

Welcome to the final irecs newsletter

In this digital era, technologies are appearing faster than their ethical considerations can be weighed. As research evolves, maintaining high ethical standards is essential to winning public trust in scientific work. Our teams across and beyond Europe collaborated to achieve irecs' mission to improve the understanding of research ethics and to train researchers and research ethics reviewers to anticipate and mitigate ethical issues in [four technologies](#): genome editing, AI in healthcare, Extended Reality and biobanking.

The irecs project wrapped up at the end of 2025 after a busy few months that included the project's final event, the finalisation of key results, and several important publications. Read on or [visit our website](#) for an overview of our final outputs and the consortium's latest activities.



Key results



irecs training materials

irecs developed a comprehensive resource designed to educate individuals on research ethics and research integrity, with a particular focus on the ethical considerations surrounding emerging technologies:

- **Stage 1 (Basics):** Introduction to fundamental concepts of research ethics and integrity
- **Stage 2 (Emerging Technologies):** AI in healthcare, gene editing, biobanking, and extended reality
- **Stage 3 (Case Studies):** Six case studies complementing the technology modules

The materials offer a flexible and in-depth learning experience on research ethics and integrity and cater to a range of users, from beginners to experienced professionals in the research field.

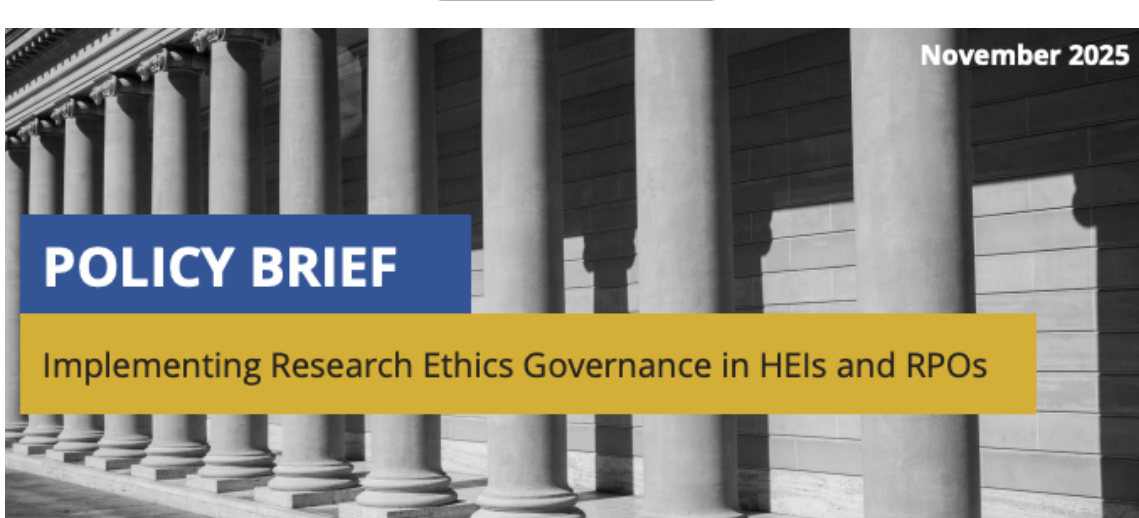
We've already trained over 800 individuals, what are you waiting for?

[Start learning now](#)

irecs implementation guide

We've created an Implementation Guide to support higher education institutions and research funding organisations in implementing a comprehensive research ethics governance structure at their institutions. Read the guide, which is based on pilot studies in different universities and demonstrates how ethics can be embedded in diverse real-world environments, below.

[Get the guide](#)



Policy brief: Implementing research ethics governance in HEIs and RPOs

Our latest policy brief targets higher education institutions (HEIs) and research performing organisations (RPOs). Within these organisations, strong research ethics governance structures support the execution of ethical research, strengthening responsibility and trust in science. In this policy brief, the irecs project lays out a four-pillar framework to guide the implementation of research ethics governance at HEIs and RPOs and offers recommendations for the leaders of these institutions.

[Read the brief](#)

Our Blog



Engaging Citizens in the Design of Ethics Reviews Processes

As part of its stakeholder engagement approach, irecs contributed to a public workshop on artificial intelligence and its societal impact in Methoni, Greece, bringing together researchers, students, and local community members. Through expert talks, discussion, and active

participation, the event fostered dialogue on AI ethics, research integrity, and the role citizens can play in ethical research and governance. irecs also presented its methodology and training materials available via the ENERI Classroom. [Read more about the event here.](#)

Training Horizon Europe Appraisal Scheme Experts on irecs Materials

Last September, the irecs team delivered an online training on AI in health to experts responsible for reviewing European research grant proposals. The event, which included a lecture on the current state of AI in healthcare and breakout rooms focused on case studies, was a success, drawing 120 people with a further 300 expressing interest in the training materials. This impact demonstrates the need for the irecs training materials as experts look for support integrating ethical considerations of new technologies into their reviews. [Read more here.](#)



ENRIO 2025 Congress in Ljubljana: Research Integrity, Power Dynamics, and Safe Institutional Culture

On 22-24 September irecs partners attended the 2025 ENRIO Congress. This year's theme was "Research Integrity, Power Dynamics and Safe Institutional Culture." irecs partners presented a poster on the project's dissemination activities and gave a talk on AI in health, focusing on the

ethical implications of using AI in healthcare research and presenting the irecs training materials. [You can read more about the event here.](#)

Recent activities

irecs Final Event

On 11-12 December, irecs celebrated the completion of the project with its final conference in Brussels, bringing together policymakers, academics, industry representatives and international partners. The programme featured keynote speeches, presentations of project outcomes and training materials, and panel discussions on responsible research, academic freedom, cultural sensitivity and ethics governance. The event concluded with forward-looking discussions on sustaining irecs' impact and building on its results in future initiatives such as AIOLIA. [Read more about the event here.](#)



We're on YouTube!

We've created a YouTube channel to make the videos created as part of our training modules more easily accessible. Head to [@irecsProject](#) for videos covering topics including the benefits and risks of AI in healthcare, ethical considerations related to gene editing, and a case study of the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone.

New eCampus Course at the University of Bonn Brings irecs Training Materials into Practice

The University of Bonn has integrated irecs training materials on research ethics and emerging technologies into a new eCampus course for doctoral students. Through this course, students can take structured tests on topics like AI in health, biobanking, genome editing and extended reality. This initiative shows how freely available irecs resources are being used in formal academic settings to support ethical reflection and strengthen research integrity in real qualification pathways. [Read more about the course here.](#)



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