

## **Policy brief France - summary**

This policy brief summarizes the findings of the French national case study, and gives recommendations to national and European policy makers.

In France the RRI keys are rarely combined within a unified approach, even if the interaction with European agencies encourages a global vision on science and society. The actual structure of French research organizations corresponds to developing the RRI keys separately.

In each French research organization, certain keys are better developed than others. Some, e.g. gender, possess a dedicated legal framework and indicators or are regulated at the national level. Ethics and integrity currently benefit from increased institutional attention due to government action launched in 2016. In contrast, public engagement is often better developed by NGOs than by public research organizations. French stakeholders perceive RRI primarily as a framework for sharing and improving best practices developed by different institutions.

The national study and the analysis of RRI at CEA show that the notion of responsibility is often tightly linked with Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). This conceptual continuity with an approach launched by UNESCO in 1974 should be maintained as it provides historical and organizational continuity.

Our findings show that, in science, the term 'responsibility' often provokes a feeling of being accused of irresponsibility: the development of RRI should not imply relativism or a loss of autonomy.

At the organizational level, main drivers of RRI keys at CEA are almost exclusively structural and often originate in regulatory measures. RRI barriers in France are specific to each key. For example, traditional forms of public engagement, e.g. public debates, have shown their limits, particularly concerning inclusivity. In ethics, we observe a 'delegation effect': ethics is turned into a specialized task for dedicated committees, instead of engaging all researchers in ethical reflection at the time they conceive innovative projects.