

OLE vs HA

- Well formulated questions
 - ⇒ easy to identify the ethical problem, stakeholders, values
 - ⇒ possible issues and solutions
 - But not helping in making a ethical decision
- The problem is already known
 - Helps to distinguish thoughts about the problem: Heteronomous vs Autonomous
 - ⇒ Heteronomous: emotional reactions vs dogmatic thoughts
 - ⇒ Autonomous: relevant values and interest vs possible actions and their effect on values
 - Not very helpful in making the decision

A decision making tool.

- Is it a tool specific for "ethics" applications?

★ no, it is a general tool

-Are there any decisions that are not "ethics decisions"?

★ we can find ethical issues in each decision
(but do we want to?) (how do we decide our priorities?)

★ on the other hand we can find "ethics" in each human activity,
not just in the decision making process.

★ if there is "free will" each human activity involves a decision.

(if there is no "free will", then there is no ethics, but also this discussion would be pointless. Since we had no other alternative than this specific presentation, and your thoughts and reactions would not have any alternative either. So if there is no "free will", do not complain, I have no other choice. Well, but I cannot even ask you not to complain because I am not giving you the right answers. You have no choice as well! And yes, this text is written in a too small character, and it is impossible to read, but hey, I have no choice. Did I make my point?)

Problem owner:

The dilemma:

Autonomous thinking		All principles, values, interests, duties, feelings, needs etc. of all involved parts					
All reasonable alternative actions to solve the problem	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	
	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	
	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	
	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	
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	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	

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						ilities:
						Risks:

How good this AT-tool is ?

- Helps to break down the problem.
 - basic guidance to investigate stakeholders and their interests
 - induce to identify all reasonable alternative actions
- Crossing stakeholders (with their interests) with the possible alternatives:
 - helps to focus attention
 - discover unseen connections
- Provide a visualization of the issue:
 - helps to identify a possible answer to the dilemma
 - the answer can be different from any of the "reasonable alternatives" stated in the beginning.



Problem owner:

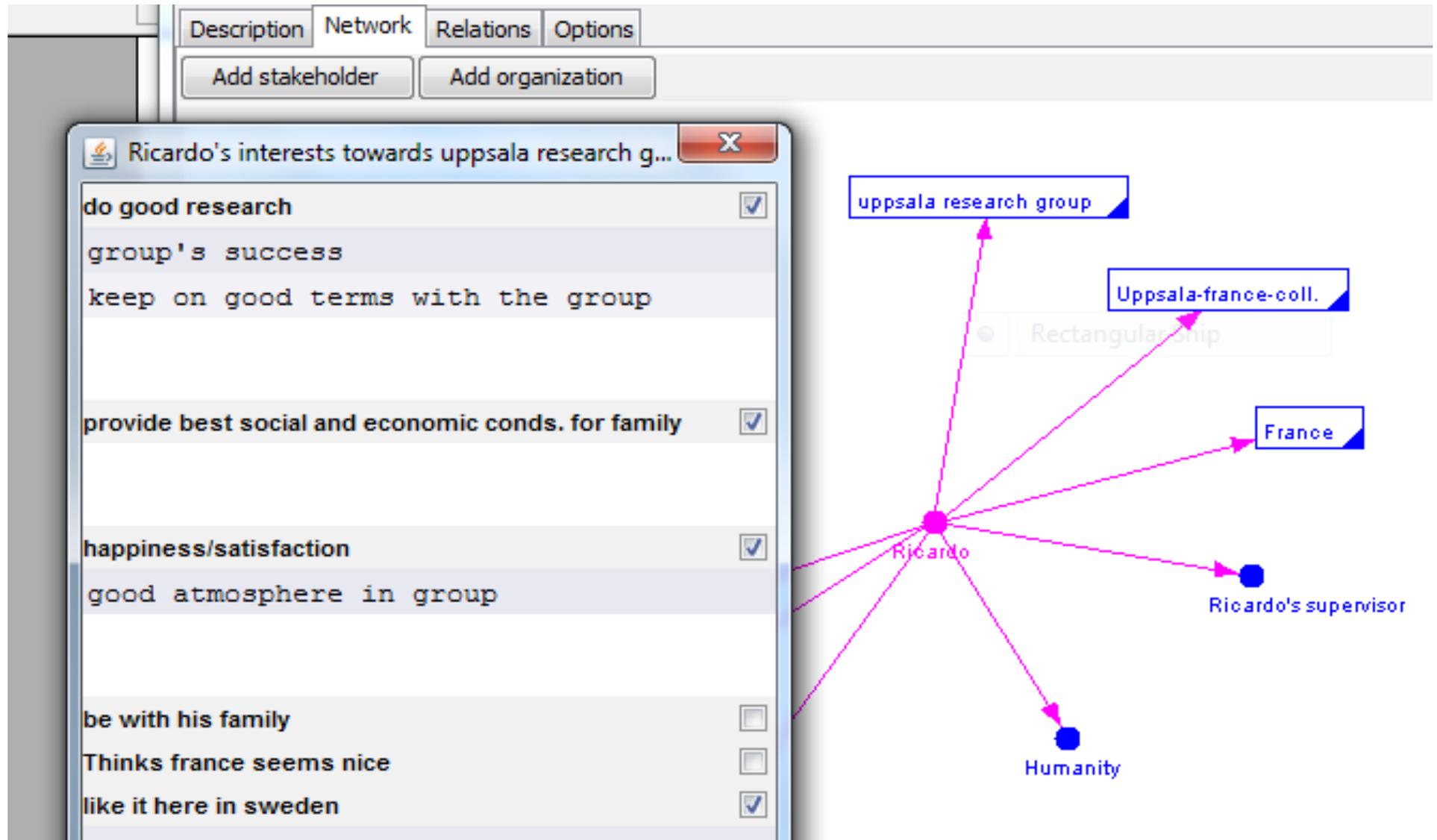
The dilemma:

Autonomous thinking		All principles, values, interests, duties, feelings, needs etc. of all involved parts						
All reasonable alternative actions to solve the problem		Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	Possibilities:	
		Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	Risks:	
		Possibilities:	Breakdown	Crossing	Visualization	AT is a tool to facilitate <u>analytical thinking</u>		
		Risks:				AT does not provide instruments to reach a <u>synthesis</u>		
		Possibilities:						
		Risks:			Another tool that provides questions rather than answers, however it would not be "autonomous"!			
	Possibilities:							
	Risks:							

EthXpert

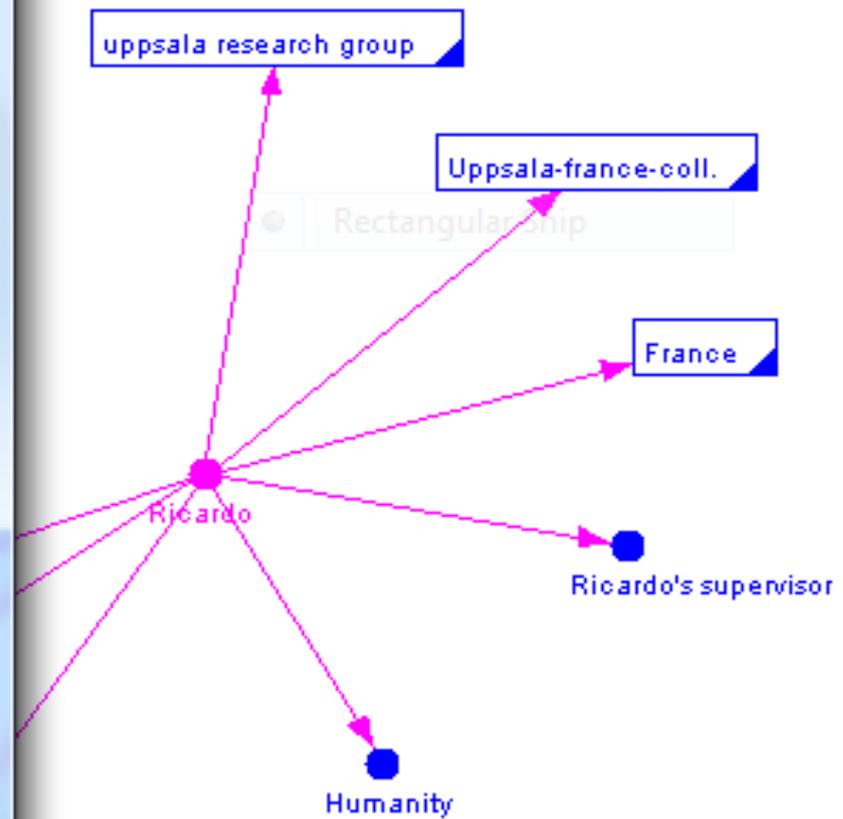
- Good for our evaluation
 - Overview of TA, but easier to fill in information
 - Stakeholder/interest distinction
 - Stakeholder/organisation distinction
- Bad for our evaluation
 - A bit of learning required
 - "information doubling"

Network/relations tab



Network/relations tab

- Good for overview
 - Maybe no relations as default?
- Who affects who?
 - The stakeholder/interest distinction makes it easier to determine in what way the decision affect others.



General comments

- Individualistic tools?
 - Social aspects of ethical assessment and decision-making
 - First hand knowledge of the stakeholders?
 - Expand the problem owner?
- Other-agent contingency
 - Negotiation, emancipation
 - Change the circumstances as an option for further assessment

OLE

Riccardo's experimental set-up will be moved to France and might be used in research related to nuclear weapons. Should he collaborate or not?

1. Will there be any ethical problems or conflicts in the context, in the organisation or in the group where your project or the results of it will be applied or used?

The research group from Uppsala as well as the Swedish state are interested in this collaboration and the group from France would like to have an already trained specialist to work with the set up, but Riccardo might have ethical doubts about this research and refuse the position; or his family might not enjoy the life in France.

2. Will your project or the results of it cause any ethical problems or conflicts?

Nuclear weapons can guaranty peace in the world and stability or they could be used against humanity; if Riccardo refuses to collaborate they will have to find a new specialist and spend time and money on training them; if he does go and get well paid and good carrier, his kids and wife could get problems with accommodation to the new life.

3. What groups, individuals, organisations, etc, will in any way be affected by or have a stake in the development, use or mere existence of your project or the results of it? (Including society at large and the environment.)

Riccardo, his family (wife and kids), his co-workers, Swedish state, humanity

4. What values, interests, duties, standpoints and attitudes are involved in the use of your project or the results of it?

Carrier and family prosperity. Is this research really going to be nuclear weapon related? What is his attitude towards this? Is he concerned about what people might say? Is this going to affect his collaboration with the research group form Uppsala? The economical/political interest of the Swedish state.

5. What effects will your project or the results of it have on each of these values, etc? Will your project or the results of it fit certain values and conflict with others? What values and how?

For the personal carrier it could be a positive development, but in case of a political decision he could lose his job; His family might like moving to France, but there might be adaptation problems; the research group from Uppsala is interested to have more collaboration partners and in case he won't go they may send another person without ethical doubts, in case he has ethical doubts about nuclear weapons; this research might secure the peace, but also could be used against humanity.

6. What will you do to make sure that the use of your project or the results of it will be optimal with regards to ethical aspects? For instance if it is an IT system, adapt the design of the product, user training, organizational changes, inform stakeholders, etc? How exactly are you going to succeed with this?

He could move to France with his family and continue the collaboration with Uppsala, he could not go and try to find a better paid job in Sweden; in case he is against nuclear weapon research, he could make it public or could find an excuse not to go but to continue some minimum collaboration anyway.

Evaluation of tools, physics and astronomy group

The function of the four evaluated tools is to facilitate autonomous moral analysis of a situation presenting the agent with a choice. In general, one can say that the elaboration or the "depth" of the analysis (in terms of e.g. stake holders,) as it emerges with the help of the respective tools depends on the complexity of the tools, and hence to their (a) "learning slope" and (b) the time and effort the user has to invest in their use.

Thus there seems to be a trade-off, plausibly dependent on the nature of the moral dilemma at hand, between the thoroughness of the resulting analysis (when the tool is used as it should "in theory") and the likelihood that the tool is properly employed. An interesting question is whether the aspects (e.g., its complexity, estimation of the number of stake holders or alternative actions, etc.) of the moral dilemma can be related to which tool is most likely to facilitate the evaluation of the problem.

For the moral dilemma at hand, the rating of the different tools seems to be favouring the Ethxpert software, which properly used supplies a good overview of the stakeholders, their relations and interests. A drawback is however that it takes some practice to use it, which – at least for a "one-time-users" as us – makes TA more straightforward and providing the same benefits over HA and OLE, i.e., overview and a good balance between what the tool "forces" one to do and what one actually does.

For our problem, HA:s virtue seems to be that it is very quick (to the cost of its depth), and at least help the problem owner to identify its heteronomous "reflexes" with respect to the dilemma, which is a useful introduction to a more detailed evaluation. OLE has the benefit of that the problem owner has to formulate in written text (rather than make lists or fill in tables and check-boxes), which might be helpful in forming a autonomous standpoint.