SwafS-16-2019 – Ethics of Innovation: the challenge of new interaction modes (CSA)

Policy briefing

Disclaimer: This policy briefing, based on the Work Programme topic description, is intended to guide applicants and experts but is not a legal reference in itself.
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**Specific Challenge:**

Innovation is a main driver for change, a pillar of growth and socio-economic development.

Over the past years, the modes of interaction among stakeholders have evolved to include, among others, active participation of citizens in science and innovation, and new IT tools that have affected the way in which researchers work and interact.

These new modes of innovation raise ethical and regulatory considerations, including the protection of participating citizens, the collection of big data and related privacy considerations, as well as intellectual property issues.
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Scope:

1. Assess the ethical and regulatory issues arising in the context of innovation
   Identify the distinctive elements of innovation ethics:
   • The role of the citizens' participation in innovation must be analysed (best practices for active involvement and design & use of IT tools)
   • Existing legal framework must be mapped and analysed, challenges identified, ways to address them proposed
   • Analysis of current practices, discussing their ethics dimension and identify best practices
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**Scope:**

2. Propose an ethics framework based on accepted principles.

   The framework should focus on the elaboration and implementation of publicly funded research and innovation programmes and public-private partnerships. The framework should be validated and translated into practical guidelines.

3. Effectiveness of the guidelines tested via workshops and focus groups with relevant stakeholders

   **Pilot study** to be performed in representative Member States
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**Expected Impact:**

Offer a practical and operative tool for all stakeholders confronted with the challenges related to co-design and to new (IT-based) interaction modes.

It will practically support the work of the

a) **designers and funders** of research and innovation policies/programmes,

b) **ethics committees** tasked with evaluating and monitoring innovative programmes and projects, and

c) **research integrity bodies** responsible for promoting research integrity and research quality.