GRACE
Grounding RRI practices in research funding and performing organisations

Ildiko M. Ipolyi
European Science Foundation
GRACE coordinator

What is RRI?

Responsible Research and Innovation

societal challenges should be a primary focus of scientific research

moreover, there are methods by which that goals should be achieved

RRI actions are promoted by

- actions on **thematic elements of RRI** (public engagement, open access, gender, ethics, science education + governance)

- and **integrated actions** that for example **promote institutional change** to foster the uptake of the RRI approach by stakeholders and institutions.

Overall aim of the GRACE project

GRACE aims to contribute to spreading/embedding Responsible Research and Innovation in the European Research Area by

Facilitating sustainable processes of institutional change

- through the development of a set of SMART Grounding Actions (GAs) in a selection of six RPFOs with visible impacts,

- by coordinating a selection of GAs into specific 8-year long 'Roadmaps towards RRI' specific for each consortium RFPO, using the first 3 years - the GRACE project - for paving the way of attaining further, more complex institutional changes in the medium- and long-term period (Y4–8),

- developing an approach that facilitates rapid institutional change, by providing expert support in the frame of a mutual learning process and a co-creation environment

Main assumption & concept

RRI has a role in the complex changes affecting R&I and institutional life/settings

RRI in GRACE

- *a strategy to help **RFPOs to manage the modifications affecting R&I, including their own internal mechanisms;***

- *an approach aimed not only at **promoting a better interaction between RFPOs and external actors**, but it also **provides more efficient means to cope with their current activities** e.g. research assessment, publications, labour relations, access to research funds, citizen engagement and citizen science.*

Key features I.

- 'Roadmaps towards RRI'

  An attempt to ensure sustainability in the RRI effort

  Tailored on the basis of the self-assessment and

  Linked to the GAs implemented within the project period

- Grounding Actions rather than Action Plans

  Action/coordinated set of activities that put down the basis to facilitate the embedding of RRI keys in the institution

  Contents vary by RRI key and institutional needs

Key features II.

- Co-creation and mutual learning

    Expert organisations support the development and implementation of the GAs

    Continuous mutual learning sessions to facilitate knowledge sharing among implementing organisations

    Monitoring and mentoring scheme to ensure continual support

- Evaluation and impact assessment

    Formative process evaluation for the benefit of the IOs

    Immediate and long-term impacts of the GAs

6

GRACE 3-step methodology

Preparatory Phase

Institutional assessment based on self-analysis (critical issues/needs)

Development of the self-tailored RRI profile

Design of the GAs

Development and Mutual Learning Phase

Implementation of the GAs

Stocktaking phase

Assessment

Roadmap revision

GRACE consortium

Implementing organizations

- ***Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Science and Arts (ZRC-SAZU), SI***
- University of Siena (UNISI), IT
- Swedish Environmental Research Institute (IVL), SE
- Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), ES

European Science Foundation (ESF), FR

University of Groningen (RUG), NL

Cooperating organization

- Knowledge and Innovation (K&I), IT
- Aahrus University (AU), DK
- European Network of Science Centers and Museums (ECSITE), BE
- South East European Research Center (SEERC), EL

Examples of Grounding Actions

Gender

Drafting a Gender Equality Plan (GEP)

Awareness raising info sessions to staff on gender issues

Revision of the gender equality approach in grant evaluation

Open Access

Establishment of institutional working group on Open Access

Institutional Open Access guidelines for all actors

Citizen engagement

Evaluation of the benefits of CE in the activities of an organization

Setting up of a web-based citizen engagement platform

Where we are now

- Close to completing the 2nd project year:

  in the development and mutual learning phase

- Implementing GAs as identified in the 1st version of the Roadmaps

- Gathering/sharing the first experiences and learning from each other

- Thinking in terms of long-term sustainability

Project results / experiences will be available for all from end 2021

- roadmap, evaluation approach, examples and experiences