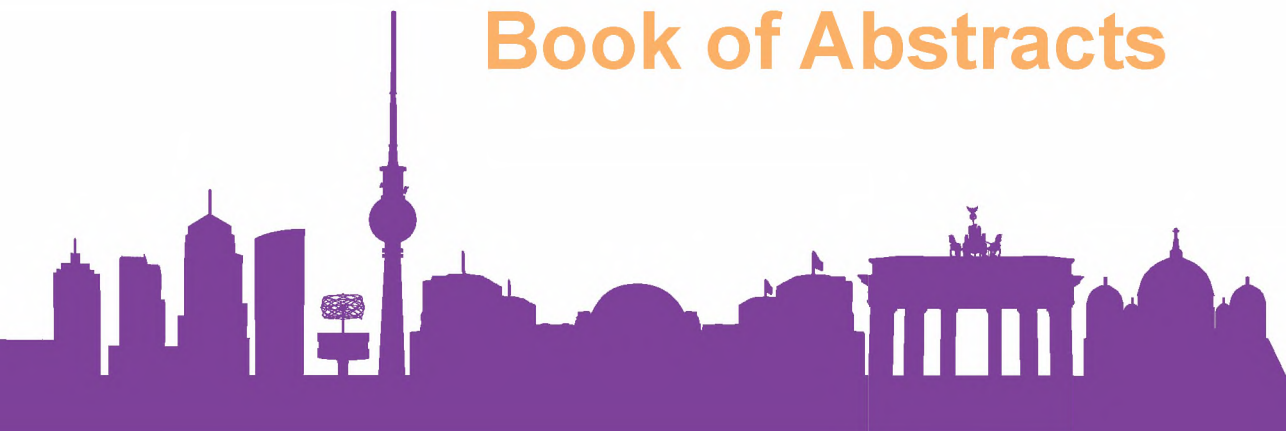


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The Next Horizon of Technology Assessment

Book of Abstracts



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resources, and collaborating with other initiatives devoted to the same goals. RRI Tools is thus keen to establish a meaningful dialogue with Technology Assessment practitioners and scholars about what tools are needed from their perspective to successfully implement a Responsible Research and Innovation approach.

Social and Humanitarian Expertise of Engineering and Innovative Projects Based on the RRI-Lab at the Technical University

Elena Serechkina, Irina Chernikova, Olga Kolesova and Natalja Kosheleva

According to Technology Assessment (TA), scientific and technical development doesn't happen in a natural evolutionary way, but at least in principle is a planned determined process. In this respect the bench mark for the technology's analysis is not its substantial side (artifacts), but procedure aspect – ways, methods, “technology” of activity, functional side of technics. Thus, there emerges a question of theoretical explanation of innovations' management and control over scientific and technical development within TA.

The changes in modern science are linked to refocus of scientific activity from cognitive to project-constructive. Science is becoming gradually integrated into the system of interaction of science and technology, organized in accordance with new principles. This phenomenon is called technoscience. “It includes technological efficiency instead of the truth, knowledge as projects of activity, and model of cognition is construction” (I. Chernikova). The distinguishing feature of technoscience is a high social and practical directivity. Technoscience is not technical science, it's a new form of science organization, which integrates many aspects of natural science and technics as well as humanitarian cognition.

We would like to present our results and experience linked to our scientific and research laboratory RRI-Lab (Responsible Research and Innovation). It's worth emphasizing the main task of this one: social and humanitarian expertise of engineering and scientific and technical projects. It's very important to acquaint young engineers with the main principles of RRI and to develop at the initial stage responsibility to society in the process of realization of the engineering projects. The RRI-Lab has to deal with not merely the consequences, but with the desired models of the future.

New impulses of the TA can be realized only in the transdisciplinary communicative space. Transdisciplinary strategy of research means a conscious exit from the expert community and the involvement of various social actors to discuss problems connected with coordination of technical and socio-political events. Thus the emphasis is placed on responsible dialogue. These interdisciplinary analyses complemented with participatory processes involving stakeholders usually form the basis for the development of visions and long-term strategies. In the current work these research strategies is based on empirical material in the field of innovative medicine and the future of energy.