

INFORMATION SHEET FOR PARTICIPANTS

REC Reference Number: REP(GSSHM)/13/14-5



How States Account for Failure in Europe (HowSAFE): Risk and the Limits of Governance

An international academic project involving researchers from King's College London, Sciences Po (Paris, France), Bielefeld University (Germany) and Maastricht University. The project has been funded jointly by the national research councils for the UK (ESRC), France (ANR), Germany (DFG), and the Netherlands (NWO) and will run from January 2013 to December 2016.

This information sheet provides you with the information you will need to make an informed choice about participating in the HowSAFE research project.

The HowSAFE project aims to explain the institutional factors shaping the spread of risk-based approaches to governance across Europe. Risk-based approaches focus governance efforts on those potential adverse outcomes that exceed acceptable levels of risk based on formal assessments of their probability and impact, rather than trying to eliminate all potential harms. Such approaches embody particular understandings about how the State should define, and account for, potential adverse governance outcomes and even the very meaning of governance 'failure' and 'success'. As such, risk-based governance can conflict with embedded governance norms and societal expectations about the role of the State in managing adverse outcomes both across countries and policy domains.

To explore these tensions, HowSAFE uses comparative case-study methods looking across six policy domains (occupational health and safety, flooding, food safety, health care, criminal justice and higher education) in four countries (France, Germany, Netherlands and the UK). The project will draw on policy document analysis and an extensive programme of interviews with key government officials, interest group representatives and other key stakeholders. The material gathered will be used to develop and test explanatory hypotheses about the factors shaping risk-based governance practices. Research findings will be disseminated to the academic community through a range of peer-reviewed and generalist publications, conferences and dedicated workshops.

For further information see: <http://tinyurl.com/howsafe-project>

We hope that you will be willing to participate in this research. Interviews will take approximately an hour and, with your permission, may be recorded to facilitate analysis.

Interview notes and transcripts will only be shared amongst project team members and will never be shared externally without your express consent unless they can be fully anonymised in ways that ensure you and your organisation are not identifiable. In relation to the dissemination of research findings through academic and other publications, conferences and other public fora, all external disclosures of any information and comments that you share with us will only be made in ways that are not individually attributable unless you give us your express consent to do otherwise. Please let us know if you wish to be kept informed of research publications.

It is up to you to decide whether to take part or not. Choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. Please feel free to discuss your participation with others, or ask us if you would like more information. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw your contributions at any time until 31 December 2016 and without giving a reason.

Should you have any further questions about this research, please contact the project Research Associate, Dr Anne-Laure Beaussier, or Principal Investigator, Dr Henry Rothstein:

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CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS IN RESEARCH STUDIES

Please complete this form after you have read the Information Sheet and/or listened to an explanation about the research.



Title of Study: ___ How States Account for Failure in Europe (HowSAFE):
Risk and the Limits of Governance_____

King's College Research Ethics Committee Ref: _ REP(GSSHM)/13/14-5

Thank you for taking part in this research. The person organising the research must explain the project to you before you agree to take part. If you have any questions arising from the Information Sheet or any other explanation already given to you, please ask the researcher before you decide whether to participate. You will be given a copy of this Consent Form to keep and refer to at any time.

Please tick
or initial

- I understand that if I decide at any time during the research that I no longer wish to participate in this project, I can notify the researchers involved and withdraw from it immediately without giving any reason. Furthermore, I understand that I will be able to withdraw my data up to 31 December 2016.
- I consent to my interview being recorded.
- I consent to the processing of my personal information for the purposes explained to me. I understand that such information will be handled in accordance with the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Participant's Statement:

I _____

agree that the research project named above has been explained to me to my satisfaction and I agree to take part in the study. I have read both the notes written above and the Information Sheet about the project, and understand what the research study involves and the data protection conditions explained in that sheet governing the management of any information that I share with the project.

Signed

Date