

Mission

The purpose of the European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility e.V. (ENSSER) is the advancement of science and research for the protection of the environment, biological diversity and human health against negative impacts of new technologies and their products. ENSSER advocates the use of science and technology in the public interest. This means benign and peaceful uses of natural processes, scientific discoveries and technological developments, while expanding diverse approaches to them. ENSSER considers, that critical thinking and options analysis are crucial for solving current social and environmental problems and for meeting future challenges through a sustainable, humane development. ENSSER promotes the critical European and international discourse on new technologies, their impacts and their regulation.

As a fundamental obstacle, scientific and technological activities – and their gaps – are increasingly driven by private interests. Consequently, other social and environmental needs are largely neglected in mainstream research activities. The relationship between science, society and environment has to be restructured. In this context, ENSSER will contribute to the questioning and redefining of current models of progress and economic growth. ENSSER will promote more democratic and participatory agenda-setting processes. This requires the creation of spaces for scientific work independent from the influence of the developers and owners of current technologies. For ENSSER, this also includes the identification, use, and quality assessment of scientific, lay, local, traditional and other knowledge sources.

Aims

To promote critical thinking fora for scientists.

To elaborate ethical and legal criteria with respect to the development and application of science and technology, by integrating transparency, accountability, social equity, public information, public participation and access to justice.

To promote the use of the Precautionary Principle in the context of lack of knowledge, scientific ignorance and uncertainty where there may be serious or irreversible threats to health, social integrity and the environment.

To improve the quality of basic and regulatory science used in the risk analysis of existing and emerging technologies and their products such as genetically modified organisms, chemicals, food technologies, geo-engineering, nanomaterials, and synthetic biology, including the risk of their military use.

To provide information to the public and to cooperate with citizens' movements which provide public knowledge for the above regulatory or political processes.

To promote new forms of discourse, interaction and communication between science and society by using innovative means such as the arts, social sciences and participatory approaches to research.

To support early-warning scientists and promote their protection from discrimination.