



NSAI
Standards

Irish Standard Recommendation
S.R. CWA 17145-2:2017

Ethics assessment for research and innovation - Part 2: Ethical impact assessment framework

S.R. CWA 17145-2:2017

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National Foreword

S.R. CWA 17145-2:2017 is the adopted Irish version of the European Document CWA 17145-2:2017, Ethics assessment for research and innovation - Part 2: Ethical impact assessment framework

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CEN

CWA 17145-2

WORKSHOP

June 2017

AGREEMENT

ICS 03.100.02; 03.100.40

English version

Ethics assessment for research and innovation - Part 2: Ethical impact assessment framework

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A list of the individuals and organisations that supported the technical consensus represented by the CEN Workshop Agreement is available from the CEN-CENELEC Management Centre. These organisations were drawn from the following economic sectors industry, universities, civil society organisations, technology boards, European organisations.

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CWA 17145-2:2017 (E)

Introduction

The increasing pace of technological developments such as genetic technologies, geo-engineering, ICT and synthetic biology has been stimulating questions and discussion on the desirability and governance of their societal impacts. Ethics assessment and ethical impact assessment help ethicists to investigate ethical challenges. Ethics assessment and ethical impact assessment help researchers, policy makers and relevant stakeholders to deal with the ethical impacts of research and innovation.

The need for agreed methods for ethics assessment and ethical impact assessment arises out of the increasing focus on responsible research and innovation in policy contexts and in collaborative efforts by researchers, as well as from new legal regulations for research and innovation at the European level. The European Commission, has been a driving force behind the development of ethics assessment and impact assessment practices, by incorporating the need for responsible research and innovation in its framework programmes.

The SATORI (Stakeholders Acting Together On the ethical impact assessment of Research and Innovation, www.satoriproject.eu) research project, funded by the European Commission, developed a framework for common basic ethical principles and joint approaches and practices with the objective of harmonizing and improving ethics assessment practices of research and innovation.

The SATORI project developed a framework based on research into existing practices. These research findings are the basis of this CWA. This CWA consists of two parts.

Part 1, outlined here, makes recommendations for the composition, role, functioning and procedures of ethics committee. Organisations can use part 1 to strengthen and/or improve the ethics assessment of their research and innovation projects. Ethics committees include, but are not limited to, research ethics committees, institutional review boards, ethical review committees, ethics boards, and units consisting of one or more ethics officers. Part 1 of the CWA is applicable to all ethics committees, regardless of their size, scope or research and innovation area.

Part 2 provides researchers and organisations with guidance on ethical impact assessment; a comprehensive approach for ethically assessing the actual and potential mid- and long-term impacts of research and innovation on society. Researchers and ethics committees will find this information useful as it describes ethical impact assessment at different stages of the ethical assessment. Part 2 is applicable to all researchers and innovators, regardless of the context they are working in or their research and innovation area.

1 Scope

This CEN Workshop Agreement (CWA) sets requirements and provides guidelines for ethics assessment of research and innovation.

The CWA aims to improve the quality of ethics assessment and harmonize ethics assessment practices.

The CWA consists of two parts:

- part 1 Ethics committee; Part 1 provides recommendations for the ethics committees on practices and procedures;
- part 2 Ethical impact assessment framework. This part provides a practical, policy-oriented guide for researchers and ethics assessors on the different stages of the ethical impact assessment (EIA) process.

Both parts of the CWA are of interest to organisations or agents involved in performing, commissioning or funding research and innovation, and therefore have a responsibility to address ethical issues.

The focus of the CWA is on ethics assessment, not on ethical guidance.

2 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document the following terms and definitions apply.

2.1

Delphi survey

method for estimating future measures by asking a group of experts to make estimates, recirculating the estimates back to the group, and repeating the process till the numbers/answers converge

[SOURCE: Global Foresight Glossary, 2013]

2.2

design intervention

deliberate action aimed at bringing about changes in the design of the R&I project and its outcomes in order to resolve identified ethical impacts

2.3

ethical impact

impact that concerns or affects human rights and responsibilities, benefits and harms, justice and fairness, well-being and the social good

2.4

ethical impact identification

use of foresight methods to describe different future applications of research and innovation (R&I)

[SOURCE: adapted from SATORI deliverable 4.3.1.2]

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