

From Principles to Practice: How European Research Organisations implement research integrity guidelines?

Madrid, CSIC Headquarters
17-18 November 2008

European Coordinated Approaches to Research Integrity - ECARI

The role Network of Research Integrity
Offices can play

A perspective of networking Research
Integrity Offices/Structures

Background

Integrity in Research– a Rationale for
Community Action - Rapporteur

Set up the Network of European Research
Structures, first meeting, London, 11 March
2008 - chair

Devised Work Package three of ECARI

Work Package three of ECARI

Research Integrity Structures in Europe to work together to facilitate:

1. Information Sharing - from cases/issues
 - To inform policy development
 - Guide education & training
 - To guide research
2. Sharing systems experience
3. Workshops to develop key issues (two)

Original proposal I

Sharing experience

- Network Meetings
- To share information on cases (anonymised), how they were resolved and international consequences
- Identify common issues and trends
- Liaise with other initiatives
- Opportunity for other organisations to take part
- Write reports based on issues raised and make recommendations to national and international bodies

Original proposal II

Systems experience

- To see how models operate in practice
- Host visits
- Planned 10 per year
- Priority to nations without offices
- Feedback from both host and visitor.
- Also look to other organisations to sponsor travel fund

Original Proposal III

■ Workshops

- Such as: discussion of the various models for promoting integrity in research and for handling the investigations of matters of poor conduct in research.
- Could also take forward key issues which have arisen during discussions at meetings.
- Plans to be developed at meeting 2 or 3.

Work Package three of ECARI

Closing date - 18th March 2008

Representatives of Offices from twelve European States supported the proposal
Majority support for working in ECARI Partnership

Funding for support of networking, travel grants, leadership/admin

Outcome

- ECARI not progressed by EC
- WP3 not criticised
- Network unable to take forward programme without resources
- Still merit in the work proposed

Could some of the programme be taken forward?

Post ECARI - 4 Questions

1. Is there a future for a network of European research integrity structures?
2. Is there a role for such a network?
3. Are there parts of the programme that the network might take forward?
4. Are there parts of the programme that others might take forward?

Post ECARI

1. Majority of members considered there was a future for the network

Agreed to meet to discuss the other issues

Second meeting of the network was held in Split, Croatia 21/22 September

Meeting of the Network, Split 22/9

Agreed to work on the original brief of meeting to:

- Identifying issues for discussions
- Discussing common issues in research integrity
- Sharing developments in the promotion of good practice in support of research integrity

Meeting of the Network, Split 22/9

Representatives agreed:

- 2 there is a role for the network
- 3 there may be parts of the programme that the network could take forward
- 4 there are parts of the programme that others might take forward in the short term

Meeting of the Network, Split 22/9

Agenda included reviewing ways in which:

Aspects of WP3 might be progressed

The network might liaise with other groups working in the international arena – in particular the ESF

The network might look at options for funding network support

What might the Network do?

Some of Proposal 1 - Sharing experience

- Continues Network Meetings
- To share information on cases (anonymised), how they were resolved and international consequences
- Identify common issues and trends
- Liaise with other initiatives
- Opportunity for other organisations to take part
- Report issues raised and make recommendations to national and international bodies

What might the Network do?

Only those parts of Proposal 2 - Systems experience, that each office may choose to support

- To outline how national models operate
- host visits
- Planned 10 per year
- Priority to nations without offices
- Feedback from both host and visitor.
- Also look to other organisations to sponsor travel fund

What might the Network do?

Proposal 3 - Workshops could not be taken forward.

This might be better led by other organisations

Network strengths?

- Small group of with considerable experience in RI
- Direct experience of handling cases and issues
- Ability to identify issues and make recommendations
- Leadership as an Expert Group
- Contact points

What would improve network operation

- Administrative Support
- Effective liaison with international bodies
- Wider participation by European RI Structures

Summary

The Network of European RI Structures is:

- supported and operational
- a source of expertise
- will continue to meet discuss issues
- keen to liaise with others
- under-resourced dependent on the enthusiasm of key members

Thanks

European Science Foundation
CSIC
Network Members
Workshop attendees
