PRO-RES

PROmoting ethics and integrity in non-medical RESearch

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The "Ethics matters" Conference organised by the PRO-RES team took place on 4th February 2020 at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in Brussels, with 79 participants from all over Europe. The aim of the conference was to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, to inform them about the progress of the project and the status of the PRO-RES ethics Framework. The central mission was to not only focus on researchers (who were the majority of participants in the workshops) but heavily involve policy-makers and advisors too.

The conference was designed as a mix of presentations by the PRO-RES team, talks of keynote speakers, interactive breakout sessions and an expert roundtable. In the morning, Emmanouil Detsis, the PRO-RES project coordinator, welcomed the participants and gave a brief overview of the project. This was followed by keynote speeches from invited guests (Polly Mackenzie, Anthony Teasdale and Martin Westlake, Sheri Fink and Robert Dingwall) and further presentations by the PRO-RES team on the project. A central element of the conference was the presentation of the PRO-RES draft Accord statement. PRO-RES member Ron Iphofen from the Academy of Social Sciences presented the development of the Accord and emphasized that the aim of the conference was to receive input on it from the participants. It was key to assess whether the Accord statement worked in its current form and whether key elements were missing. Furthermore, ideas should be collected on what a guidance toolbox should look like, what recommendations should be made and what additional resources should support the Accord statement.

An extended lunch break was an opportunity for the participants to network and provide feedback on the Accord through a verification exercise. After lunch, participants took part in different thematic breakout sessions, where PRO-RES partners together with external experts led a discussion on the relevance of the Accord for five specific topic areas (Covert Research and Surveillance, Working in Dangerous Areas and Conflict Zones, Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Behavioural Research Collecting Data from Social Media and Internet Sources, and Environmental Research). The afternoon continued with a summary of the findings across all breakout sessions and a roundtable of experts. Finally, the conference was closed by the PRO-RES team, emphasizing the importance of further engagements and inviting all participants to take part in the PRO-RES online consultation.

The "Ethics Matters" Conference was an important milestone for the PRO-RES project. It allowed the team to present the progress and findings from the first half of the project to a wide audience and receive detailed feedback. It was also the first opportunity to present a draft Accord statement to stakeholders and together with them further develop the details. The overall view was, that a framework like the PRO-RES Accord was needed for non-medical science. The challenge; however, was to make the Accord general enough to cover all non-medical sciences but specific enough to make it useful for all disciplines. Furthermore, it was stressed, that the buy-in from policy-makers and other key organisations was urgently needed. The contributions from many of the attendees were incisive and pragmatic – showing clear awareness of the challenges faced by the project to achieve the recognition and endorsement needed for the success both of the project as well as the Accord statement and its supportive Framework.

The next steps for the PRO-RES project will be to take the input from the conference and refine the Accord statement further. The Accord, together with the wider Framework and other resources are being made available on the PRO-RES website. Additional activities to involve the community are the PRO-RES online consultation and the second series of stakeholder engagement activities, which (due to COVID-19) will be focusing on phone interviews as the main engagement method.

Table of Contents

1. Introduction

Concluding the first half of the project, the PRO-RES mid-term conference aimed to bring together a wide range of stakeholders, to inform them about the progress of the project and the status of the PRO-RES ethics Framework. The central mission was to not only focus on researchers (who were the majority of participants in the workshops) but heavily involve policy-makers and advisors too.

In order to clearly define the aims of the conference and to provide clear messages for the conference promotion strategy, the following mission statement was developed.

PRO-RES mid-term conference mission statement:

Ethics matters

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The role of ethics and integrity in non-medical research and its influence on policy-making

The conference aims to explore the relationship between evidence-based policy advice and research ethics and integrity in non-medical research. Through dialogue between researchers, ethics experts and policy-makers from a wide range of disciplines, the following issues will be explored:

- Who are the experts behind the policy advice? How are the experts chosen and how are they informed? How can the integrity of advice-providers be ensured?
- How can transparency and trust be established and maintained? How can citizen involvement in developing policy advice be established?
- How can policy-makers be assured that the evidence they seek is based on ethically sound research produced with integrity?
- How can we support The Brussels Declaration and benefit from 'evidence-based policy-making' rather than suffer 'policy-biased evidence'?

Targeting researchers, policy-makers, policy advisers, chief scientific officers, civil society leaders and journalists, the conference aims to present the research ethics and integrity Framework developed by the PRO-RES consortium and discuss how it could be applied to policy-making. The interplay between both the public and private sector, and between research experts and policy-makers is a core feature of this conference.

Through round-tables, keynote speeches and break-out sessions, commonalities across non-medical research areas will be explored and policy recommendations will be developed. Furthermore, the conference aims to strengthen the network of key stakeholders for future dialogue. PRO-RES aims to build towards an inclusive approach to experts for sound policy benefits and the conference will help the consortium to focus its energies in this direction.

As non-medical research is a wide field, the discussions will focus on the following areas of research:

- Covert Research and Surveillance
- Working in Dangerous Areas and Conflict Zones
- Behavioural Research Collecting Data from Social Media and Internet Sources
- Artificial Intelligence and Robotics
- Environmental Research

2. Overview of the Conference

The conference took place on 4th February 2020 at the Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in Brussels under the name "Ethics matters" conference, with 79 participants from all over Europe.

Figure 1: The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Brussels, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

2.1. Promotion strategy

The promotion strategy for the conference used a range of different channels:

- The PRO-RES website
- Centralised emails to stakeholders, identified previously in the frame of the project
- Emails sent by PRO-RES partners to their network
- Social media posts (Twitter)
- Mention of the conference in different newsletters (e.g. EAASH newsletter, Steinbeis newsletter)
- Sharing of event details on partners websites

Centrally coordinated by PRO-RES partner Steinbeis 21 (S2i), all partners were involved in the promotion process, in order to take advantage of the consortium's full network. Once the conference mission statement was developed, an initial save-the-date email was sent out in November 2019 to a wide range of stakeholders. Throughout December 2019 and January 2020, additional promotional activities were launched.

In the early stages, stakeholders interested in participating in the conference were able to sign-up through the PRO-RES website. Later on, the sign-up process was moved to the dedicated event management tool Eveeno to facilitate easier participant handling.

2.2. Organisation

The conference was organised by the event team at S2i. Regular teleconferences with the relevant partners were held beforehand to develop the conference content and clarify organisational questions. Together it was decided that the conference should focus on the interface between research and policy-making, using the event as an opportunity to get feedback on the PRO-RES draft Accord statement.

In order to be able to collect input from participants, a range of engagement activities were foreseen, namely:

- Interactive breakout sessions
- A verification exercise on the Accord during the lunch break
- Opportunities for participants to ask the keynote speakers and roundtable participants questions
- A feedback survey and feedback boxes for participants to leave suggestions

In order to capture the conference and spread important messages, it was decided to do live tweeting throughout the day. Covered by Helen Kara from PRO-RES partner Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), regular Tweets summarised the findings of the day (for the full Twitter feed, please see Annex c: Live Tweet Feed of the Conference Day). This also gave participants and stakeholders that were not able to attend the conference, a chance to engage with the event.

A photographer was hired to take pictures and film some testimonials of participants during the lunch break. A selection of pictures from the day can be found on the S2i website (IMPRESSIONS Ethics Matters conference) and the video on the S2i YouTube channel (VIDEO Ethics Matters conference).

Two rapporteurs were assigned to each breakout session to capture the discussions. Their notes constituted the basis for the summarising conclusions presented by the project coordinator at the end of the conference. Furthermore, they are the foundation of the relevant section in this report (Section 5 - Summary of the breakout sessions) and will feed directly into the further development of the PRO-RES Accord statement and wider Framework.

2.3. Participation

Out of the 112 signed up participants, 79 attended the event in the end. This 30% drop out rate was in line with the rates the event team was expecting.

Out of the 79 participants, 43 were female, which corresponds to a 54% share (see Figure 2) and reflects a balanced diversity of participants. A full list of participants (anonymised but listed by organisation) can be found in Annex a: List of participants.
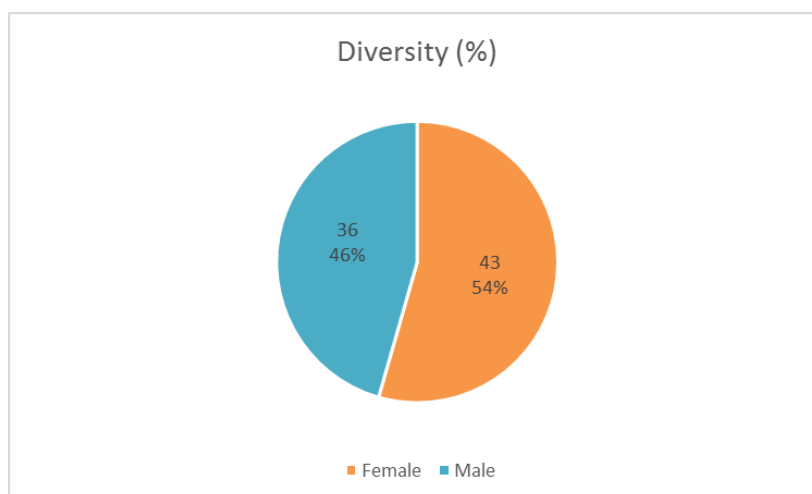

Figure 2: Diversity of conference attendants

2.4. On the day

Participants were able to register from 8:00 onwards and had the opportunity for a light breakfast and some networking before the start. The conference then started with a slight delay around 9:30.

Each participant, upon registration, received a name tag and a conference pack. The conference pack included:

- The conference agenda
- A sheet with useful information, such as the WiFi password and the breakout sessions
- A draft version of the PRO-RES Accord statement
- A PRO-RES flyer
- A flyer on project-relevant publications (Series - Advances in Research Ethics and Integrity, published by Emerald)
- The conference feedback survey
- Sticker dots for the verification exercise
- A PRO-RES notepad and pen

Once all participants had settled into the Auditorium, Emmanouil Detsis, the PRO-RES project coordinator from the European Science Foundation (ESF), welcomed the guests and gave a brief overview of the project. Throughout the morning, the agenda was a mix of presentations by the PRO-RES team (on the project, the Accord and planned engagement activities) and keynote speeches from invited guests (Polly Mackenzie, Anthony Teasdale and Martin Westlake, Sheri Fink and Robert Dingwall).

An extended lunch break was an opportunity for the participants to network and provide feedback on the Accord statement (for details see Section 6.1).

After lunch, participants took part in different thematic breakout sessions (to which they were able to sign up beforehand), where PRO-RES partners together with external experts led a discussion on the relevance of the Accord for the specific topic area and any necessary amendments.

Back in the plenary, the findings across all breakout sessions were summarised by Emmanouil Detsis, before a roundtable of experts rounded off the day. Finally, the conference was closed by the PRO-RES team, emphasizing the importance of further engagements and inviting all participants to take part in the PRO-RES online consultation.

The full agenda of the conference can be found in Annex b: Agenda.

2.5. Feedback from attendants

Thanks to a good number of attendees and active participation throughout the day, the conference yielded a lot of interesting insights. The PRO-RES team was able to gather important feedback to the Accord and the project in general.

Judging from the feedback collected, the conference was generally well received by attendants. Participants were able to provide feedback either through a paper feedback from on the day or through an online survey link that was shared with the attendees as part of the conference follow up.

Overall satisfaction with the conference was high (as Figure 3 shows) and the event met the expectations of e attendees (Figure 4).
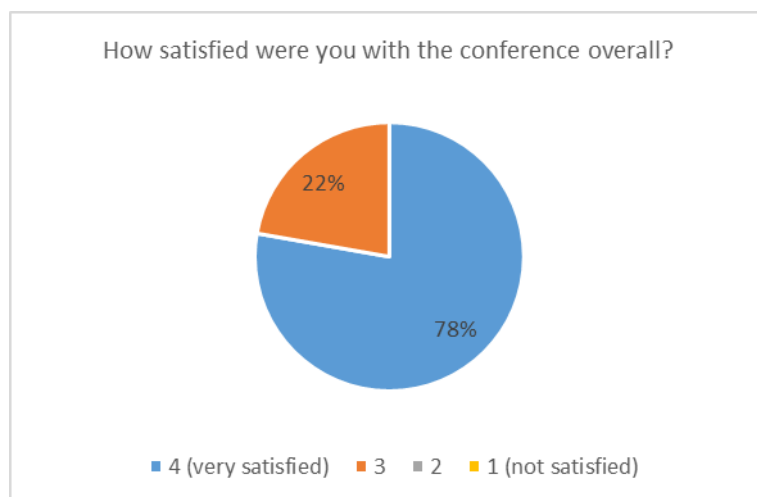
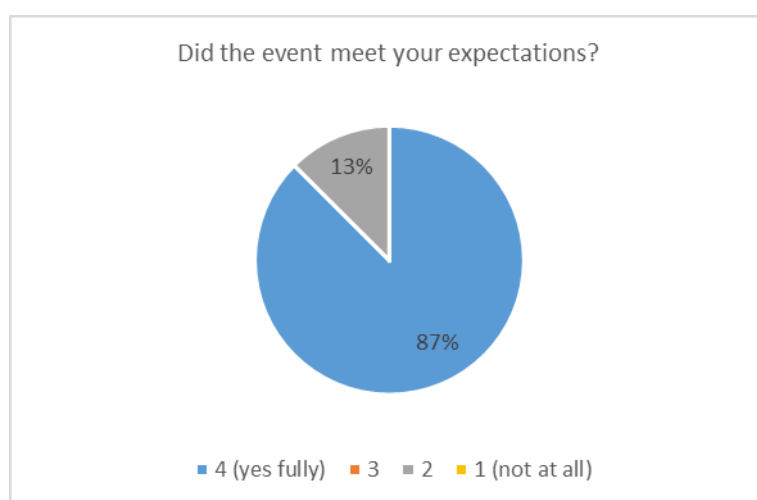*Figure 3: Overall participant satisfaction with conference*

Figure 4: Conference meeting the participants' expectations

Qualitative feedback from the participants mirrored the above observed impressions. As one participant stated, the topic of the conference was seen as intrinsically important, and thus a structured event around the development of an Accord, a welcome opportunity.

In terms of content, in particular the keynote speeches were received very positively, with 67% of respondents being very satisfied with the selection. The picture for the breakout sessions and the roundtable was a bit more differentiated. 62% of respondents were very satisfied with the roundtable, but only 50% were very satisfied with the breakout sessions (see details in Annex d: Results from the conference feedback survey). While the overall picture is very positive, some participants struggled with the format of the breakout sessions and thought they were not as engaging as they could have been. Oral feedback, collected on the day, showed that the impressions varied from session to session, some being more engaging than others. On the other hand, one respondent to the survey mentioned that the parallel breakout sessions were particularly interesting.

Regarding the roundtable, the main criticism was the gender imbalance; an aspect that the PRO-RES team was aware of beforehand, but could not avoid, as not all preferred roundtable participants followed the invitation and attended the conference.

The networking opportunities offered during the conference, were perceived as particularly useful, as Figure 5 shows.
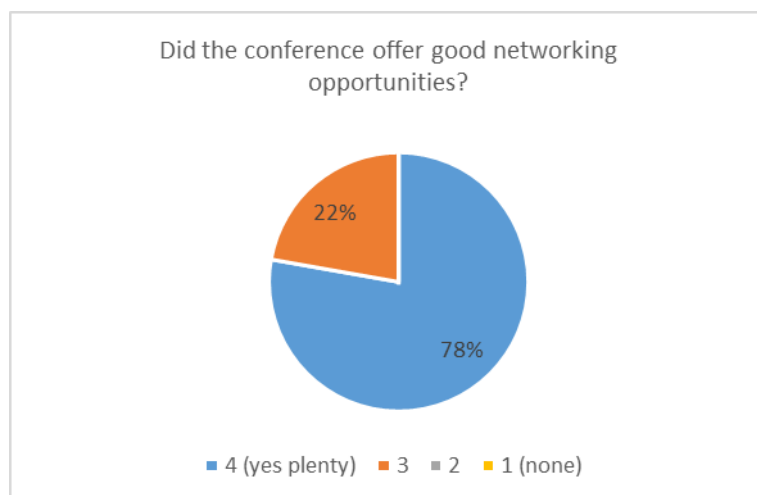
Figure 5: Feedback on the networking opportunities at the conference

Room for improvement was mentioned by a few participants, in particular around the added value of the project and a clear demonstration of the impact the project will have on how research is done or taken up. A clearer link between conducting ethical research and the ethical use of research in policy was missed.

Topics that participants would like to see covered in future events include: CRISPR, ethics dumping and animal ethics.

3. PRO-RES overview and development of the Accord statement

3.1. Overview of the PRO-RES project and its aims

The conference was an opportunity to present the work of the PRO-RES team during the first half of the project to a wide audience.

Emmanouil Detsis, project coordinator from ESF, started the day with an introduction of the PRO-RES team and the project (see Figure 6 for the full list of project partners).

Figure 6: Consortium partners of the PRO-RES project

He set the scene, by highlighting why ethics matter. The natural world and society are complex systems, thus interactions and transactions of such systems, and the influence of human intervention, is not always

understood. Socio-economic and environmental impact can be significant for unforeseen consequences. To avoid harm to humans, society or the natural environment should be the premise of ethical evidence.

The important role of ethically sound evidence in 'evidence based' policy was emphasized. Decision-takers and policy-makers should be seeking evidence to support their work from the range of expertise on offer. However, it is clear that any errors, fraud or corrupt practices by evidence providers can lead to serious damage to the social, economic and cultural structure of society, as well as impacting the physical environment. Only sound, reliable, transparent research, not driven by ideology or subservient to it and undeclared vested interests, produces robust evidence that can benefit social wellbeing and societal progress.

Science should be conducted with and for society. On the one hand, it is in the interests of the scientific community to ensure the evidence produced is reliable and trustworthy and ethically generated. On the other hand, it is in the interests of those who make policy to be able to assure the decision takers (and the general public) that evidence has been generated in the best possible way.

The goal of the PRO-RES project is to ensure that policy-making takes account of 'good' evidence. PRO-RES aims to:

- Help researchers to challenge flawed evidence, blind ideology or vested interests by providing ethical evidence to policy-makers.
- Help policy-makers recognize and ask for ethical evidence.
- Ensure that evidence is sound, robust and ethical, in order to effectively serve in 'evidence based' policy making.

These aims are achieved through a range of activities, all centred on the development of a Framework for promoting ethics and integrity in non-medical research (see Figure 7).
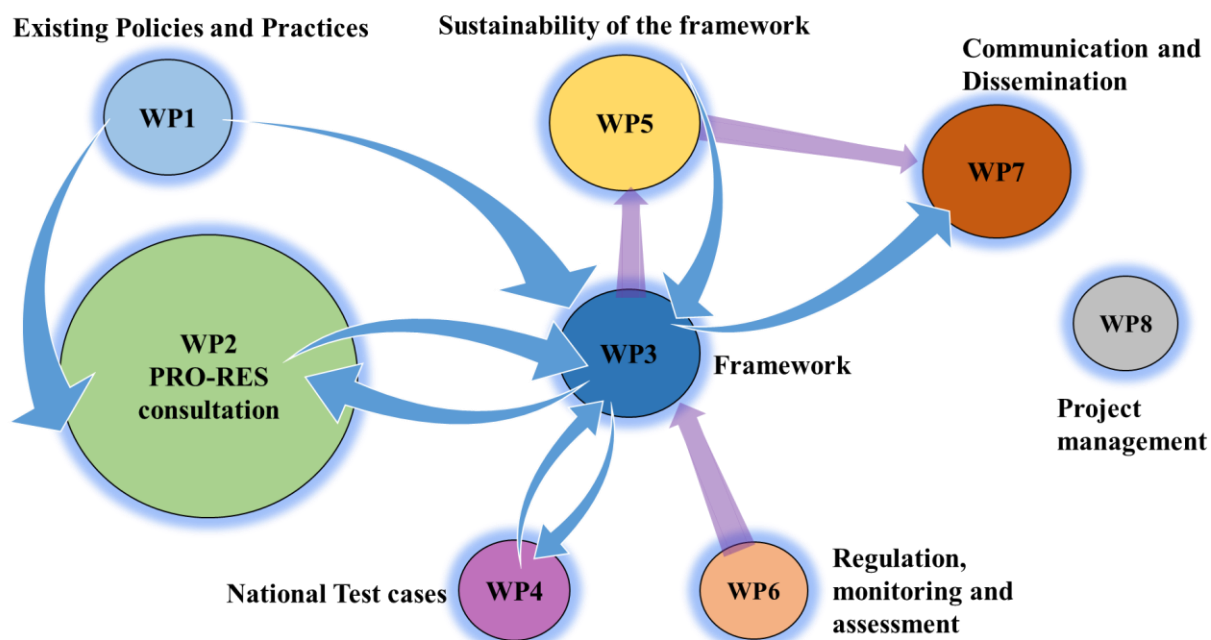

Figure 7: Overview of the PRO-RES activities

3.2. The development and status of the Accord statement

Ron Iphofen, PRO-RES team member from AcSS, and lead on the development of the PRO-RES Framework, gave some insight into the development process for the draft Accord statement.

He illustrated the need for an ethics Framework in non-medical science by highlighting challenges policy-makers face:

- Policy-making is a complex and systemic process – not straightforward.
- Policies are not always based on evidence from high quality research and evidence can be broadly interpreted.
- Policy-making based on high quality evidence is in the best interests of individuals, communities and society at large.
- Seeking high quality evidence from research requires advisory and support mechanisms; but ideology, political strategy, lobbying and personal values/opinions may intervene. At the very least, whatever evidence is employed, the outcomes of those policies should be honestly and transparently evaluated.

The PRO-RES Framework, as it stands, was developed on the basis of a range of different activities:

- Drafting of the PRO-RES website to host the Framework. Based on feedback from stakeholders, the structure and the content are being continuously improved.
- 10 high-level intensive workshops with stakeholders, covering different research topic areas
- Constructing case studies in interaction with case representatives
- Writing, editing and publishing
- Acting in advisory capacities (help in building RECs)
- Taking part in evaluations
- Helping construct Research Ethics / Research Integrity guidelines
- Iterative processes within/across the consortium

The results of these efforts are the draft Accord statement as presented during the conference (see Annex e: Draft Accord statement, as shared with the conference participants for detail) and various additional resources on the project website. The Accord will furthermore be complemented with a Toolbox for policy-makers and recommendations.

Finally, Ron Iphofen emphasized the aim of the conference in terms of receiving input from the participants. It was key to assess whether the Accord statement worked in its current form and whether key elements were missing. Furthermore, ideas should be collected on what a guidance toolbox should look like, what recommendations should be made and what additional resources should support the Accord.

4. Summary of the keynote speeches and roundtable

A number of keynote speeches were scheduled for the morning of the conference. With the selection of the keynote speakers, the PRO-RES team aimed to achieve a good coverage of different stakeholder types. With Polly Mackenzie, a think tank was represented, with Anthony Teasdale a European Official and Sheri Fink provided a journalist's perspective.

4.1. Keynote speech – Polly Mackenzie

Polly Mackenzie, Chief Executive of Demos, kicked off the day with her talk on "Communicating the value of ethics, evidence and expertise in the age of populism".

Having read the Accord, Polly agrees with every word, but cautions that it might not come across well to everyone. She believes in liberal democracy but questions whether it can be as effective in navigating big challenges as state authoritarianism. Ethics will have a key role in figuring this out.

Experts need to reclaim some territory, though many voters now see expertise as problematic. Some questions have clear right answers and some are matters of opinion and there are too many times when

politicians treat the latter as the former and impose without consulting. There is a real human need to see for ourselves and be involved in decisions, and according to Polly Mackenzie, one thing experts do wrong is go around telling other people what works. Using the example of prisons (and whether they are working or not), she demonstrated, that it is not just a 'yes' or 'no' question, but also concerns our definition of 'working'.

The important thing is to have a discussion about what evidence is and what it means, rather than to make assertions, to set groundwork for what evidence and expertise can accomplish. Too much political discourse is about people screaming at each other, which doesn't change anybody's mind. Also, exhibiting your virtue (i.e. occupying the moral high ground) doesn't help, because it makes people feel angry and defensive. When we talk about ethics and virtue, we need to be cautious and frame it in ways that solve others' problems rather than polishing our own virtue. You can only change people's minds really slowly and this is one of the problems when you're dealing with urgent issues such as climate change. Effective political campaigning is a slow process bringing people into a conversation, enabling them to challenge evidence, making it clear that the evidence serves their decision-making.

It's very hard to regulate politics - how to build a different kind of democracy is one of the puzzles of our age, because populism offers inherently undeliverable promises, so is not sustainable and could destroy democracy.

Figure 8: Polly Mackenzie giving a keynote speech on "Communicating the value of ethics, evidence and expertise in the age of populism", Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

4.2. Anthony Teasdale in conversation with Martin Westlake

Anthony Teasdale, Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS) was interviewed by Martin Westlake (Visiting Professor, College of Europe, Bruges) on the topic "Researchers and policy-makers: bridging the divide".

Asked about the extent to which policy and research have aligned – or not – in recent years, Anthony Teasdale highlighted that the EU was more of a campaigning organisation, e.g. for the single market. The EU does not have the usual dependency relationship between the executive and the legislature and is thus more similar to the US than most EU member countries.

There is a tension between the political and the scientific mind set, the latter not only covering "hard" sciences, which makes it difficult to take political decisions. Researchers (unlike think tanks) don't seek to guide politicians but to empower true knowledge. This is also mirrored in the strapline of the European Parliamentary Research Service: 'empower through knowledge'. However, politicians need visibility, researchers don't, and thus the pressures on the two groups are very different.

So, how can institutions ensure that evidence is ethical? The standards, according to him, are clarity, neutrality, and accessibility. Institutions need to ensure these apply to evidence - and some definitely do.

Figure 9: Anthony Teasdale in conversation with Martin Westlake on "Researchers and policy-makers: bridging the divide", moderated by Gabi Lombardo, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

4.3. Discussion between Sheri Fink and Robert Dingwall

Sheri Fink, author of the best-selling book, *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* about choices made in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, brought a journalistic perspective to the discussion. The talk, which was originally planned as an in-person keynote speech, had to be carried out remotely, as she was not able to join in person, due to commitments linked to the Corona virus developments. Instead, Robert Dingwall of the PRO-RES project partner AcSS, expertly led through a video discussion on the relationship between journalistic and research ethics.

The initial questions explored how journalists decide, which sources to trust as sources of valid and reliable knowledge when putting a story together. Sheri Fink highlighted that trust in sources was often quite personal. Although she recognized the quality of peer review output, this was often filtered through trusted informants or informants from trusted organizations. Reputation mattered as much as accreditation.

Nevertheless, journalistic research could be rigorous like other research by checking different sources for triangulation rather than relying only on one.

Validity was assured in journalism by being able to put names to sources in print. Anonymous or off-the-record sources were less credible than identifiable ones. A good source was publicly accountable for their information. This was quite different from the social sciences where researchers were less interested in individuals than in case studies of general phenomena. As such identifying sources was less important than the rigour of data collection and analysis for the credibility of a report. She acknowledged that this created a paradox, where social scientists, who were happy to work with anonymized reports, were more heavily regulated than journalists who were more concerned to identify their sources, even if this caused hurt, embarrassment or prosecution.

Part of the role of journalists was to be a check on government including local journalists; it was worrying that local journalism is shrinking in democracies.

When asked what regulates journalists in the way they treat their informants or handle their stories and what the reaction of the profession would be if a major story had to pass through the equivalent of an institutional review board, Sheri Fink acknowledged that such a review might come at a cost. In the case of journalism, it would delay investigations and might close them down. Contradictions could arise if (unregulated) journalists were decrying a reduction in the regulation of social scientists. On the other hand, it might be hard for deregulation to get a hearing if the media framed it as an issue of public protection – but it might also be that no-one would consider the issue had sufficient news value to pick up.

When Robert Dingwall argued that social scientists did slow journalism and thus conducted very similar work, Sheri Fink highlighted that the big difference was that journalists didn't use anonymity except very occasionally and carefully, while researchers could "hide behind" their research.

Figure 10: Sheri Fink and Robert Dingwall discussing the interface between research and policy, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

4.4. Roundtable discussion moderated by EPC

A roundtable with different types of stakeholders was organised for the afternoon session. While the PRO-RES team aimed to have a good balance between female and male speakers, specifically inviting female experts to the roundtable, the final confirmations of participation led to an imbalance of 5 to 1 male to female speakers. The roundtable was moderated by Fabian Zuleeg (FZ) from PRO-RES partner the European Policy Centre (EPC). All participants received a short briefing document and the draft Accord statement before the day of the conference to be able to prepare.

In the following, the members of the roundtable are briefly introduced:

- Dirk Lanzerath (DL): Professor of Ethics and Research Ethics and the Managing Director at the German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE) at the University of Bonn.
- Paul Spicker (PS): Writer and commentator on social policy, and an Emeritus Professor of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, Scotland.
- Panagiotis Kavouras (PK): PRO-RES team member from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), representing the cluster project SOPs4RI
- Marie-Sophie Peyre (MSP): Scientific officer at the ERCEA, specialised in the ethics domain
- Dorian Karatzas (DK): Head of the Research Ethics and Integrity Sector in DG Research and Innovation.
- Alan Simpson (AS): Writer, campaigner and (currently) the UK Shadow Chancellor's Advisor on Sustainable Economics.

Figure 11: Roundtable discussion moderated by Fabian Zuleeg (third from the right), Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

FZ kicked off the roundtable by asking each roundtable participant to introduce themselves and answer the question "*Why do we need ethically sound research?*"

AS highlighted that policy-makers want to know the ethical implications of research. However, research needs to be relevant to the policy-maker for researchers to get through the door. The commitment to do no harm should be the first principle in research. The politicians want to know, does this evidence have my back?

DK emphasized that we cannot assume that research is not done under ethical guidelines. He acknowledges that there are problems in non-medical science as the framework around research is not clear. It was important to not just look at one research project in isolation but at research as a whole. This is a good time for ethics, because of GDPR, Artificial Intelligence, and other phenomena - ethics is everywhere. However, ethics is not cheap, acting ethically takes human resources and money; it can't be done only through Googling

MSP made the point that ethics should be linked with the rule of law/legal obligations, as values don't exist alone. Implementing this in research methodology gives a better result, and that's how ethics can be best linked with policy-making.

PK highlighted that Europe prioritising ethics in science, is a reflection of the quality of our society –and something we should export to other parts of the world. A society with quality requires research with quality.

PS mentioned the restrictive view of what ethical research means. Acquiring knowledge is not only done through formal research projects and researchers forget that at times.

According to DL there is a need for ethics committees to sit at the beginning of the research project and work together with the researchers. Clearer definitions for 'ethics', 'policy' and 'research' should be developed. While a common research ethics policy might not cover every element/research area, a framework needs to be developed that can be applied to different research areas

Question: *Can we bring different types of research together under the same framework? How far can we apply all this to the different forms of research and the different actors in research, given that there's already dissent among the panel just from their introductions?*

PS mentions that the diversity of research needs to be considered (not only formal research but also exploration, practice, etc.) as well as the variety of researchers (e.g. academics, practitioners, investigators etc.). Principles cannot only apply to one type of research or researcher. Furthermore, the principles must make sense in the context, in which they are applied e.g. beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (not doing harm), looking at the public interest. To develop such principles, ideas could be drawn from other areas such as privacy.

PK highlighted that how we do review for social science projects is not the main target of the project, - it's how can we help policy-makers to find and use better quality i.e. ethical evidence.

DK emphasized that the discussion needs to take place in the PRO-RES context. The main target is to determine how to provide policy-makers with research to help them make the right decisions. Here, a distinction needs to be made between ethically considered research and ethically produced research. Policy needs to be based on ethical research.

AS made the point that you can't change other people's behaviour, but you can road-test options, which should be the focus here; to set, test, and publicise the standards. In the end you can only offer guidelines, road-test them i.e. research projects need to be appraised against it. Key, furthermore is that transparency is needed around the research funding. The Accord should insist on disclosure.

Question: *How do we incentivise organisations to use the standards? How do they get translated into practice with the black sheep which are in the different communities? Convincing people who are convinced already is not enough.*

Key is the training and the culture of people involved in research as PS says. You could try to create a disposition in researchers (aka virtue ethics) where people engage discursively in research discourse throughout the process. If we can educate people through discursive engagement, and make that consistent throughout the research process, it won't solve the issue but will diminish the problem. We cannot institute principles on a tick-box basis. If research committees act as a hurdle to overcome this creates an issue.

DL mentioned that a lot of professionals think ethics is not relevant for them so they take a lot of convincing. Incentives alone are not enough, the whole culture needs to be looked at. Ethics needs to be a dialogue (e.g. between researchers, publishers).

PK raised that if a policy-maker makes a decision based on solid evidence, the public should be aware. Also if something goes wrong, the policy-maker should explain why it went wrong, transparency is needed and not only the policy-maker-should be blamed.

DK stated that he sees transparency as an incentive in itself and suggests we should have champions in this respect.

MSP highlighted that while people can know all the principles, have all the training, they still might not apply it, they do not have it integrated in their own scheme of thought. Training is important but also open-minded ethics committees with time to point out problems training may be overrated as a basis for ethical research. Working environments matter. One option might be to establish facts from research and then hand it to policy-makers to devise solutions

Question: *Policy-making can be chaotic, informal, quick – under time pressure - and have other considerations than evidence e.g. ideological and normative - so how can we deal with that? Can we work to high standards or must we be pragmatic?*

AS suggested that the problem is not the black sheep, it's the rest of us. We're in an era of paradigm shifts (engagement, environmental repair, ecosystem restoration) so new pathways need to be found. There are few certainties so the safety net is the continuous discursive engagement. This discursive engagement must be around clear principles, to create a pathway - like that set out by PS - clear in a non-accusatory way that policies we have now won't work, going forward, and we need to reposition to address future challenges

Question from the audience: *A balance between general principles and subsidiarity needs to be found. Is a one-fits-all solution possible?*

DK responded that a document like the Accord could be very useful to countries like Greece that don't have a national equivalent. The Accord statement needs to be general enough to cover all disciplines. It is important that codes are followed and taken seriously

To wrap up the roundtable FZ concluded:

- It is all a process, not a single document will solve the issues. An Accord-like statement needs adapting to different types of research and different actors in academic and non-academic research. Yet the draft Accord is helpful.
- Transparency is needed.
- We need to speak simply and try to educate.

5. Summary of the breakout sessions

During the afternoon of the conference, participants had the opportunity to take part in one of five breakout sessions, each one covering a different research area (see Figure 12).

COVERT RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE	WORKING IN DANGEROUS AREAS AND CONFLICT ZONES	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS	BEHAVIOURAL RESEARCH COLLECTING DATA FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES	ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH

Figure 12: Breakout session options

Each breakout session was chaired by a PRO-RES team member and co-chaired by one or two external experts. Two rapporteurs in each session captured the discussion. Over the course of 90 minutes, topic-specific questions were explored as well as questions on the Accord, common across all sessions. The aim of the breakout sessions was to understand what the Accord statement would need to look like to address the issues observed in the different research areas. Since the number of participants varied from session to session and breakout chairs structured their sessions different, the outcomes of the various breakout sessions differ (and the reports respectively).

In order to do so, the discussions were structured in a way to obtain:
- An overview of good examples and challenges of policy making in the addressed research area.
- Input on the draft Accord statement as it stands from the perspective of the addressed research area.

5.1. Covert Research and Surveillance

The session on Covert Research and Surveillance was chaired by Alfonso Alfonsi (PRO-RES partner K&I), and co-chaired by Paul Spicker (Emeritus Professor of Robert Gordon University) as the external expert. Out of the five breakout sessions, this one was the smallest with only few sign-ups beforehand and some no-shows on the day. The participants were given the opportunity to participate in one of the other breakout sessions, however, it was decided to carry out the session after all. A brief summary of the findings is provided in the following.

The field of 'covert research' appears to be ethically problematic and often misunderstood in current literature. One common misrepresentation is done by equating it to 'deceptive research', but contrary to deception, in which the aims of the research are initially misrepresented, and debriefed at its conclusion, covert research is simply a research activity with 'limited disclosure' for various reasons.

There are different legitimate circumstances in which it is not necessary nor expedient to disclose that a research activity is being carried out and where informed consent is not applicable. These include observational research in public areas (like a stadium or a post office), where the request for informed consent would be simply impossible; participant research in which one wants to have a naturalistic appraisal of the interactions that would be altered if the researcher would disclose him/herself from the start; research involving dementia patients; research in areas in which the disclosure could imperil the researcher and/or the participants.

Figure 13: Breakout session on Covert Research and Surveillance, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

The important ethical principles for such research are **beneficence** (the purpose is good) and **non-maleficence** (harm avoidance).

In much of current social research, the current framework (that is derived from biomedical ethics and focused on direct bodily harm) is inappropriate.

Codes of ethics should not be overgeneralized: laws, rights, professional duties (private vs public interest) still apply and constantly solicit the researcher's responsibility – even when informed consent is given.

It was discussed whether Ethics Committees were overprotective, and whether the problem is rather the differentiation between care and research. For example, 1/40 chance of survival due to new treatment can be beneficial for a patient, but for medical research that chance means 39/40 might suffer without benefiting.

Ethics in context requires **active ethics community engaged in continuous discourse**. The culture of research needs to systematically include ethics issues.

A discussion on recommendations and guidelines identified the need for acceptance by the community.

5.2. Working in Dangerous Areas and Conflict Zones

Dónal O'Mathuna (PRO-RES partner DCU) chaired the session on Working in Dangerous Areas and Conflict Zones with 12 participants, together with Raffaella Ravinetto (Institute for Tropical Medicine Antwerp) and Nawaraj Upadhaya (Health Net TPO).

Figure 14: Breakout Session on Working in Dangerous Areas and Conflict Zones, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

After a general introduction by the chair and co-chairs, which picked up the questions of ethics and equity in clinical trials as well as the challenges around community engagement, the participants were included in an open discussion on a range of topics.

Overview of good examples and challenges of policy making

First, some **good examples for evidence used properly to influence policy-makers** were collected:

- Example of Afghanistan: Medical assistance and health services were tested in 43 locations and then rolled out in other provinces; which gave increased access to health. Public private collaboration led to training in Taliban areas which led to increased access to public health and vaccination. Mixed methods research showed the effectiveness of the training. The services are now being used throughout Afghanistan.
- Example of South Soudan: Research was done which led to draft guidelines which were then piloted in 4 regions. This then led to policies now accepted by the Ministry of Gender.
- The WHO in 2017 brought in a policy on "poor quality medicines". This had been debated for 20 years, but then surveillance data led to an accepted definition. This is an example of having a system for collecting data (global monitoring system) as a basis of mature political discussion.
- UNICEF Bulgaria: A lot of work has had impact through teacher training with experienced trainers. However, when those trained delivered workshops, some things got lost in translation and these misunderstandings became the problem.

On the other hand, also the c**hallenges to evidence-based policy-making related to disasters and conflict settings** were explored.

Four types of challenges were identified:

1. Political – Ministry of Health is constantly changing. A Memorandum of Understanding with one minister will often not be honoured by the next. The instability of government is a major issue and a change of government is frequent in these settings. Governments and organisations put pressure (external), there are many different approaches and different points of view, and there are always gaps.
2. Ideological: policy-makers in his area are often doctors and not researchers. Clinical issues take precedence.
3. Economical – lack of funding then means there is lack of evidence in that area
4. Methodological – need for flexible methods, e.g. can't do follow-up; hard to follow usual methods strictly. Balance is needed between flexibility and rigour. Methodological changes might arise from unique projects. Dialogue is essential on ethics evaluation.

Cultural challenges were highlighted through an example of women in Afghanistan that are under their husbands' control. Ethics committees might require consent from their husbands because that is cultural practice and also the wives can be under 18 years of age. These committees might not be aware of or know the consequences of following standard ethics practice in their countries.

The discussion on how evidence is being used, was very much focused on research utilisation and the conflict between academic research and evidence used by policy-makers. It was highlighted that evidence is always contestable and can be interpreted in different ways. It needs to be kept in mind, that for policy-makers, academic research is only one input they consider in their decision-making in addition to controversial input from different parties. Researchers, on the other hand, may be less concerned about translation of research into policy versus how it impacts their career.

A question that was explored was how authorities can be aware of the right research. Policy-makers should be part of the research or involved in the work at earlier points. They should be involved in identifying the different solutions and analyse the different risks (mitigation of risk). National capacity and national leadership are important and will drive to local level. Policy-makers at different levels will need to be engaged. A further challenge that was highlighted was the lack of research on the right or important question or topic due to the lack of funds.

It was highlighted that compliance (following the law) is different from ethics of the research. How to apply flexibility? Ethical reasoning should be used to allow flexibility, when reviewing proposals. This could be a way to teach/model what ethics is about.

For research in countries outside of Europe, the lack of a GDPR equivalent often means that ethics committees, that are often focused on GDPR, decide that no action is needed.

Problems with data were highlighted. Data is being collected in lots of different ways by even one organisation and is different in different countries, regions.

Finally, issues with translation were mentioned. For example, the policy-makers in Nepal do not speak English, but most of the evidence is available in English. Who is going to make it available to them? Researchers are expected to publish in English, however, do they have a responsibility to make findings also available in their native language?

When asked, **what practical approaches can encourage evidence-based policy-making, or minimise the influence of biases on related policy-making,** the participants provided a range of examples:

- Training needed for all Research Ethics Committee (REC) members – not just those in low- and middle-income countries. Ethics committees should be the first one to support the Accord statement.

- Linkages between NGOs and research institutions should be promoted.
- Need to increase local capacity to promote evidence-based policy
- Human resource capacity needs to increase
- Policy-makers need evidence in understandable language
- Influence the influencers of the policy-makers
- Ethical responsibility for researchers to ensure that their findings impact policy-makers
- Need to involve policy-makers and the community all the way throughout the research

Finally, **feedback on the Accord statement** was collected. It was questioned, whether policy-makers could know that research was ethically conducted. It was considered unreasonable to expect this knowledge of them. Participating in ethics review process is a good way to learn ethical reasoning. Ethics committees should facilitate self-reflection and self-evaluation. A focus should be set on examining the incentives that drive unethical research, e.g. pressure to publish.

In terms of concrete changes to the text of the Accord, the following suggestions regarding the sub-title of the Accord statement were made:

- The sub-title should not only focus on "ethical evidence in non-medical research" but also stress the ultimate goal that policy-making should be influenced.
- Highlighting the word "research" could mean that other evidence providers take themselves out as they only do 'data gathering' and not research in the strict sense.

5.3. Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

The session on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics was led by Francesca Pratesi (PRO-RES partner CNR-ISTI) with support from Iran Mansouri (University of Birmingham).

Figure 15: Breakout Session on Artificial Intelligence and Robotics, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

At the beginning of the session, Francesca Pratesi held a short presentation to set the scene. She highlighted that our lives involve a lot of data that are created by our actions, **all aspects (even personal) of our lives can be recorded in data**. That is why there is a need to make sure that data are not misused. An important aspect, is the right of explanation of the output of each algorithm that operates a decision regarding a user. Thus, transparent algorithms are needed to build trust. The challenge, here is that algorithms are usually neutral, but bias can also be in the data used to create them. So how does data need to be treated in order to be ethical? Explainability of data is useful for companies (compliant with law, discover biases) and for users generating data (create awareness); however, required explanations should not be too rigid, we do not want to require too detailed explanation posing unrealistic objectives.

The topic of social robotics, was introduced as well. Bias and discrimination in robotic applications needs to be avoided. The goal should be to make robotics more trustworthy and avoid stereotypes, which lead to unconscious bias and discrimination. She highlighted the problem that only 20% of computer science professionals are women, even less LGBT*, thus there is a lack of representation in robotics, e.g. crash-test dummies based on average male, VR different effects on women and men etc..

Legal issues also play an important role, e.g. with whom does the responsibility lie if services are being subcontracted? What about GDPR in cases where data for navigation is recorded? How do we ensure that the data is privacy-proof? Our job is to communicate to convince roboticists to think about ethical questions.

After this introduction the discussion was opened up to the participants. The first question to be explored, was **why robotics have not engaged sufficiently with ethical questions**. A reason for this, mentioned by the participants, was that robotics research is more problem oriented, thus nor research box/codes for robotics is suitable.

"Bias" in the context of AI was defined as a dataset that produces stereotypes. The problem here usually is already in the data, i.e. in how the data is modelled and not in the algorithm itself. This led to the question to what extend the data can be adapted without leading to results that are not biased or completely useless. A final solution for this problem is difficult to find, the suggested starting point is to promote awareness in individuals generating data. Challenges faced, include the following:

- It is unfair to demand of the final users to operate in a more fair way; maybe not acting individually but creating an infrastructure?
- There is also the problem of mass platforms, and *habits that are hard to eradicate in a globalized world* (google is everywhere, maybe it's too late – global standards are already set)
- Having focus on individual is not enough, as the infrastructure is already out there, it must be about regulating what is out there.

How policy can help was discussed next. It was considered to be impossible to make things non-discriminatory in policy-making. Instead it has to be accepted that discrimination is there and focus on identifying and tracing it. Concepts such as discrimination are pretty well researched, but often interdisciplinarity is missing, e.g. robotics not picking up those concepts, which should be changed.

Ideological/political/economic biases in policy advice on AI and Robotics could be addressed/avoided in the following ways:

- Transparency key: making people aware of bias
- You can try to minimise negative impact, but first try to identify different positions and get different perspective in discussions / on the table
- Profit is discriminatory. How can we influence policy-makers to put the money on right research?
- Analysis on possible negative impacts (stress tests, test cases). Assess what happens if robots are out of control

The **discussion around the Accord statement**, first clarified that the Accord was a guideline for policy-makers and researchers. It was felt that the Accord is aimed at social sciences, not necessarily at AI and robotics. If the aim is a general framework than a wider set of principles is needed in order to be applicable.

The issue with using the term "high quality" research was that there are different standards of high quality in different settings (e.g., China vs EU scientists: there exists a publicly available biometrics dataset, collected in China; are we sure that all the data is collected legally and with an adequate consent?). Also better specifications are needed for the term "ethical methods".

The following elements were deemed to be missing from the Accord:

- Use of research of technology
- What do we mean by high quality? A clear differentiation between technical and ethical high quality needs to be made.
- Better tools for / specification about declaring possible conflicts of interests (not only a tick box exercise)
- Definition of where the advisory process ends. Is the policy process excluded? If yes, there could be ethical implications.
- Make the link from advisory process to implementation review. Information around how much of the input from advisors is reflected and what has been excluded or why, will improve transparency.
- Definition of what is meant by "independence".

5.4. Behavioural Research Collecting Data from Social Media and Internet Sources

Caroline Gans Combe (INSEEC) and Gabi Lombardo (EASSH), both PRO-RES project partners, chaired the session on Behavioural Research Collecting Data from Social Media and Internet Sources.

Figure 16: Breakout Session on Behavioural Research Collecting Data from Social Media and Internet Resources, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

The discussion started off with the assessment that **everything is behavioural data**. What you have done. What you are doing. What you will do (or be influenced to do). When data is out there, it is out there, there is no possibility to take behavioural data back. Data collection and presentation is a question of trust and truth, e.g. AI has the capacity to create fake profile from bits and parts of real data which makes things difficult to spot.

Safety questions related to behavioural data were explored. It was highlighted that legislation is not really up-to-date as it focuses on access (who has the access to data) and consent (people consent to the use of their data), however, there is no legislation with regards to metadata. This creates a need to challenge data:

- Transparency around the sourcing/origin of data. Where is the data from? Who collected it and how?
- Never take a data set for granted
- Compare/difference-check. Crossing datasets is necessary.
- Make data processes public – use the Git (version-control system for tracking changes in source code during software development)
- Peer-review on data is needed

To conclude, it was highlighted that **trends change**. If you keep the data to yourself, you produce bad science. Furthermore, the difference between data and algorithm was mentioned and the question, what is more problematic – data or the algorithm? The main focus should lie on how to ensure data is reliable.

5.5. Environmental Research

The Environmental research breakout session was led by Kalliopi Pagou (PRO-RES partner HCMR) and co-chaired by Alan Simpson (Advisor on Sustainable Economics to the UK Shadow Chancellor). A total of 11 participants joined.

Figure 17: Breakout Session on Environmental Research, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

The introductory dialogue between the chair and the co-chair explored the ethical role of the environmental researcher in a collapsing economic age. Alan Simpson highlighted that the overall principle, which should underline such role is the 'do not harm' principle. What is equally important is to take all the necessary steps to make all people (communities and societies) part of this procedure and take them all on-board in this motion of ethics driven science. The Accord needs to become more intelligible and the language simplified taking into consideration the overall background of the people it is addressed to and where they 'come from'. In addition, it is necessary to test the "Accord". The institutional basis of this ethics approach needs to be emphasised.

Asked how the ground rules of local, national and international economics need to be rewritten, if eco-system (and human) survival is to be the new benchmark, he highlighted the need for a transformative and adaptive change in policy and its drivers. Inclusion, ownership and accountability are key principles to adapt to the new era opposing populism and corporatism. Countries/Societies face three main structural threats to security and stability that need to be addressed in the coming era:

- our complete unpreparedness for climate shocks and ecosystem breakdown,
- unsustainable gaps between the richest and poorest, and
- the prospects of secular stagnation within the coming decade. Western economies have not understood that they will move towards zero economic growth in the future.

Referring back to the findings from the first ethics and environmental research workshop in Athens in June 2019, Kalliopi Pagou highlights that one must make the difference between (i) **Ethics in environmental research and** (ii) **Environmental Ethics**. While ethics in environmental research focuses on how we conduct ethical research (i.e. How the researchers conceive ethical checklists? Are they important? Or just a nuisance table they have to fill in?), environmental ethics cover how we treat the environment when working with it (e.g. Consideration of impacts on animal welfare).

The following discussion with all participants highlighted that an important aspect regarding environmental research and its ethics lies in the field of studies and animals involved. There is a trend from researchers making behavioural studies to shift from laboratory studies to open fieldwork, in order to get more reliable data; the impact of climate change should also be taken into account. The question here is to understand the impact of the research itself on the environment. Is it ethical to conduct research that might create a negative impact on the environment (such as animal welfare)? Another example given was the studies on the effects of climate change on animals. Who will benefit from such kind of studies?

A set of fundamental questions need to be addressed:

- Are these studies performed for the benefit of the animals, the environment or the humans? Or a combination of?
- Ethics in environmental research: we do not include the impacts of our research on the environment (environmental ethics) – we need to ask us why are we conducting this research?
- Are environmental ethics really addressed during our work?
- Have we realised that in many cases the way we treat the environment is probably missing for any ethical considerations?

Environmental research is new, and we need to give guidelines. Environmental research is transversal and science is not neutral. A clear need for transparency and fair data has been identified. It also needs to be kept in mind that research is made sometimes for another motivation that progressing science (e.g. research as hobby, PhD thesis or housing developers). Ethical guidelines and common protocols should be established and communicated better to the scientists and 'educate" them on the need to follow them.

Another main problem is that the society is excluded from the discussion with the experts, as the scientific community fails to explain/communicate their research in a simple manner. Researchers must learn to

communicate easily to public and MPs. They must make the science accessible. Ethics and inclusivity with society are essential.

Ethics should also established in the case of <u>citizen-scientists</u> and any other groups involved in research that are not directly bound by ethics protocols or are not even aware of them. The same care should be taken as for PhD students and researchers. Therefore, though citizen in science are important, it also implies risks of having the data misused. In that case we face the problem of fake news. A key issue here is that people are more interested in the bad news of the environment than in the good news. It needs to be explored how researchers can know how to communicate good news to the public.

Another problem is that sometimes the media are modifying the information. While scientists must provide data and protocols for publishing, other organisations such as NGOs are not scrutinised in the same way.

Ethics considerations should also take into account the ones that finance the research, the results they expect and the way the financers treat the results they have commissioned. The consequences of such research, as well as the interests of the lobbies can bias the ethics of the research.

Ethics should be the new underlying principle in the way we treat the environment and strive for new models and ways of sustainable development. The principles of reducing the carbon foot print, slow food, accountable and localised food system with proper labelling (opposing corporate systems) should be strongly advocated. Furthermore, the involvement of local communities to embrace and endorse such measures rather than impose to them needs to be supported. The needs of the people especially at a smaller scale should be heard and become priority rather than larger scale economics. Goals should be tangible to encourage people to continue and persuade them that the new motion is practical and effective.

Next, the relationship between **environmental research and policy-makers** was explored. How can policy-makers be assured that the advice they get is from ethical research? and How can policymakers use research data ethically? Participants highlighted that there is a difference in the issues that matter to scientists and the issues that interest the policy-makers. Also, time availability is a communication barrier. Policy-makers care primarily for who can 'best' advise them within restricting and demanding time limits. Scientists on the other hand are not trained to provide short answers and demand long time frames. Scientists need to develop better and to the point communication skills.

There is a need to realise that people (and indirectly policy-makers) might have completely different approaches and needs in getting by in their everyday lives than the issues scientist try to address. Sometimes these approaches can be contradictory. Especially since we are now in a world where the level of challenges faced by democracies worldwide is increasing. We need to engage the younger generation more when it comes to ethics and environment and consider their lifestyle where they need things to be done better and faster.

Also the link between **environmental research and the general public**, through the **involvement of media**, was discussed. The many challenges that scientists face in this field regarding the communication of their results to the public, the media and the policy-makers were mentioned. Media, civil society and primarily policy-makers should be approached in different ways to get the message across. Professionals should be involved to achieve this important goal.

Other challenges that are being faced are fake news, disaster news vs positive news, religious (and any other) bias. Messages should be tailored and adapted to the needs of the audience. Public and media in general do not care of the details they only need the bottom line and a clear message.

NGOs are more vocal than researcher, manage much better to get their message across and have more influence. Need to understand why and learn from this. On the other hand the restrictions they (do not) face and the ethics they follow need to be scrutinized.

There is another shift to the influencers of the policy-makers. Academics are no longer the primary players (at least in UK) and gradually have become introverted and start speaking a language that only they understand; as a consequence they fail to get the message across. The way science is communicated should thus be re-thought and modernized. The power of images and infographics should be harnessed.

The **use and validity of environmental data** was explored too, considering the trends to privatise science and the re-use of data by third parties. An organizational and cultural challenge and potential inequity between the environmental and human health communities was highlighted. The environmental scientists are expected to freely give up their data to the human health researchers, but not vice versa, in the name of protecting the confidentiality of individual human subjects in the human health databases (for example data regarding intoxication due to environmental toxins/poisoning).

Data should be open and available with some minimal restrictions. It is also the responsibility of researchers to produce and create validated data and databases. On the other hand, all users should properly acknowledge and credit the data providers.

Another barrier is the multi funding of research that produces such data and the reluctance of scientists to release them prior to publication, since their promotion is related to the number of publications.

The session was concluded with a **discussion of the Accord statement**. While the Accord addresses adequately the ethics of the process, it does not seems to address the ethics of the outcome. What is missing are key definitions (e.g. How is "ethics"/"ethical" being defined?) and clearer explanations. Furthermore the language of the Accord statement should be simplified, as well as the Glossary.

More information on 'ethical' impact assessment should be included (both within a research call AND more generally in terms of how research outputs affect other issues). It should also adequately address the current issues that are being faced, such as environmental issues, climate change, economic instability, social media, big data, fake news, surveillance. The Accord could be further improved by advocating the "do no harm" principle.

Regarding the ways in which the Accord or Framework could help promote the use of ethical evidence in policy-making and how the buy-in from policy-makers could be ensured, it was mentioned that the framework must be promoted among the research community. This could be achieved by the research funders pushing towards its implementation. The Accord, furthermore should be promoted/adopted by the European Commission.

A toolbox for policy-makers should include cases of unexpected and unintended consequences, as well as tools to identify emerging issues (e.g. social inclusion, stability and internal cohesion). Impact assessments of research (social and economic) should be provided to support the research outcomes. This kind of data is interesting for policy-makers when taking decision.

Issues such as widespread diseases caused by the absence of animal welfare practices, leading to catastrophic events should be included, since experience shows that such cases are managed poorly and there is a need to be more proactive (rather than focus only on economic indices).

5.6. Conclusions on the breakout sessions

The breakout sessions discussed several issues, across many different areas; however, there are several conclusions that can be drawn regarding the PRO-RES proposed Accord statement:

Definitions and Clarity

It is very important for the Accord statement to be worded in a concise and clear manner, with as little ambiguity as possible. The audience needs to be able to clearly understand what is being said and what is being sought. Given the different scientific/technical/operating backgrounds that PRO-RES aims to target

as its audience, carefully defined terms and explanations are critical. It is therefore paramount that the meanings of the words used are clearly explained.

First of all, the definition of ethics and ethical: What is ethical behaviour? It is suggested that a very simple, direct way is used to explain this in the preamble of the Accord statement: 'Do no harm' is suggested as a simple, direct way, however we recognise that harm may be inevitable in many forms of research so we amend this to: 'Do as little harm as possible.'

Secondly, clearly differentiate between process and outcomes. What is an ethical process and what is an ethical outcome? Similarly, for data; data collection and data use entail different processes. What does therefore the 'quality of data sets' mean? Data collected ethically or used ethically or statistically complete and thorough?

Thirdly, the word 'quality' is also ambiguous: is quality defined as a technical term or in an ethical way or even culturally?

Finally, the words 'research' and 'evidence' are also often poorly defined. Does research include non-traditional research performing organisations (RPOs), i.e. private sector research? Similarly does 'evidence' refer to a complete set of data, methodology and conclusion? Or arguments based on prior research? Or something else?

Grounding in the real world

It is clear for such an effort to succeed it must be grounded in reality. It was discussed that there is a lack of sophistication between ethical codes and what happens in the real world. It is very difficult to create a 'checkbox' ethics culture and expect that this would be effective in all arenas. It is perhaps a trope, but the real world is not black and white, and also fast-changing. Therefore it is support for continuous discursive engagement rather than checkbox ethics should be the aim. As first example, 'bias' is not something that can be avoided in the real world. Bias should be recognised rather than be a reason to not accept something as "ethical". Bias, conflict of Interests, ideology therefore needs to be disclosed and recognised not avoided or hidden. Openness and transparency are therefore recognised as the cornerstone of an ethical process.

Issues regarding the policy-makers

There are two main issues regarding the use of policy-makers. The first regards the identity of policy-makers. Who are policy-makers (especially in a volatile environment)? Given that the Accord also wants to include research in volatile environment (i.e. conflict zones), a better understanding of who the policy-makers are needs to be given.

The second issue is also correlated to the 'grounded to reality' issues. Policy-makers very often do not have the luxury of time when making policy (it needs a fast decision) or there is no research evidence to back different claims (new developments). Or the policy is on ideological/political reasons. What are the policy paradigms that the Accord should apply to?

Simplicity

It was proposed that there should be simple messages, in order to apply to ALL non-medical sciences. Details and exceptions and groupings pre discipline were deemed unworkable. The Accord statement needs to be understood by everyone. However, in its present form some points in the Accord seem not to be correlated well with each other – it needs to be both consistent and coherent.

Promotion

Regarding promotion of the Accord, it was suggested that the appropriate process would be through EU channels. This is the most effective channel to promote any ethical framework.

6. Input on the Accord statement from participants through the verification exercise and survey form

Figure 18: Accord verification exercise during the lunch break, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

6.1. Verification exercise during the conference

The lunch break of the conference was used as an opportunity to collect feedback from the participants on the details of the draft Accord statement. In order to collect the feedback, the Accord statement was printed on A0 sheets and displayed in the lunch area. Each participant received a set of 5 sticker dots each in the colours red and green. Participants were then instructed to indicate with the dots whether they agreed with the statements or not. If they had concrete suggestions for changes, they were able to leave them via post-it notes. Further opportunity to comment on the Accord was provided to participants through feedback boxes on the day. Each participant had received the Accord statement in printed form as part of their conference pack to allow them to take their time to read it in detail (see Annex e: Draft Accord statement, as shared with the conference participants). The following sections display the draft Accord statement as it was shared with the participants. Any comments on the text are captured in blue.

The Accord

(on ethical evidence in non-medical research)

Proposed Draft:

Text	Positive	Negative	Comments
An underpinning by high quality research and evidence, including policy appraisals and evaluations, is a pre-condition for evidence-based policy-/decision-making, and hence rational policy actions and outcomes.	1	2	*Ethical research responsibility is a continuous process, need to support discursive culture, not checkbox ethics*
High quality evidence must be gathered, collated and analysed using sound, robust and ethical methods.	3	1	*"All high quality evidence…"*
The funding, management, conduct, dissemination and governance of research must all meet high standards of ethics and integrity.	4	0	-
All individuals and institutions involved in collecting and using evidence in policy-making should be transparent on how the high quality of that evidence is assured and flag up any potential conflicts of interest.	5	0	-
The independence and integrity of individuals responsible for the gathering of research evidence and its use in policy-making must be respected and supported in ways that ensure the evidence they produce is neither biased nor misleading.	2	1	-
General Comments:			*Maybe have specific points relating to USE for policy-makers so the emphasis isn't so much on researchers.*

THE PRINCIPLES AND RATIONALE BEHIND THE ACCORD

In seeking to promote ethics and integrity in the evidence produced in all non-medical research:

Comment:	- *Issues with this sentence: What is the difference between 'evidence' and 'research'*

Text	Positive	Negative	Comments
Under a commitment to evidence-based policy, all evidence should be based on ethically sound research.	2	2	*Research and evidence feed not only into policy but also journalism and other fields. The framework would have greater applicability if it didn't focus on policy-making.*
Research should not be based on pre-formed prejudicial ideologies or biased political or financial interests.	6	2	-
Conflicts of interest should ideally be avoided in the production of research evidence. If this is not possible, all conflicts of interest should be openly disclosed.	5	0	-
All sources of information used to formulate research evidence should be acknowledged.	4	0	*The "all" should be removed.*
In order to produce high quality evidence, research must be methodologically robust.	1	1	-
Only research that has also been conducted ethically and with integrity can be considered 'high quality'.	6	1	-
All research should be funded, managed, conducted and disseminated ethically and with integrity.	4	0	-
The processes and institutions involved in the selection of evidence, including research, to inform policy should be independent, open and transparent.	3	1	*The word "independent" must be further clarified.* *Ideally, yes, however policy-makers need to retain their seats and that will influence their decisions.*
The effectiveness and impact of all policies should be honestly and transparently assessed or evaluated using high quality research methods.	8	0	-

To achieve these ends:

Comment:	- *Needs a "whereas…" preamble like the AcSS statement. A free society needs free research.*

Text	Positive	Negative	Comments
The Accord must be supported by foundational statements that clarify the values, virtues, principles and standards that are applicable to research and the production of evidence used in policymaking.	1	0	-
Clear and agreed definitions of terms and concepts are required so that all policymakers should be able to recognise, identify and distinguish the characteristics of high quality evidence in their field.	2	2	-
Ethical research practice can often only be understood and explained in context. Illustrative case studies must be made available – with both ethically positive and negative elements – not just success stories. So that users can be aided in their ethical decision making with the insights offered by complex cases.	8	0	-
A repository of resources must be made available to guide and support the interpretation and application of the Accord.	2	0	-

6.2. Summary of stakeholder input received in reaction to the conference

In reaction to the conference, detailed input on the PRO-RES Accord statement were received from Paul Spicker (introduced above as one of the roundtable participants and breakout session co-chairs) as well as Kevin Macnish, Assistant Professor in Ethics and IT at the University of Twente.

Paul Spicker made the following incisive comments:

- He has reservations around the assumption that the focus of ethical concern is about the production of ethically sound 'evidence' (which is reflected in the first two points of the Accord statement and the 'principles and rationale'). Many researchers use unethical material to provide good evidence – (e.g. scandal, 'critical incidents' and the abuse of rights), which have provided invaluable sources of information about institutional processes in practice.
- In addition, he objects to the focus on evidence. There are many forms of research, and some aren't much concerned with 'evidence' at all - for example, the production of algorithms for engineering, encryption and finance, the development of new ideas for testing such as alternative business processes or innovative graphical representation, or the exercise of ethical methods, such as the incorporation of principles of voice and empowerment in the research process. A focus on evidence doesn't go far enough; ethical research has also to consider the purpose and application of the research and the process by which it is done.

Paul Spicker made the following **suggestions supplementary to the draft Accord statement**:

- There are *many forms of research*. They include not just formal research projects and programmes, but a range of actions relating to investigation, discovery, exploration, practice, and disciplinary development. Every kind of research needs to be done ethically.
- Research should be *beneficent* (or at least non-maleficent) in its aims, its substantive focus, in the process of research, and its application.

- **The Accord should include a paragraph focusing solely on continuous discursive engagement**.
  - *Ethical discourse* is needed to ensure that researchers are aware of, and sensitive to, the ethical dimensions of their work. That awareness depends on engagement in ethical discourse as an integral aspect of engagement in research. Ethical conduct cannot adequately be guaranteed by a fixed number of pre-set rules.
  - This engagement needs to be *continuous*. Ethical issues can arise at every stage of research: conception, development, proposal, process, conclusion and dissemination. It follows that *ethical consideration cannot be a single-stage process*.
  - All researchers should aim to develop a culture of ethical research, based on *continuous discursive engagement*. To achieve this, there has to be engagement of everyone responsible for the process, including researchers, stakeholders, peers and the users of research.

Kevin Macnish made the following comprehensive observations:

- His understanding of the purpose of the Accord is: to provide guidance to policy-makers to commit them to only accept quality research that is ethical, and through that commitment to influence the research community (to include not only universities but think tanks, government research bodies, and journalists) to work only on ethical research.
- The Accord reads as if it were written by committee, and needs to have some oomph added to it. A good start would be to have the first principle as: "We commit to only use research that is undertaken ethically". As it stands, ethics is only mentioned as one of several issues in the second and third points, so does not stand out.
- There is a clear possibility that research can be methodologically rigorous and scientifically useful, even though it was not collected/managed/used in an ethical manner. As such, research can be "high quality" (and thereby "good") in the eyes of scientific researchers but not "good" in the eyes of ethicists. One example is the data collected by the Nazis on how long someone can remain alive in freezing water. Unlike a lot of the data collected in the concentration camps, it is methodologically rigorous and scientifically "useful" but utterly unethical. The aim should be to prevent researchers using such data by having policy-makers refuse to use any research that draws on it.
- The terms "ethical", "integrity", "good" and "scientifically/methodologically robust" appear to be used interchangeably. While PRO-RES has developed a really good glossary of terms, some of those need to feature in the preamble to the Accord. E.g. when asking: "can research be ethical and methodologically robust but not demonstrate integrity?" there is uncertainty what is meant by "integrity" at the best of times as it is a term that can be used both descriptively (the Caucasian racist was acting with integrity to his beliefs when he refused to employ an Asian) and normatively (the Caucasian racist showed a lack of integrity when he allowed his prejudices to guide his hiring decisions).
- Trustworthiness was a term that was used a few times in the AI breakout, which again has descriptive and normative use. As in, 'I trust the bus to kill me if it runs into me at speed' vs 'I trust the bus driver to break and avoid me if I've just collapsed in the road'. It is worth bearing in mind that "trustworthy" AI is currently a buzzword. In his opinion AI can be trustworthy in the sense of being reliable to perform as expected, but not in the sense of having a virtuous character.
- What is the sanction for a policy-maker not adhering to the Accord? This should be a part of the Accord. Without teeth it is not going to be up to much. What happens when a policy-maker signs the Accord (as hopefully they all will) but then accepts unethical research? What should s/he expect to happen? Such an Accord will be much more powerful if what they sign up to includes an agreement as to what should happen if they fail to abide by the terms of that agreement. Ideally

this would become the cultural norm, but it needs to have force to get to that point. For example, privacy has been an issue for a lot of people in the data science community for years, but it was only with GDPR that their colleagues started to take them seriously.

Overall, Kevin Macnish thinks that the draft Accord is a good start, but still needs work. Ethics should be front and centre throughout. If the aim is also to try and get policy-makers to commit to methodologically rigorous research then that is a separate issue. His fear is that we could spread ourselves too thinly in order to create an Accord that everyone can agree to but is ineffective. If everyone automatically agrees to it, then it is probably not doing the job it needs to do! Ultimately, this should lead to research being rejected and people being unhappy because of that. Because of the Accord, the EU will not do some research that PRC or USA would do, as that research does not meet our high ethical standards. That should be acknowledged loudly and celebrated, but it is a tough bullet to bite.

These comprehensive contributions from researchers eminent in their field demonstrates how committed our stakeholders are to supporting the PRO-RES 'mission'. Elements from each of these contributions have already been adopted in order to modify the Accord statement, the background rationale and supportive Framework. We anticipate more such detailed contributions from many of our stakeholders in order to ensure the Project attains its primary objectives.

7. Conclusions and next steps

The "Ethics Matters" Conference was an important milestone for the PRO-RES project. It allowed the team to present the progress and findings from the first half of the project to a wide audience and receive detailed feedback. It was also the first opportunity to present a draft Accord statement to stakeholders and together with them further develop the details.

Overall the conference was well received and participation was good. The input received from stakeholders was varied but the overall view was, that a framework like the Accord statement was needed for non-medical science. The main challenge highlighted was to make the Accord general enough to cover all non-medical sciences but specific enough to make it useful for all disciplines. Furthermore, the point was stressed, that the buy-in from policy-makers and other key organisations was urgently needed for the Accord statement to be widely adopted and have the desired impact. The contributions from many of the attendees were incisive and pragmatic – showing clear awareness of the challenges faced by the project to achieve the recognition and endorsement needed for the success both of the project as well as the Accord and its supportive Framework. In some respects, many of the points made were not surprising – but that in itself was encouraging, suggesting that we are proceeding in the right direction but need to take extra care in the details supporting the Framework and the Accord so that we do hit the 'target'. More importantly was the general willingness of stakeholders to engage and stay engaged – demonstrating their perceived value in conducting this work.

In addition, to the content that was shared and discussed during the conference, the event was also a great networking opportunity, bringing different stakeholder together for a vivid exchange.

Figure 19: Networking during the coffee break, Credit: PRO-RES Project | Alexander Louvet

Taking the input from the conference, the Accord statement is being further refined by the PRO-RES partner Academy of Social Sciences together with input from the whole PRO-RES consortium. The Accord statement, together with the wider Framework and other resources are made available on the PRO-RES website (http://prores-project.eu/). The website is being continuously improved, with a new, more user-friendly version expected to be online in March 2020. Once the new website is ready to be shared, stakeholders will be invited to explore the updated Accord and other resources online and provide their feedback.

An activity planned for February and March 2020 is furthermore the PRO-RES online consultation, a questionnaire aimed at all stakeholders to provide input to the project. All participants to the conference were provided with the link to the consultation during the conference and as part of the conference follow-up email.

A next step in the PRO-RES consultation process, will then be the second series of stakeholder engagement activities. Originally envisaged as workshops, the approach has been adapted for a more varied and flexible list of stakeholder engagement activities, to ensure that all key stakeholder types (in particular policy-makers and policy advisors) can be reached. While these activities were expected to start in April 2020, the spread of COVID-19, has meant that all in-person engagement activities will have to be put on hold. The PRO-RES consortium is currently re-designing its strategy, to heavily focus on phone interviews as the main engagement method.

Aim of the second round of stakeholder engagement activities will be to obtain:

- Feedback on the Accord statement and the wider Framework
- Advice on how to best use the Accord to influence policy making
- Buy-in from key organisations to the Accord.

Annex a: List of participants

No.	Organisation	Job Title	PRO-RES team
1	#SustainablePublicAffairs	Founder	no
2	AcSS	Independent Researcher	yes
3	Alliance 4-Universities	Head of Brussels Office	no
4	Association of European Journalists-Belgium	President	no
5	BASF SE	Senior Manager Innovation & Technology Policy	no
6	Biomedical Research Foundation of the Academy of Athens	Senior Research Scientist	no
7	Birmingham University	Lecturer	no
8	Catholic University of Croatia	University Associate Professor	yes
9	CNRS (Huma-Num)	Project Manager TRIPLE in OPERAS IR	no
10	Coimbra Group of Universities	Policy Officer	no
11	College of Europe	Professor	no
12	Demos	Chief Executive	no
13	Deutsches Referenzzentrum für Ethik in den Biowissenschaften	Director	no
14	Dingwall Enterprises Ltd	Professor and Director	yes
15	Dublin City University	Research Support Manager	no
16	Dublin City University	Associate Professor	yes
17	Dublin City University	Lecturer and Chair of REC at DCU	no
18	EC	Head of the Research Ethics and Integrity Sector, DGRTD	no
19	EESC/BAGSO	member	no
20	ENEA	Policy officer	no
21	ePAPHOS ADVISORS TEAMWORK	ADVISOR	no
22	EPC	Project Leader of 'Connecting Europe' and Senior Policy Analyst	yes
23	EPC	Research Assistant	yes
24	ERC	Ethics scientific adviser	no
25	EUREC	Senior Researcher and Research Manager	no
26	European Alliance for SSH	Director	yes
27	European Commission	Head of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technology	no
28	European Commission	Ethics and Integrity	no
29	European Commission - Joint Research Centre	Chief Scientist	no
30	European Foundation Centre	Thematic Networks Coordinator	no

No.	Organisation	Job Title	PRO-RES team
31	European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)	Director General	no
32	European Parliament-EPRS	Policy Analyst	no
33	European Policy Centre	Junior Policy Analyst	yes
34	European Policy Centre	Chief Executive	yes
35	European Research Council	Legal Adviser	no
36	European Research Council Executive Agency (ERCEA)	Research Programme Agent - Ethics	no
37	European Science Foundation	Science Officer	yes
38	European Science Foundation	Junior Science Officer	yes
39	European University Association	Head of the Council for Doctoral Education	no
40	Ghent University	Research Integrity and Ethics Advisor	no
41	Hasselt University	PhD Student	no
42	Hasselt University	Staff Member Responsible Research and Integrity	no
43	HCMR	Research Director	yes
44	HCMR	Project Manager	yes
45	HealthNetTPO Netherlands	Senior Program Advisor	no
46	House of European History	Guide	no
47	ICRC	Head of the Centre for Operational Research and Experience	no
48	Independent Consultant	Independent Consultant	yes
49	Ingka Group (IKEA)	Researcher	no
50	INSEEC	Senior Researcher	yes
51	IRES	Researcher	yes
52	IRES	Business Consultant	yes
53	ISTI - CNR	Researcher	yes
54	ITM	IRB chairperson	no
55	Knowledge and Innovation	Researcher	yes
56	KU Leuven	Student	no
57	Leiden University	Policy Advisor	no
58	National Technical University of Athens	Senior Researcher	yes
59	NUI Galway	Lecturer, School of Political Science & Sociology	no
60	Research Executive Agency - REA	Project Adviser	no
61	Robert Gordon University	Emeritus Professor	no
62	S2i	Project Manager	yes

No.	Organisation	Job Title	PRO-RES team
63	Sapienza Università di Roma	Head of research strategic project and evaluation	no
64	Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development	Trainee	no
65	Slovak Liaison Office for Research and Development	N/A	no
66	St Georges Unviersity of London	Lecturer in Global Health	no
67	Steinbeis 2i GmbH	Senior Project Manager	yes
68	Steinbeis 2i GmbH	Events & Communications Manager	yes
69	Stockholm University	Research Integrity and Ethics Coordinator	no
70	The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities	Junior Policy Officer	no
71	The Labour Party	Sustainable Economics Advisor to the Shadow Chancellor (UK)	no
72	The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committees	Director	no
73	U Hasselt	N/A	no
74	UK Research and Innovation	Senior Advisor	no
75	ULB	ADJ	no
76	University of Surrey	Professor of Animal Welfare	no
77	University of Tartu	associate professor of practical philosophy	yes
78	University of Tartu, Centre for Ethics	Project manager	yes
79	University of Twente	Assistant Professor	no

Annex b: Agenda

AGENDA

"Ethics Matters" Conference

04 February 2020 | Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts, Brussels

Time	Session	Location
08:00 – 09:00	Registration open + light breakfast (Marble Room)	
09:00 – 09:30	Welcome by PRO-RES team	Auditorium Albert II
09:30 – 10:00	Keynote speech – Polly Mackenzie "Communicating the value of ethics, evidence and expertise in the age of populism"	Auditorium Albert II
10:00 – 10:30	Anthony Teasdale in conversation with Martin Westlake "Researchers and policy-makers: bridging the divide"	Auditorium Albert II
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee break (Marble Room)	
11:00 – 11:30	Sheri Fink & Robert Dingwall discussing the interface between research and policy	Auditorium Albert II
11:30 – 12:15	Overview of PRO-RES Accord + Introduction to breakout sessions	Auditorium Albert II
12:15 – 13:45	Networking lunch (Marble Room)	
13:45 – 15:15	Parallel Breakout Sessions COVERT RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE / WORKING IN DANGEROUS AREAS AND CONFLICT ZONES / BEHAVIOURAL RESEARCH COLLECTING DATA FROM SOCIAL MEDIA AND INTERNET SOURCES / ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND ROBOTICS / ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH	Lipsius, Albert I, Stevin, Albert II, Rubens room
15:15 – 15:45	Coffee break (Marble Room)	
15:45 – 16:30	Roundtable discussion moderated by Fabian Zuleeg – European Policy Centre Participants: Dorian Karatzas, Panagiotis Kavouras, Dirk Lanzerath, Marie-Sophie Peyre, Alan Simpson, Paul Spicker	Auditorium Albert II
16:30 – 17:00	Wrap-up by PRO-RES team	Auditorium Albert II

Project funded under Horizon 2020 GA 788352

PRO-RES

prores-project.eu
@ProRes14

Annex c: Live Tweet Feed of the Conference Day

PRO-RES @ProRes14

This is the Auditorium Albert II at @_KVAB in Brussels where today's #EthicsMattersConference is taking place. Love the colours! The delegates will be arriving soon.

♡ 4 7:54 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

People are arriving @_KVAB for the #EthicsMattersConference and heading up the beautiful stairs for a pre-conference breakfast before coming down to the auditorium.
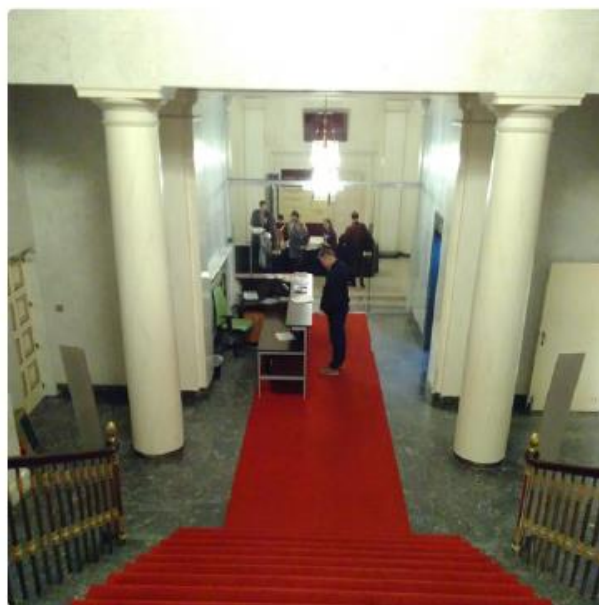
♡ 1 7:57 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

This is where refreshments are being served at the #EthicsMattersConference @_KVAB - will people be able to tear themselves away?! Such a beautiful venue.
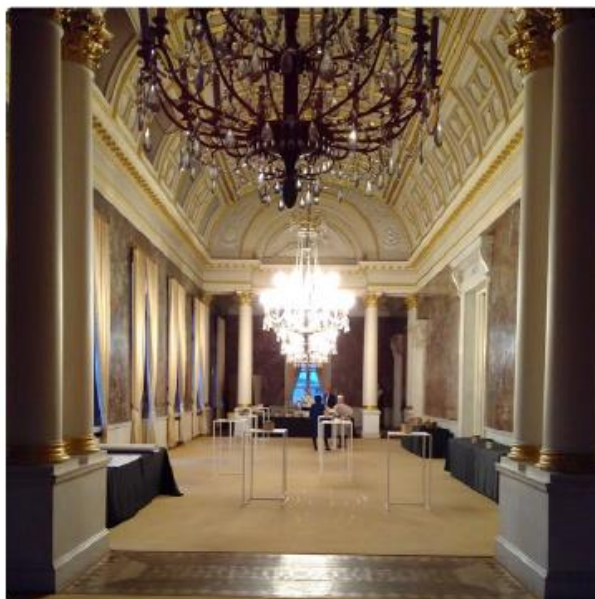
♡ 1   8:00 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Here's the programme for today's #EthicsMattersConference in case you want to follow particular presentations or sessions. We're @_KVAB in Brussels so CET if you need to check for time zone compatibility.

♡ 1   8:04 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

People beginning to take their seats now for #EthicsMattersConference @_KVAB in Brussels. Looking forward to the keynote speech by @pollymackenzie - starts at 9.30 CET if you want to follow along on the hashtag.

♡ 1   8:19 AM - Feb 4, 2020

Helen Kara @DrHelenKara

Top marks to @ProRes14 for providing chocolate in the packs for #EthicsMattersConference - other conference organisers, take note! #FuellingMyLiveTweeting #BetterThanBreakfast #AllGoneNow

♡ 2   8:29 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Emmanouil Detsis, organiser of @ProRes14 for @EU_H2020 #H2020 is introducing the project to #EthicsMattersConference and its partners including @AcadSocSci @EASSH_ @DublinCityUni and many others

♡ 2   8:34 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets

Untitled

A Acss

EASSH · European Alliance for social Sciences and Humanities ·

🐦 Eassh

The European Alliance for the Social Sciences and the Humanities was formed in 2015. It is a membership organisation spanning all areas of the humanities and social sciences working to promote these areas of...

DCU

ᴅᴄᴜ Dcu

DCU is a young, dynamic and ambitious university with a distinctive mission to transform lives and societies through education, research and innovation. DCU is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre ...

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/monkavour/stat...

Panagiotis Kavouras @monkavour
"Ethics matters" conference organized by @ProRes14 begins right now!

♡ 1   8:36 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   〉

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Emmanouil Detsis argues that ethics are important, they matter, because everything is connected, actions and events have impact, and our 'system of systems' can be fragile #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   8:38 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

The focus of today's #EthicsMattersConference is why and how to ensure the evidence in 'evidence-based policy' is ethically sound. Unethical evidence can lead to social, economic, and/or environmental damage.

♡ 1   8:42 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   〉

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

The goal of our project is for policy-makers to understand the need - and know how - to find and use ethically sound evidence #EthicsMattersConference

♡   8:44 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Now @GabiLombardo2 who is the director of @EASSH_ is introducing @pollymackenzie who is the director of @Demos and she will talk about "Communicating the value of ethics, evidence and expertise in the age of populism" #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 3   8:51 AM - Feb 4, 2020

ⓘ

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

Home - Demos
Demos

Demos is Britain's leading cross-party think-tank. We produce original research, publish innovative thinkers and host thought-provoking events.

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Keynote from @pollymackenzie who read our Accord and agreed with every word (yay!) though she acknowledges it may not come across so well to others #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   8:56 AM - Feb 4, 2020

ⓘ

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

Polly Mackenzie - the Accord is a giant passive-aggressive subtweet #EthicsMattersConference

♡   8:55 AM - Feb 4, 2020

ⓘ

  See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Questions about democracy from @pollymackenzie - she believes in liberal democracy, but questions whether it can be as effective in navigating big challenges as state authoritarianism #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   8:57 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

So can we make liberal democracy work, asks @pollymackenzie? She sees ethicists as having a key role in figuring this out #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   8:58 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Experts need to reclaim some territory says @pollymackenzie though many voters now see expertise as problematic - we need to understand and find ways to explain that #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:00 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Some questions have clear right answers and some are matters of opinion says @pollymackenzie and there are too many times when politicians treat the latter as the former and impose without consulting #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:01 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

There is a real human need to see for ourselves and be involved in decisions, argues @pollymackenzie - and one thing experts do wrong is go around telling other people what works #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:02 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

So, one person might say 'prison works!' and another could argue 'no, prison doesn't work!' but neither of them are questioning what the 'work' is in that context - to get people off the streets? punish criminals? rehabilitate offenders? @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> There is a real human need to see for ourselves and be involved in decisions, argues @pollymackenzie - and one thing experts do wrong is go around telling other people what works #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:04 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

The important thing is to have a discussion about what evidence is and what it means, rather than to make assertions, argues @pollymackenzie - to set groundwork for what evidence and expertise can accomplish #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> So, one person might say 'prison works!' and another could argue 'no, prison doesn't work!' but neither of them are questioning what the 'work' is in that context - to get people off the streets? punish criminals? rehabilitate offenders? @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

♡ 1   9:05 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Nobody changes their mind when they're being screamed at, and too much political discourse is about people screaming at each other, says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:07 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Also, exhibiting your virtue (i.e. occupying the moral high ground) doesn't help, because it makes people feel angry and defensive, says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Nobody changes their mind when they're being screamed at, and too much political discourse is about people screaming at each other, says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:08 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

When we talk about ethics and virtue, we need to be cautious and frame it in ways that solve others' problems rather than polishing our own virtue, says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:10 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

It's very hard to regulate politics says @pollymackenzie - how to build a different kind of democracy is one of the puzzles of our age, because populism offers inherently undeliverable promises so is not sustainable and could destroy democracy #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/lighea85/statu...

Andrea Riccio @lighea85
#ethics, just like policy, is not about screaming at each other, but about solving common problems through shared evidences #ProResConference @pollymackenzie

♡ 1   9:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

You can only change people's minds really slowly says @pollymackenzie and this is one of the problems when you're dealing with urgent issues such as climate change #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:18 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Effective political campaigning is a slow process bringing people into a conversation, enabling them to challenge evidence, making it clear that the evidence serves their decision-making says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> You can only change people's minds really slowly says @pollymackenzie and this is one of the problems when you're dealing with urgent issues such as climate change #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 9:19 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/SEZ_Europa/sta...

> **SEZ** @SEZ_Europa
> @ProRes14 'Ethics matters' conference in Brussels - We are happy to discuss all about ethics in non medical research. #prores

♡ 2 9:19 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite @rwjdingwall

Maybe we need to recall Disraeli's reaction to the extension of the franchise:"Now we must educate our masters."? But need to distinguish between educating and hectoring. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 9:24 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Information being withheld creates conspiracy theories says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 9:25 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

Call for transparency and citizen action. Transparency not reconcilable with privacy? Citizens may have better things to do than audit government? Let's hear it for the apathetic tendency. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:27 AM - Feb 4, 2020

See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Now @GabiLombardo2 is introducing Anthony Teasdale, Director General of the European Parliamentary Research Service, and @MartinWestlake who will talk about 'Researchers and policy-makers: bridging the divide' #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:35 AM - Feb 4, 2020

See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

European Parliamentary Research Service
European Parliamentary Research Service

EPRS' mission is to provide Members of the European Parliament, and where appropriate parliamentary committees, with independent, objective and authoritative analysis of, and research on, policy issues...

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

Is Scottish education a failure or are the wrong metrics being applied @pollymackenzie? Like your example of prisons?#EthicsMattersConference

♡   9:35 AM - Feb 4, 2020

See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   ›

Coimbra Group
@CoimbraGroup

We're at the #EthicsMattersConference of @ProRes14 project (#Horizon2020 funded). @pollymackenzie, chief executive at @Demos think-tank, gives keynote speech on how to communicate the value of #ethics evidence & expertise in the age of #populism. #integrity #research

PRO-RES
PROMOTING ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

'Ethics Matters' Conference
04 February 2020
Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium for Science and the Arts in Brussels

♡ 9   9:36 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Anthony Teasdale thinks it's great that this discussion is taking place, and is very much in favour of our project (so that's good news!) #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:39 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Question for Anthony Teasdale from @MartinWestlake about the extent to which policy and research have aligned - or not - in recent years #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:41 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Anthony Teasdale reminds us that it was only in recent years that the EU was more of a campaigning organisation, e.g. for the single market #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:41 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Also that in the EU there is not the usual dependency relationship between the executive and the legislature - more like the US system than like most EU member countries #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Anthony Teasdale reminds us that it was only in recent years that the EU was more of a campaigning organisation, e.g. for the single market #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:42 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Anthony Teasdale identifies a tension between political and 'scientific' (i.e. not just hard sciences) mindset - makes it difficult to take political decisions. Researchers don't seek to guide politicians (unlike think-tanks) but to empower thru knowledge #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   9:46 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Strapline of European Parliamentary Research Service is 'empower through knowledge' says Anthony Teasdale #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:47 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Politicians need visibility, researchers don't, says Anthony Teasdale. The pressures on the two are very different #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   9:50 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/bbhills/status...

Tassilo Galitz @bbhills
#EthicsMatter @ProRes14 conference with @EP_ThinkTank Anthony Teasdale making the point not to be a think tank but to "empower through knowledge".

♡ 1   9:51 AM - Feb 4, 2020

Tassilo Galitz @bbhills

Absolutely. But is there a "right" amount of #transparency that helps to take better political questions in the common good? All transparent? @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

PRO-RES @ProRes14
Information being withheld creates conspiracy theories says @pollymackenzie #EthicsMattersConference

♡   9:59 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Question now from @GabiLombardo2 - how can institutions ensure that evidence is ethical? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:00 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⊗ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ＞

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

The standards, says Anthony Teasdale, are clarity, neutrality, and accessibility. Institutions need to ensure these apply to evidence - and some definitely do #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Question now from @GabiLombardo2 - how can institutions ensure that evidence is ethical? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:01 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

In countries with adversarial government or a monolingual culture it is more difficult to ensure that these standards are maintained, says Anthony Teasdale #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:03 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⊗ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ＞

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

In case you took note of the timetable for this conference, our timing has slipped a bit because our speakers are so interesting! We're over half an hour behind schedule but it's well worthwhile #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:06 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⊗ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ＞

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

More information about the European Parliamentary Research Service here europarl.europa.eu/at-your-servic... have a read while we take a coffee break #EthicsMattersConference

> **European Parliamentary Research S...**
> The Research Service provides Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with independent factual analyses that are also
> europarl.europa.eu

♡ 1   10:14 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We're back from coffee now and @domathuna has managed to make contact online with @sherifink in New York where it is 5.30 am so we are extra grateful to her for taking part in #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:30 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  8 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

Sheri Fink
▦ Sheri Fink

Five Days at Memorial is Pulitzer Prize winner Sheri Fink's landmark investigation of patient deaths at a New Orleans hospital ravaged by Hurricane Katrina - and her suspenseful portrayal of the quest for truth...

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Getting the technology right for @rwjdingwall to talk with @sherifink about the interface between research and policy #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:34 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  8 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Uh-oh - technical problems. The @_KVAB techies are trying to get @sherifink back - meanwhile @rwjdingwall is valiantly introducing the session in the hope that they can contact her again #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:36 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

It all worked beautifully in rehearsal, said @rwjdingwall...
#EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:38 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

 👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Four areas of discussion planned by @rwjdingwall and @sherifink - mostly about the relationship between journalistic and research ethics #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:39 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

 👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Now we can see @sherifink and I think she can see us, but we can't hear each other. @domathuna is trying other connection options #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:41 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

 👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

And finally we have both sound and vision! @sherifink apologises for not being able to be here in person, but work has kept her in the US #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:43 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Journalistic research can be rigorous like other research says @sherifink e.g. by checking different sources for triangulation rather than relying only on one #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   10:45 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

 👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Attribution is a key ethic for journalists so that's a difference when researchers privilege anonymity #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:46 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  (i)

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Great to be underway now - @rwjdingwall in conversation with @sherifink about the interface between research and policy #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   10:46 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14
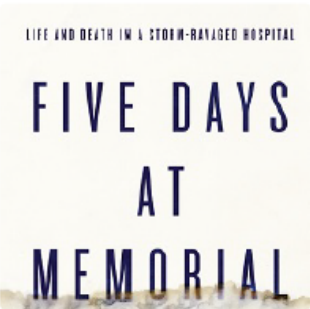
Journalists have to think of the needs of their sources as well as their readers - some of the people who spoke to @sherifink could have gone to jail for doing so - as researchers have to think of participants #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:54 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

If you haven't come across @sherifink we recommend checking out her multi-award-winning book Five Days At Memorial sherifink.net #EthicsMattersConference

LIFE AND DEATH IN A STORM-RAVAGED HOSPITAL

FIVE DAYS
AT
MEMORIAL

♡ 2   10:56 AM - Feb 4, 2020

  See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Part of the role of journalists is to be a check on government says @sherifink - including local journalists; it's worrying that local journalism is shrinking in democracies #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   10:57 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Question from @rwjdingwall about self-regulation of journalists: how would the profession react if a major story had to pass through the equivalent of IRB? @sherifink says we would have no breaking news! #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 11:01 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Journalists' ethics: they disclose what they're doing to the people they're trying to interview, says @sherifink - however there is a real loss of trust in the media; maybe if people understood better what journalism is, and is for, it would help #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 11:02 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Social scientists do slow journalism, argues @rwjdingwall - it's very similar work, so what if researchers argued that we don't need IRBs either? We could make sure our informants knew what we were about; how would @sherifink write that up? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 11:05 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

In reply @sherifink points out that researchers inject substances into people's bodies (though most if not all of those are medical researchers whose work is not covered by our project) #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Social scientists do slow journalism, argues @rwjdingwall - it's very similar work, so what if researchers argued that we don't need IRBs either? We could make sure our informants knew what we were about; how would @sherifink write that up? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 11:06 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Big difference, says @sherifink again, is that journalists don't use anonymity except very occasionally and carefully, while researchers can "hide behind" it #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> In reply @sherifink points out that researchers inject substances into people's bodies (though most if not all of those are medical researchers whose work is not covered by our project) #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

♡ 1   11:08 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

So @sherifink is going back to bed now. She confessed she's a night owl and often works till 2 or 3 am - so we are even more grateful that she was willing to make the effort to join us at #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   11:09 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Now Ron Iphofen is introducing the Accord, the main outcome of our project so far, though it's still in draft - part of today's task is to consider and refine the Accord #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   11:10 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Ron Iphofen reminds us that ours is just one in a cluster of #H2020 projects working to make research and evidence more solidly ethical - and that they have a very wide range of stakeholders #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   11:12 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Ron Iphofen introducing 'The Path To Accord'. Policymaking is complex, and not always based on high quality evidence, even though that would be in the best interests of individuals, communities, and society as a whole #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:15 AM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Policy should be evaluated and assessed transparently and robustly, says Ron Iphofen #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:16 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Ethical evidence matters because of: the anti-science political agenda (President Trump etc); influence of big corporations; risks from misuse of digital data (e.g. Cambridge Analytica); the so-called 'sexed-up dossier' that took the UK into the Iraq war #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:20 AM - Feb 4, 2020

Andrea Riccio
@lighea85

#EthicsMattersConference Ron Iphofen presents the #accord to promote policies informed by research evidence. This is much needed in a period of #antiscience slogans, populism, data misuse. Thanks to @ProRes14!

♡ 2   11:25 AM - Feb 4, 2020 · Brussels, Belgium   ⓘ

& See Andrea Riccio's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Ron Iphofen giving examples of politicians from democracies acting unethically - in particular, interfering with the democratic process - such examples are worryingly easy to find #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:25 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Regulation is hard to achieve, says Ron Iphofen - it took a long time for personal data to be protected by #GDPR #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   11:27 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Part of our project has been a series of high-level discussion workshops on ethics in research and policy within topics such as artificial intelligence, finance/economics, and qualitative methods. The workshop outputs have contributed to The Accord #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:33 AM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/project_sherpa...

SHERPA-project @project_sherpa
.@project_sherpa analyses how #AI & #BigData analytics impact #ethics & #humanrights bit.ly/2PS1FJD. We're delighted to be at @ProRes14 conference discussing why #ethics matter and the importance of guidelines for the development & use of #SIS bit.ly/2twlmOq

♡ 1   11:34 AM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

This is the Accord statement as it currently stands. Delegates are being asked: does it work? If not, what else does it need? What should be in the 'toolbox' to support it? What recommendations should we take forward to policy-makers? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:39 AM - Feb 4, 2020

See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ❯

PRO-RES @ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/SustainablePA1...

> **#SustainablePublicAffairs** @SustainablePA1
> This accord is an important attempt to institutionalise evidence-based policy making by @ProRes14 👉 Lobbyists should take careful note of the last 2 points: transparency and attention for conflicts of interest. We do at #SustainablePublicAffairs

♡ 1   11:40 AM - Feb 4, 2020

   See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Now @EdinaLohr is introducing this afternoon's five breakout sessions. If you're in one of them, please tweet about it! We have 90 minutes to discuss the Accord - should be interesting #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   11:43 AM - Feb 4, 2020

   See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Breakout session topics: covert research/surveillance; working in dangerous areas/conflict zones; behavioural research collecting data from social media and internet; artificial intelligence and robotics; environmental research #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   11:45 AM - Feb 4, 2020

   See PRO-RES's other Tweets

PRO-RES @ProRes14

That long gap was the lunch break at #EthicsMattersConference - now we're back for the breakout sessions and we'll bring you as much of those as we can.

♡ 1   12:48 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Starting off this afternoon with the "behavioural research collecting data from social media and internet" breakout session co-chaired by @GabiLombardo2 and Caroline Gans-Combe #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:52 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Oh and we are in another stunningly beautiful room @_KVAB - here we are about to start our discussion #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:57 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⚇ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Nowadays everything is about behavioural data, says Caroline Gans-Combe - what we have done, are doing, will do - or be influenced to do #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:54 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⚇ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

If you have a gmail account or a cellphone, your behaviour is being tracked, influenced, and modified, says Caroline Gans-Combe #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   12:55 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

⚇ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Everything is about data. Artificial intelligence is about data: machines are trained using data. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:56 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Misuse of data is a bigger issue than access to data, says Caroline Gans-Combe - legislation focuses on direct access and misses the way people provide data unwittingly, forgetting that they leave their own technical fingerprints behind #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:58 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Research shows that information provided directly by people online makes up about 2% of all data provided online; most of it is indirectly provided through tracking and monitoring etc #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   12:59 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/SustainablePA1...

#SustainablePublicAffairs @SustainablePA1
This accord is an important attempt to institutionalise evidence-based policy making by @ProRes14 👉 Lobbyists should take careful note of the last 2 points: transparency and attention for conflicts of interest. We do at #SustainablePublicAffairs

♡ 2   1:04 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Principle in data science: all data is tested. This principle should be used more widely, says Caroline Gans-Combe - data needs to be challenged #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:14 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We have moved to the breakout session in the Rubens room - a group discussion of environmental research #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:23 PM - Feb 4, 2020

  👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

People do environmental research for all sorts of reasons, not always to benefit the environment. For example: doctoral students to get a qualification, citizen scientists as a hobby, organisations such as housing developers to justify their profits #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:25 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

How can we persuade people and/or organisations to protect an environment if they're not a stakeholder in that environment? Especially in societies being pushed to the edge. Hard questions at #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:28 PM - Feb 4, 2020

  👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We need to share good environmental practice, e.g. Denmark deciding that all new houses must not be connected to the gas grid, California prioritising solar roofs - even though these involve changes for all of us #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:31 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  & See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

There's a gap between what we understand intellectually is needed to manage our environment sensibly, and the ways we live our lives. If we try to fill that gap with ethics, it won't work because it's too abstract #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:34 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  & See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We have to know how to communicate our research tasks, and our results, to the public. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:39 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

The covert research group, in the Lipsius room, are discussing the ethics of retroactive prayer in research: is it ethically acceptable? And they didn't come up with that question all on their own: bmj.com/content/323/73... #EthicsMattersConference

> **Effects of remote, retroactive interc...**
> Objective: To determine whether remote, retroactive intercessory prayer, said for a group of patients with a bloodstream
> bmj.com

♡ 1 1:48 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

  & See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We need to educate research communities so that they act ethically at all points #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 1:49 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

This is a small but serious discussion, currently calling for thorough engagement with, well, everyone really #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:52 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Engaging discursively (i.e. talking and listening) is the best way to raise people's awareness of ethical issues. This is very different from the tick-box approach of RECs/IRBs #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 1:54 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

However, it is hard to quantify discussion (though perhaps we should remember the old saying that not everything important can be measured, and not everything that can be measured is important) #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Engaging discursively (i.e. talking and listening) is the best way to raise people's awareness of ethical issues. This is very different from the tick-box approach of RECs/IRBs #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 1:55 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

If research has no implications for anyone, what's the point of doing it? And if it does have implications, the ethical aspects of those need consideration #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 1:56 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

https://twitter.com/ProRes14

Now to the Albert I room @_KVAB where people are discussing work in dangerous areas and conflict zones #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 2:03 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Very important to feed results back to research participants - which can be difficult in dangerous areas and conflict zones. May harm participants directly - and/or researchers #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 2:06 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

There may be more different levels of stakeholders in dangerous areas and conflict zones: formal and informal; media; aid agencies; advocacy/lobbying agencies; and many others. This, plus the uncertain environment, makes acting ethically more difficult #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 2:09 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Back in the auditorium now for the end of the artificial intelligence and robotics discussion #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 2:14 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

This was clearly a lively discussion of the Accord but they finished just as I arrived in the room. Coffee break now. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:17 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We are grateful to @sumingkhoo who gave us her notes from the last breakout session so we can tweet some points after all! #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:34 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Point made that big data is seen as unbiased because it is algorithmic, but this is flawed thinking - @safiyanoble would agree #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:35 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Social robotics - the interactions of robots and humans - raises massive ethical issues. Self-driving cars can kill people, especially children or those with disabilities, because the 'norm' they learn is an able-bodied adult male #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:38 PM - Feb 4, 2020

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Old-style narrow determinism lends itself better to programming than newer styles of social science that highlight complexity and dynamism - social roboticists prefer the old #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:39 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14
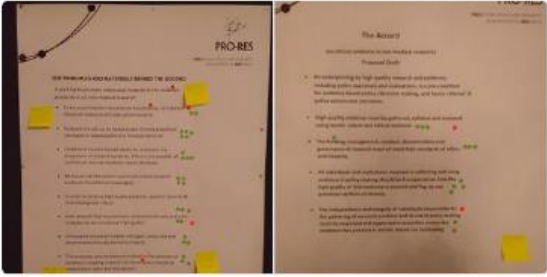
Biases can't be avoided, they can only be identified and addressed. More participation from all members of society is needed. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   2:40 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

In the breaks, conference delegates gave feedback on the draft Accord using stickers and Post-It notes #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   2:54 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We're all back in the auditorium now for the final round-table discussion moderated by @FabianZuleeg with Dorian Karatzas @PSpicker @mariepeyre @monkavour @AlanSimpson01 and Dirk Lanzerath #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 3   2:52 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

Fabian Zuleeg is Chief Executive of the European Policy Centre, a PRO-RES partner http://www.epc.eu/en/

Dorian Karatzas is the Head of the European Commission's Ethics and Research Integrity Sector

Professor Paul Spicker is a writer and commentator on social policy http://www.spicker.uk/about.htm

Marie-Sophie Peyre is a scientific adviser in ethics to the European Research Council

Panagiotis Kavouras is a senior researcher at the National Technical University of Athens

Alan Simpson is "a lapsed economist and recovering politician" (in his own words!) http://www.alansimpson.org.uk/

Dirk Lanzerath is Managing Director of the German Reference Centre for Ethics in the Life Sciences (DRZE) at the University of Bonn http://www.drze.de/

PRO-RES @ProRes14 · Feb 4, 2020

If research has no implications for anyone, what's the point of doing it? And if it does have implications, the ethical aspects of those need consideration #EthicsMattersConference

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

I think we must defend the value of pure research in social science. #conversationanalysis #CA began by studying phone calls between Californian housewives. Now it is the basis for communication skills training in a variety of professions. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   2:55 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

👤 See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

This is a good time for ethics, says Dorian Karatzas, because of GDPR, Artificial Intelligence, and other phenomena - ethics is everywhere. However, acting ethically takes resources of time and money; it can't be done only through Googling. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:01 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We should link ethics with the rule of law, says @mariepeyre - values don't exist alone. Implementing this in research methodology makes a better result, and that's how we can link ethics with policy-making #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:02 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

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Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

A diverse roundtable at#EthicsMattersConference...

♡   3:03 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Europe is prioritising ethics in science, says @monkavour - we should export this to other parts of the world. A society with quality requires research with quality. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:04 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/boranat/status...

> **Borana Taraj** @boranat
> Not only values but also how they are implemented and linked to policy-making. Live now @ProRes14
> twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

♡ 2   3:06 PM - Feb 4, 2020

⌕ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Acquiring knowledge is not only done through formal research projects, says @PSpicker - we researchers forget that at times. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   3:07 PM - Feb 4, 2020

⌕ See PRO-RES's other Tweets   >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Dirk Lanzerath calling for definitions of 'ethics', 'policy' and 'research' - and noting that the law may not be ethically sound #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:09 PM - Feb 4, 2020

PRO-RES @ProRes14

How far can we apply all this to the different forms of research and the different actors in research, given that there's already dissent among the panel just from their introductions, asks @FabianZuleeg? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:12 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

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PRO-RES @ProRes14

First answer from @PSpicker: consider the diversity of research, not only formal research but exploration, practice, etc; and the variety of researchers, e.g. academics, practitioners, investigators etc. Can't have principles that only apply to one #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 3:13 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

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PRO-RES @ProRes14

Principles must make sense in the context where they're applied, says @PSpicker - some do: beneficence (doing good), non-maleficence (not doing harm), looking at the public interest. Some codes of ethics limit things much more than that #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 3:13 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES @ProRes14

How we do review for social science projects is not the main target of our project, says @monkavour - it's how can we help policy-makers to find and use better quality i.e. ethical evidence? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:15 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

How can we arrange for ethically conducted research to be used ethically to create ethically based policy? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:16 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

View from @AlanSimpson01 is that you can't change other people's behaviour, but you can road-test options, and that's the role for us. To set, test, and publicise the standards #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:17 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ⟩

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

We need to be transparent about research funding, says @AlanSimpson01 - our Accord should insist on disclosure #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:18 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ⟩

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Next question from @FabianZuleeg: how do we incentivise organisations to use the standards? How do they get translated into practice with the black sheep which are in the different communities? Convincing people who are convinced already is not enough #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   3:19 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

This is about the training and the culture of people involved in research, says @PSpicker - you can try to create a disposition in researchers (aka virtue ethics) where people engage discursively in research discourse throughout the process #EthicsMattersConference

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& See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ⟩
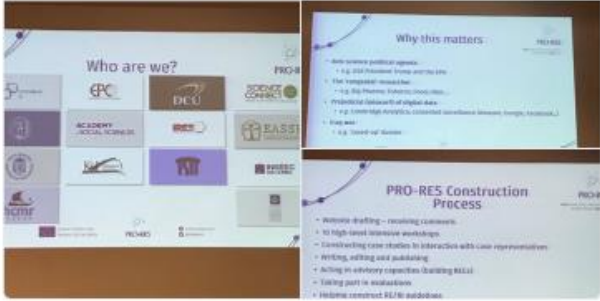
PRO-RES
@ProRes14

If we can educate people through discursive engagement, and make that consistent throughout the research process, it won't solve the issue but will diminish the problem, says @PSpicker #EthicsMattersConference

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PRO-RES @ProRes14

#EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/Blotiere1/stat...

Blotiere Emilie @Blotiere1
Ethic Matters in SSH ? Data treatment, quality, transparency with @ProRes14 @EU_H2020 consortium in Brussels today.

♡ 1 3:21 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Dirk Lanzerath says a lot of professionals don't think ethics is relevant for them (something we found in our high-level discussion workshops too) so they take a lot of convincing. Incentives not enough - look at whole culture #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:23 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

8 See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite @rwjdingwall

.@AlanSimpson01 argues for importance of disclosing funding sources. Wouldn't disagree but my own experience is that public funders have applied more pressure to spin findings than private funders ever have. No such thing as wholly clean money. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:23 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

8 See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Dorian Karatzas asks, if a policy-maker makes a decision based on solid evidence, the public should be aware, if it goes wrong, the policy-maker should explain why it goes wrong, so transparency in the sense that we should not blame only the policy-maker #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:24 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Dorian Karatzas sees transparency as an incentive in itself. Suggests we should have champions in this respect #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   3:25 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

People can know all the principles, have all the training, and still not apply it, not have it integrated in their own scheme of thought, says @mariepeyre - yes training is important but also open-minded ethics committees with time to point out problems #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   3:26 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

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PRO-RES
@ProRes14

One option might be to establish facts from research and then hand it to policy-makers to devise solutions, says @mariepeyre #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:27 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

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Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite
@rwjdingwall

Marie-sophie suggests that training may be overrated as a basis for ethical research. Working environments matter. Consistent with years of work in sociology of professions. #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2   3:27 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

& See Robert Dingwall 🕷 ✉ 🇪🇺 Reunite's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Policy-making can be chaotic, informal, quick - under time pressure - and have other considerations than evidence e.g. ideological and normative says @FabianZuleeg - so how can we deal with that? Can we work to v high standards or must we be pragmatic? #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 5   3:28 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Suggestion from @AlanSimpson01 that the problem is not the black sheep, it's the rest of us. We're in an era of paradigm shifts so we have to change our thinking. There are few certainties so the safety net is the continuous discursive engagement #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 2 3:29 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

This discursive engagement must be around clear principles, to create a pathway - like that set out by @PSpicker - clear in a non-accusatory way that policies we have now won't work, going forward, and we need to reposition to address future challenges #EthicsMattersConference twitter.com/ProRes14/statu...

> **PRO-RES** @ProRes14
> Suggestion from @AlanSimpson01 that the problem is not the black sheep, it's the rest of us. We're in an era of paradigm shifts so we have to change our thinking. There are few certainties so the safety net is the continuous discursive engagement #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1 3:31 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Such an interesting discussion, wish we had more time! @FabianZuleeg is inviting questions from the audience and @rwjdingwall steps up to ask about the balance between general principles and subsidiarity and the avoidance of a one-size-fits-all approach #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 3 3:32 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

PRO-RES @ProRes14

Dorian Karatzas says a document like the Accord could be very useful to countries like Greece that don't have a national equivalent #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 3:35 PM - Feb 4, 2020 ⓘ

& See PRO-RES's other Tweets >

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Clear conclusion from @FabianZuleeg that this whole thing is a process, not a single document; needs adapting to different types of research and different actors in academic and non-academic research. Yet the Accord is helpful #EthicsMattersConference

♡ 1   3:37 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Please keep making comments on the Accord and helping us to improve it, says @FabianZuleeg (we also ask this of you) #EthicsMattersConference

♡   3:38 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

If you would like to help us continue to develop the Accord, please fill in this short survey surveymonkey.com/r/PRO-RES - thank you #EthicsMattersConference

PRO-RES survey
Take this survey powered by surveymonkey.com. Create your own surveys for free.
surveymonkey.com

♡ 2   3:40 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

👤 See PRO-RES's other Tweets   ›

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

Also you can check out our website prores-project.eu - it's not finished but there is already a lot to explore and we would welcome your feedback here on Twitter #EthicsMattersConference

Home
At a glance The main objective of PRO-RES project is to build a research ethics and integrity framework devised cooperatively
prores-project.eu

♡ 3   3:42 PM - Feb 4, 2020   ⓘ

PRO-RES
@ProRes14

And that's the end of our conference, summed up by Emmanouil Detsis as 'trying to make the world a better place'. Thank you for following this event and please keep in touch. #EthicsMattersConference
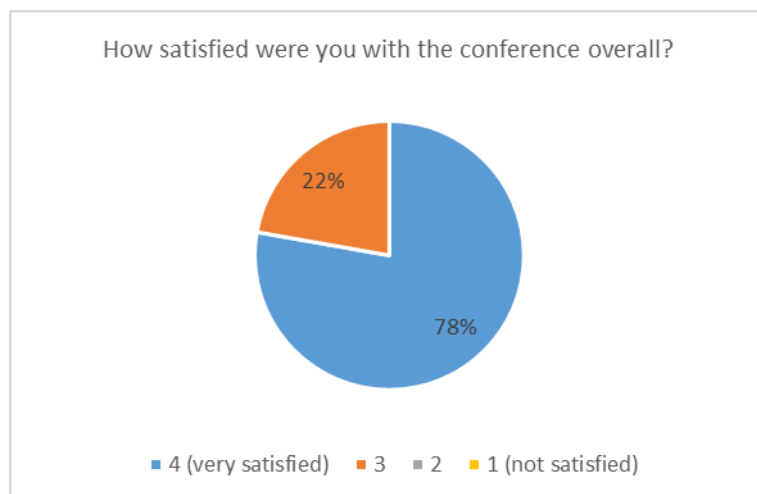
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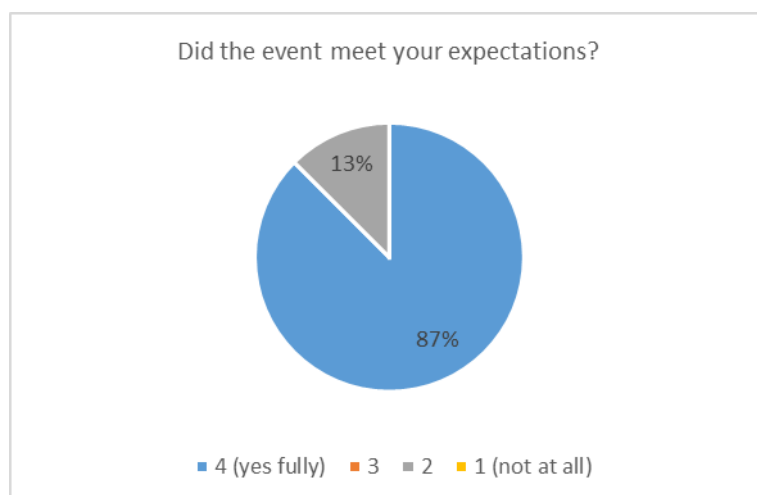See PRO-RES's other Tweets

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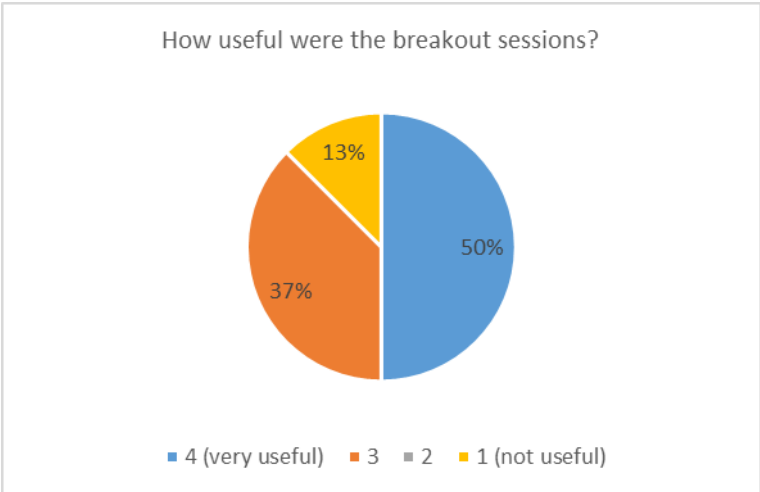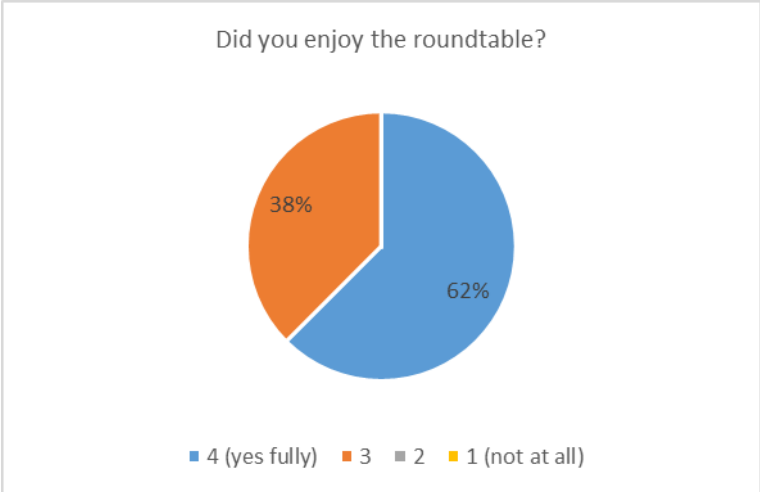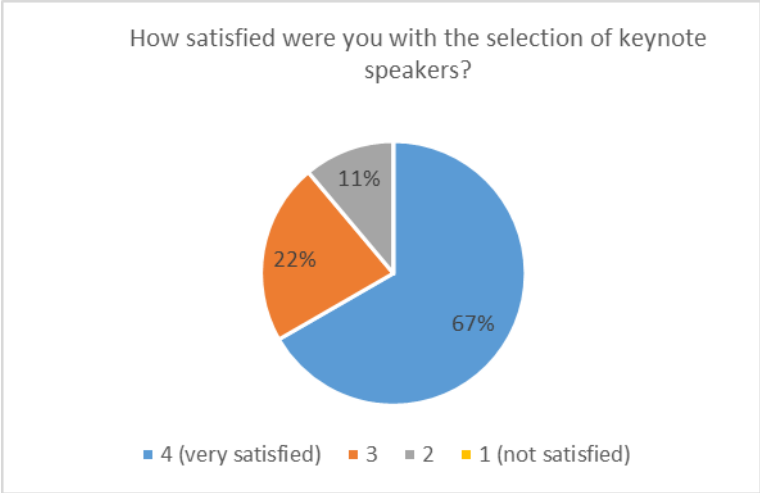# Annex d: Results from the conference feedback survey

Participants received a paper version and an online version of the conference feedback survey. Despite reminders on the day and via email afterwards, the response rate was rather low with only 9 completed surveys. Nevertheless, these responses were able to give a rough overall picture on how the conference was received. The graphs below show the distribution of replies to the survey questions related to the content of the conference. Feedback regarding organisational aspects such as catering or venue choice were also included in the survey; however, the results will be used for internal purposes only and are not presented here.

Overall participant satisfaction:

How satisfied were you with the conference overall?

22%

78%

■ 4 (very satisfied) ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 (not satisfied)

Benefit for participants:

Did the event meet your expectations?

13%

87%

■ 4 (yes fully) ■ 3 ■ 2 ■ 1 (not at all)

How satisfied were you with the selection of keynote speakers?

- 67%
- 22%
- 11%

■ 4 (very satisfied)　■ 3　■ 2　■ 1 (not satisfied)

Did you enjoy the roundtable?

- 62%
- 38%

■ 4 (yes fully)　■ 3　■ 2　■ 1 (not at all)

How useful were the breakout sessions?

- 50%
- 37%
- 13%

■ 4 (very useful)　■ 3　■ 2　■ 1 (not useful)
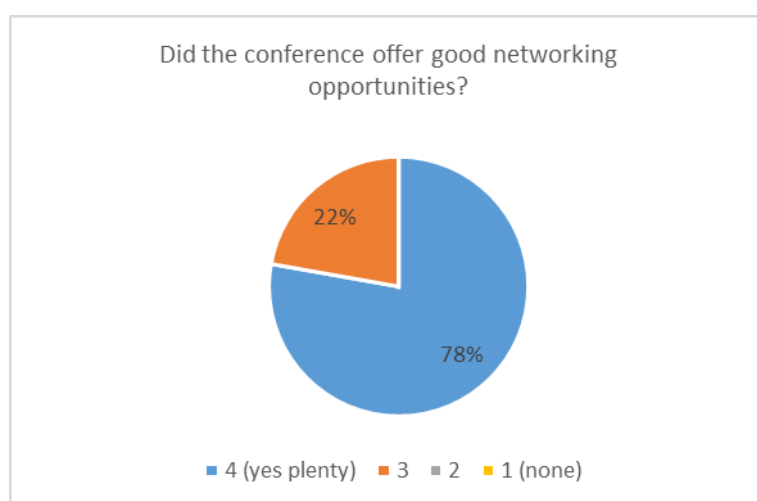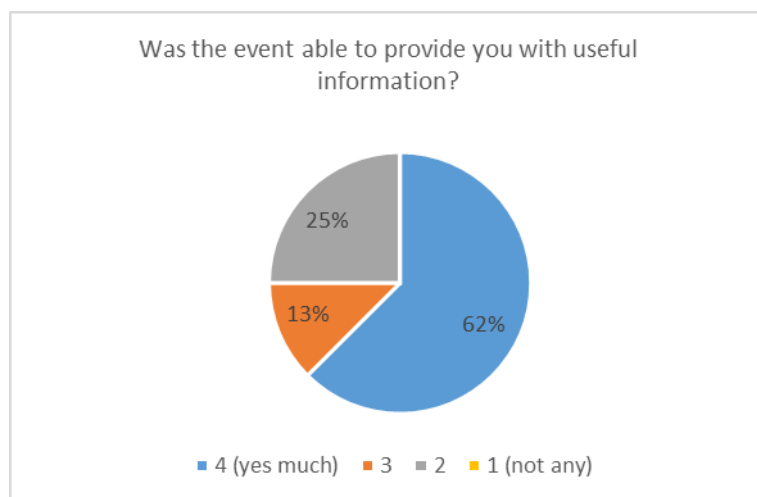
Furthermore, attendants had the opportunity to provide input on the following questions:

Was there anything about the event you found particularly interesting or enjoyable?

- 'This topic is intrinsically important, so a structured event especially with the Accord drafting was a welcome opportunity.
- 'All the speakers were very interesting, and the discussions were good'
- 'The whole thing was interesting. Good to meet other people.'
- 'The parallel breakout sessions were particularly interesting.'

In terms of the conference benefitting your work, how could the conference have been improved?

- 'What was discussed in the roundtable concerning integration of values, methodology and legal frameworks'
- 'Still not clear how this project actually will make an impact on the way research is done or taken up'
- 'Post-conference drinks for more networking'
- 'More people involved with environment and animal welfare ethics'

Which elements of the conference were particularly useful for your work?

- 'Discussing the Accord and structure of the PRO-RES project was helpful to think about which actors and frameworks to harmonize with.'
- 'The environment group'

Please let us know which topics you would like to see covered in future events.

- 'CRISPR, ethics dumping'
- 'I would need to think further. I like the topic-based discussion but also appreciate the general research-policy-practice discussion.'
- 'Animal ethics'

Do you have any feedback on the PRO-RES project overall?

- 'It seems like a genuinely excellent project'
- 'The conference was on two topics, that were not always sufficiently linked: ethically doing research – how to use research in policy'

Do you have any recommendations on how the project should move forward?

- 'Not proceeding too hastily to complete the Accord and giving enough time to think through the issues raised – that doesn't mean to not progress it – maybe some attention to the infrastructure for translating and actioning it in the future?'
- 'More focus and be clear on your added value'
- 'Get policy-makers involved'

Annex e: Draft Accord statement, as shared with the conference participants

PRO-RES
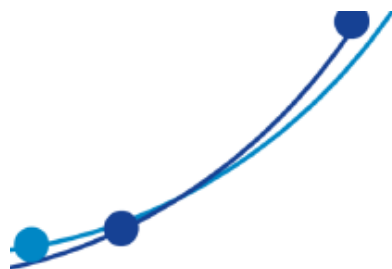
PROMOTING ETHICS AND INTEGRITY
IN NON-MEDICAL RESEARCH

PREAMBLE

What follows is a draft statement of principles that lie behind seeking/using ethical evidence from non-medical research to inform policy. When talking about ethical evidence, we are both tackling the principle of evidence per se and the way this evidence is built throughout the whole research process from inception to application/use. We have been advised that this statement needs to be short, clear, succinct and actionable. For current purposes it will be designated the 'Accord'. This is the baseline that we intend the further consultation process to be built on. Neither its title nor content is 'fixed' at this point. Our hope is to explore its potential with the appropriate constituencies and across the range of stakeholders. These include the producers of research, disseminators and intermediaries, influencers, policy advisers, decision-makers and implementers. The section following the Accord statement draws out the elements of the brief Accord statement in terms of slightly more detailed principles together with a rationale for this approach. The draft Accord is based on the work accomplished by the first phase of the PRO-RES Project and based on declared foundational assumptions about the values, principles and standards involved in ethical research conducted with integrity. It is proposed that the Accord will be presented on the PRO-RES website and linked to a 'Toolbox' to aid stakeholders in assessing the ethics and integrity of research evidence and supportive resources to help produce such evidence across the range of non-medical research activities.
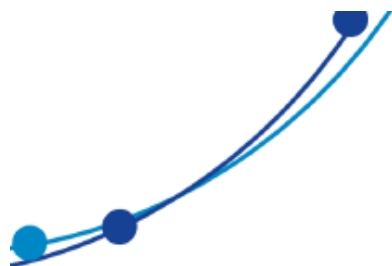
The Accord

(on ethical evidence in non-medical research)

Proposed Draft:

- An underpinning by high quality research and evidence, including policy appraisals and evaluations, is a pre-condition for evidence-based policy-/decision-making, and hence rational policy actions and outcomes.

- High quality evidence must be gathered, collated and analysed using sound, robust and ethical methods.

- The funding, management, conduct, dissemination and governance of research must all meet high standards of ethics and integrity.

- All individuals and institutions involved in collecting and using evidence in policy-making should be transparent on how the high quality of that evidence is assured and flag up any potential conflicts of interest.

- The independence and integrity of individuals responsible for the gathering of research evidence and its use in policy-making must be respected and supported in ways that ensure the evidence they produce is neither biased nor misleading.

PRO-RES

prores-project.eu
@ProRes14

THE PRINCIPLES AND RATIONALE BEHIND THE ACCORD

In seeking to promote ethics and integrity in the evidence produced in all non-medical research:

- Under a commitment to evidence-based policy, all evidence should be based on ethically sound research.
- Research should not be based on pre-formed prejudicial ideologies or biased political or financial interests.
- Conflicts of interest should ideally be avoided in the production of research evidence. If this is not possible, all conflicts of interest should be openly disclosed.
- All sources of information used to formulate research evidence should be acknowledged.
- In order to produce high quality evidence, research must be methodologically robust.
- Only research that has also been conducted ethically and with integrity can be considered 'high quality'.
- All research should be funded, managed, conducted and disseminated ethically and with integrity.
- The processes and institutions involved in the selection of evidence, including research, to inform policy should be independent, open and transparent.
- The effectiveness and impact of all policies should be honestly and transparently assessed or evaluated using high quality research methods.

To achieve these ends:

- The Accord must be supported by foundational statements that clarify the values, virtues, principles and standards that are applicable to research and the production of evidence used in policymaking.
- Clear and agreed definitions of terms and concepts are required so that all policymakers should be able to recognise, identify and distinguish the characteristics of high quality evidence in their field.
- Ethical research practice can often only be understood and explained in context. Illustrative case studies must be made available – with both ethically positive and negative elements – not just success stories. So that users can be aided in their ethical decision making with the insights offered by complex cases.
- A repository of resources must be made available to guide and support the interpretation and application of the Accord.

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