

Code Number and Title:

LRI-S3: Benefits and risks evidence streams for decision makers

Background

Emerging governance frameworks associated with innovation and commercialisation of technology are beginning to address not only risks to human health (and to some extent the environment) as has been the case in the past, but also..... Recent discussion has focused on the evolution of benefit-risk paradigms that balance the weight of evidence from the perspective of both putative benefit assessment, as well as risk assessment. In addition, novel frameworks are needed to address socio-economic and ethical issues, as well as issues related to health and environmental impacts. The current proposal will build on research currently funded under the “society” stream, which has focused on interdisciplinary approaches to understanding societal responses to innovative technologies (LRI-S1), and developing new governance frameworks to accommodate risk-benefit analyses (LRI-S2).

Even within the context of traditional approaches to risk governance, policy translation of scientific evidence is fraught with difficulty. Policy makers may be non-specialist in a particular area of interest, and thus scientific evidence needs to be articulated in a form accessible to non-specialist audiences. Extending the risk analysis paradigm to incorporate benefit, as well as socio-economic and ethical assessment, will likely require the generation of additional/supplementary evidence in a form that is amenable to policy translation.

Objectives

This project is looking to identify the type and form of policy evidence required by policy makers to operationalize benefit-risk approaches to technology innovation. The project’s objectives are to:

1. Map current gaps in existing approaches to developing scientific evidence upon which to base concrete and actionable policy outcomes.
2. Examine emerging evidence requirements (and barriers to policy translation of this evidence) associated with benefit assessment.
3. Stipulate requirements in terms of an evidence base for factoring in socio-economic assessments to policy.

Scope

Review of existing policy regarding technological innovation relevant to the chemical sector.

***Fit with LRI objectives/ Possible regulatory and policy impact involvements/
Dissemination***

The range of existing and emerging policies at national, European and international levels relevant to the regulation of the risks and benefits of technological innovation will be conducted. This is expected to be a desk based study that will consider existing and emerging European legislation in a global context. It is important that account is taken of policies aimed at promoting European competitiveness. A case study will be developed to identify and exemplify specific evidence needs. Within this case study, gaps in the regulatory framework when measured against the need to maximise scientific and economic progress) will be described whilst at the same time protecting the safety and cultural interests of EU citizens. It is likely that a qualitative analysis of the opinions of policy makers will be conducted (for example, through semi-structured telephone and/or face-to-face interviews) to elicit information of relevance to the objectives of the project. A final stage of the project will “text” the recommendations of the case study against additional requirements of technological innovation and EU policy (for example, in other areas of application). Finally, additional stakeholders (e.g. from industry, NGOs and other constituencies) will need to be consulted with respect to the feasibility of implementation of the final recommendations.

Proposals are expected to include details of proposed methods, and these need to be agreed before an offer of funding can be confirmed. The successful contractor will be expected to work closely with researchers funded through the [LRI-S2 project -“Foresight study on introduction of new technologies; the case of nanotechnology”](#). A final dissemination event will be held in January 2015 to disseminate the integrated results of both the LRI-S2 and LRI-S3 projects.

Deliverables

The final report will comprise an executive summary (2 pages max), a main part (max. 50 pages) and a detailed CV and bibliography. It is expected that the findings will be developed into a peer reviewed publication, following presentation at a suitable scientific conference.

Cost and Timing

Start in January 2014, duration 12 months

Budget in the order of €100.000

Partnering/Co-funding

Applicants should provide an indication of additional partners and funding opportunities that can be appropriately leveraged as part of their proposal. Partners can include, but are not limited to industry, government/regulatory organizations, research institutes, etc. Statements from potential partners should be included in the proposal package.

References

If applicable

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: 1 September 2013

Please see www.cefic-lri.org for general LRI objectives information, project proposal form and further guidance for grant applications. For further assistance do not hesitate to contact lri@cefic.be.