



Parallel sessions – SDGS at the HEART OF THE KNOWLEDGE SOCIETY
18th September 2017 – 11.30h

#2 RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH & INNOVATION: A NEW CONCEPT FOR A NEW SOCIETY?

The concepts of Research and Innovation may seem difficult to define and somewhat disconnected from the pressing issues that society is currently facing. For this reason, when we add the adjective “Responsible” and produce RRI we are introducing bridging points with citizenry. In this way, research becomes a “transparent, interactive process by which societal actors and innovators become mutually responsive to each other with a view to the (ethical) acceptability, sustainability and societal desirability of the innovation process and its marketable products (in order to allow a proper embedding of scientific and technological advances in our society)” (Von Schomberg, 2011). Therefore, we must take into account not only the process, but also the results of research.

In order to find connection points between science, technology, innovation and the changes and transformations of society we also need to identify which are the social conditions that allow those changes. In this way we can make practical contributions to facilitate the job of the different actors involved (governments, universities, NGOs, etc.). It is also a must to establish these connections points in developing countries.

The European Union establishes different areas of interest in relation with RRI and it has established specific indicators for each of these areas: public engagement, gender equality, education in science, accessibility, ethics, sustainability and social inclusion and justice. The connection with almost every SDG is evident, not only in aspects such as education and gender, but also in more generic topics such as sustainability and social justice that include the most critical SDGs (mainly, the end of poverty, zero hunger, health and well-being, clean water and sanitation, reduced inequalities, climate action, life on land, peace and justice, etc).

The differentiating factor of Responsible Research and Innovation is its main and final goal: the socio-economic development and improvement of life conditions, health and well-being of our societies. The responsibility both of research centres and governments shows the impact of Responsible Research and Innovation in public policies to achieve the SDGs.