

# Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility



MLE Research Integrity  
Overview Processes and structures  
Lithuania

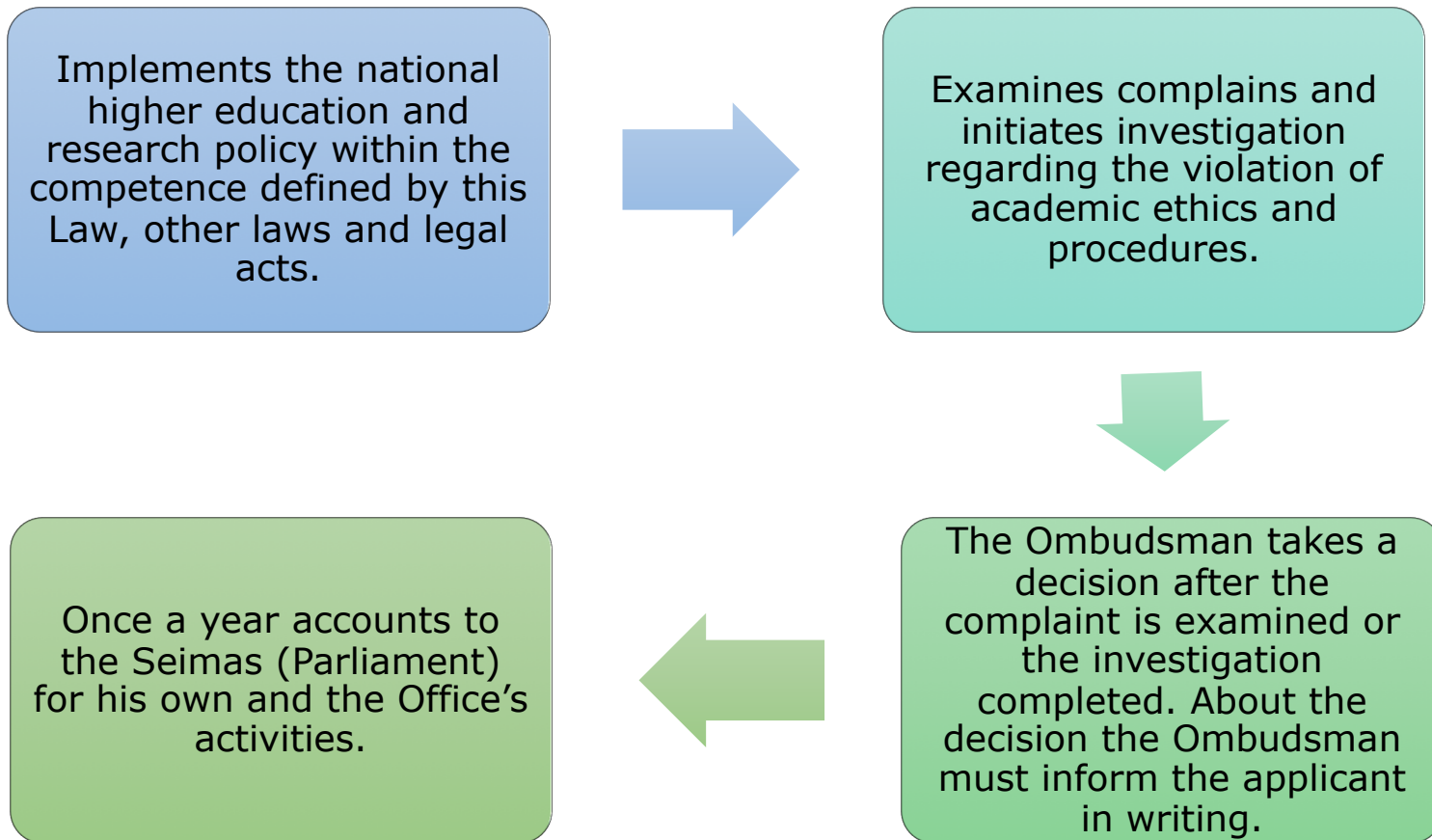
Country visit  
Oslo, 30.01.2019

## **OMBUDSMAN FOR ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA**

- On 30 April 2009, Law on Research and Higher Education of the Republic of Lithuania Nr. XI-242, Article 18. Academic Ethics and Procedures Ombudsman.
- On 15 September 2011, the Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania established the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures.
- 2013 June 18 the first Ombudsman of Academic Ethics and Procedures Vigilijus Sadauskas was appointed
- On March 2018 Parliament resigning from the Ombudsman Vigilijus Sadauskas
- On 21 January, 2019 the Ombudsman of Academic Ethics and Procedures Loreta Tauginė
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# THE OMBUDSMAN FOR ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES



## FUNCTIONS

- 1. To investigate complaints and, on the Ombudsman's initiative, carry out investigations into possible violations of academic ethics and procedures.**
- 2. To provide recommendations to the research and higher education institutions on the development, implementation and improvement of academic codes of ethics, etc.**
3. To submit proposals to the competent authorities regarding compliance with academic ethics and procedures;
4. To collect, analyse and summarise the data on violations of academic ethics and procedures known to the Ombudsman.
5. To co-operate with the institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and foreign countries for which academic ethics and procedures are important.
6. In accordance with the procedure established by legal acts, encourage and support initiatives of legal and natural persons and society, which help to implement measures for the promotion and safeguarding of the quality of science and studies based on academic ethics.
7. To inform the public about the activities of the Office of the Ombudsman, the complaints or investigations under consideration and the decisions taken by the Ombudsman on the website of the Office of the Ombudsman.
8. To perform other functions necessary for the performance of the Office of the Ombudsman service and tasks, as well as other legal acts.



## TASKS

- 1. To encourage scientific and educational institutions to adhere to academic ethics and procedures.**
- 2. To supervise and control the compliance of academic and academic institutions with academic codes of ethics.**
3. To cooperate with the scientific and educational institutions in solving problems related to violations of academic ethics and procedures.
4. To ensure effective and confidential investigation of violations of academic ethics and procedures.
5. To supervise and control the implementation of the provisions of the international treaties of the Republic of Lithuania, the legal acts of the European Union, the laws and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania regulating academic ethics and procedures.
6. To contribute to the quality of science and studies, promoting the principles of academic responsibility and ethical scientific practices, by means of the use of plagiarism, illegal copying or other illegal exploitation of the results of intellectual property, as well as measures for the prevention of counterfeiting, forgery or manipulation of research data.



Upon having examined the complaint or completed the investigation, **the Ombudsman shall take a decision:**

- 1. To inform** higher education and research institutions and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport about the persons who have violated the academic ethics and procedures.
- 2. To obligate** the institution, which has awarded a scientific degree and/or held the competition to fill a position, to revoke the decision on the awarding of the scientific degree and/or the winner of the competition.
- 3. To recommend** the higher education and research institutions to revoke the decision taken on the basis of the documents regulating the academic ethics and procedures.
- 4. To recommend** to an employee to refuse participating in an ongoing project of research and experimental (social, cultural) development.
- 5. To inform** an institution responsible for a specific sphere about the persons (authors) who have suffered from violations of the academic ethics.
- 6. To notify** law-enforcement institutions if the evidence of a criminal offence has been established.
- 7. To appeal** to the court if the obligation of the Supervisor is not fulfilled.
- 8. To declare** the complaint unfounded.
- 9. To close** the investigation of the complaint (notification).



## THE POWER OF THE DECISION OF THE OMBUDSMAN

The Ombudsman, after examining the complaint or conducting an own-initiative investigation, takes the decision on violations of academic ethics and / or procedures.

Such a statement of a violation of academic ethics and / or procedures and decision to inform **is not a sanction by itself.**

The is not empowered to impose any sanctions.

Only the institution of science and higher education is authorised to adopt a valid act regarding violations of academic ethics and/or procedures.

The Ombudsman decisions are, as a matter of principle, assessed as informational and advisory in nature, without legal liability and legal sanctions that do not have a punitive function.

**While stating the violation, the Ombudsman bases it on norms of ethics, not law.**

**The decision of the Ombudsman has moral consequences and only then if the society is moral.**



## MAIN CONCEPTS

- **Academic ethics** – universally recognised and enshrined values by academic community in codes of ethics which ensure the clarity of process of education and research, academic integrity among members of academic community, reciprocal trust, respect, equality, justice, non-discrimination, responsibility, sustainable use of resources, academic freedom, impartiality in research papers evaluation and protection of an intellectual property.
- **Underlying values of academic ethics** – academic integrity, responsibility, equality, justice, non-discrimination, accountability, clarity, sustainable use of resources, academic freedom, impartiality in research papers evaluation, trust, respect.
- **Socially responsible behavior** – conscious, mature and based on principles of academic ethics behaviour of a member of institution of education and research and academic community in both interior and exterior environment.





# COMMISSION ON ETHICS OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN RESEARCH COUNCIL OF LITHUANIA

Examines infringement of ethics principles in research activities related to:

- projects financed by the Council,
- evaluation and publication of research results,
- expert activities of researchers,
- dissemination of research knowledge in the society,
- other activities of the Council.



## REGULATIONS

- National Studies, Research and Experimental Development Programme 2013-2020 (2013)
- Law on Ethics of Biomedical Research (2011)
- Industrial Biotechnology Development Programme for Lithuania 2011-2013 (2011)
- Law on Pharmacy (2008)
- Regulation of Patent Attorneys (2004)
- Law on Copyright and Related Rights (2011)
- Law on Patents (2012)
- Regulation regarding goods considered as produced violating intellectual property rights (2004)
- Concept of Anti-Piracy Centre for Intellectual Property (2008)



## **OTHER INSTITUTIONS**

- Quality Assurance Agency for Lithuania
- Ministry of Educations, Science and Sport
- Ministry of Health
- Higher education and research institutions

