Questions for Orientation in Addressing Research Ethics

In preparing the ethics section in your research proposal, you can use these questions for orientation. Be specific in your response. Keep checking for updates.

Ethical Foundations

1. What is the scientific and societal purpose of the project? Who benefits? Who may suffer disadvantages?

2. Have the ethical principles and guidelines of your institution (TU Responsible Research Practices; ÖAWI, etc.) and the European Code of Conduct been reviewed and considered? Are there further ethical standards to be met?

3. How does the project ensure transparency in methods, data use, and findings and how will accountability be maintained across the entire research process?

Specifics in Social Science and Humanities involving human participants in research

4. Will the study involve direct interaction with human participants and how will informed consent be obtained?

5. How are privacy and confidentiality ensured?

6. Does the project respect cultural contexts and what measures are taken to avoid cultural bias and misinterpretation of results?

7. Does the study involve potential elements that can inflict psychological or emotional stress in participants (staff and particularly non-staff) and what safeguards are in place to mitigate and control those elements?

Inclusivity, Diversity, and Use of AI

8. Does the research methodology consider biases that may play a role from an ethics perspective and are there strategies and mechanisms in the design to mitigate them?

9. Are diverse perspectives and groups represented adequately including vulnerable or marginalised populations?

10. Does the research design include the development, deployment and/or use of artificial intelligence solutions? What strategies are in place to prevent potential adverse changes in the ethical characteristics of the project?

Research Communication and Societal Engagement – 3rd Mission

11. How will findings be communicated responsibly to avoid misinterpretation, especially if results carry societal or political implications?

12. Is there a strategy to disseminate results openly with accessible language?

13. What protocols and mechanisms are in place to report or address unexpected or adverse in a transparent and ethical manner?

Misuse and Long-Term Implications

14. Could the research be misused or have unintended harmful applications? How will resulting risks be mitigated?

15. Does the research have long-term impacts on society and environment and how will the availability of research outputs be ensured in the future?

Research outside the EU

16. Does the research incur potential safety risks for the researcher/s or the research participants due to the political situation, social unrests, etc.? Does the location where the research is intended to be conducted qualify as a conflict region?

17. Is there a risk that potential favourable legal conditions and frameworks can be taken advantage of e.g., by the researcher/s, beneficiaries of the research, etc.? What measures are incorporated in the research design to minimise such risk?

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Etc.