

LSME Hosts RRI Workshop

On 19th April, LSME hosted a workshop on Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), with guests from the Research Advantage Programme, Fomrad, LeadSurvey UK, Glomus (Brussels), and of course, staff from LSME itself.

The workshop was designed to explore how RRI could inform a new kind of research, which benefits the wider public more than just the careers of researchers. The Research Advantage Programme is a joint venture, led by James Barsby and Dr Peter Gray, which provides interactive support for academic and commercial organisations wishing to adapt their activities to a more open, inclusive and anticipatory way of doing things. The guests contributed some fascinating insights into three areas: lead pollution, the graphic design market and social media in EU projects.

Tristan Olivier (<http://leadsurvey.co.uk>) revealed the lack of 'joined up' research and innovation in reducing the lead hazard. Even at low levels, lead can seriously damage the educational potential of young people. Taking an RRI approach to lead safety would involve a much wider range of participants than currently, but would result in much more effective action. Lead could also provide a powerful case study for RRI training.

Adrian Podaru is a high school student from Romania and is also CEO of Fomrad.com, an innovative web platform for connecting designers and clients in digital design, including graphics, audio and web design. He pointed out that there were unexplored possibilities in connecting untapped talent, for example in schools, with a wider range of possible users of digital media. Fomrad was thus in a position to practice RRI by changing the digital media ecosystem.

Isabel Mendosa Poudereux from EMPHASIS (*Effective Management of Pests and Harmful Alien Species Integrated Solutions*) (<http://www.emphasisproject.eu>) discussed how more effective use could be made of social media in research. In particular, media such as Twitter could be part of an RRI strategy to engage those outside the research community in assessing strategies, methods and outcomes of research.

The meeting concluded that an ecosystem approach to research and innovation is highly desirable, based on the interaction between diverse players. Future activities could include, for example, LSME and RAP running training courses for students and researchers in the UK and India. The forthcoming *International Conference on Managing Responsible Research in the Human Sciences and Information Management* in India, jointly organised by LSME and Panjab University, will provide a vehicle for further development of the RRI concept.