D2.3 RRI Methodology for Project and Development of Initial Scenarios – Summary

The aim of D. 2.3 is to outline the elements of a Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) framework for BODEGA. To that end, the text attempts to translate the RRI principles for the security sector and more specifically for border control while following the pragmatist spirit and applying what is called an “end in view” perspective. In the pursuit of that the deliverable will try to adapt RRI guidelines to border control issues in order to understand how to improve the efficacy of performance taking into account three main dimensions - speed, security and fairness. This particular conceptual effort within the BODEGA project is in line with some major changes that provoked a shift in the governance framework of European societies towards more democratic, transparent, horizontal and responsible decision-making processes.

RRI is a normative orientation as to research and innovation that tries to keep together different drivers and apparently clashing logics under one main umbrella. What is more, there are certain efforts to establish RRI as an innovative governance framework itself as it emphasises the relationship amongst societal domains and the dynamics driving social actors as interconnected and not merely intersected. This challenge entails increased awareness of the dependency of actors on each other and the significant normative connection amongst social dimensions. Different social actors do not come across randomly and cannot operate according to an isolated logic but should develop collaborative mechanisms.

Given that, D2.3 aims to reason on the conditions for developing the above-mentioned collaborative mechanisms so that the perspectives of those social actors meet in a co-creation process and they come up with solutions for enhanced human performance in border control. This in turn requires an important conceptual adjustment. If we assume that border control is simply an intersection of the driving logics (or interests) of different domains, our quest for efficacy of the performance will be stuck with yet another trade-off between different value orientations (freedom vs. security; security vs. dignity; privacy vs. control; speed/profit vs. security, etc.). The text tries to avoid this well-known trap in considering the governance of border control and examines the interconnection between the three main value orientations it has outlined – speed, security and fairness.

As a first step in doing that, chapter two explores the meaning of innovation not only in terms of products but also of processes and paradigms. This is important for BODEGA since it aims at elaborating novel socio-technical solutions for improved border control, in a way to propose incremental innovation as to the organization of the border control process. But in order to rise to the challenge of actually being innovative in a responsible way it needs to consider how innovative is the conceptual basis on which it puts its own research process. An undeniable part of that is to avoid to reproduce the security-efficiency paradigm in which border control is usually being analysed.
This is the reason why the third chapter explores and reinterprets the notions of responsibility and freedom in their moral, legal and social manifestations, an operation that gives the project conceptual grounds for examining the interconnectedness (and not the conflict) between the main normative orientations in border control. At the same time, the text introduces the fundamental rights domain as a normative guidance when it comes to the actual enactment of the freedoms and responsibilities of the parties involved in the border crossing process.

Then the fourth chapter recalls the significance and peculiarities of the different parts composing RRI with a specific focus on the concept of responsibility, because it is the one that still puzzles researchers and policy-makers with its ambiguity. That part of the text operationalises the underlying principles of RRI as such, without getting wedged in the exegesis of its numerous understandings or following the wide range of theoretical interpretations. Following a pragmatic stance, the text resorts to what the institutional framework is suggesting and opens the RRI door for the project by taking and working with the guidelines that the EU Commission has adopted and promoted. For that end, short overview of the so-called “six keys” (Engagement, Gender, Science Education, Open Access, Ethics, Governance) is provided.

Following that, chapter five attempts at translating the “six keys” proposed by the EC and some under-lying principles of border controls, embedded in documents such as FRONTEX Code of Conduct and Fundamental Rights Strategy, into concrete aspects pertaining to the border control process so to unveil the problems and barriers to responsible border control. As it has been demonstrated in the text, the main obstacles are usually detectable in deficiencies of the communication processes.

Finally, chapter six introduces the specifics of the scenario method for the purposes of BODEGA and selects certain illustrative stories from Deliverable 3.2 that could serve as a starting point of discussing the problems and barriers to applying the RRI framework in the governance of border control.

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