Science with and for Society

SUCCESS STORIES

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The RRI Toolkit: a wealth of resources to foster RRI
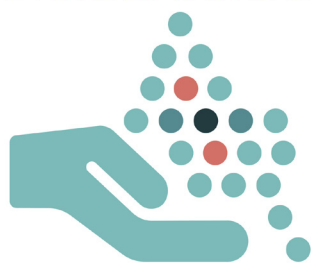
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RRI Tools
Fostering Responsible Research and Innovation

RRI Tools: Fostering RRI - Towards an open science and innovation system that tackles the societal challenges of our world

Have you ever heard of "Responsible Research and Innovation" or its abbreviation "RRI" and wondered what it is about? The project RRI Tools gives information on the RRI approach and provides you with everything you need to implement RRI in your research – heightening the inclusiveness and sustainability, and thus the excellence, of your project. In short, RRI is a unique approach to increase the societal orientation of research and innovation (R&I). The project coordinator, Ignasi López Verdeguer from the "la Caixa" Foundation (Spain), explains that in recent decades many efforts have been made to bring science and society closer together, leading to a Europe-wide approach in Horizon 2020 called "Responsible Research and Innovation".

RRI seeks to draw attention to issues related to R&I, to anticipate their consequences, and to involve society in reflecting on how science and technology can help create the kind of society we want for future generations. Six policy agendas defined by the European Commission are part of the RRI approach: governance, science education, multi-actor and public engagement in research and innovation, enabling easier access to scientific results, and taking up gender and ethics in the research and innovation content and process.

RRI Toolkit: a wealth of resources

In order to implement RRI, López Verdeguer emphasises the need for concrete tools. This is where the RRI Tools project steps in. The mandate of the project is to develop a toolkit and a training programme to help implementing RRI in Europe. The ultimate goal of the project is to build a Community of Practice in Europe which will ensure the use, evolution and enhancement of the RRI Toolkit and thus boost RRI.

The RRI Toolkit will be finalised by July 2016. This online platform contains a wealth of resources to assist users in developing their understanding of, and capacity to implement RRI. These include:

- Inspiring practices: RRI success stories across Europe;
- Tools: manuals, guidelines, how-tos and online databases;
- Communication materials: videos, presentations, etc.;
- Training modules and materials, including best practice showcases;

- Library: background documents, articles, reports, etc.;
- Projects: other EU projects that have developed RRI resources.

RRI Toolkit: Meeting everyone's needs

The RRI Toolkit is developed in a way that meets all possible needs. It offers, inter alia, a "crash course" on RRI for beginners, explaining via five dedicated landing pages what the concept means in terms of benefits, needs, and obstacles for all actors involved in R&I: researchers, innovators, policy makers, civil society and the education community. The portal provides information on the six policy agendas defined within RRI by the European Commission: ethics, gender equality, governance, open access, public engagement, and science education. The RRI Toolkit also offers a self-reflection tool to help users to reflect upon "how RRI" their professional practice is. Moreover, stakeholders are introduced to concrete examples explaining how to address possible challenges they may face in their daily work. These include, e.g., how to support RRI at national level, how

to incorporate the RRI principles in a funding call, how to incorporate RRI in policy/funding institutions, how to embed the RRI principles in research proposals and business plans or how to co-create community-based participatory research.

Building a Community of Practice

RRI Tools aims to build a Community of Practice which means that it is open to users' contributions. Participatory elements include the possibility to upload RRI resources, advertise events in the RRI calendar or to participate in the discussion forum to exchange experiences or find partners for projects. All R&I stakeholders are invited to play a part.

than 60 training workshops aimed at R&I stakeholders throughout 2016, At these workshops, stakeholders will learn how to use the RRI toolkit and how to implement RRI in R&I all across Europe. Users can register for a training session or use the training modules to design their own training. The workshops will be organized by the 19 national RRI Tools Hubs.

A multi-stakeholder consortium

The wide European coverage is possible due to the exceptionally large consortium of RRI Tools, which consists of 26 partners active in 30 countries from all over Europe. The project includes representatives from a wide range of stakeholders: research, civil society, policy-making,
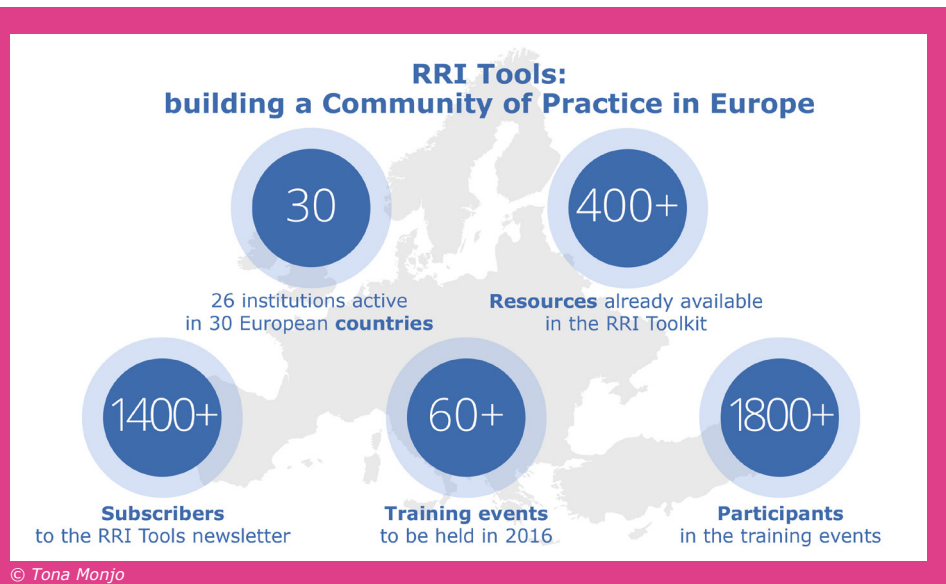
NCPs as a dissemination channel

The RRI Tools project benefited from the expertise of the National Contact Points (NCPs) of Science with and for Society (SwafS) and their network SiS.net, with for example a feedback session on the RRI Toolkit prior to its launch. NCPs are national structures established by governments of the EU Member States and the states associated to Horizon 2020. Their task is to give advice and support in their national language on how to participate in Horizon 2020. The SwafS NCPs receive training on the RRI Toolkit, of course. Additionally, some of the hubs are in contact with their NCP regarding dissemination, advocacy and training activities.

Keeping up working towards change

López Verdeguer and the team at "la Caixa" Foundation, like other partners from the RRI Tools project, have caught the "RRI virus", meaning that for them the work on the further development, acceptance and implementation of the RRI aproach does not end with the project RRI Tools. For example, "la Caixa" Foundation is engaged in the SwafS projects HEIRRI (Higher Education Institutions and RRI) and COMPASS (Evidence and Opportunities of RRI in SMEs), which started in 2015 and 2016, respectively. For López Verdeguer it is not just the work on changing how R&I is done that makes EU research attractive to him. He also appreciates the opportunity to collaborate with some of the best players in the field. And the HEIRRI and COMPASS projects are sure to supplement the RRI Toolkit with further RRI resources.

Start with RRI today at rri-tools.eu.

RRI Tools: building a Community of Practice in Europe

30
26 institutions active in 30 European **countries**

400+
Resources already available in the RRI Toolkit

1400+
Subscribers to the RRI Tools newsletter

60+
Training events to be held in 2016

1800+
Participants in the training events

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Training, training, training!

Training is one important aspect of the RRI Tools project in spreading the message about RRI. Good dissemination and exploitation of results is key for successful EU projects. The project is setting up a training programme, providing more

education and business. It consists of foundations, science centres, universities and research centres, a science shop, a chamber of commerce and a technological partner, plus related European networks. All key components of RRI are covered by the expertise of the multi-stakeholder group of institutions.