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D9.1 H – Requirement No. 1





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Abstract

This deliverable will address the requirements listed below showing how the ethics will be handled within NEFERTITI project in order to ensure compliance with the ethic requirements listed in the Ethics Summary Report.



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Introduction

NEFERTITI 



1. Introduction

This deliverable will address the requirements listed below showing how the ethics will be handled within NEFERTITI project in order to ensure compliance with the ethic requirements listed in the Ethics Summary Report:

- Details on the procedures and criteria that will be used to identify/recruit research participants must be provided.
- Detailed information must be provided on the informed consent procedures that will be implemented for the participation of humans.



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Procedures and criteria to identify/recruit research participants





2. Selection criteria

NEFERTITI addresses 10 themes that have been chosen based on key concerns of the farming community of the regional hubs in the project. Each hub coach, responsible for a hub (group of several demo-farms working on a given topic/challenge, connected to relevant innovation actors (farmers, advisors, education, NGOs, researchers, industry and managing authorities), is in charge of the data collection on farms.

Farmers recruited are from the three main agricultural sectors: animal production, arable farming and horticultural production. Farmers have to be willing to actively participate in identifying causes for unsatisfactory production, explore potential solutions and share their results. Participation is voluntary.

The identity of the research participants will be protected and all data will be suitably anonymized for management and archiving purposes unless where expressly written permission is given for the use of the name.

To identify regional and national innovation actors an online FarmDemo hub is developed. The online FarmDemo hub will not only be a point of contact, but will also allow access to videos, case studies and best practice for demonstration activities. These resources together with the practical networks will help to improve farming demonstration throughout the agricultural communities of Europe. To be part of this farmers who are interested are being asked to complete a short survey providing contact information, farm description and demonstration activities past, present and future.

Interviews will be conducted by all project partners with the potential actors in the 10 networks and belonging hubs (wp1, wp2 and wp6) as well as video materials will be produced.



3

Informed consent procedures





3. Informed consent procedures

As interviews and surveys will be conducted and video materials will be produced informed consent procedures have been put in place. Participation is completely voluntary and anyone is to withdraw their data at any time, without having to give a reason. One will be asked to confirm which pieces of contact information can be made public, and which ones should be kept anonymous.

3.1. Ethical and legal background

Key ethical issues concerning research activities are examined from the NEFERTITI point of view and include recruitment of participants, information to participants, informed consent and data handling during the planned research activities. The project activities will be carried out with regard to ethical implications and respecting the regulations expressed in international, European and national texts and codes of practices in force, in particular the Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 (and subsequent modifications and supplements) on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data.

3.2. Detailed information on informed consent procedures that will be implemented

The use-cases will involve only voluntary participants aged 18 or older, who will be informed on the nature of their involvement and on the data collection/retention procedures through an informed consent form before the commencement of their participations. Informed consent will follow procedures and mechanisms compliant with European and national regulations in the field on ethics, data protection and privacy. Only participants that, according to the relevant law, are capable of providing informed consent will be selected.

The interaction of users with the e-services will occur through the interactive (web) front-end: the informed consent form (with related information sheet) will be presented to the users, who will be asked to agree to contribute to the research in the NEFERTITI project. Before requesting consent, researchers shall make sure that the potential participant has received written and, if requested, additional oral information. This information shall be provided in such a way that it is probable that the potential participant understands the contents. Furthermore, the potential participant should be given sufficient time to make a proper decision on the requested consent. Participants shall be informed that they are free to withdraw from participation at any point, that their personal data will remain confidential and anonymous. We will take into account all privacy issues arising from the processing of personal data with the software components and tools produced in the project. Further information is provided in the deliverable “D9.2 ‘POPD – Requirement No. 2’”.

Detailed information is provided to the potential participants beforehand including descriptions/specifications of:

- purpose of the research;
- duration of the research activities;
- adopted procedures;
- voluntary participation;
- possible risks, discomfort or disadvantages;
- benefits to the subject or others;
- data protection and confidentiality and privacy policies;
- where to get more information;
- what happens to data and results at the end of the research.

A sample informed consent document will be provided in Annex 1 of deliverable “D9.2 ‘POPD – Requirement no. 2’”. In order to make it more efficiently usable in research activities, the document will be translated in those languages where the survey/interview will take place for activities involving non-English speaking participants.



In addition, when conducting surveys, interviews or focus groups or video materials will be produced where personal information is gathered and stored, attention will be paid to:

- privacy
- data protection (further information is provided in deliverable 8.3 'Data management plan' and 9.2 'POPD – Requirement No. 2')
- data management (further information is provided in deliverable 8.3 'Data management plan' and 9.2 'POPD – Requirement No. 2')
- the health and safety of participants

3.3 Access procedures

The access to the online FarmDemo hub platform will be open for all users, no registration process will be needed however an informed consent for sensitive data will be gathered through questionnaires. The platform that involves the two other H2020 projects (AgriDemo and PLAID) will be subject to registration and sign-in by the user, so that the capability of the user to provide informed consent will be checked against the registered user profile; and only capable users will be allowed to participate.



4

Conclusion





4. Conclusion

The NEFERTITI project ensures respect for people and for human dignity and fair distribution of the benefits and burden of research, and to protect the values, rights and interests of the research participants.

All the research and innovation activities carried out in the NEFERTITI project shall comply with ethical principles and relevant national, Union and international legislation, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols. Particular attention shall be paid to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to the protection of personal data, the right to the physical and mental integrity of a person, the right to non-discrimination and the need to ensure high levels of human health protection (H2020 regulation: Article 19).

NEFERTITI

Networking European Farms to Enhance Cross Fertilisation and Innovation Uptake through Demonstration

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NEFERTITI PARTNERS

