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Beyond Bibliometrics: New Approaches to Mapping Science and Technology RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

ABSTRACT

Changing governance for Responsible Research and Innovation: the role of evaluation

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Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) gained a momentum in STS studies from 2011, when a Workshop promoted by the DG Research to building the notion of Responsible Research and Innovation in Europe (EC 2011), ended up with: a) the concepts of science for society, targeted to Europe's societal challenges and to the production of a right impact; b) the concept of science with society, thus on responsiveness of research and innovation to society in the face of the uncertain effects that can be produced; and finally c) the need to make the motivations and the intentions for actions in R&I more democratic.

Several pieces of literature discussed the key RRI dimensions, and the need of mechanisms able to explore the type of impact a decision of science might produce, with assessment and forward looking processes, anticipatory governance, accountability tools (Callon et al, 2009; Felt et al., 2007; Guston, 2012; Owen et al., 2012; Hessel et al., 2009; Rip, 2011; van den Hove, 2012), as well as frameworks for supporting the development of RRI (Stilgoe et al., 2013).

The paper wants to contribute to the debate concentrating on the results of the recent SiS-RRI Stocktaking Conference 2014 (<http://www.sis-rri-conference.eu>), and particularly on issues related to governance (Reale, 2014), highlighting the role of different actors in a multi-level and multi-layered policy space such as R&I policy. Moreover, the institutionalization of RRI is likely to impact reforms and restructuring processes, as well as missions of the mentioned organizations. In this respect the importance of evaluation, forward looking and new metrics are discussed.