



European Foundations Award for Responsible Research & Innovation

Searching for the best research for society, with society

Scope

In today's research and innovation, increasing importance is attached to responsibility. Research is conducted with and for society, directed at improving our lives and our children's future. But what is responsible and what is best within the context of uncertainty that inevitably accompanies research? Parallel to the big, positive impact on human welfare and wellbeing that research and innovation have had, and will certainly continue to have, new risks and ethical dilemmas are created and research does not always succeed in solving the problems targeted. Sometimes, research may even spur controversy.

Nowadays, researchers are becoming increasingly aware of the impact their work has on society. There is a growing interest in anticipating how decisions in research might shape society, the environment and our future. Researchers purposely integrate ways to reflect on, and be transparent about, the impact of their work in designing their research. Such methods - referred to under the umbrella term of 'Responsible Research and Innovation' (RRI) - enable researchers to contribute responsibly to developing smart, inclusive and sustainable societies.

The European Foundations Award for Responsible Research & Innovation has been launched with the aim of celebrating excellent research practices (i.e. research projects and programmes) in which the process requirements of RRI (e.g. eligibility and assessment criteria) have successfully been integrated throughout the research process. This award will provide an opportunity to explore, articulate and share promising responsible research practices across Europe.

Candidates will be asked to submit details of RRI as applied in a current or recent research project or programme. A shortlist of fifteen finalists will be selected from the entries and these will participate in a case study analysis where experts will take a closer look at the design,

process and impact of the research project or programme. Three award winners will then be selected, each of which will receive a prize of €20,000.

The award is a joint initiative of the King Baudouin Foundation (Belgium), “la Caixa” Foundation (Spain), Fondazione Cariplo (Italy), Lundbeck Foundation (Denmark), the Robert Bosch Stiftung (Germany) and the European Foundation Centre Research Forum. Together they signed a joint [statement](#) to develop, promote and support RRI and suggest that other foundations and philanthropic institutions consider doing so too.

This award is organized in close cooperation with RRI Tools, a project coordinated by “la Caixa” Foundation (www.rri-tools.eu), which demonstrates that good RRI practices already exist, but that these practices have to be articulated, developed and disseminated across Europe.

Who is the award for?

Universities, research centres, individual researchers, research consortia, civil society organisations and any other type of organization involved in a responsible research practice may apply. Research conducted solely by for-profit organizations is not eligible.

Value of the award

Three awards will be offered, each worth €20,000.

Eligibility criteria

As participant, you must meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Your scientific research project or research programme addresses a responsible research practice and is conducted by a university, research centre, industry, civil society organization or other type of organization.
- Your research coordinator must be located in the European Research Area.
- Your research must be on-going or have been finalised not earlier than 2013.
- Your coordinator of the research and his/her team must agree to participate in a case study analysis if shortlisted by the Award Committee.
- Your research team endorses the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#).

Assessment criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess and select the shortlisted candidates and winners of the award:

1. The scientific quality and results obtained to date by the researcher or research team.
2. Successful integration of the RRI process requirements at various stages of the research process:
 - a. Diversity & inclusion: the research must involve a wide range of stakeholders (researchers, citizens, policy makers, industry, educators, etc.) throughout the research process, pertinence of involvement and engagement methodology at different stages, attention to and respect for differences.
 - b. Anticipation & reflection: the research should incorporate an adequate analysis of the background (societal role, diverging problem definitions...), addressing ethical, legal, social and/or environmental aspects, envisioning plausible futures and facilitating deliberation on values, perceptions, needs and interests.
 - c. Openness & transparency: the research should communicate appropriate, honest and clear information about processes, roles, content and results and give transparent public information in order to facilitate fast innovation, constructive collaboration among peers and productive dialogue with civil society.
 - d. Responsiveness & adaptive change: the research should have the flexibility to change practices in response to feedback, new circumstances and insights and to changing values of stakeholders and the general public.
3. Replicability of the methodology

Selection process and deadlines

An award committee consisting of five independent European experts will select the fifteen most responsible research projects that were submitted for the award. These finalists will participate in a case study analysis that contributes to the final vote of the jury.

- Shortlisted candidates announced: February 2016
- Winners announced: Autumn 2016



Application

Researchers are invited to submit their application online: [click here](#).
The application should conform to the eligibility criteria listed above.

- Opening date for applications: 15 September 2015
- Application deadline: 7 December 2015

Additional information

- For general information (such as practical information on the online application form): contact center of the KBF, T 32 2 500 45 55 or mail proj@kbs-frb.be
- For specific information on the contents of this call: Sara Heesterbeek, T 32 2 549 02 46 or mail heesterbeek.s@kbs-frb.be