

INDIGO – ethics statement

This ethics statement addresses ethical questions and responsibilities related to the INDIGO project. INDIGO is aware that potential ethical risks are involved in the project and actively incorporates ethical questions in its research work. As INDIGO is a very dynamic research project, this statement might be subject to adaptation in the future.

How is INDIGO tackling potential ethical risks?

Ever since the beginning of INDIGO, it became clear that it will be crucial to consider and address moral and ethical questions during the project. Therefore, INDIGO consulted TU Vienna's research ethics coordination for counselling (<https://www.tuwien.at/en/research/rti-support/research-ethics>). Initial discussions led to a meeting between INDIGO project members with the Pilot Research Ethics Committee (Pilot REC; <https://www.tuwien.at/forschung/fti-support/forschungsethik/pilot-research-ethics-committee>). In this meeting, the project's ethical dimensions and potential strategies to tackle them were confidentially discussed. The conclusions drawn from this meeting serve as a basis for INDIGO's approach to address ethical responsibilities throughout the project. The Pilot REC has agreed to provide further counselling if needed.

How is INDIGO dealing with hateful, subversive, potentially illegal or other sensitive content?

As INDIGO is a graffiti documentation and dissemination project, we know that potentially subversive and illegal content gets documented. INDIGO objects vehemently against hate, subversion and racial or social exclusion. At the same time, INDIGO strives for maximum objectivity and completeness in graffiti documentation. The reconciliation of those two principles will be one of the research questions that INDIGO aims to answer during the project.

Is INDIGO incentivising illegal actions?

It is a fact that many creations documented by project INDIGO are produced without the property owner's consent and, as such, illegal. INDIGO distances itself from criminal acts and does not incentivise unlawful actions. Its only aim is to introduce scientific rigour in graffiti documentation.