OLE
A tool for support of ethical decision making

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Instructions for use

The aim of the OLE tool is to support the identification of important non-technical aspects and problems. The questions below focus on such problems. Working with these questions will raise the awareness of the important aspects and facilitate measures for improving ethical aspects.

The questions do not imply any criticism of the research finding, IT system or product in question. Try to avoid the "my baby syndrome" and be careful to pinpoint all potential weaknesses in the system/product.

Try to identify all risks in your project and suggest concrete measures!

The below answers are not accepted:
1. "No, there are no problems." (you have to explain why there are no problems).
2. "Yes, there are problems, but the new system/product/research finding will eliminate them" (you have to describe exactly the measures that will be undertaken).

Use your imagination!

Ethics, internal relations and relations to society at large

1. Will there be any ethical problems or conflicts in the context, in the organisation or in the group where your decision will be applied or your solution (e.g. the design solution of an IT system or your research findings) will be used?

2. Will your decision or solution cause any ethical problems or conflicts?

3. Are there any alternatives to your solution?

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

5. What values, interests, duties, standpoints and attitudes are involved in the use of your solution and of the possible alternatives?

6. What effects will your solution (and the alternatives) have on each of these values, etc? Will these solutions fit certain values and conflict with others? What values and how?

7. What will you do to make sure that the use of the solution (IT system design or research finding) will be optimal with regards to ethical aspects? For instance, adapt the design of the product, user training, organizational changes, inform stakeholders, etc? How exactly are you going to succeed with this?