Ethical Issues of Emerging ICT Applications (ETICA)
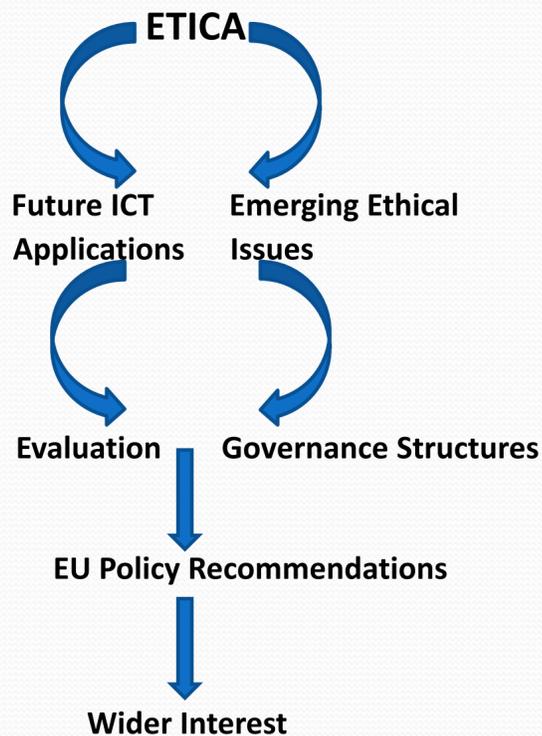
www.etica-project.eu

About the project

- The aim of the ETICA project is to investigate and evaluate future developments in ICTs and the resulting ethical issues. In addition, the project aims to evaluate and develop governance structures capable of addressing future ICT developments and ethical issues.

- The project will provide guidance to policy makers on a European, national and organisational level. The findings will be of interest and transferable beyond Europe.

Approach

- Look at the EU ICT landscape (both past and present)
    - Previous (FP6) ICT projects will give a sense of ethical issues that arose
    - Current (FP7) ICT projects will give a sense of ethical issues arising
    - There is potential to shape future technologies

    The choice to investigate FP projects is as a result of the wide range of EU ICT projects under the FP frameworks. This offers a rich and diverse starting point to investigate and evaluate trends in ICT development and ethical issues.

As such ETICA has already begun identifying emerging EU ICT categories which are subsequently outlined in the table below:

Summary of Emerging EU ICT Landscape

Trends	Purpose/Policy Aim	Applications/Challenges	Artefacts	Ethical Issues	Governance Structure
ever-increasing computational power plus decreasing size and cost	economic growth	network infrastructure	physical artefacts	research process	external governance
		cognitive systems, robotics	processes and procedures	informed consent legal compliance	
			IPv6	research content	ethical review as part of scientific review
advances enabling new types of interfaces	employment	components, systems, engineering	concurrent terra-device computing	privacy/data protection	
			quantum information foundations and technologies	ICT implants/wearable computing	external advisory board
ability to be connected anywhere, anytime with services on demand	demographic challenges solutions	digital libraries and content	bio-chemistry-based information technology	e-health related issues	internal governance
		healthcare	human-computer confluence	nano- and bio- electronics	
				research on animals	
		sustainability	self-awareness in autonomous systems	research involving developing countries	work package on ethics
creation of virtual places, service providers and products	social/political inclusion	inclusion	molecular-scale devices and systems	research involving human embryos or foetuses	
			brain-inspired ICT	dual use (military or terrorist applications)	informed consent procedures

Questions to consider

- Which emerging technologies do we identify and analyse from the EU framework programme and beyond?
- How do we study and analyse them?
- Why choose certain projects and not others?
- How do we undertake data analysis?
- What type of data can we look to analyse?
- How do we evaluate the technologies?
- How do we link the different areas we analyse , for instance how do we link emerging technologies to governance structures?
- How do we determine the governance structures and which form do they take?

Partners

- De Montfort University
- VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland
- Technical University of Delft
- Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe
- University of Namur
- Steinbeis Hochschule
- Eotvos Karoly Public Policy Institute
- University of Lodz

Advisory Board

- Analytica
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- The European Association for E-Identity and Security

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