



SIMPLIFY
Supporting institutions
in managing procedures
for lasting ethics and
integrity frameworks and
policy
regulations



Workshop for members and managers of RECs in the social sciences

Building Trust in European Research Evolving Models of Ethics Review and Governance in the Social Sciences and Humanities

11 June 2026 | 14:00–19:00

Universitätsclub Bonn, Konviktstraße 9, 53113 Bonn, Germany

Research in the social sciences and humanities faces increasing ethical challenges that call for robust, transparent, and context-sensitive models of ethics review. This workshop explores the role of research ethics committees (RECs) in the social sciences and humanities across Europe, examines different models of ethics review and research ethics governance, and discusses pathways for their institutionalisation beyond existing models. Particular attention will be given to opportunities for European collaboration and to EU-funded projects that analyse, support, and advance the implementation of research ethics governance across diverse research contexts.

This workshop is jointly organized by EUREC, NEKS, and the SIMPLIFY project, with support from the European Commission.

SIMPLIFY is a Horizon Europe funded initiative on “Supporting institutions in managing procedures for lasting ethics and integrity frameworks and policy regulations” implemented under ERA Action 18 as part of the European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda.

Participation in the workshop is free of charge, but registration is required. Please [click here](#) to register.

The following day, June 12, the national meeting of the Network of Ethics Committees will take place (in German only).

Programme

14:00 – 14:20

Welcome and Introduction

**Prof. Dr. Hella von Unger (NEKS) / Dr. Eva-Maria Berens (NEKS) /
Dr. Herwig Reiter (NEKS) / Prof. Dr. Dirk Lanzerath (EUREC)**

Introduction to the workshop objectives and format.

14:20 – 14:40

Keynote Lecture

Prof. Dr. Dirk Lanzerath (Secretary General of EUREC and University of Bonn)

Building Trust in European Research: Strengthening Research Ethics Networks in the European Research Area

14:40 – 15:00

Lecture

Prof. Dr. Eugenijus Gefenas (Chair of EUREC and Vilnius University)

Diversity of European Models of Ethics Review in the Social Sciences and Humanities

15:00 – 15:20

Lecture

Prof. Dr. Hella von Unger (NEKS and LMU Munich)

Strengthening Research Ethics Governance in the Social Sciences and Humanities: Building a National Network – Lessons from Germany

15:20 – 15:40

Coffee Break

15:40– 16:00

Lecture

Lisa Häberlein (EUREC and Project Manager of SIMPLIFY)

Opportunities for Research Ethics Committees in Europe: Insights from the SIMPLIFY Project

16:00 – 16:45

Interactive Session I – Mapping Ethical Challenges in SSH

Breakout discussions exploring:

- What ethical challenges are characteristic for SSH research?
 - Where do current ethics review structures face limitations?
 - How can ethics governance better support responsible research?
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16:45– 17:30

Interactive Session II – Strengthening Research Ethics Governance

Breakout discussions focusing on:

- Institutional models for ethics review in SSH
- The role of university leadership and governance structures
- Opportunities for European collaboration and networking of RECs

Participants will develop practical recommendations.

17:30 – 17:50

Plenary Discussion

Moderated exchange with speakers and participants on the future development of research ethics governance in Europe.

17:50 – 18:00

Wrap up and Outlook

Summary of key insights and perspectives for further collaboration.

18:00 – 19:00

Reception and Informal Networking



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