SiEUGreen
Sino-European innovative green and smart cities

D8.2 H – Requirement No. 2

NMBU

Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union

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SiEUGreen

The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research, and Innovation program, under grant Agreement N 774233 and from the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology.

Throughout SiEUGreen's implementation, EU and China will share technologies and experiences, thus contributing to the future developments of urban agriculture and urban resilience in both continents.

The project SiEUGreen aspires to enhance the EU-China cooperation in promoting urban agriculture for food security, resource efficiency and smart, resilient cities.

The project contributes to the preparation, deployment and evaluation of showcases in 5 selected European and Chinese urban and peri-urban areas: a previous hospital site in Norway, community gardens in Denmark, previously unused municipal areas with dense refugee population in Turkey, big urban community farms in Beijing and new green urban development in Changsha Central China.

A sustainable business model allowing SiEUGreen to live beyond the project period is planned by joining forces of private investors, governmental policy makers, communities of citizens, academia and technology providers.

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1 Executive summary

The SiEUGreen project brings together a multi-disciplinary consortium of European and Chinese researchers, technology providers, SMEs, financiers, local and regional authorities and resident communities, in order to apply novel urban agricultural techniques and new approaches for social engagement and investigate the economic, environmental and social benefits of urban agriculture. The SiEUGreen project will also incorporate elements of digital Social innovation, by enhancing resident participation and awareness raising through a gamification app's and an interactive platform. This will facilitate the collection of important human data linked to the social and cultural changes expected to be generated at each of the local communities and at an international level by the implementation of the SiEUGreen showcases. In the SiEUGreen project is there is close interaction with the community therefore the ethical aspects are particularly important. The SiEUGreen consortium has analyzed the potential ethical considerations to be taken into account. The Pre- Grant "Ethics Summary report" identified the following ethical requirements that the SiEUGreen must comply with:

1. Humans (H) - Requirement No. 1- Details on the procedures and criteria that will be used to identify/recruit research participants must be provided (D8.1).

2. Humans (H) - Requirement No. 2- Detailed information must be provided on the informed consent procedures that will be implemented for the participation of humans (D8.2).

3. Humans (H) - Requirement No. 3- Templates of the informed consent forms and information sheet must be submitted on request (D8.3).

4. Protection of Personal Data (POPD) Requirement No. 4 - Detailed information must be provided on the procedures that will be implemented for data collection, storage, protection, retention and destruction and confirmation that they comply with national and EU legislation (D8.4).

5. Protection of Personal Data (POPD) - Requirement No. 5 - Detailed information on the informed consent procedures that will be implemented in regard to the collection, storage and protection of personal data must be submitted on request (D8.5).

6. Non-EU-Countries (NEC)- Requirement No. 7 - The applicant must provide details on the material which will be imported to/exported from EU and provide the adequate authorizations (if applicable). In case personal data are exported from the EU/Norway to the PR China, copies of EU Model Clause Contracts must be submitted (D 8.6).

The purpose of this deliverable (D8.2) is to set out the basic ethical procedure in order to follow the ethics requirement 2 . The deliverables provides informed consent procedures that will be implemented for the participation of humans.

2 Introduction

The SiEUGreen project brings together a multi-disciplinary consortium of European and Chinese researchers, technology providers, SMEs, financiers, local and regional authorities and resident communities, in order to apply novel urban agricultural (UA) techniques and new approaches for social engagement and investigate the economic, environmental and social benefits of urban agriculture. SiEUGreen aspires to enhance the EU-China cooperation in promoting UA for food security, resource efficiency and smart, resilient cities through the development of showcases in selected European and Chinese urban and peri-urban areas. Throughout the implementation of the SiEUGreen project, EU and China will share technologies and experiences and will generate ground-breaking multidisciplinary demonstration cases, thus contributing to the future developments of UA. Since relation with the community is at the forefront of SiEUgreen project the ethical aspects are important. Each researcher and the participating institutions have, therefore, the obligation to follow the ethical standards and guidelines of Horizon 2020 regardless of the country in which the research is carried out.

NMBU, as coordinator of SiEUGreen will adopt both the European Commission (EC) (European Union 2018a; European Commission 2018b .), the Norwegian ethical guidelines developed by the National Research Ethics Committees (NESH 2016.), and the ethical guidelines of NMBU (NMBU 2015.). All ethical issues that this project may be exposed to, will be handled by the appropriate partners in their home countries with the local ethical committees. In cases where national guidelines differ from EC Guidelines, EC Guidelines will be adopted unless national guidelines are more restrictive. Country-specific ethical guidelines regarding data protection; particularly for non-Eu countries Turkey and China, are detailed in Deliverable 8.4. NMBU will use both online meetings and in person workshops to remind all the partners of the need to adhere to these ethics requirements.

The present deliverable (D8.2) provides informed consent procedures that will be implemented for the participation of humans.

2.1 Audience of the document

This report provides an internal record for the project itself and all consortium members, external expert advisory board and the Project Officer to be able to refer to and understand what ethical issues are in place. These ethical guidelines are provided to all the researchers and research assistants involved in the project.

3 Informed consent procedures for communicating with humans

SiEUGreen project complies with Article 8 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (European Union 2012). Recognizing and respecting the need for informed consent is the main concept behind the EU's data protection laws. This means that participants will be provided with comprehensive information regarding the SiEUGreen project, as well as exactly how the information obtained by the study will be used. According to EC Data protection and privacy ethical guidelines (European Commission, 2009) States that the main aspects of the informed consent process are:

1. "The potential participant must be given sufficient information in order to be able to make a choice of whether or not to participate that is based on an understanding of the risks and alternatives in an environment, which is free from any coercion;" (p.7).

2. "The decision of the potential participant on the consent issue must be evidenced. The participants needs to agree that her/his data will be used for a specific research scope and is aware of the meaning of such use" (p.7).

EU has adopted a new data protection reform packages comprising the General data protection Regulation (GDPR) that will become directly applicable from 25 May 2018.

One of the key changes in the news GDPR is that the conditions for consent have been strengthened. The request for consent must be given in an intelligible and easily accessible form, with the purpose for data processing attached to that consent. Consent must be clear and distinguishable from other matters and provided in an intelligible and easily accessible form, using clear and plain language. It must be as easy to withdraw consent as it is to give it. (Council of European Union, 2016.)

The project investigator is obliged to give adequate information about the aims, methods, anticipated benefits, potential hazards of the study, consequences of participating and who is funding the research. The investigators must obtain written informed consents from each participants prior to the performance of any study. This includes obtaining the appropriate signatures and dates on the informed consent document. A copy of the signed consent form should be given to the human participant.

Researchers should on the outset and at regular intervals of the research discuss with their local partners exactly which and what kind of consequences participation in the project might involve in each case, to insure that consent if properly informed. In addition to general obligations to inform participants how the project will use the information it collects, Norwegian guidelines require that researchers consider how the results of the could be made available to the participants (NESH 2006).

The investigator, or a person representing him/her, must also explain that the subject is completely free to refuse to enter the study or to withdraw from it at any time. The templates of the informed consent for the project is provided in D8.3.

All participants will sign an Informed Consent Form and Information Sheet in language and terms that they understand. It will follow the guidelines stated at the part A of the corresponding article 34 of the Grant Agreement number 710549, and inform the participants regarding their right:

- To know that participation is voluntary
- To ask questions and receive understandable answers before making a decision
- To know the degree of risk and burden involved in participation
- To know who will benefit from participation
- To know how their data will be collected, protected during the project and either destroyed or reused at the end of the research (if plan to reuse the data exists)
- To know that anonymized data may be shared within the consortium during the project
- To be duly informed, and consent also for this further usage,
- To withdraw themselves and their data from the project at any time without any kind of negative consequence and/or penalty
- To know of any potential commercial exploitation of the research.

The copy of the provided permission must explicitly mention that such information has been provided to the committee prior to any authorization being delivered and thus taken into consideration by the latter. All the personal information will be anonymized.

Obtaining written informed consent from a potential participant is more than just a signature on a form.

- The consent document is to be used as a guide for the verbal explanation of the study.
- The consent document should be the basis for a meaningful exchange between the researcher and the participant.
- The participant's signature provides documentation of agreement to participate in a study, but is only one part of the consent process.

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