



Brain stimulation reconsidered – participative development of a code of conduct for the european union (STIMCODE)



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Nerve cells can be influenced by electrical or magnetic impulses. Noninvasive brain stimulation (NIBS) uses this ability and is able to inhibit or activate certain areas of the brain. NIBS can be used in healthy people, but research has focused primarily on diseases in which certain areas of the brain are restricted. However in addition to clinical research, a large market has developed in which people buy devices for cognitive enhancement or for self-treatment of neuropsychiatric conditions, and use them at home without medical supervision. This development, inter alia, raises questions that are currently difficult for researchers and governments to answer. For example, where exactly is the border between enhancement and treatment? Should the procedures also be used to treat children? In order to address questions like this in a reflective manner, this project aims to develop a participatory code of conduct for NIBS. To this end, actors from various scientific disciplines, society, business and governments will be involved. The involvement of laypersons and various expert perspectives will provide scientists with a tool to reflect on their own research and governments will be able to use the Code of Conduct for NIBS to create long-term guidelines that are valid EU-wide.

