



# Charter of Values

## Introduction

WISE4All – Women for an Innovative Society in Europe – is an initiative taken by S-com since 2015. WISE4All is not only a gender initiative. It is the answer to the question: *how can we face the increasing complexity of the reality in the new digitalised era?*

To this purpose, WISE4All promotes collaborative and multidisciplinary approaches, aimed at establishing more inclusive social models, taking into account the emerging communities which represent contemporary forms of social aggregation. The advent of digital technologies and the evolution of the economic system has, to a certain extent, facilitated participation of people and enhanced innovative forms of inclusions. Open innovation processes, as the new EU vision of growth and development, have completely changed the traditional paradigms on which our society has been based for centuries, by allowing new opportunities, in order to rethink and redesign a society towards a more inclusive and fair approach. In line of these objectives, the initiative aims at valorising different thoughts.

For this reasons WISE4All, through its actions, decided to go beyond the mere gender approach, to valorise human experiences, competences and knowledge towards the identification of common objectives, benefiting the whole society. In this way, it emerges as the suitable framework for a wide reflection on values and inclusive innovation. From this scenario, the first memberships and collaborations have been taken with renowned Italian Universities. These organisations have positively joined the initiative, through the signature of Memorandum of Understanding. During these years however WISE4All, by enlarging beyond national borders, has been able to attract many other important institutes and research centres from all over Europe.

This document is itself a great value, since it is the result of a collective commitment. Every single word or concept has been written with the contribute of each of the members of WISE4All. The latter have been able to combine and balance their disciplinary, cultural and linguistic differences. This *Charter of Values* aims at driving future WISE4All actions and projects, in support of the building of a just, creative and sustainable Europe, populated by aware and socially responsible people, who are the invaluable engines of open innovation, for the benefit of the whole society.

WISE4All has promoted a multidisciplinary approach all along, as a stimulating tool to encourage a lateral thinking. The multidisciplinary approach, in fact, gives the chance to create widespread networks and stimulate sustainable innovation.

The European countries benefit from a huge growth potential, thanks to the many possibilities of innovation provided by the European Union. WISE4All, in these terms, aims at grasping the

challenges and opportunities of digitalisation, reviewing the traditional paradigms to produce widespread well-being. One of the main goals of the initiative is to overcome the obstacles to the equal participation of every person towards the social development dynamics. In line of these objectives, **WISE4All aims at being spokesman, through its actions, of social, open and inclusive innovation.**

## The Values

The path followed in these years has been inspired by the most important achievements made by the EU, UN, and the most important International Organisations in the field of human rights. The aim is to analyse these models in order to implement them further in a new innovative prospective. This has led to the identification of some values around which WISE4All future actions will be built. These values are: the respect of independence and interdependence of people, ethic of responsibility, knowledge accessibility, spatial justice, diversity and inclusion and the health promotion. The latter, are also the main macro-areas of interest in which the adherent organisations are active and on which they make researches and studies.

### Respect of independence and interdependence of people

The socio-cultural and economic differences of EU countries, which increase the complexity of the reality in which we live, could be understood and valorised by putting the well-being of people, as the lowest common denominator of every socio-economic organism. A healthy society is based on the freedom of people to express themselves and their creative potential and exchange each other their experiences and knowledges, fundamental elements of the widespread well-being of modern communities.

WISE4All aims at promoting the integration of different visions, which animate the social dimension. Furthermore, the integration supported by the initiative must be respectful of the various autonomies, social, cultural, ethnical and economic belonging. In this way safeguarding human being's independence, give them the possibility to build sustainable interactions and reciprocal interdependence each other, vital linchpin of the social dimension that WISE4All intends pursuing. The interdependence of people, in fact, contributes to the developing of a sense of responsibility that they must have with regards to other people, communities and contexts.

Research and Innovation activities should, more than ever, take into account the impacts that socio-cultural transformations, territorial and urban structural developments, economic paths and migratory flows could have on person's identity and interdependence with other people.

### Ethic of responsibility

The ethic of responsibility value aims at paying increasing attention to the complex construction of the human world and aims at valorising the interdependence of its constituent cultural, social and physical elements. The ethical background of this value wants to recall the moral problem, not on a legislative ground, but instead as care and responsibility among human and social relationships. The responsibility put the attention to the "other" and the context. It is intertwined with the concepts of donation and of wide and not strictly economical mutuality. The ethic of responsibility enlarges to the idea of "taking charge" of others, identifiable by the term *care*. The responsibility

for others and contexts becomes fundamental in the framework of innovation processes, in light with the goal to remove the potential discriminatory risks inherent to the technological and digital patterns.

WISE4All aims at understanding the complex contextual and personal values, which enrich the European community, in an effort to put them in a dynamic of welfare and promotion of development.

### Knowledge accessibility

This value aims at promoting the right to knowledge and the right to build person's own cultural development. To this regard, the accessibility is a fundamental element to fight inequalities and to valorise cultural diversities. We believe in the possibility to favour the creation of a welfare society, by allowing everyone to the right to express themselves and play an active and participative role in the society. In these terms emerges the need to provide everyone with the right information and accessibility tools. WISE4All aims at promoting knowledge transfer technics, toward a wider diffusion of culture and knowledge.

New innovative patterns must be based on the co-creation and on the promotion of participative processes (bottom-up). The knowledge accessibility value accounts for one of the main and indispensable step toward a more inclusive society and an open technological and social innovation.

### Spatial justice

Considered the relentless evolving of the society we should expect that, over the course of some years, our spatial perception will be changed.

The digitalisation and innovation processes foster the creation of wide networks. The emergent links, however, represent great opportunities but also risks, such as those of exclusion and mechanisation at the expense of the human component. WISE4All believes and supports inclusive and ethic innovative paths, to benefit the whole society. Innovation processes which disregard the social dimension are paradox of themselves.

We must be aware about the functioning of these links and networks, to take advantages from their inherent opportunities. The spatial planning, defining the concepts behind the territorial policies and plan projects, contributes to the identification of models and rules, identifiable by specific languages. The spatial planning, therefore, emerges as indispensable tool to understand the reality. While the EU is facing migratory emergence, it is necessary to both re-define the spatial dimensions and connect them with the concept of justice. This link is indispensable in line with the promotion of a new social model, able to include different societies and cultures in common spaces. The concept of justice refers also to the provision of a home, the right to get across territories in search of a better future, without incurring in the ghettoization phenomenon, both psychological and social.

WISE4All aims at promoting the spatial justice value, as model of urban security, cultural integration, aware and bottom-up participation. At the same time the concept of spatial justice

enlarges to the conservation and upgrading of cultural heritage and to the development of “smart, creative and just cities”.

## Diversity and inclusion

Through the analysis made on the relationship between person and society, we have reached the concept of the diversity, understood in a collective and social view as the wide possibility of expression at all levels and dimensions. The globalised world and the digitalised era, lead to the direct confrontation among different people, representatives of different countries and cultures. The digitalisation provides to everyone the possibility to access to the needed tools of expression. The economic scenario has been promoting, more than ever, the importance of the differences, toward the creation of tailored services and products. Research and Innovation activities, therefore, must be vector of diversity promotion and protection.

We must be aware on the fact that the value of diversity must be coherent with the attention to the specific necessities of every person, in an integrated and collaborative system. Diversity and multidisciplinary approach underlie a new social and economic model and are conditions to the identification of a new system of values. We believe that the EU should base its prosperity on the valorisation of the heterogeneity of its cultures.

## Health promotion

The health promotion value is, in the path followed by WISE4All, the wider and most collective dimension reached. The demographical, social, cultural and economic transformations of recent years, have deeply changed the relationships of health, both in the needs from which are urged and the practices activated to respond to those diversified needs. An answer to the needs of health, for example, arises from various cultural belonging, gender diversities or different socio-economic needs. WISE4All believes that the health should be applied to every context, be read as the protection of job safety, sustainable resources usage in agriculture, promotion of aware approaches to the digitalisation etc.

Even if the right to health is a fundamental value, many inequalities still remain on several fronts, both legal, geographical and social. The current health systems, for example, have answered to the economic crisis only with expenditure cuts which have undermined the equal access to the care and to the welfare. We believe that the spread of digitalised and personalised approaches could favour a new, better and more inclusive health model.

WISE4All supports the idea that every person should be allowed to benefit from a good health condition, both physical and mental, both material and intangible. The promotion of the welfare and health, enlarged to every area and context are cornerstones for the new social model that WISE4All aims at promoting.

This Charter of Values was written with the contribution of:

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