

## Subject: Call for focus group participants (CHANGER project)

Dear colleagues,

as announced in July, I would like to invite you on behalf of Hella von Unger to participate in the focus groups conducted as part of the CHANGER project.

The EU-funded project "Challenges and Innovative Changes in Research Ethics Reviews" (CHANGER) deals with current challenges in research ethics reviews (<https://changer-project.eu/>). We aim to gather diverse stakeholder perspectives across European countries and disciplines on emerging challenges in ethics reviews. These challenges may arise from new technologies, research practices, or other factors not adequately addressed in current processes. Our goal is to develop innovative solutions to support researchers and ethics committees in navigating ethical considerations.

As part of a stakeholder consultation, we will conduct focus groups and interviews with experts. We are seeking members of ethics committees and individuals with experience in ethics reviews, whether as applicants, advisors, or reviewers. At LMU Munich, three to four focus groups will take place. We invite interested individuals to share their perspectives on current challenges in ethics reviews and collaboratively explore potential causes and solutions.

The focus groups will take place December 2024 and January 2025. Each session will include 6–8 participants and will be held either in person or online (via Zoom), conducted in German or English. The discussions will last approximately 60 minutes, be recorded, transcribed, and analyzed. Participation is voluntary. Before participating in the focus group, we will ask you to complete a brief questionnaire about your background. All information will be treated confidentially and anonymized.

The focus groups will focus on three areas:

1. Social science and ethics reviews
2. Transdisciplinary and participatory research in ethics reviews
3. Ethics reviews of research involving Artificial Intelligence (AI)

**We have created an online survey to coordinate the appointments. If you are interested, please register by December 2nd: <https://survey.ifkw.lmu.de/changerfokusgruppen/>**

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact Anna Huber ([anna.huber@soziologie.uni-muenchen.de](mailto:anna.huber@soziologie.uni-muenchen.de)).

The focus groups are coordinated by the University of Split School of Medicine (MEFST), under the leadership of Prof. Ana Marušić, MD, PhD. Further information on the CHANGER project: <https://changer-project.eu/>

The LMU team and a description of the project can also be found on the LMU website: <https://www.en.qualitative-sozialforschung.soziologie.uni-muenchen.de/research/researchprojects/changer/index.html>

We look forward to your participation!

Best regards,

Anna Huber