



## 2nd RRI-LEADERS newsletter

Welcome to the second RRI-LEADERS newsletter! Have a look at the news we have gathered for you and learn more about the project and its implications. Forward the newsletter to anyone in your network who might be interested, and stay tuned! (You can also download it by [clicking here](#))

Four territories are participating in the RRI-LEADERS project to explore the implementation of territorial policy strategies

following the RRI principles: the city of Sofia, Bulgaria; the Region of Western Macedonia, Greece; the city of Sabadell, Spain; and the city of Thalwil, Switzerland.

During the next months we will present to you what each territory is doing.

In this second newsletter we would like to introduce you Sofia, Bulgaria and the role of its partners in the RRI-LEADERS project: the Applied Research and Communications Fund (ARC FUND), and the Sofia Development Association (SDA).

Listen to Sofia's RRI-LEADERS representatives on the RRI aspects focused on their territory.

## Policy areas for Sofia Municipality in the RRI-LEADERS project



Given the multifaceted issues that the city is confronting, Sofia has chosen to work in four policy areas in the RRI-LEADERS project, which are digital transition and new skills, support for innovation, youth employment and entrepreneurship, and sustainable urban development. But tackling these problems need for consensus building among all stakeholders and citizens which makes co-creation approaches inevitable in the process. [Read more.](#)

## Building the “Invisible City”

Urban development policies in the past several years have focused on transitions towards sustainability in areas like digital transformation, entrepreneurship, new skills, green innovation. Within the RRI-LEADERS project, Sofia had the opportunity to test new approaches to policy and territorial development, based on the RRI-AIRR framework.

[Read more.](#)



## The making of Sofia's new cultural strategy



On June 29th 2023, the Sofia Municipal Council adopted the new 10-year strategy for the development of culture in Sofia. This coincided with a meeting of the RRI-Leaders project partners, who had been working on the project for the past two and a half years. The co-creation method based on RRI-AIRR received its first official recognition in Sofia with the making of the city's new cultural strategy since the first one, developed in 2013 was up for revision. The development of this strategic document started in early 2022 and progressed alongside the RRI-LEADERS activities. [Read more.](#)

## 3rd Policy Learning workshop



RRI-LEADERS carried out on June 29th its 3rd Policy Learning workshop at the Sofia Municipality premises. Each session of this workshop was thoughtfully curated, and the knowledge shared, connections made, and inspiration gained will undoubtedly continue to propel us forward and enrich the trip to our Final Policy Conference in Brussels. Sofia Deputy Mayor Gencho Kerezov welcomed workshop participants. [Read more.](#)

## A hydrogen valley in Western Macedonia



The Region of Western Macedonia (RWM) is becoming a reference point on the energy map and in the post-lignite era, with a series of major projects "in the works" for the promotion of the hydrogen market being at the starting point. As part of this project, national and local authorities in RWM support the creation of a chain of projects that will promote the overall market for the production and transport of hydrogen and all the necessary tools, machinery and technologies around it. [Read more.](#)

## Property owners' engagement in the energy transition



With anticipatory energy planning, under the RRI-LEADERS project territorial foci, the municipality of Thalwil, one of the partners of RRI-LEADERS consortium, defined priority and suitability areas for various alternative heating technologies. The energy plan considers the settlement structure, future developments and the locally available energy potential. To engage property owners early in this transformation process, the municipality launched an innovative web portal with spatial visualisation of the energy plan. [Read more.](#)

## How citizens contribute to the RRI-LEADERS project



The Citizen Review Panel conducted under the RRI-Leaders project umbrella in May 2023, highlighted some significant results on Western Macedonia's case. Citizens had to comment, review and evaluate 11 actions accrued from three major objectives, regarding energy transition to a carbon-free production paradigm, Western Macedonia's main policy area. The other three RRI-LEADERS territories also organised citizen review panels. [Read more.](#)

## ETHNA: Ethics Governance System for RRI in Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres



The results and findings from three and a half years of ETHNA System project were presented and discussed at the conference in Castellón, Spain. After 42 months, the European Commission funded initiative ETHNA System in which two of our RRI-LEADERS project representatives (ARC Fund and DBT) were partners, successfully concluded. The project leaves behind a wealth of resources that will provide higher education, innovation ecosystems, research funding and research performing organisations with a robust basis for implementing a flexible ethical governance system. [Read more.](#)

## The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. UPDATED!!!



The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity serves the European research community as a framework for self-regulation across all scientific and scholarly disciplines and for all research settings. It has been updated to ensure that it remains fit for purpose and relevant to all disciplines, emerging areas of research, and new research practices. [Read more.](#)

## Embracing RRI in Industry 4.0: Enriching research and policy development



RRI plays a pivotal role in guiding the development and deployment of Industry 4.0 technologies. By embracing RRI in the early stages of research and development, stakeholders can collaboratively address societal concerns, foster ethical decision-making, promote sustainability, and shape policies that benefit all. Integrating RRI practices empowers researchers and policy makers to navigate the complexities of Industry 4.0 and build a future that prioritizes human well-being and sustainable technological development. RRI-LEADERS partners also deal with these implications through the implementation of RRI strategies in their local territories. [Read more.](#)



## The role of RRI in the ethical governance of AI

The correspondence between Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and artificial intelligence (AI) is based on the integration of ethical and responsible elements in the development and application of AI in initiatives with high impact and added value for society. [Read more.](#)

## Events

Find below the past events of the previous quarter and the upcoming ones in regard practical implementation of RRI topics & dimensions:

- **Kickoff SKYLA project.** Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition. May 15th – 16th
- **ETHNA Final Conference.** Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation in Practice. June 15th – 16th
- **2nd Conference "Entrepreneurship of Small and Medium Enterprises with Low Carbon Dioxide Emissions".** LGA-WM participation. June 20th
- **10th Forum of technologies and innovation.** For the promotion of the technological transfer and the networking among territorial stakeholders. June 21st
- **Triple Helix Association Conference.** Entrepreneurial and engaged universities for sustainable development. June 26th – 29th
- **Train-the-Trainer.** Integration of the sex and gender dimension in life sciences research. June 28th – 29th
- **RRI-Leaders 3rd Policy Learning workshop.** Vision of the territorial development with stakeholders & RRI-LEADERS partners discussion. June 28th -30th
- **TetRRIS Final Event.** Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation and Smart Specialisation Final Conference. July 4th – 5th
- **RRI-LEADERS Final Policy Conference.** Results from the RRI-LEADERS project. October 19th

## Links

In this section you can learn more about other RRI related projects and other interesting topics also in regard to RRI concepts too.

- **SKYLA.** Smart Specialisation Skills Ecosystems for the Twin Transition.
- **ETHNA.** Ethical Governance for Scientific Excellence.
- **ETHNA Project Book.** Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation in Practice.
- **WBC-RRI.NET.** Embedding RRI in Western Balkan Countries: Enhancement of Self-Sustaining R&I Ecosystems
- **RIPEET.** Responsible research and Innovation Policy Experimentations for Energy Transition
- **TetRRIS.** Territorial Responsible Research and Innovation and Smart Specialisation
- **ENTRANCES.** ENergy TRANSitions from Coal and carbon: Effects on Societies
- **EOSC-Live.** Building a Digital Space for the Live Sciences.
- **I-CHANGE.** Citizen Actions on Climate Change and Environment
- **BAL.** Barcelona Ageing Laboratory. Products and services for silver economy
- **InnovativeSofia.** To support Sofia's development as a smart, digital, innovative, and tech city
- **MOOC.** Course on Responsible Research and Innovation