegian University of Science and Technology are the main contributors, in collaboration with project partners at UJI and Fundación Española para la Ciencia y Tecnología.

The report provides a comprehensive overview of governance theory and practices in the R&I sector related to the concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). The report is based on findings from a review of the RRI literature, with a particular focus on the governance of research and innovation processes, a mapping of good governance practices in the research and innovation sector related to RRI in Europe, and interviews with 22 European-based experts on R&I governance in the area of RRI, or RRI-related topics. The purpose of the report has been to present some of the governance options - or building blocks - available when constructing the ETHNA system, both conceptually and practically speaking.

The selection of examples of governance practices in the R&I sector related to RRI has been guided by Arie Rip's conception of de facto governance, which proposes that governance is constituted to a large degree "by bottom-up actions, strategies and interactions ... [that] add up to outcomes at the collective level which function as governance arrangements".

Following this approach, the consortium identified a broad variety of governance practices.

Applying the governance framework of the EC-funded project Res-A-Gora, the authors organised identified cases under the following three governance themes: ensuring quality of interaction, positioning and orchestration, and developing supportive environments.

Each of the governance themes are divided into three parts, which are referred to in the report as governance modules. The concept of governance modules was chosen to emphasise the idea that the governance themes can be understood as building blocks, which one can pick and choose from when constructing the ETHNA governance system. The cases organised under each module are meant to serve as an inspiration when reflecting on how a module could be adapted to a given institutional context.

The report does not indicate which of the selected cases qualify as good governance practices for the purpose of constructing the ETHNA system. However, the authors suggest that a selection of relevant practices could be guided by the overarching quality criteria for good governance in the R&I sector that underpin the ETHNA System project, which are those of ethical and effective.

¹ Will be added once the report has been finalised as a layouted PDF.

Informed by Habermas' theory of communicative action, an ethical governance system is defined here as one that promotes and facilitates on the one hand the inclusion of those immediately affected by it (i.e. R&I actors) in processes of discursive justification of the way in which the governance system is organised, and second, the inclusion of stakeholders (citizens, end-users, non-governmental organisations, business representatives, policy makers) in processes of critical examination and discursive justification of possible scenarios and potential impacts generated by research and innovation processes.

In addition to being ethical, the ETHNA System project holds that to qualify as good an R&I governance structure must also be effective. Informed by governance theory on public innovation, an effective governance structure in this context refers to one that accommodates and facilitates the form that R&I activities often take, namely the form of diverse, complex and dynamic networks.

The report is part of the project's work package 2. Needs assessment, planning and implementation of ETHNA System are the upcoming tasks that will be realised in the next two years.

Trondheim, 31.1.2021

About ETHNA

The EU project ETHNA System intends to develop and implement an ethics governance system for the use of responsible research and innovation (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, which will be implemented in 6 different HEFRCs in six countries, will propose institutional interventions to address the ethical challenge that HEFRCs face during their research and innovation activities. The purpose is to develop a governance structure that sustainable over time and can be transferred to other centres, favouring a more responsible research and innovation based on engagement with citizens and society.

The project, which is funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme and led by the Universitat Jaume I (Spain), involves ten partners from eight countries. The realisation period is three years, from January 2020 until December 2022.

More information: <https://ethnasystem.eu>