

Ethics Policy ESDiT

In general, our research by its very nature has attention for ethics at its core. This relates to how Socially Disruptive Technologies (STDs) can be developed in more ethical ways, but also to scrutiny concerning our own research and the normative and societal contributions we make as ethicists. We aim to engage in societally beneficial research. Furthermore, at all universities affiliated with ESDiT PhD students take mandatory courses on academic integrity, and there are also trainings for senior staff members.

Most of the research done by ESDiT members is philosophical, i.e. conceptual-theoretical, without studying human behaviour or collecting personal data. However, some projects may involve collection of data. In those cases, researchers follow the policies of their respective institutions. Those individual projects that gather empirical data (e.g., interview data), should ensure that all project and research activities receive prior screening by a research ethics committee of one of the participating universities. We expect our members to work in line with good scientific practice and in compliance with ethical standards and existing rules and regulations. All researchers comply with local regulations of the participating universities.

Data management

Research projects gathering personal data and studies with human participants should receive prior approval from the ethics review board of the respective university. It is the responsibility of the project supervisors to ensure that such prior approval is obtained. A data management plan should be in place for all these projects. We also encourage ethics review for projects that do not involve human participants and personal data, because projects may have both foreseeable and unforeseeable social impacts that also require ethical scrutiny.

Research integrity

The ESDiT consortium will see to it that researchers adhere to the principles of honesty, scrupulousness, transparency, independence and responsibility, as specified in the [Netherlands Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#). ESDiT has a special responsibility in taking an ethical stance with respect to the study of and reflection on socially disruptive technologies and their impact on society. This includes, among others, retaining appropriate independence from stakeholders who develop, produce or sell technologies, and dealing responsibly with the ways in which our own research may influence the impact of such technologies on society.

All institutions affiliated with ESDiT have procedures for reporting, investigating and dealing with misconduct and fraud. The consortium will adhere to affiliated university rules in the event of an allegation of misconduct or fraud, particularly regarding fairness and thorough investigation and confidentiality. If a complaint is made against an ESDiT consortium member, for any form (potential) violation against the scientific integrity such as fabrication, falsification or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, the Coordinator (or the Vice-Coordinator in case of alleged misconduct by the Coordinator), will report it to the Management Board (MB) (except for the alleged) and notify the affiliated institution so that established local procedures can be followed. The Coordinator, or the Vice-Coordinator, will work closely with the affiliated university in investigating the allegation. If the allegation is reliably founded, the Coordinator, or the Vice-Coordinator, will be guided by the affiliated university in taking all necessary corrective actions.