



NUCLEUS is a European project developing a **New Understanding of Communication, Learning and Engagement in Universities and Scientific Institutions.**

- A four year project funded by the European Union
- 2 years of implementation and testing in 10 research institutions and 20 other organisations
- An international network of 24 partners
  - Policy recommendations for RRI in academic environments

The project's goal is to embed Responsible Research and Innovation in the governance and culture of academic institutions in Europe, China, South Africa and Georgia.



© Christian Weische



#### LEARN MORE

*From 2015 to 2019, NUCLEUS will embed RRI in the culture and structure of academic institutions.  
Learn more about how we will bring RRI to life:*

*www.nucleus-project.eu  
Twitter: NucleusRRI  
Facebook: NucleusRRI  
info@nucleus-project.eu*

#### FUNDING

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



#### CONSORTIUM PARTNERS

*Beijing Association for Science and Technology · Bielefeld University · China Research Institute for Science Popularization · City of Bochum · Delft University of Technology · Dublin City University · European Science Events Association · European Union of Science Journalists' Associations · Ilia State University · Mathematical Institute of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts · Nottingham City Council · Nottingham Trent University · Psiquadro · Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences (Coordinator) · Ruhr University Bochum · Science City Hannover · Science View · South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement · University of Aberdeen · University of Edinburgh · University of Lyon · University of Malta · University of Twente · Wissenschaft im Dialog*

# BRINGING RRI TO LIFE

*in Universities and  
Scientific Institutions*

## RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

How can we ensure that research and innovation has a healthy relationship with society, with open communication and respect for its values? Negotiating between stakeholders, timing and communication is complex, but the question is too important to ignore.

**Responsible Research and Innovation**, or RRI, is a process in which different members of society – like researchers, citizens, policymakers, businesses, and NGOs–work together throughout the entire research and innovation process. By doing so, they better align both the process of research and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.



## A NEW DEFINITION OF “RESEARCH EXCELLENCE”

Working with an RRI approach requires sustained communication not just at the end of a research project, but also while it is being defined and conducted. This can be challenging since traditional academic environments don't always reward these behaviours, and in some cases might even deter them.

NUCLEUS is working to change the cultures and policies of universities and research institutions so that RRI can thrive. Instead of “research excellence” being measured by citation counts, what matters will be how it addresses social needs.

## IDENTIFYING AND DISMANTLING BARRIERS TO RRI

NUCLEUS takes a practical, problem-solving approach to RRI, identifying barriers as well as opportunities in research governance and culture. An international interview study of university leadership and researchers is analysing attitudes towards RRI in academic environments. To balance the academic perspective, field trips across Europe, China, and South Africa have already explored how policymakers, journalists, citizens and other groups relate to research.



Drawing together these complementary strands, NUCLEUS will develop an RRI Roadmap of strategies for structural and cultural change in universities and scientific institutions.

## BRINGING RRI TO LIFE

From 2017 to 2019, NUCLEUS will put the recommendations from the RRI Roadmap into practice at ten universities in Europe, China, South Africa and Georgia. Twenty additional organisations and science festivals will also test innovative approaches to RRI outside academic environments.

These Nuclei of institutional change will be test beds for RRI, strengthening the project's policy recommendations and forming the basis for the NUCLEUS Living Network: a community of leaders supporting and practicing RRI in research institutions across the world.



## THE NUCLEUS PROJECT

*Project Management · Dissemination & Communication · Monitoring*

