

Report on MARIE Mid-Term Event, within the Responsible Innovation Summit

Mainstreaming Responsibility into Innovation Policy - How can European Projects integrate Responsible Innovation into Public Policy?

16th October 2018, Croke Park, Jones' Road, Dublin 3

We held our Mid-Term dissemination event within the Responsible Innovation conference, in Dublin on 16th October 2018. The event was held at [Croke Park](#), an amazing stadium, which is filled every week to its 80K capacity for Gaelic games. It is the largest stadium in Europe not used for association football.



The conference was an eye-opener about developments in Responsible Innovation on the ground. This included the [Business Spirit Awards](#), with innovative, responsible start-ups. It also provided thoughts and experience from international experts working in various sectors, such as responsible investments in the financial sector and data-driven innovations. The full agenda is available [on-line](#) alongside the list of [speakers](#).



The MARIE Mid-Term was a 2 hour workshop, organised within this inspiring event and entitled *Mainstreaming Responsibility into Innovation Policy - How can European Projects integrate Responsible Innovation into Public Policy?*

The event was about open debate and cooperation, bringing together a number of European projects working on Responsible Innovation. It was managed by Giulia Bubbolini, Lead Partner of the MARIE Project, with input from the amazing Expert Panel:

- ❖ Eleni Apospori, Athens University of Economics and Business – Research Centre, representing the [MARIE project](#)
- ❖ Julia Hahn, ITAS - Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, representing [RRI-Practice](#) - Responsible Research and Innovation in Practice
- ❖ Angela Simone, Fondazione Bassetti, representing [SMART-map](#) - RoadMAPs to Societal Mobilisation for the Advancement of Responsible Industrial Technologies
- ❖ Chiara Buongiovanni, APRE, representing [MARINA](#) - Marine Knowledge Sharing Platform for Federating Responsible Research and Innovation Communities
- ❖ Gordon Dalton, MaREI ERI, University College Cork, representing [RRING](#) – Responsible Research and Innovation Networking Globally
- ❖ Chiara Davalli, EBN, representing [COMPASS](#) -Evidence and opportunities for responsible innovation in SMEs



The presentations are available for download on the [MARIE Project Library](#). Here are some of the conclusions that emerged from the debate.

- ❖ Policy makers should not just commit to promoting Responsible Innovation, but make it make it the reference framework in designing innovation policies.
- ❖ Policy focus should not be (only) on putting new regulations in place, but (also) on enabling and driving change among all players.
- ❖ Although there is a lot of work and exchange around Responsible Innovation, the jargon used in different environments can differ. This can be an obstacle to mutual understanding at interregional level. On the one hand, the wealth of initiatives is beneficial and we should not advocate a one-size-fits-all approach. On the other, in order to help local politicians to understand and to facilitate transnational dialogue, some common definitions and key concepts would help.



- ❖ Politicians might benefit from the existence of a Responsible Innovation knowledge platform, as it is harder for them than for RRI experts and practitioners to stay up to date. A lot of initiatives, fora and repositories do exist currently, but it is difficult for policy makers to resort to them effectively and efficiently.
- ❖ To support Responsible Innovation, policy makers should provide tools for those companies that are willing to engage. It is not just about funds, but also about availability of hubs (physical premises as well as sources of methodological support and viable stakeholder engagement).

- ❖ An important role for policy makers is to support education of stakeholders. Awareness raising campaigns are important, but it would also be important to educate consumers to play a role in steering innovation, right from primary school and onwards.



- ❖ It would be important to not just reach out to policy makers in disseminating RRI, but also to civil servants with a role in supporting the design and delivery of innovation policies. There are the people with organisational roles within local public administrations.
- ❖ Funding instruments are important to enforce wanted change. Requirements could not just be about existence of prerequisites (thanks to which funding is awarded), but could also be about committing to change (that happens thanks to the funding having been awarded).

