The RRING project: Aspirations, achievements and challenges

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The presentation is aimed at presenting and discussing the Horizon2020 project RRING – Responsible Research and Innovation Networked Globally (duration: 2018-2021). As the project has not yet produced any outputs at the abstract submission, the aim of our presentation is to increase the awareness of international academic society of the efforts undertaken by academic institutions to relate outcomes of other international (e.g. EC-funded Horizon2020 project MORRI) and national projects and initiatives in 18 countries to promote responsibility in the research and innovation field both in academia and industry globally. The aspects that we intend to bring into the academic discussion relate to state of the art of RRI in the regions and gaps in institutional practices and public attitudes towards RRI.

The overall aim of the project is to bring RRI into the linked up global world to promote mutual learning and collaboration in RRI. This will be achieved by the formation of the global RRING community network and by the development and mobilisation of a global Open Access RRI knowledge base. These activities will be carried out by 29 partners from 18 countries, including 7 third party countries subcontractors from India, China, Canada and the USA. The partners represent industry, research performing and research funding organizations.

RRING will align RRI to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a global common denominator. The RRING project acknowledges that each region of the world is advancing its own agenda on RRI. Therefore, RRING will not be producing a Global RRI framework or strategy that is meant to be enforced in a top-down manner. Rather, increased coherence and convergence will be achieved via a bottom-up approach, learning from best practices in RRI globally and from linkages, via the new RRING community, to develop the RRI linked-up world.

Six Objectives of the RRING:

Objective 1: Promote a linked up global world of RRI by creating the global RRING community network, thereby enabling mutual learning, collaboration, mobilisation of RRI concepts.

Objective 2: Mobilise, promote and disseminate a global open access knowledge base of RRI based on the State of the Art (SoA) and comparative analysis across the key geographies, all stakeholders and sectors. It will cover key platforms, spaces and players, role and influence of stakeholders, drivers and policies for R&I, regulation in public, private sectors and nation states and international organizations.

Objective 3: Align RRI to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to provide a global common denominator for advancement of RRI, and address Grand Challenges globally.

Objective 4: Determine the competitive advantages of RRI and also understand how and where RRI is perceived as a barrier and/ or disadvantage.

Objective 5: Create high level RRI strategy recommendations for the seven geographic

zones, trial RRI best practice learning in 2 EU case studies.

Objective 6: Promote inclusive engagement of civil society and researchers.

Expected outputs and outcomes of the project include improving the benchmarking of European RRI initiatives, developing 28 case studies of good practice from other regions and incorporating those good practices into European policy briefs, creating a knowledge database, overseen by UNESCO and training materials on knowledge base. The areas of expected impact include improvement of innovation capacity, development of social innovation and social entrepreneurship, creating new market opportunities, strengthening competitiveness and growth of companies, addressing climate change and the environment and other benefits for society.

Keywords: responsible research and innovation, global networks, ethics, gender.