

Editorial Note

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The year 2011 represented again a new step in the development of the research centre IET. Beside the activities related to the PhD programme on Technology Assessment, IET started also a process of close relation with the Universidade Nova Research Centre of Sociology (CESNova). This will bring IET into a larger research organisation, although maintaining its singularity as a research pole of CESNova located at FCT-UNL and with its research aims and identity. That means also an enlargement of research scope for CESNova. The fact that this UNL research centre got a very high evaluation by the national Foundation for Science and Technology means that the Post-Graduation course on Occupational Health and Safety and the PhD programme on Technology Assessment are now under the support of IET/CESNova collaboration scheme.

This issue of Enterprise and Work Innovation Studies also shows the possible trend of publication in the next years. It contains articles from PhD students that were sent and evaluated by peered-review method. The members of the Editorial Board also collaborate intensively in this process.

In this edition, we opened with a fundamental article from Armin Grunwald (head of the ITAS, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) on the concept of Responsible Innovation. The author articulates different concepts as Technology Assessment (TA), Applied Ethics, and STS in order to understand the implications of innovation and technology development. In this article, Grunwald assumes that responsible innovation brings together TA with its experiences on assessment procedures. It brings also the involvement of actors, the foresight and evaluation together with ethics, in particular under the framework of responsibility.

The next article is authored by Nuno Boavida (researcher at IET/CESNova) on the decision making processes based on innovation indicators. His approach is not merely quantitative, but when he analyses which implications for TA have such processes, he introduces more reflexive and qualitative elements. Such elements revealed particularly important to build the notation instruments to collect data through interviews, although results are not still available.

Susana Martins Moretto (researcher at IET/CESNova) presents the result of her study on societal embedding in high-speed train technology development that is the intermediate stage of her doctoral research. The study is based on a case study. The author concludes at this point that TA is not an institutionalized practice in the high-speed train manufacturing industry. From her perspective it is practiced on an informal basis by the existing strategic intelligence's organizational structures and depends on personal engagement, mainly from top management to be performed.

The final article is authored by Maria João Maia (Hospital S. Maria and also PhD student on TA, and researcher at IET/CESNova). She discusses here the concept of decision-making process in radiology using the example of the magnetic resonance in the TA context. Maia approaches the concept of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and the National Health System. Her research methodology refers to the identification of the decision-making stakeholders, and the competences for the decision-making process in general. This is considered as a main step to the empirical analysis that will follow.

As usual in this journal, the last pages of this IET journal issue are dedicated to academic activities of IET members during this last year. It contains also information on integration activity in academic juries, and conference reports. The IET journal explicitly integrates the information on the "Duties of authors", as reporting standards, the issue of originality and plagiarism, the multiple, redundant or concurrent publication, the acknowledgement of sources, the authorship of the paper, the hazards and human or animal subjects, and the definition of fundamental errors in published works. That is also a needed element for the process of inclusion of this journal in the ISI data base.

One step started last year with the inclusion in the Directory of Open Access Journals data base, the EBSCO, and also adopted the COPE's Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors. The integration of the journal in a variety of well-established and recognized open source data bases to provide the authors a wider public is one of our aims. This means that we pursue the need to maintain the high level of quality control of the research material published in the IET journal.