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## **Promises and challenges of RRI governance: Transversal lessons**



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The concept of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) and related initiatives of governance are relatively new. Nevertheless, evidence from different fields of research and innovation already shows promising ways of RRI governance, but also obstacles, challenges and side effects. The paper analyzes several governance instruments and processes which have the potential to promote responsibility in R&I as well as their impediments and side effects. It compares three cases from Austria and Germany, in which actors from government, research, and industry use different instruments (e.g., environmental impact assessment, ethics committees, interdisciplinary research, engagement of a critical public) in three areas of research and innovation (general basic research, biomedicine, fracking for shale gas) to promote different aspects of RRI. The paper will provide an overview of the attempts to promote RRI in these cases and the governance instruments and procedures applied therein. Its main focus lies in cross-case comparison and lessons for RRI governance. It will be argued, that the success of RRI governance might be closely linked to issues of effective communication; the existence of communication fora; issues of framing, values, and boundary setting as well as deep institutional change. The research was funded by the European Commission within the 7th Framework Programme and conducted in the Res-AGorA project; <http://www.res-agera.eu>.

