

Athens, Tuesday 30 January 2024

## Press Release

### **CHANGER: The new European research project addressing changes in research ethics reviews, fostering ethics by design and supporting ethics committees**

CHANGER is a three-year Coordination and Support Action (CSA) project, funded by the European Union's Horizon WIDERA programme project aiming to promote changes in research ethics reviews by strengthening the capacities of researchers to incorporate ethical judgements in the project design and implementation, and by supporting ethics committees to address new challenges posed by new technologies and new research practices. The project kicked off in a two-day meeting on 22 - 23 January 2024 that took place in Athens, Greece on the campus of NCSR Demokritos.

CHANGER will review current practices and ethics criteria, will identify, and discuss new challenges emerging from new technologies and new research practices, which are not sufficiently covered in the current review process. It will provide innovative training to ethics review experts and researchers and will propose innovative approaches and tools to ethics review reform and new understandings to practice ethics by design, supported by guidelines and a policy roadmap.

Trust in science and technology as well as the utility and acceptability of their innovative outcomes is crucially dependent on the ethical qualities of the research. This is the reason why research projects are submitted to an ethical review. Although the existing ethics review infrastructure includes experienced members with expertise in traditional research, this is not the case for new technologies and transformative research that result in new human rights, such as digital rights. Thus, there is a clear need for ethics committees to evolve to cover this gap and to be able to support innovation while embedding new human rights.

The **CHANGER interdisciplinary partnership consists of 16 partners from 12 countries** with extensive and long-standing expertise in research ethics reviews, integrity oversight and human rights and can provide novel solutions to the needs in ethics reviews.

The CHANGER partnership consists of the following partners:

1. Coordinator [National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos"](#) - Greece
2. [University of West Attica](#) - Greece
3. [Medical Faculty Split](#) - Croatia

4. [University of Groningen](#) - The Netherlands
5. [Vienna University of Technology](#) - Austria
6. [Norwegian Institute for Sustainability Research](#) - Norway
7. [University of Bucharest](#) - Romania
8. [Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje](#) - Republic of North Macedonia
9. [University of Bonn](#) - Germany
10. [Knowledge and Innovation](#) - Italy
11. [KU Leuven](#) - Belgium
12. [Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich](#) - Germany
13. [University of Macedonia](#) - Greece
14. [Karlsruhe Institute of Technology](#) - Germany
15. [University of Coimbra](#) - Portugal
16. Associate Partner - [The Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro](#) - Brazil

#### Information for Journalists

- The project log and a photograph of the partners is attached for your use
- **For more information and updates about CHANGER visit our website [www.changer-project.eu](http://www.changer-project.eu) and follow us on social media: [LinkedIn](#) / [Twitter](#)**
- Media Contact: Elena Galifianaki, CHANGER Communications, [egalif@iit.demokritos.gr](mailto:egalif@iit.demokritos.gr)