RoboLaw

Regulating Emerging Robotic Technologies in Europe. Robotics Facing Law and Ethics

Collaborative Project
FP7 GA 289092

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The RoboLaw project involves **4 partners** from **4 European countries**: Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany

Project Overview

The main objective of the research in this project is to investigate the ways in which emerging technologies in the field of (bio-) robotics (e.g. bionics, neural interfaces and nanotechnologies) have a bearing on the content, meaning and setting of the law. In the RoboLaw project the ways in which regulation (both in terms of soft and hard law) may be affected by, and even in need of adjustment in light of, advances in robotics, with a special focus on human enhancement, will be researched. To do so the current state-of-the-art of legislation and regulation pertaining to robotics will be analysed, and the areas of regulation that are in need of adjustment or revision due to the advent of emerging robotics technologies will be identified. Moreover, the interrelations between technical, legal and moral norms in this field will be studied, in order to define what could be the best balance between them, and to promote a technically feasible, yet also ethically and legally sound basis for future robotics developments. Uncovering ethical values embedded into robotics technologies, and ethical consequences arising from their use, is another key element of this research. The most important outcome of the RoboLaw project will consist of a final report containing "Guidelines on Regulating Robotics", addressed to the European Commission, in order to establish a solid legal framework for the development of robotic technologies in Europe.

Project Main Objectives

I. **Integration of technology into society: Governance patterns**
Studying the features of emerging regulatory tools, including soft law instruments such as ethical rules, technical standards and codes of conduct

II. **Roadmapping Robolaw**
Describing the state of the art of the existing regulations pertaining to robotics in a comparative perspective

III. **Elaborating a taxonomy of robotics**
Clarifying the differences in terms of language between the various types of technologies being considered

IV. **Philosophical, anthropological, sociological consequences arising from the use of emerging robotic technologies for human enhancement**
Investigating the relationship between future technologies, human values and society

V. **Policy recommendations defining guidelines and suggestions on regulating Robotics**
Elaborating "Guidelines on Regulating Robotics" for the European Commission

The Guidelines on Regulating Robotics

The most important outcome of the RoboLaw project will consist of **Guidelines on Regulating Robotics**, a report containing suggestions on regulating emerging robotic technologies. The guidelines will be meant for use by the European Commission in order to respond to the ethical and practical concerns regarding the applications of emerging technologies.
The Guidelines on Regulation Robotics will be the result of cross-border discussions, both in the sense of gathering multiple nationalities and combining multiple scientific disciplines, and of a wide dissemination activity through workshops, conferences and meetings.
Some of these meetings will be organized in direct connection with civil society, in order to sensitize the general public and to raise awareness on the ethical and legal implications of emerging technologies.