ITN Ethical Issues

Research Executive Agency
Marie Curie host-driven actions

ITN Coordinators Meeting
Brussels, September 2012

Several types of ethical issues:

- **Informed Consent**

When the proposal involves children, patients or persons not able to give consent, adult healthy volunteers, Human Genetic Material, Human biological samples, Human data collection

- **Research on Human embryos/foetus**

When the proposal involves Human Embryos, Human Foetal Tissue/Cells, Human Embryonic Stem Cells

- **Privacy and data protection**

When the proposal involves processing of genetic information or personal data (eg. health, sexual lifestyle, ethnicity, political opinion, religious or philosophical conviction), tracking the location or observation of people

- **Research on Animals**

When the proposal involves research on animals
those animals are transgenic small laboratory animals?
those animals are transgenic farm animals?
those animals are cloning farm animals?
those animals are non-human primates?

- **Research Involving Developing Countries**

When Use of local resources (genetic, animal, plant, etc.)? Benefit to local community (capacity building ie access to healthcare, education, etc.)

- **Dual Use**

When Research having potential military/terrorist application

- **During Negotiations, what should have been done:**
  - If your project has one or more ethical issues, you should have received Ethics recommendations either from the Ethics Screening Report done during central evaluations, also described in your Negotiation mandate, or from the Ethics Review Report
  - These Ethics recommendations should be addressed in your Annex I, in the B6 Ethics Section
  - You should have sent your PO a copy of all Ethics documents/authorisations/animal licences for all partners either before the end of the negotiations, or at the latest before the start of the research work related to the ethics issues
  - You should have confirmed by email that the ethics documents were valid for the work done within your project

- **During Project implementation:**
  - In case of any update of your Ethics documents, you should send REA a copy of the updated document no later than the start of the research work related to the Ethics issues
  - You should confirm by email that the updated ethics documents are valid for the work done within your project
  - If applicable, you should have identified an ethics coordinator

- **Reporting Periods (Progress and Periodic reports):**
  - Check if all ethics issues are cleared otherwise. It can block your Interim or Final Payment

Scientific Integrity

Scientists and recruited fellows expected to uphold the highest standards of scientific integrity during project implementation

This means employing good research practices, avoiding:

- Fabrication
- Falsification
- Plagiarism
- Conflict of interest
- Misuse of funds

See ESF Code of Conduct, Singapore Statement, etc.

Responsibility of Coordinators

Note that coordinators are responsible for "monitoring the compliance of beneficiaries with their obligations" under the Grant Agreement (Annex II.3.e).

PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU READ THE GRANT AGREEMENT CAREFULLY AND THAT YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPLEMENTATION RULES!

Any doubts, ask your PO for clarification