Final Conference Opening - Executive summary

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Speakers	Franz Fischler, Erich Griessler, Karin Aschberger and Yannick Cornet, Stephanie Daime, Mika Nieminen Moderated by Ingeborg Meyer
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Executive summary

In the opening session, Franz Fischler, the Head of Board of Trustees of the host, the Institute for Advanced studies, welcomed the audience.

After an introduction into the NewHoRRIzon project and an overview on the conference by Erich Griessler, the project coordinator, Ingeborg Meijer, a Consortium member of NewHoRRIzon, facilitated a plenary discussion between the Social Lab managers Stephanie Daimer (Social Lab Swafs) and Mika Nieminen (Social Lab SECURITY) and the Social Lab participants Yannick Cornet (Social Lab TRANSPORT) and Aschberger (Social Lab JRC) about their NewHoRRIzon experiences. Karin and Mika reported that the RRI as a concept was not known in their areas, but that several concepts such as public engagement, privacy, ethics already existed which connect well to RRI.

The JRC just underwent reorganization at the moment when NewHoRRIzon started that again underscored values similar to RRI. However, these concepts are not mainstream. Mika mentioned that in security concepts similar to RRI are seen as risk management and Yannick pointed out that citizen

engagement in transport, which is an important aspect of RRI, is only a niche area and relatively weak in contrast to dominant ideas of technology fix. In the SwafS Social Lab, the diminishing political support for RRI in the upcoming Framework Programme was difficult for the participants. However, it also motivated them to work on future perspectives on RRI. For the Social Lab, it remained challenging to translate this energy into actual pilot activities because participants found it challenging to agree on approaches towards action.

Yannick had positive experiences in his pilot action of back-casting a future mobility system together with young people in the city of Žilina in Slovakia. Participants liked the independent and creative work on a topic that was important for, and new to them. Karin connected the pilot action she was involved in with an ongoing and suitable project in the JRC and embedded it in the organization. The NewHoRRIzon project provided helpful input to ongoing processes in the organization. The challenge for her and her colleagues was that routine workload rapidly takes over once the project stops and leaves little room for additional RRI activities promoted in NewHoRRIzon. Also, it was difficult to keep momentum during lock-down. Mika emphasized that support from senior management is necessary.

In addition, the language of RRI has to be translated in specific contexts in order to create tailor made pilot actions. Karin added, that citizen engagement became an important tool in the JRC unit dealing with road transport and that several activities triggered by the project were maintained within JRC.

Openness to other sources outside the organization and inclusiveness and openness towards citizens were major learnings for the organization. Stephanie emphasized that for her openness is necessary not only towards citizens but also towards the many different ways of RRI and similar concept. She learned that it is important to start doing RRI and to find the way along walking. Mika again emphasized the importance of translation into local contexts which enables tailor made and workable solutions.

In addition, benchmarks for implementable activities are needed to make RRI activities sustainable. Yannick pointed out that involving the youth valuable; they are appreciative and can give important feedback.