



COIMBRA 2019



Citizens' Commitment in Risk Governance:  
From Inaction to Co-Decision

## COIMBRA GOALS

Considering that **Risk Analysis** is a systematic process to comprehend the nature of risk and to express the risk with the available knowledge, and that **Risk Communication** is an exchange or sharing of risk-related data, information and knowledge between and among different target groups (such as regulators, stakeholders, consumers, media, general public)<sup>1</sup>, the following 12 goals were established in the 2nd SRA-E- Iberian Chapter meeting in September 2019, in Coimbra, Portugal:

- The way a risk is perceived and formulated affects the way it is managed or solved. Risk is historically, culturally and politically framed and defined.
- The most common way of formulating and applying risk analysis and management is scientifically and technologically driven, resulting in different risk management outcomes.
- The definition of priorities is mainly unilateral, imposed by decision-makers in a top down approach.
- An “ecology of knowledges” must be recognized and integrated in the context of risk analysis.
- The “technological fixes” are always value-driven, although they are presented as being *neutral*.
- Risk governance demands an interdisciplinary approach: it is framed by political, economic, social, psychological, legal and ethical dimensions.
- Risks — namely environmental risks — are also ethical problems. Risk communication and governance must emphasize the ethical aspects.
- Risk governance can and should trigger a broader social discussion on the practical implementation of fundamental values such as democracy, freedom, solidarity and sustainability.
- Risk related participatory processes should be based on trust and procedural fairness.
- Trust and perceived legitimacy mean shared knowledge and even co-constructed knowledge.
- Risk science must be participatory aiming at the promotion of shared narratives and co-construction of discourses.
- Risk governance should be based on citizen co-decision.

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<sup>1</sup> Definitions included in the *SRA Glossary*, adopted by the Committee on Foundations of Risk Analysis in 2015 and available at <https://www.sra.org/sites/default/files/pdf/SRA-glossary-approved22june2015-x.pdf>.