# RRI
# for Real

## FIT4RRI

Fostering Improved Training Tools For Responsible Research & Innovation (fit4rri.eu), funded under the Horizon 2020 Science with and for Society (SwafS) 2016 call, was conceived to put together all these challenging ideas.

This is, in a few words, how and why—after almost three years of hard, but fun work—we launched our final summit *RRI for Real: Shaping the future of open science & society relations* (https://fit4rri.eu/rri4real/), projected as a collective gathering to keep working on the future of RRI (or whatever it will be called in the coming years) beyond the outcomes of the next, forthcoming European framework programme for research and innovation.

But this story has run rapidly to the end, let us move back to the beginning in order to discover FIT4RRI structure and objectives.

## How FIT4RRI was born

When we started thinking about working on a responsible research and innovation (RRI) and open science (OS) project, since the very first moments in which we were choosing the call to apply for, we had just one simple idea in mind: science—as all the big 'institutions' of last century—has entered a phase of deep crisis in terms of trust and reputation.

This crisis has been caused by several interacting factors such as globalisation, individualisation and the growing weakening of traditional social institutions, replaced (or ideally replaced) by new ways of socialising and asking for greater collective engagement in societal-relevant matters.

We looked at RRI and OS as a potential answer to overcome and manage the social transformations affecting science and innovation (S&I), but at the same time we knew pretty well that we should move from an abstract—and somehow romantic— idea of responsibility, that could be 'beautiful' but not necessarily 'useful', towards a more concrete approach, grounded solidly in research funding and performing organisations (RFPOs), deeply involving science's main actors, namely researchers and S&I professionals, and aimed at fostering processes of real institutional change.

As a consequence, our 'wanna-be' project should:

- engage and put into relation all the actors involved in science and innovation
- address relevant scientific issues through real use cases based on co-creation
- foster transdisciplinarity by spreading the word of responsibility, including within the so-called hard sciences
- promote transparency and openness of science, also by producing open tools and resources
- focus on the governance dimension of organisations to pave the way for institutional change supported by RRI and OS.

## RRI for Real
### Shaping the future of open Science & Society relations

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FIT4RRI

## FIT4RRI in a nutshell

FIT4RRI moves from the basic assumption that there is a serious gap between the potential role RRI and OS could play in helping research funding and performing organisations (RFPOs) to manage the rapid transformation processes affecting science (especially the science-in-society aspects) and the actual impact RRI and OS are currently having on RFPOs, research sectors and national research systems.

FIT4RRI has been working to contribute to bridging this gap, promoting viable strategies to render institutional changes in RFPOs. The project, in particular, acts on two key factors necessary for RFPOs to activate institutional changes towards RRI and OS:

- Enhancing competencies and skills related to RRI and OS, especially for those researchers working on so-called 'hard sciences', through an improvement of the RRI and OS training offer (in terms of training tools, actions and strategies) currently available. This also happens through the identification, mutual coordination and deployment of the most innovative RRI approaches and tools recently developed under local, national and EC-funded projects.
- Institutionally embed RRI and OS practices and approaches by promoting the diffusion of more advanced governance settings (including cross-cutting organisational practices, tools, arrangements and culture) capable to create an environment enabling RRI and OS.

To pursue this goal the project's work plan was designed according to three main strands aimed at understanding what is happening (analytical strand), testing possible solutions (testing strand) and promoting changes (proactive strand).

As a result, the analytical strand has developed a comprehensive analysis of the RRI and OS in European RFPOs, and concerns three domains, each one considered in a specific work package (WP):

- Governance settings favouring the embedment of RRI in RFPOs (WP1 Mapping and benchmarking).
- Variability of RRI and OS -related dynamics in different research and disciplinary sectors and national contexts (WP2 Sectoral diagnosis).
- The training process favouring the diffusion of RRI and OS -related knowledge and skills in RFPOs (WP4 Training tools and actions).

The testing strand has developed four co-creation experiments involving different RFPOs (namely Sapienza Università di Roma, ISQ Portugal, University of Liverpool and Open University) with the aim of:

- testing some of the main outputs (in terms of training approaches and governance settings) emerging from the analytical strand
- directly observing the RRI and OS in action, i.e. social, cultural and organisational dynamics activated by the experiments.

The four co-creation experiments have been carried out under WP3 (Co-creation Experiments) to meet the needs of:

- testing RRI tools and practices as well as governance settings favouring the embedment of RRI/OS
- engaging with RRI and OS, through the selected pilot sites, actors from academia, government, industry and citizens—according to the quadruple helix model—to favour the uptake of bottom-up, inclusive and co-creative actions
- testing the interaction and coordination among different kinds of knowledge, both of scientific and non-scientific nature, involved with co-creation processes.

Finally, the proactive strand fosters two main impacts:

- Developing training tools and actions as well as specific training strategies to improve the overall quality and impact of the existing training offer on RRI and OS, mainly by selecting, deploying and improving the most innovative RRI approaches and tools recently developed.
- Developing easily-accessible evidence-based guidelines on governance settings functioning as enablers for RRI and OS. Here a broad concept of 'governance setting' has been used, encompassing any institutional and organisational arrangement, tool, practice or cultural

input able to favour the embedment of RRI/OS as a whole as well as any RRI key in research organisations.

In this perspective, the concept of 'governance setting' may include the establishment of new institutional entities, the development of new decision-making procedures, the planning and implementation of specific action plans, the development of specific communication tools able to raise the internal awareness on RRI and OS.

With the aim of making all this knowledge emerging from FIT4RRI easily and openly accessible to a wide audience, we released a short animated video (https://youtu.be/MyTdNdujVko) to inform about the basic ideas of RRI and OS, explaining why it is important to take open research practices into account in scientific work, and showing the first steps to put RRI into practice. Similarly, we opened up a FIT4RRI community on Zenodo (https://zenodo.org/communities/fit4rri/) to share the project's main outcomes and results.

Now, that the conclusion of FIT4RRI is approaching we feel the start of a new phase that involve the entire RRI and OS community of practice: building upon the bricks of FIT4RRI and other similar projects (or at least contributing to build!) a novel paradigm for science that nowadays has to be open, inclusive, reflective and socially engaged.

## SUMMARY

FIT4RRI, funded under the SwafS 2016 call, moves from the assumption that there is a serious gap between the potential and the actual role RRI and OS could play in helping research funding and performing organisations to manage the rapid transformation processes affecting science and developed viable strategies and tools to implement institutional change through RRI and OS.

## PROJECT LEAD PROFILES

**Andrea Riccio** is the head of Sapienza office for strategic projects and research evaluation. She has been working in the writing and management of European proposals, especially H2020. She is involved in several projects dealing with RRI and socially responsible universities. She is an expert evaluator for the EC on SwafS calls and coordinates the FIT4RRI project.

## PROJECT PARTNERS

FIT4RRI brings together 12 partners from eight European Countries. It is coordinated by the Research and Technological Transfer division of Sapienza Università di Roma and includes: Conoscenza e Innovazione srl, University of Göttingen, Universidade do Minho, Helsinki University, ISQ, SEERC, Maastricht University, Liverpool University, Open University, Ciencia Viva and Norwegian University of Science and Technology.

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