

2018



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774210



Project strategy on gender, youth involvement and ethics

Norwegian Institute of
Public Health
31.07.2018



Deliverable administration and summary			
Due date	31.07.2018		
Submission date	31.07.2018		
Deliverable type	Report		
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Final review and approval			

Document change history				
Version	Release date	Reason for Change	Status (Draft/In-review/Submitted)	Distribution

Dissemination level	
PU	Public



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1. Background

CO-CREATE is a five-year Research and Innovation Action project funded by the EU Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (Work Programme 2016-2017: Food security, sustainable agriculture and forestry, marine and maritime and inland water research and the bioeconomy) under grant agreement No 774210. The project has 14 institutional partners from nine different countries including six European countries, South Africa, USA and Australia.

The purpose with the strategy document is to define CO-CREATE's standard for ethics, youth involvement and the gender dimension that all project partners are obliged to align to.

The main target groups for the strategy are: (i) the institutional partners and individuals involved in the CO-CREATE project consortium, (ii) all external partners and collaborators that will participate and/or interact with the CO-CREATE project activities throughout the project period, and (iii) the public domain in general.

This strategy has been approved by the CO-CREATE project steering committee. The strategy will be subjected to ongoing development and amendments throughout the project period as appropriate. Any changes and amendments will be noted in the document change history above.



2. Gender

CO-CREATE uses the term "gender" as defined by the European Institute of Gender Equality (EIGE):

"Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities associated with being male and female and the relationships between women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations between women and those between men. These attributes, opportunities and relationships are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. They are context/ time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a women or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context. Other important criteria for socio-cultural analysis include class, race, poverty level, ethnic group and age." ¹.

2.1 Gender equality

CO-CREATE aims to promote equal opportunities, responsibilities and secure balanced participation of women and men in the research teams involved in the project activities through the recruitment strategies.

CO-CREATE will take into account interest, needs, priorities, perspectives and experiences of men and women, boys and girls, or males and females, in the research planning, implementation and analyses.

CO-CREATE considers the overall project aim of reducing childhood obesity also to have a potentially, positive impact on gender equality.

2.2 Gender balance

CO-CREATE aims to have gender balance in the project consortium in general, among the work package leaders, and team, at all levels and in decision-making positions, including at supervisory and managerial level.

CO-CREATE will promote working conditions that allow all members of staff to combine work and family life in a satisfactory manner. This includes creating working conditions and culture that allow men and women to have equally fulfilling careers.

2.3 Gender dimension in the research

CO-CREATE aims to include a focus on the gender dimension in all research activities.

In the review of research literature and other sources, CO-CREATE will have a specific focus on the gender dimension.

CO-CREATE data collections instruments will be designed to reveal potential gender issues.

¹ EIGE <http://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/concepts-and-definitions> (accessed 24.07.18)



CO-CREATE will consider publications and events on genderrelated findings in particular and present research findings that focus on relevant gender differences.

2.4 Gender monitoring and reporting

CO-CREATE will describe the procedures for monitoring and handling gender related issues in the Quality Assurance Plan.

The CO-CREATE Project Steering Committee will address gender related issues that might occur within the project.



3. Youth involvement

The target group for CO-CREATE is young people of the ages 13-19 years. Young people are involved in different roles and processes throughout the project period.

3.1 Listening to and supporting young people's expressions

CO-CREATE focuses on listening to young people's views, opinions and ideas throughout the project.

CO-CREATE will facilitate, support and encourage young people who are involved in any project related activity to express their views, opinions and ideas.

CO-CREATE aims to stimulate and encourage young people to develop and elaborate their views from their own perspectives.

3.2 Accountability for young people's perspectives

CO-CREATE will carefully consider the views, opinions and ideas expressed by young people throughout the project. The project will be accountable for how young people's views, opinions, ideas and expressions have been assessed.

3.3 Involving young people in decision making processes

CO-CREATE will involve young people in the decision making processes of the project. Young people will be represented in the project management bodies like the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Scientific, Political and Ethical Advisory Board (SPEAB).

CO-CREATE will facilitate meaningful involvement of young people in the activities and processes within the project.

3.4 Representativeness of young people

CO-CREATE aims to involve young people from different cultural, social and sociodemographic backgrounds to reflect the heterogeneity of the age group.

CO-CREATE aims to recruit young people into project-related activities both through organizations and as individuals.

3.5 Safeguarding of young people

All staff and volunteers of CO-CREATE will follow child safeguarding standards and make sure we do no harm to the young people involved in project activities. All young people who will be involved in the project will know of notification procedures in case they are concerned about exposure to harm.

CO-CREATE will have a rights based approach to all work. This means that the rights of the child will be a guiding principle in all parts of the project.

3.6 Monitoring and reporting on youth involvement

CO-CREATE will describe the procedures for monitoring and handling issues related to youth involvement in the Quality Assurance Plan.



The CO-CREATE Project Steering Group will handle gender related issues that might occur within the project.

4. Ethics

CO-CREATE will comply with relevant international standards, guidelines and legal requirements in line with a «best practice» policy, keep informed about any updates and implement the updates continuously.

4.1 Handling of ethics issues

CO-CREATE will ensure that data collection, sharing of data or other project activity that might cause issues related to research ethics, will only commence after all necessary approvals have been obtained in accordance with national and/or local requirements, and EU legislation and standards. National or local ethics review boards will only provide approvals for specific projects.

CO-CREATE's institutional partner will be responsible for providing all necessary approvals before implementing any action that requires approvals, and report to the CO CREATE management team.

CO-CREATE will consult ethics expertise if relevant and necessary.

4.2 Research methodology and ethics

CO-CREATE will ensure ethics review and approvals on: (i) recruitment and inclusion of study participants, including minors, in CO-CREATE research activities, (ii) collection and processing of personal data from human study participants, including data sharing, (iii) secondary use of personal data that has already been collected and (iv) transfer of data to or from third countries.

4.3 Obligations of research partners

CO-CREATE institutional partners will respect the fundamental principle of research integrity as set out in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. The institutional partners will ensure that persons carrying out research tasks follow the good research practices and refrain from the research integrity violations described in this Code.

This implies compliance with the following fundamental principles: (i) *reliability* in ensuring the quality of research reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources; (ii) *honesty* in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair and unbiased way; (iii) *respect* for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment; and (iv) *accountability* for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts.

4.4 Ethics monitoring and reporting

CO-CREATE will report on ethics issues along with periodic reporting of deliverables in the project.

CO-CREATE will describe the procedures for monitoring and handling issues related to ethics in the Quality Assurance Plan.

CO-CREATE Project Steering Committee will handle ethics issues that might occur within the project and has a designated Work Package for ethics.



➔ **The CO-CREATE project** has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 774210. The products of the research are the responsibility of the authors: the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of them.

