

## 9. Other ethics issues

### 9.1 Ethics issues checklist

Section 9: OTHER ETHICS ISSUES	YES/ NO		Information to be provided in the proposal	Documents to be provided on request
<b>Are there any other ethics issues that should be taken into consideration?</b> <i>Please specify</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1) Any relevant information.	1) Any relevant document.

### 9.2 Other ethics issues?

Since many EU programmes intend to support innovative activities, it may be that your project raises **new ethical issues and concerns** that are currently not (fully) covered by the Ethics Issue Table (*e.g. new developments in the fields of neurobiology, man-machine interaction, developments in nanotechnology, genetic enhancement, the creation of androids and cyborgs, etc.*).

If you **know** of any other ethically relevant issues, describe them in this section and explain how you intend to address them. This allows you to alert the granting authority in time and get appropriate assistance for addressing them. It also avoids the problems you would have, if such issues were found out later (in the context of an audit or investigation).

*For highly innovative research, use the ethics by design methodology (in particular in the area of artificial intelligence; see [section 8](#)).*

If, ethical issues arise **unexpectedly during your project**, contact us immediately via your [Funding & Tenders Portal account](#) and provide detailed information on the issue and how you intend to handle it. We will ensure that you receive appropriate help and guidance.

#### Ethics advisers/advisory boards

A suitably experienced *ethics adviser* can help you to deal with ethical issues and putting into place the procedures to handle these appropriately if your project includes several ethical concerns. This is particularly recommended for research projects.

If your project involves several significant or complex ethical issues, you should appoint an *ethics advisory board* with several experts with varied expertise.

If you appoint an ethics adviser/advisory board, it is important that they are:

- external to the project and to the host institution
- totally independent and
- free from any conflict of interest.

Your university or institution (or members of your consortium) may have experience with an ethics adviser or members of an ethics advisory board and may be in a position to suggest potential candidates.

The ethics adviser or ethics advisory board should maintain an overview of the work throughout the whole course of your project and help you to think ahead about possible problems that might arise and how they could be addressed. Their experience will help you check for compliance with ethical standards in the relevant research fields. They will also be responsible for reporting to you and to the granting authority, on a regular basis, on ethics concerns as they arise and the continuing probity of your research work.

If you appoint an ethics adviser or set up an ethics advisory board, you should work with them on a regular basis throughout your project. Their oversight role should be fully integrated into your research activities and they should work closely with you and your colleagues so they are fully aware of all the developments as your research progresses. Your ethics advisers/ethics advisory board should be an essential element in your project management structure.

**What do you need to provide?**

You must provide:

- the name and contact information for persons suggested
- the terms of reference for their involvement and the deliverables expected
- their declarations on conflict of interest.

## Background documents & further reading

### General information on ethics

[Ethics for Researchers](#)

[European Textbook on Ethics in Research \(2010\)](#)

[Roles and Functions of Ethics Advisors/Ethics Advisory Boards in EC -funded Projects](#)

### Food-related research

FP7: [Guidance Note — Ethics and Food-Related Research](#)