

# WORKSHOP ACTIVITY: TRAFFIC LIGHTING

HELPING INSTITUTIONS RESPOND TO EMERGENT TECHNOLOGIES

## INTRODUCTION

This exercise uses the IRET 5Rs framework to help you consider your institutional responses to emergent technologies. This exercise alone is not sufficient to produce an appropriate set of responses, rather it is simply a device to encourage you to start the conversations that we hope will inform and improve future institutional responses.

The exercise is based on activities piloted by the IRET support project to consider how institutional rules and regulations impact on emergent technologies. However, it is a technique that could be used with all of the 5Rs to develop a coherent response to these technologies.



## FACILITATORS: PREPARING FOR THE SESSION

The exercise is intended for institutional managers and professionals, but could be extended to include all categories of staff and students. You may wish to run a joint session for representatives from all these groups, or to run separate sessions and collate the results for analysis.

We recommend that you encourage the invited participants to familiarise themselves with the IRET 5Rs framework, either before or during the session, by watching the video presentation at:

<http://jisciret.jiscinvolve.org/understanding-iret>

You will need to create a list of key institutional rules and regulations. We have found it best to include those from a wide range of areas – plagiarism, course accreditation, Corporate Visual Identity, data protection and privacy, as well as strategies such as IT, Teaching and Learning and estates.

Write the title of each policy, rule or regulation on a piece of A4 paper. You should ensure you have spare sheets of blank paper to let your group add in other relevant policies.

At the start of the session, stick these policies to a wall. We recommend avoiding logical groupings to encourage participants to move around and interact.

Provide each participant with a set number of red, amber or yellow and green sticky dots. Each participant should stick one dot on the piece of paper representing each policy. A red dot signifies that that policy is seen by that person as constraining innovation using emergent technologies, a green dot signifies that the policy supports innovation with emergent technologies and an amber or yellow signifies that that individual sees the policy or rule as 'non-aligned,' neutral or evenly balanced in relation to the use of emergent technologies.

We have found that asking participants to stand up and participate in a whole group exercise stimulates significant discussion than can be as informative as the actual results of the task. Facilitators are therefore encouraged to observe, question and record the comments made by participants.

When everyone has stuck their dots on all the pieces of paper, they can be grouped based on the predominant colour of the dots and a quick analysis can be used to further stimulate discussion.

A more detailed analysis may be carried out after the event. Examples of how the results can be represented and discussed further are outlined on the JISC IRET blog.

**<http://jisciret.jiscinvolve.org/>**