

#EthicsGroup_EU

Values in times of crisis:

Strategic crisis management in the EU

European Group on Ethics
in Science and New Technologies:
an ethical, societal and fundamental rights
dimension for the EU Policies



What is the EGE?

- The European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE) is the independent, multi-disciplinary body appointed by the President of the European Commission, which advises on all aspects of Commission policies and legislation where ethical, societal and fundamental rights dimensions intersect with the development of science and new technologies
- EGE was established in 1991
- EGE has 15 members
- EGE reports to the President, and to the College of Commissioners as a whole, under the direct responsibility of the Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth



Background to our statement

- The European Union is dealing with an increasing number of complex, overlapping cross-border crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and Russia's invasion of Ukraine
- The Union has to improve how it prepares for and responds to crises
- An evidence review report, policy recommendations, and a detailed ethics statement have been prepared by the EU Scientific Advice Mechanism (SAM) and the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)

Science Advice for Policy by European Academics (SAPEA)

- The EU should plan and prepare for crises over the full timeline, from preparedness to response and recovery. Synergies between crisis mitigation measures should be considered
- Crises are becoming increasingly frequent, complex, cross national borders, can last longer and several crises can happen simultaneously
- To manage transboundary risks and crises, it is increasingly important to consider the potential cascading nature of crises across infrastructures, with consequential impacts on society, environment, and economy
- Crises amplify existing inequalities, hitting the most vulnerable the hardest

The Chief Scientific Advisors

- The EU should plan and prepare for crises over the full timeline, from preparedness to response and recovery
- ... more scalable, fast-deployable and efficient EU financial mechanisms
- Decision-makers at all levels should also work closely with civil society and the private sector

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- Solidarity should be a guiding principle for strategic crisis management and solidaristic institutions should be strengthened at all levels
- Human dignity and solidarity should guide the allocation of scarce resources, also to avoid undue discrimination and to ensure special consideration of disadvantaged people
- Governments have a duty to combat poverty and inequities, multipliers of the impact of crises

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- Policy makers and funders should strengthen the infrastructure for data sharing for crisis management and containment, with adequate protections in place
- The effectiveness of measures depends significantly on good communication, which is also critical to building trust
- The values upon which the decisions and recommendations of government agencies are based must be made clear and be open to public scrutiny and appeal

Thank you!

