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Content

- > [Lively Third Conference](#)
- > [Proceedings in responsible innovation to be published](#)
- > [Margreet Zwarteveen appointed Professor of water governance at UNESCO](#)
- > [New chain partners in bioeconomy must build up trust](#)
- > [Small-scale networks effective for monitoring new medicines](#)
- > [65 preproposals for new call](#)
- > [Take-off, new research programme](#)
- > [Cognitive enhancement conference](#)
- > [Nicole Vincent presents TedXtalk in sold-out Sydney Opera House](#)

News

Lively Third Conference

Responsible Innovation researchers and research partners are becoming more and more of a genuine community. That is one of the conclusions from the Third International Conference on Responsible Innovation, which was organised by NWO on 21 and 22 May 2014. It was a very lively conference, visited by a record number of 150 visitors.



Most of them came from the Netherlands, but Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Poland, Spain, the United States and even India, Indonesia and Tanzania, were also represented.

Besides a wealth of academic papers on health, sustainability, safety and privacy and lots of valuable face-to-face meetings, the conference also featured science policy sessions. Here researchers and stakeholders from society exchanged thoughts on subjects as diverse as energy, research with (bio)security aspects, and military ethics.

[Read more, watch videos >](#)

Proceedings in responsible innovation to be published

On 31 July 2014, Springer will publish the first volume of

proceedings in responsible innovation: *Responsible Innovation: Innovative Solutions for Global Issues*. The book is based on the First International Conference on Responsible Innovation, organised by NWO in 2011. It has been edited by the programme committee of the Responsible Innovation research programme. It addresses the methodological issues involved in responsible innovation, i.e. multidisciplinary research into the ethical and societal aspects of new technologies and of changes in technological systems. It also presents an overview of recent applications, incorporates different approaches, discusses experiences and lessons and learned and considers more general theoretical issues. Later this year a second volume will be published.

[Read more >](#)

Margreet Zwarteveen appointed Professor of water governance at UNESCO

Irrigation engineer Margreet Zwarteveen, currently involved in a Responsible Innovation project on drip irrigation in Morocco, has been appointed Professor of Water Governance at UNESCO's institute for water irrigation. Zwarteveen intends to put gender and other diversity and justice issues more firmly on the agenda according to an interview on the institute's website.



(Photo: Dirk Gilissen)

[Read the interview >](#)

[Read the research proposal for DRiP: Drip irrigation Realities in Perspective >](#)

Research results

New chain partners in bioeconomy must build up trust

To make the bioeconomy successful, new value chains are needed in which farmers, chemists, energy companies and other partners collaborate closely together. These parties often have very different expectations and that is a potential stumbling block for the bioeconomy.



Knowledge brokers can play a role in realising the new value chains and in enabling these to function smoothly. These are the conclusions of Dr Lotte Asveld and Dr

Jurgen Ganzevles based on the research they carried out in the NWO programme Responsible Innovation and for which they cooperated intensively with companies and NGOs. The research was realised under the supervision of professor Patricia Osseweijer and will be presented soon.

[Read more >](#)

Small-scale networks effective for monitoring new medicines

The first generation of research projects in the NWO programme Responsible Innovation, which started in 2010, are still bearing fruit. This is apparent from a recently published article in the journal *Research Policy*. In this article, innovation scientists Wouter Boon and Ellen Moors and public administration researcher Albert Meijer call for the monitoring of new, not yet fully tested medicines in small-scale, closed networks of patients and physicians. They base this on the Responsible Innovation study *New modes of governing pharmacovigilance*.



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Calls and grants

65 preproposals for new call

The new call in the Responsible Innovation research programme can count on a lot of interest. 15 May was the deadline for preproposals. Until that date multidisciplinary research teams could submit research proposals together with private partners. At the end of this month, applicants will hear whether they are invited to elaborate their preproposal.

Take-off, new research programme

In June, NWO will launch a call for Take-off, a new research programme aimed at commercial application of innovative knowledge. Take-off provides early-stage financing, like funding for feasibility studies or for the application of the actual knowledge. Deadline for proposals is 1 October 2014. More information about the call will be published on the [NWO website](#).

Events

Cognitive enhancement conference

On 13-15 August, the Enhancing Responsibility Project, a collaboration between Delft University of Technology and Oxford University funded by NWO's Responsible Innovation research programme, is organising a conference on cognitive enhancement. The use of drugs that enhance mental performance such as wakefulness, attention and clarity of thought is on the rise. This entails a range of scientific, legal, political, moral and personal questions, all of which will be examined at the conference.

[Go to the conference website >](#)

Nicole Vincent presents TedXtalk in sold-out Sydney Opera House

To pop the pill or not to pop the pill? That is the key question in a TedXSydney talk the Polish-Australian philosopher Nicole Vincent gave on 26 April to an audience of over 2000 people.

[Watch the TedXtalk >](#)



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Responsible Innovation

Technological developments may fail if their ethical and social consequences are not considered in time. NWO's Responsible Innovation programme funds and encourages research that considers the ethical and social aspects of new technology from the design phase onwards. Researchers from different scientific disciplines collaborate in this programme, such as ethicists, behavioural scientists, economists, psychologists and engineers.

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