

NUCLEUS Conference Report: 2015**Short Description:****NUCLEUS Opening Conference Year 1, Kleve**

Host: Rhine-Waal University

Topic: **Facing the Challenge, Setting the Scene**

Focus: NUCLEUS project: Objectives, Tasks, Challenges

**Participants:**

NUCLEUS Consortium Members from: Delft University, Dublin University, City of Bochum, Bochum University, City of Nottingham, The Nottingham Trent University, Science City Hannover, Aberdeen University, Twente University, MISANU Institute, Psiquadro, Eusea, Tbilisi University, Université de Lyon, Science View, Rhine-Waal University



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1. NUCLEUS Annual Conference 2015

1.1 Role of NUCLEUS Annual Conferences

The NUCLEUS annual conferences are essential milestones within the NUCLEUS project. They will reflect the ongoing progress, define upcoming tasks and document essential results of the project.

In accordance with the transdisciplinary approach of project, these conferences will join all NUCLEUS consortium members and their teams. As the project proceeds, a growing number of stakeholders from the governance of scientific institutions and project-related fields such as science communication, public engagement, policy-making, media and economy, will be invited.

Whereas the first conferences will put a main focus on the NUCLEUS consortium members, in the second half of the project the conferences will also address renowned research institutes and funding agencies to discuss the project with experts designing future science policies. National educational authorities will be invited to support and facilitate the project. Each conference will generate input for the next work packages.

One of the main goals of the NUCLEUS annual conferences is to develop and establish a sustainable “NUCLEUS Living Network”. In this network, the partners will monitor, sustain and work on the topics and objectives of NUCLEUS – and ensure its “energy-transfer” during and beyond the project timeline.



1.2 NUCLEUS Conference Timeline

NUCLEUS Opening Conference Year 1, Kleve

Host: Rhine-Waal University

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NUCLEUS Annual Conference Year 2, Lyon

Host: Université de Lyon

Topic: **Universities as “Learning Systems”: RRI and Systemic Development Including Workshop on “Design Thinking” from TU Delft**

Focus: RRI Study Design, Reports of Field Trips, Governance Models

NUCLEUS Annual Conference Year 3, Hannover

Host: Science City Hannover

Topic: **“Change-Management” in HEIS: RRI and Academic Culture**

Focus: Engaging the Scientific Community, New Formats and Models, Reports from Working Groups

NUCLEUS Annual Conference Year 4, Malta

Host: University of Malta

Topic: **A new understanding of Science? RRI and Transdisciplinary Research**

Focus: Contextualization of Science: Risks and innovative approaches. Embedding RRI in Public Engagement Activities

NUCLEUS Final Conference 2019, Brussels

Host: Rhine-Waal University

Topic: **Towards a new “DNA” for RRI in Universities and Research Institutions**

Focus: Systemic and Cultural Recommendations, Perspectives, Outlook, NUCLEUS Living Network



2. NUCLEUS Annual Conference 2015

2.1 Conference Programme 2015

Wed 30 June

Arrival of delegates during the day

1900 Cocktail reception

Thurs 1 Oct

0930 Welcome - Dr. Heide Naderer, President of Rhine-Waal University

0945 Introduction - Prof. Alexander Gerber, NUCLEUS Project Coordinator,

1015 Setting the Scene: roles, timing, and first steps into the project

Dr. Annette Klinkert, NUCLEUS Administrative Officer

1200 Lunch break

1300 Short presentations by every beneficiary about their roles and expectations

1500 Coffee break

1530 Break-off groups to align the work-packages

1645 Reports from the break-off groups

1745 End of the conference programme, day 1

1830 Departure to Xanten for a night-time tour to the 'dark side' of the well-preserved remains of a Roman city, one of Germany's most scientifically valuable archaeological sites

2030 Roman dinner in the catacombs between the excavations

ca. 2300 Back at the hotel

Fri 2 Oct

0930 Keynote: RRI and Beyond - Dr. René von Schomberg, DG R&D

1000 Open discussion

1230 Lunch break

1330 Wrap up, next steps, group picture

1500 Closing of the Inaugural Conference

2.2 Setting the Scene: Introduction and Partner Presentations

After an introduction into the NUCLEUS project by Prof. Alexander Gerber (NUCLEUS Project Coordinator) and Dr. Annette Klinkert (NUCLEUS Administrative Project Manager), the conference invited the participating consortium members to deliver individual presentations about their roles within the project and their specific capacities and profiles related to the NUCLEUS approach. Each partner delivered a Power Point Presentation, which is accessible on the NUCLEUS website.

The Work Package Leaders were then invited to describe their role and planned proceedings within the project's timeframe. After this presentation the conference participants gathered in working groups related to each work package in order to discuss the future work plan. The partners were encouraged to think about possible Working Groups to accompany the project. As a result of this discussion, two new Working Groups were established:

NUCLEUS Working Group Aligning Study with Field Trips

This Working Group will foster an exchange between the outcomes of the capacity building Field Trips and the interdisciplinary study on RRI. The Group will be involved in the development of the RRI questionnaire. The participants will first meet in April 2016, future meetings are possible.

NUCLEUS Working Group: Preparation of Installed and Mobile NUCLEI

This Working Group will prepare the upcoming installation and implementation of ten installed NUCLEI. The Working Group members will follow the first outcomes of the capacity building phase and the study, reflecting on how these results could be implemented in the RRI roadmap to support the implementation and organisation of the NUCLEI. This Working Group will first meet in October 2016, future meetings are possible.

2.3 Keynote Speech by René von Schomberg

Since the NUCLEUS project focuses on a new definition of “Responsible Research and Innovation”, the opening conference invited René von Schomberg, one of the leading influencers to the European Commission, to present, discuss and reflect the prevailing notions and underlying assumptions of the prevailing approaches to RRI.



Summary of key thoughts

The characteristics of “Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI),” as specified for the European Horizon 2020 program, emphasize “science with and for society.” This includes, in particular, doing research in interaction with and on behalf of society. One of the key elements of RRI is granting social actors influence on the selection of research topics which are chosen, accordingly, on social grounds such as practical urgency or desirability:

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) implies that societal actors (researchers, citizens, policy makers, business, third sector organisations, etc.) work together during the whole research and innovation process in order to better align both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society. (<http://ec.europa.eu/programs/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/responsible-research-innovation>)



This definition refers to RRI in a twofold sense, namely, in terms of the processes used for shaping Responsible Research and Innovation and in terms of its outcome. In his key note speech René von Schomberg developed both dimensions further in explaining that the procedural dimension implies that the stakeholders involved become responsive to one another. The outcome-oriented aspect of RRI would imply that a more socially desirable and beneficial research agenda should be adopted by universities and scientific institutions.

As von Schomberg explained, the usual justification for the public funding of certain research endeavours is the general expectation that they promote industrial competitiveness and thereby increase economic growth and contribute to creating jobs. However, RRI should address more specific social goals. As von Schomberg argued, the relevant normative dimension was supplied by fundamental treaties of the European Union. For instance, the European Treaty on the European Union contains a commitment to the promotion of social justice, to gender equality, health, the protection of the environment, sustainable development, and others. More specifically, the Lund Declaration identifies “Grand Challenges” such as global warming, water and food production, ageing societies etc. Such normative commitments provided a basis for favouring certain research goals. Accordingly, RRI should be characterized by a socially beneficial research agenda.

Discussion and Reflection

The consortium members discussed the RRI concepts and approaches presented by von Schomberg by reflecting the ways research could respond to political, social, and economic demands. They reflected on how the interaction between science, on the one hand, and social, political, and economic forces, on the other could be fostered and installed in the future.

They conference participants agreed to base the NUCLEUS project development on the RRI definitions given by the European Commission and the reflections given by René von Schomberg, while being open to changes of this approach in the project proceedings.



NUCLEUS Conference Report: 2015
Deliverable 6.1

This report was prepared by Dr. Annette Klinkert (Rhine-Waal University).
It was submitted on 3 March 2016 to the European Commission.

For more information on the NUCLEUS project, please visit the project website or contact the coordinating team at Rhine-Waal University, Germany:

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This project has received funding from the *European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme* under grant agreement No 664932.