



European Network of  
Research Ethics  
Committees



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## Workshop: 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 Workshop, 11 June 2026,**  
Universitätsclub Bonn, Konviktstr. 9, 53113 Bonn

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**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.

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**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*

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**14:40 – 15:00**

**Lecture**

**Prof. Dr. Eugenijus Gefenas (Chair of EUREC and Vilnius University) / Dr. Jurate Lekstutiene (Research Project Manager at EUREC and Vilnius University)**

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

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**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*

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**15:20 – 15:40**

**Coffee Break**

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**15:40– 16:00**

**Lecture**

**Lisa Häberlein (Research Project Manager at EUREC and Co-Coordinator of the SIMPLIFY Project)**

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

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**16:00 – 17:30**

**Interactive Sessions**

**Chairs:**

**Dr. Isabelle Wienand (swissethics and University of Basel)**

**Prof. Dr. Laura Palazzani (LUMSA University)**

**Moderators:**

**Dr. Elena Lazutkaite (Research Project Manager at EUREC)**

**Dr. Daniel Pizzolato (Research Project Manager at EUREC and KU Leuven)**

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**16:00–16:35**

**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?*

**16:35– 17:10**

### **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.

**17:10–17:30**

### **Reports from Breakout Discussions**

Brief summary of discussions to identify common themes, key challenges, unmet needs, and priorities for future action.

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**17:30 – 17:50**

### **Plenary Discussion**

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

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**17:50 – 18:00**

### **Wrap up and Outlook**

Summary of key insights and perspectives for further collaboration.

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**18:00 – 19:00**

### **Reception and Informal Networking**

