



**gest**   
global ethics in science and technology

# gest - project background

GEST is a 3-year Collaborative Project funded by the European Community's Seventh Framework Programme under grant agreement 266592.

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GEST aims to explore the role of ethics in science and technology (S&T) policy as it is currently developing both in Europe and in the two main global emerging economies of China and India. Ethical and social implications of S&T have been widely debated in Europe in the last two decades leading to a number of policy initiatives that have influenced the development of new technologies.

At the same time, Europe is increasingly co-operating and competing with the two major emerging economies of China and India, which are also keen to develop their S&T sectors. Interdependences between these three global actors require ever closer collaboration, preferably undertaken in a highly transparent manner. However, S&T debates in each of the three regions follow local dynamics that are not necessarily easily understood, even by expert communities in those regions. Interdependent development (and even positive competition) requires mutual respect and understanding, but this relies upon close collaboration in exploring common issues and significant differences in the governance of ethical and social implications of emerging S&T.

GEST aims to create such collaboration between key S&T policy advisory institutes in the three regions in order to provide a clear understanding of the role of ethics in S&T debates. Three case studies of emerging technologies that instigate equally important public debates in Europe, China and India, will form the backbone of comparative analysis: Nanotechnologies, Food Technologies, and Synthetic Biology.



GEST project members

# gest - the research project

The main objective of GEST is to analyse the concepts and issues surrounding ethics in S&T in Europe and the two main technology-intensive emerging economies of China and India in order to create a robust debate that will directly inform science policy. GEST aims to:

- Explore the state-of-the-art in the debates on ethics in S&T in the three regions with a focus on interdependent scientific developments in the areas of Nanotechnologies, Food Technologies, and Synthetic Biology.
- Explore the social determinants of policymaking in the three regions in terms of public perceptions of risks and benefits, and lay morality.
- Identify common approaches to ethics analysis that can be applied equally in all three regions.
- Promote and support a global debate on the issue of the ethical and social implications of scientific and technological developments with a view to informing national policies.
- Create a high-level policy advisory network of experts from Europe, China and India in order to promote concrete collaboration in the area amongst the three regions.

GEST represents the first concerted effort to start a global debate that encompasses the main global actors. A group of experts with a wide disciplinary and geographical distribution will provide input on the dynamics of ethics in S&T policy.







**“GEST represents the first concerted effort to explore the global dynamics of ethics in Science & Technology policy.”**



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We believe that this three year collaborative activity will provide the best means to cement relations between the three regions around the subject matter and create a strong network of experts with similar interests. Socio-ethical analysis of S&T developments is perhaps at different stages of development in the three regions but the need to promote it and collaborate at the global level is strong and urgent. GEST will provide the first structured attempt at the creation of such a global collaboration and the means to promote it further with potential benefits for the achievement of common goals.