

National Research Council of Italy

*Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory
Committee*

and Institute for International Legal Studies

Rome
11-11-2010
cinzia.caporale@cnr.it



National Research Council of Italy

- Largest public research institution in Italy, research performing agency
- ~8.000 employees + ~ 7.000 contracts (Research personnel 88% Administration 12 %)
- Institutional funds + resources from the market
- Scientific network:
11 Departments (110 Institutes located throughout 18 Regions)



National Research Council of Italy

Areas:

- Earth and Environment + Agrifood
- Life sciences+Medicine
- Materials and Devices+Molecular Design
- Energy and Transport+Production Systems+Information and Communication Technologies
- Cultural Identity+Cultural Heritage



National Research Council of Italy

Mission:

- to perform **research** and provide technologies
- to promote **innovation** and competitiveness of the national industrial system
- to promote the **internationalization** of the national research system and to represent Italian science in international non-governmental Organizations
- to **advise** Government and other public bodies
- to qualify **human resources**

CNR: no Research Integrity Unit / Office
/ Rules / Procedures / Staff / Training ...

*Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory
Committee: activities, programme*

CNR Institute for
International Legal
Studies: staff, research



*Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory
Committee - TASKS*

- **To support and advice the President in all matters related to *Research Ethics* and *Bioethics*, included moral, deontological and juridical aspects as embraced by the general concept of *research integrity*, within the framework of International relations.**



Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory Committee - TASKS

- To provide a set of evaluation **criteria**, together with all relevant **procedures** and **guidelines**, for the analysis and the management of all ethical issues deriving from scientific and technical research activity taking place within the CNR.



Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory Committee - TASKS

- To organise international and national **seminars** and **workshops**, and to implement **divulcation** initiatives targeted to the public at large, focusing on the ethical implications of scientific and technological research, on the role and importance of science and technology, on the freedom and responsibility of each researcher, and on the issues of research integrity.

Research Ethics and Bioethics Advisory Committee - TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

- **Adoption** of the European Code of Conduct as set out by ESF, and possible integrations to it (national guidelines, Code of Best Research Practices of the CNR).
- Analysis of the **language** utilised and translation into Italian.
- First Italian “**vocabulary**” on research integrity with the aim of spreading and favouring the comprehension of this topic in our Country. Our activity will be devoted to the elaboration of a “shared vocabulary” among researchers of different areas in relation to research integrity.

TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

Awareness and Capacity Building

- Goal: encouraging Good Research Practices and **preventing misconduct**.
- Training/education for Researchers/Scientists with a particular attention to young researchers and to the biomedical sector: periodical internal workshop for CNR staff.
- Activation of a permanent forum of discussion in the Commission website and *ad hoc* meetings for ethical and legal consultancy with reference to the ethical aspects of research projects and to the issues strictly related to research integrity.

TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

- Definition of a **research area devoted to research integrity** with interdisciplinary competences (ethics, law, bioethics) inside the **Institute for International Legal Studies** of CNR
- Linkage with CNR Institutes, bodies under MIUR jurisdiction, universities, scientific societies, professional corporations in order to spread awareness on research integrity and to create an environment favourable to the adoption of guidelines.

TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

- **Creation of a Research Integrity dedicated Unit** within the CNR organisation which should **monitor** the implementation of the CNR Code of Best Research Practices.
- Institutes will **report** yearly and whenever the Unit deems it necessary to request it. The Unit supports the Institutes, examines each report and addresses its **recommendations**, and any possible concern, to the Institute in the form of “concluding observations”.
- In addition to the reporting procedure, the Code will provide for the Unit/Commission to consider **individual complaints (?)**.

TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

- Carry out a **general survey** inside the CNR institutes and then to activate collaborations with other Italian research bodies and finally to implement an **observatory on research integrity**.
- 1st Italian Report, 2011



TARGETS on Research Integrity: National Cooperation

- An **annual National conference** on research integrity extended to universities, funding agencies, private sector.
- In the long term, as CNR will be widely recognized in Italy as the **central hub for research integrity**, concretely collaborate with other public and private actors. Our goal is to obtain a **formal mandate** from the Ministry for Education, University and Research (national survey, national guidelines).

TARGETS on Research Integrity: International Cooperation

- An **annual International Workshop** in Rome aimed at coordinating the activities carried out with reference to research integrity: the ultimate goal is the harmonization of ethical and research integrity standards and practices by adopting international standards, e.g. the European Code of Conduct and the Singapore Statement on Research Integrity.
- **Adherence to such guidelines may be formalized in research agreements between CNR and external institutions.**
- Enlargement of **GEObs'** mandate in order to insert data concerning research integrity in the UNESCO database.

