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Project Information

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



www.robolaw.eu

RoboLaw

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



Collaborative Project
FP7 GA 289092



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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 "White Paper on Regulating Robotics", containing regulatory guidelines for the European Commission, in order to establish of a solid framework of 'robolaw' in Europe.

Project Main Objectives

- I. Integration of technology into society: Governance patterns**
Studying the features of emerging soft law by investigating on the nature of ethical rules and codes as sources of law
- II. Roadmapping Robolaw**
Describing the state of the art of the existing regulations of 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 a "White Paper on Regulating Robotics" containing guidelines for the European Commission

The White Paper

The most important outcome of the research will consist of a **White Paper on Regulating Robotics**, containing guidelines and suggestions for the European Commission in the field of regulating emerging robotic technologies, in response to the ethical concerns regarding its applications. The White Paper 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 public awareness on the role of emerging technology developments.