

ESF Member Forum on Scientific Integrity

Working Group 2; Code of Conduct
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History ESF Member Forum

- First World Conference on *Research Integrity, fostering responsible research*, Lisbon, 16-19 Sept. 2007.
- Proposal project *European Co-ordinated Approach to Research Integrity* (ESF, ALLEA, UKRIO). Funding EC rejected (May 2008), decision to go ahead anyway with own means.
- Workshop ESF Members (ESF & CSIC) *Research integrity: from principles to practice*. Madrid, 17-18 Nov. 2008.
- After Madrid: Establishing ESF Member Forum on Research Integrity with four Working Groups:
 - Raising awareness
 - Code of Conduct
 - Setting up national structures
 - Furthering research on RI

Working Groups

- First meeting of the four working groups: Amsterdam, 23 May, 2009
- Joint meeting WG 2 and WG 3: Amsterdam, 11 Sept. 2009
- Joint meeting four working groups: Strasbourg, 27 Oct. 2009
- Various between and within group communications through e-mail and telephone.

Code of Conduct (WG 2)

- Two parallel lines of consultation: European Academies of Sciences, and ESF Members (funding agencies, research councils and academies)
- First discussion paper (P.J.D.Drenth, *Science and Integrity*) discussed in meeting of Allea's standing committee on science and ethics, Berlin, 26-27 March '09, and commented on by members WG2
- Second draft (P.J.D.Drenth, *Scientific Integrity: Code of Conduct*) subject of discussion of special meeting of (representatives of) ALLEA's member academies, Berne, 29-30 June, 2009, and of meeting Working Group 2, Amsterdam, 11 Sept. 2009
- Various comments and suggestions by members of WG2 and by academies that could not attend the Berne meeting were received throughout the consulting period
- All resulting in present proposal *Code of Conduct*

Essence CoC

- CoC is a canon for self regulation, and not a body of law
- The Code confines itself to standards of integrity while *conducting* research. The much wider socio-ethical responsibility of the scientist is left out of consideration
- The Code represents an agreement on a set of principles and priorities at a given point in time
- Initially the document addresses itself to the European scientific community. Hopefully it will offer building stones for a globally accepted code

Principles of scientific integrity

- Applies to all fields of science and humanities
- Ethics in *conducting research* is part of a wider socio-ethical responsibility of the scientist
- Principles of scientific integrity (*honesty, reliability, objectivity, impartiality and independence, open communication, duty of care, fairness, responsibility for future science generations*) are universal

Misconduct

- Violating norms of scientific integrity is harmful for science, for individuals and society, and for trust in science
- Two most serious violations are *fabrication* and *falsification*
- *Plagiarism* is another serious violation.
- So is improper *dealing* with infringements, and gross negligence of good research *management* and of the duty to *further* research integrity
- Part of what is defined as *questionable* research practice (i.e. falsification in statu nascendi) is also a fundamental violation of integrity norms
- These infringements are fundamental violations, and should be rejected universally

Good practices

- Other forms of objectionable practices refer to:
 - Data practices
 - Research procedures:
 - Proper research procedures
 - Responsible research procedures
 - Publication-related conduct
 - Reviewing and editorial issues
- Guidelines are offered; they are presented in a general style. Unlike fundamental principles and violations (which are part of universal Code of Conduct) these procedural rules must allow for national/regional/disciplinary differences and cannot claim catholicity

Dealing with allegations of misconduct

- Mostly: responsibility within employer institute
- Some countries: national body
- Many countries; national body, advisory or court of appeal
- Need for fair and due process, that is uniform and sufficiently rapid and leads to proper outcomes and sanctions
- Principles following closely OECD report

International collaborative research

- Importance of an internationally accepted Code of Conduct
- What to do with alleged research misconduct in international collaborative research?
- In large scale formal research projects or programmes: recommendations of OECD Global Science Forum Co-ordinating committee for facilitating international misconduct investigations to be followed.