



GREP Midi-Pyrénées
Association Reconnue d'Utilité Publique

« European Students ex Machina” project

I.- Context Reminder

The GREP (Groupe de Recherche pour l'Éducation et la Prospective) is a cultural Non-Government Organization, a non-for-profit organization officially recognized as promoting public interest in 1998. Its purpose is to animate the citizen debate on the challenges that man and society will have today and tomorrow to face. More than thirty conferences, debates, cross-readings, workshops are organized each year.

During 3 days in April 2018, GREP organized, within the framework of "Toulouse, European City of Science", a major symposium on the theme "Human facing the challenges of the technosciences ". This event, sponsored by Pierre Corvol, president of the French Académie des Sciences, has won a very great success. Nearly 400 people participated. It has brought together the citizens with many high-level French experts: Jean-François Delfraissy, Anne Cambon-Thomsen, Nicolas Sekkaki, Bernadette Bensaude-Vincent, Jean-Claude Guillebaud, Jean-Marc Lévy-Leblond, Alain Boudet, Marc Dufumier, Thierry Magnin, Pierre Monsan, ...

But the real originality of this event was to closely associate the young generation with the preparation and the conduct of the Symposium. In the coming 30 years, this generation will live in a world still much more "technologized" than today. It therefore seemed necessary to gather opinion on the promises, on the risks, in this very rapid development of technosciences.

In concrete terms, the "Students Ex Machina" project brought together 34 Master students, from 11 different educational backgrounds. They worked for six months in an interdisciplinary way on the main issues discussed during the symposium and presented the results of their work during the conference. Their production is available on <http://www.grep-mp.com/students-ex-machina/> Among others, presentation are covering ethics, freedom, NBIC, AI, Fake news, manipulation of the living, precautionary principle, progress, ...

This initiative - totally new in France and in Europe - was acclaimed by the students, their professors and the public of the symposium.

II.- « EUROPEANIZING » STUDENTS EX MACHINA

Building on the success of "Students ex Machina", the GREP and its partners have decided to organize a new session for the year 2018-2019. Success is again at the rendezvous; it is even amplified with 52 students enrolled for the second session. 11 faculties are represented. Students will work in an interdisciplinary way, by group of 5 to 7 students, on 9 subjects of scientific, philosophical, political, sociological, economic, legal, metaphysical matters. The ethics of innovation and the governance of technosciences constitute the common thread running through these different subjects.



On April 13, 2019, they will present the results during a workshop once again focused on issues related to human relationships and technosciences. This day is placed under the authority of Anne Cambon-Thomsen.

The GREP and its partners now want to "Europeanize" Students ex Machina.

The idea is to identify European partners that would be ready to duplicate the initiative in Toulouse and cooperate to establish a network of exchanges and reflection on issues related to the ethics of innovation and the governance of technosciences.

Because young people are the first affected by this "technologization" accelerated society, it is essential that debates are held about their vision of the society of tomorrow and the relationship man will want to have with technology.

This group, called "European Students ex Machina", will therefore aim to bring out the opinion of future European decision makers and stakeholders on these key issues.

More specifically, students will focus on:

- defining the modalities for the active participation of European citizens in the process of technological innovation;
- identifying best practices to maximize the benefits for Man and society of any technological innovation;
- determining the regulatory provisions to be taken at the European level to ensure that innovation remains a process aiming at meeting the real needs of citizens and in line with the humanist values defended by the European Union;
- proposing some pilot experiments to validate the effectiveness of the planned regulatory measures.

III.- European Students ex Machina project

In order for this multi-disciplinary research project to be successful at the European level, it will be spread over 3 years.

Analysis has been done on the H2020 SwafS-16-2019: Ethics of Innovation: the challenge of new interaction modes. The selection criteria are perfectly in line with the "European Students ex Machina" initiative.

The GREP therefore is looking for interested partners both universities and NGOs. This partners should be able to disseminate the "Students ex Machina" initiative on an European level.

Deadline for submitting proposals is 2 April 2019, therefore interested partners must express their interest before February 6th, 2019.

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