

# Welcome to the irecs July 2025 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 Europe continue to work towards irecs' mission to improve the understanding of research ethics in Europe 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.

Read on or [visit our website](#) to see what irecs has been doing over the past six months.



## Latest news



### 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](#)

### Website revamp

Our website is getting a new look! Stay tuned and get ready for an improved, more engaging experience. Here is a sneak peek of what's coming.



### New BSKY account

As things change, so do our online spaces. We have recently transitioned from X to Bluesky. Follow us at [@irecs.bsky.social](#) to stay connected <https://bsky.app/profile/irecs.bsky.social>

## Our Blog



### In Science We Trust? Irecs Joins the Conversation at the EMBL Conference

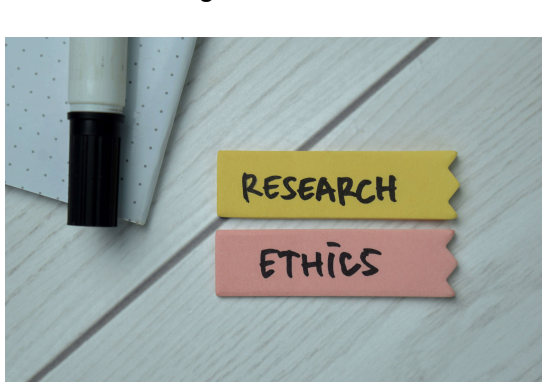
On 16–17 June 2025 irecs joined the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL)'s [annual Science and Society Conference](#), this year under the thought-provoking title: "In Science We Trust?".

We were grateful to showcase our work through a poster and flash talk, which generated significant interest and lively conversations, especially regarding our training materials. [Read more](#)

### Global Discussions on the Societal Impact of Technology – irecs Takes the Stage in Vienna

On 2-4 June 2025, Vienna became the epicentre of global discussion on the societal impact of technology, as it hosted the [1st Global Technology Assessment \(TA\) Conference](#) and the [6th European TA Conference \(ETAC6\)](#).

Among the many voices at the conference, the irecs project made a strong impression. With two dedicated sessions and a widely discussed poster presentation, irecs showcased its contribution to global debates on research ethics in emerging technologies. [Read more](#)



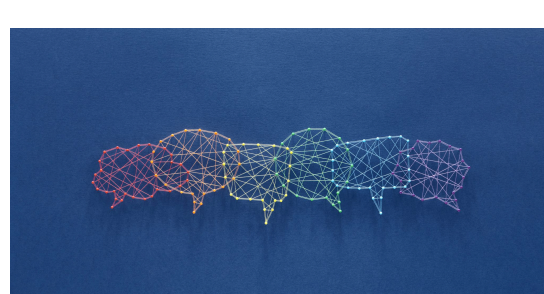
### Fostering Research Ethics Training: Insights from the irecs Train-The-Trainer Workshop in the Netherlands

On 3-4 April 2025, the irecs Amsterdam team hosted an engaging two-day Train-the-Trainer event in the Netherlands. Funded by the CATALIST grant of AmsterdamUMC,

the event brought together over twenty trainers from across the world to explore and exchange ideas on how to implement the irecs [training e-modules](#) on [four key topics](#): biobanking, gene editing, extended reality, and AI in healthcare. [Read more](#)

### Exploring AI Ethics in Healthcare: An irecs Workshop at KIT

On 25 March 2025, the irecs team at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) held an in-person workshop at the Institute of Technology Assessment and Systems Analysis (ITAS). Early-career researchers and PhD students convened to explore the ethics of emerging technologies and research ethics, using AI in healthcare as a central case study. [Read more](#)



### Health-Related Findings: What Should Biobanks Offer Participants Like You?

Ever wondered what happens to your data after donating to a biobank? A key ethical challenge is deciding what individual health findings should be returned to participants. Our blog examines the varying approaches:

some biobanks share nothing, others focus on critical, actionable results, while some are exploring more flexible options, like information relevant for family planning. Understanding these differences is crucial for both participants and researchers. What kind of information would you value most from a biobank study? [Read more](#)



Research Ethics Around the World –  
How Does It Compare to the Practices  
in the EU?

Ever wondered how research ethics committees (RECs) operate outside the EU? Our study dives deep into the work of RECs globally, comparing them to the EU and uncovering key differences, challenges, and what works well. It highlights the impact of cultural values on ethical decision-making, emphasising the need for a more inclusive global ethics framework. [Read more](#)



News from the Research Ethics Cluster

Dive into Research Integrity in Open Science

[ROSIE](#) has published the full video recordings from its Final Event, hosted by [STOA - Panel for the Future of Science and Technology](#). You're invited to watch the insightful discussions from the Academic Freedom Roundtable on "Research Integrity in Open Science for Europe." The entire event is now available as a curated playlist, organised by speaker and topic for easy navigation. Watch the full playlist [here](#).

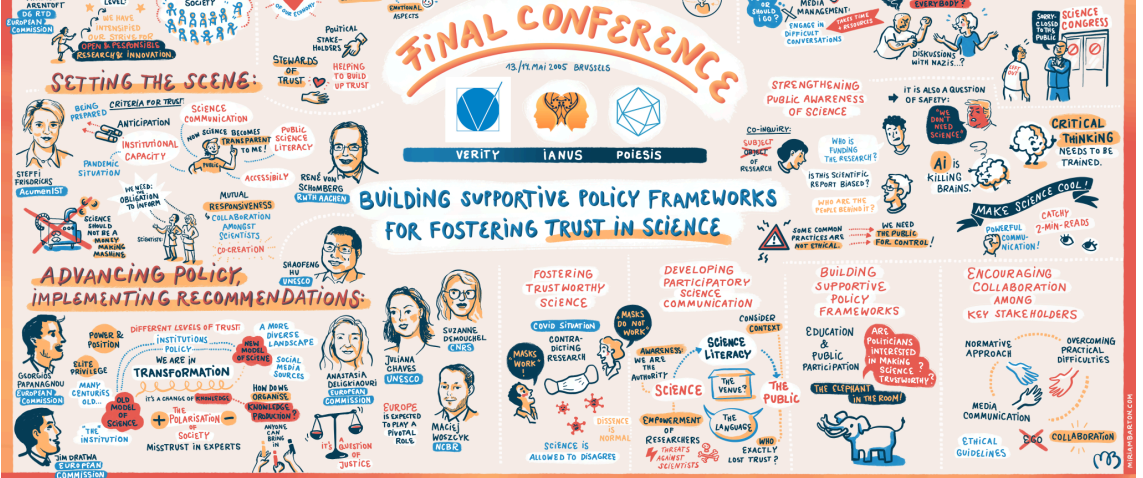
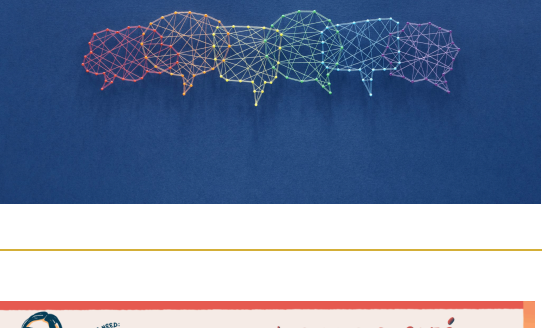
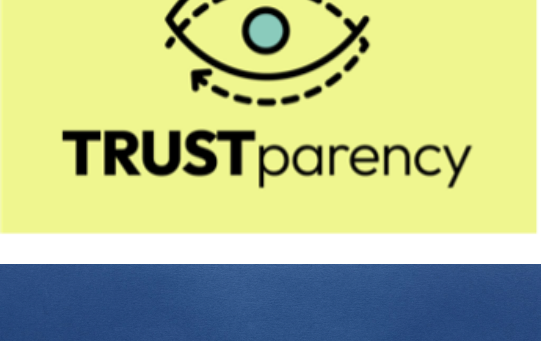


XR4HUMAN



**Join XR4Human’s final conference**  
[XR4Human](#) is organising its final conference "XR4Human Code of Conduct Conference" on 30 September 2025 in Brussels. The event will bring together voices from industry, research and policy to shape a more human-centric, ethical, and inclusive future for XR technologies. This event will offer engaging discussions on responsible XR, interoperability, and the future of extended reality in Europe. [Register here](#)

**Join the conversation - TRUSTparency launches its Reproducibility Community**  
[TRUSTparency](#) launched its Reproducibility Community, a group powered by LinkedIn, with the aim to offer a platform for fruitful interaction and exchange of ideas contributing to the enhancement of reproducibility practices and the empowerment of a research culture enabling the proper implementation of these practices. Join the community [here](#).



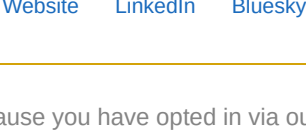
**Building Trust in Science: IANUS, POIESIS, & VERITY’s Joint Final Conference**  
The sister projects [IANUS](#), [POIESIS](#) and [VERITY](#) co-organised their 2-day Final Conference “Building Supportive Policy Frameworks for Fostering Trust in Science” on 13-14 May 2025 in Brussels. The event's rich agenda included: a) the presentation and discussion on the findings and policy recommendations from the three EU-funded research projects and b) a Co-Creative World Café setting to explore the complexities of trust and distrust in science, specifically focusing on climate change, health, and technology, while bringing together experts, project representatives, policymakers, and artists. [Read more](#)



**Promoting Equitable Science During Crisis - PREPARED final conference**  
Moderated by science journalist and broadcaster Vivienne Parry OBE, the PREPARED Final conference which took place in Paris on 3 June, brought together internationally renowned experts, including delegates from the PREPARED project and invited guests, such as Prof. Peter Singer, and was attended by more than 100 people. The conference marked the exciting launch of the [PREPARED Code](#), a [Springer Brief](#), [Harassment Guidelines](#), and the opening of the consultation for the [TRUST Code Supplement](#). We also advocated for [fairer visa processes](#) to strengthen global science. [Read more](#)



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