Toward the end of the RRI-Practice project

RRI-Practice is approaching the end of 3 intense and highly productive years of work. The main aim of the project has been to analyse Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) related discourses and pathways to implementation, including barriers and drivers, in 22 research conducting and research funding organisations, in 12 European and non-European countries, in order to identify, understand, disseminate and promote RRI implementation best practices that can be scaled up at European and global levels. We are now able to present in this newsletter a quick overview of the outcomes of the project.

You can learn more about the project at our [website](www.rri-practice.eu).
An RRI Handbook to help organisations to foster RRI in practice

One of the major outputs of the project is the Handbook for Organisations, aimed at strengthening Responsible Research and Innovation, published in June 2019 the RRI-Practice project and authored by Christian Wittrock and Ellen-Marie Forsberg. The handbook (available in open access on the project’s website) focusses on how RRI-related policies and actions can be introduced and sustained in different kinds of organisations, firstly presenting general lessons regarding the implementation of RRI policies and practices, and then discussing more in detail 11 good practices already implemented across different organisations to further RRI in practice. The good practices presented are the following:

- The Christine Mohrmann Programme – changing gender (im)balance at Radboud University (NL)
- Supporting diversity and inclusion – The Southwest Borderlands Initiative at Arizona State University (US)
• Establishing an open-access platform with regional impact – the Brazilian SciELO portal (BR)

• Establishing open-access publications and open science at Oslo Metropolitan University (NO)

• Bringing science into the school curriculum – a distributed network for pedagogical actions at CEA, the Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission (FR)

• The ‘Science Express’ mobile exhibition bringing scientific insight to millions of people by train (IN)

• Sustainability through local engagement – the Urban Lab neighborhood development initiative at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (DE)

• Engaging stakeholders in policy design through consultation processes – Innovation Strategy for Smart Specialisation (BG)

• Engaging with patients on medical research and rare diseases – the ‘Friends of Telethon’ programme (IT)

• The multiple aspects of addressing ethics at Wageningen University and Research (NL)

• Promoting RRI processes in an organisation – Creating the AREA framework for Responsible Innovation at Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (UK)

RRI-Practice organised a Policy Workshop in Brussels on May 7, 2019

The RRI-Practice project organised a policy oriented workshop in Brussels with important European stakeholders and RRI scholars, including the League of European Research Universities (LERU), European University Alliance (EUA), European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA) and European Association of Research and Technology Organisations (EARTO), as well as the European Commission.

The discussions were fruitful for assessing the challenges of RRI and there seemed to be a remarkable degree of consensus on the situation analysis, as well as on important action points.

Policy recommendations to European policy makers to strengthen RRI

In June 2019, the RRI-Practice project published RRI-Practice Policy Recommendations and Roadmaps, a set of policy recommendations, aimed to support the European Commission (EC) and national policy makers to strengthen RRI based on insights and findings from the work undertaken in project. The recommendations (authored by Richard Owen, Ellen-Marie Forsberg and Clare Shelley-Egan) can be downloaded from the project’s website and are presented as cross cutting themes emerging from the cross-comparison reports completed for each of the RRI keys. These cross-comparison reports collate and synthesize insights from the national case studies undertaken by consortium partners during the project.

A quick view on the recommendations

As a background for the recommendations, the authors state that ‘we have witnessed numerous ongoing processes of organisational development that are strengthening performance around (largely existing) norms and associated practices framed around one or more of the so-called “RRI keys”, but that ‘we have seen very little evidence of systematic practices of knowledge co-creation and co-production that accord with the EC’s broader definition of and ambition for RRI, integrating capacities for anticipation, reflexivity and inclusion in the design or implementation of projects, programmes or institutions.

Following from the analysis, the recommendations were outlined around the following headlines:

1. Change the incentive regime to promote an organisational culture for RRI.
2. Broaden the concept of excellence and impact.
3. Build capacity and a culture for RRI through training and resourcing.
4. Support RRI as a creative and adaptive learning process.

The publication also highlights active steps to strengthen RRI, for instance to establish a working group internally in DG RTD and an expert group that would e.g. suggest concrete models for funders to integrate RRI requirements into calls for proposals.

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On the 20th and 21st of June, RRI-Practice project, together with the NUCLEUS project, organised in Brussels the conference Pathways to Transformation, gathering around 140 researchers, practitioners, policy makers and R&I stakeholders in discussions of the state-of-the-art and future perspectives for Responsible Research and Innovation in Europe.

The conference explored the pathways that institutions may follow towards being more socially responsive: What can research-performing organisations learn from the projects’ institutional RRI experiments (‘Practical Pathways’)? And how can research policy incentivise stakeholders to contribute to more responsive science and innovation systems (‘Policy Pathways’)?

There were several interesting presentations of project www.rri-practice.eu

Scientific publications from the RRI-Practice consortium

RRI-Project’s publications include a section published in 2019 in the “Journal of Responsible Innovation”:

- Beyond research, towards innovation. Perceived challenges in mainstreaming RRI in the broader Italian innovation system, by S. Arnaldi and F. Neresini
- Global challenges, Dutch solutions? The shape of responsibility in Dutch science and technology policies, by F. van der Molen, D.L., L. Consoli, and H. Zwart
- Responsible Research and Innovation in Germany - between Sustainability and Autonomy, by M. Ladikas, J. Hahn, L. Hennen, P. Kulakov, and C. Scherz.
- ‘Opening up’ science policy? Engaging with RRI in Brazil, by M. Monteiro, L. Reyes-Galindo and P. Macnaghten
- Exploring the value proposition for RRI in Australia, by P. Ashworth, J. Lacey, S. Sehic, and A-M. Dodd

Further publications can be found on the RRI-Practice web page.
Advice to the EU from the Pathways Declaration about RRI

Here are three among the seven recommendations proposed by the Pathways Declaration on RRI:

1. In cases in which RRI or RRI related concepts are included in research and innovation actions, applicants in these programmes/calls should be asked to outline how their projects relate to RRI, based on guidelines for how to embed RRI effectively and how to measure societal impact.

2. Interdisciplinary collaboration should be encouraged. Including researchers from Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) usually increases the quality of RRI actions, such as citizen engagement or ethical deliberation.

3. Treat RRI components as research: The RRI measures in an integrated project (e.g. stakeholder engagement, citizen science, co-creation) should be based on an understanding of how such actions can be done well, and the methods and results of RRI actions should be published.

Other points can be found on the Pathways's website.

A Declaration and Petition for the Future of RRI in “Horizon Europe”

During the conference, a Pathways Declaration and Petition was presented, with the aim of calling on European Institutions, EU Member States and their R&I Funding and Performing Organisations, business and civil society to continue to make Responsible Research and Innovation a central objective, with appropriate budgets, across all relevant policies and activities. The Declaration also presents a set of recommendations to the European Commission regarding embedding of RRI in Horizon Europe. The declaration was developed by members of both projects in cooperation with other international RRI projects and initiatives. It can be read and signed on this link: http://pathways2019.eu/declaration/.
12 National Case Study Reports and cross-comparisons case studies on RRI

During the RRI-Practice project a major effort was devoted to the National Case Study Reports. These 12 extensive reports include major countries from all over the world and present the findings on the status and implementation of Responsible Research and Innovation in different countries. The reports examine the national RRI context, and then each presents the findings from more detailed organisational case studies of research funding and research performing organisations. The reports also bring forth a set of policy recommendations. Here you find the list of the reports, you just need to click to download the documents.

- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report NORWAY
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report GERMANY
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report UNITED KINGDOM
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report FRANCE
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report ITALY
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report BULGARIA
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report UNITED KINGDOM
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report NETHERLANDS
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report CHINA
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report INDIA
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report USA
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report BRAZIL
- RRI-Practice National Case Study Report AUSTRALIA

In addition, the report Implementing RRI: Comparison across case studies provides an overall comparison of the RRI keys and dimensions as well as comparative studies of how these interact, representing a main outcome of the RRI-Practice project.

For updates about the project and its outcomes, check the project website www.rri-practice.eu or follow us on Twitter: https://twitter.com/RRIPRACTICE.