

Integrated EST framework (EST-Frame)

An FP7, Science in Society, Collaborative Project, Small or medium-scale focused research project.

The aim of the EST-Frame project is to contribute to socially robust and ethically sound research and technology development by providing further methodological development for integrated social impact assessment and technology evaluation.

The project will **appraise current assessment methods** for evaluating emerging science and technology with the objectives of mapping their strengths and weaknesses and determining their appropriate application domains. It will examine the current policy context for emerging science and technology (EST) policy advice and will identify future trends and needs that should be considered.

The project will conduct **four case studies** of emerging science and technologies – (1) nanotechnology in food production, (2) synthetic biology, (3) biofuels and (4) security in emerging ICTs – to determine how current frameworks are applied to assess social impacts in these fields. An added value aspect of the project is the policy relevant outcomes that will result from these case studies.

The project will also identify to what extent – and in what contexts –a framework of a more integrated nature can be applied, and it will examine the appropriate position that such an integrated framework can operate in, within a context characterised by internationalisation, market politics, and new forms of public-private partnerships in technology governance.

Based on these results the project will design a **flexible**, **integrated framework** that is intended to facilitate holistic societal dialogue and reflection, as well policy forming on emerging science and technologies. This integrated framework can be applied by actors who are involved in the process of conducting analyses and coordinating policy deliberations on a broad range of scientific and technological developments.

The project will be based on extensive user involvement, especially in workshops related to the selected case technologies.



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The project will run from 2012 – 2014.

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