

Horizon 2020 Policy Support Facility



MLE Research Integrity Overview of the status from LITHUANIA

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I – Incentives

Status

- Embryo stage



INCENTIVES

Changes to assessment/promotion criteria

- Establishment of ethical approval procedure in doctoral studies and research projects' funding [discussion ongoing]

Awards for commendable behaviours

- Awards for the best initiative/activity in and essay on academic/research integrity [planned from the next year]



ACCESS TO PRESTIGIOUS POSITIONS OR ROLES

- Not applicable as there is no such an Office's function, **BUT** there is a criterion of **an impeccable reputation** in the Law on Research and Higher Education that is applied to:
 - members of the Research Council of Lithuania
 - ombudsperson for academic ethics and procedures
 - members of the Council of public HEI
 - rector/director of HEI

HEI (higher education institution) refers to universities, universities of applied sciences and research institutes.



IMPECCABLE REPUTATION

A person of impeccable reputation must fulfil these requirements:

- his/her behaviour is in congruence with values of academic ethics, such as academic integrity and protection of intellectual property;
- s/he has not been convicted of a criminal offense by an effective judgment;
- s/he was not dismissed from service or job because of disciplinary offense;
- s/he does not abuse alcohol, does not use drugs, psychotropic or toxic substances.



OTHER INCENTIVES

Research grants and monetary incentives

- Not applicable as there is no such an Office's function, **BUT** there are attempts to pay attention to research integrity:
 - *The Research Council of Lithuania*: 5 years prohibition to submit the research proposal to the RCL in case of ethical breaches detected by the Office
 - *The Institute of Phenomenological Studies*: Award for the Best Qualitative Research (one of its evaluation criteria relates to research ethics)



I - Incentives

Challenges

- Sisyphus' fate, so useless and hopeless work because of lack of commitment from other stakeholders
- Never to be the prophet in your land

Expectations

- Perception/reflection increase through raising awareness



II - Dialogue and communication

Status

- Uninhabited island
- “Kiss over the handkerchief”



PROMOTING

- ✓ Analytical studies related to a specific topic (topic-oriented country reports)
- ✓ Establishment of topic-specific working groups
- ✓ Networking with the Lithuanian University Rectors' conference, the Lithuanian University of Applied Sciences Directors' conference, other governmental bodies, such as the Research Council of Lithuania, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and, when needed, with international stakeholders (e.g. ENRIO, publishers, journal editors)



II - Dialogue and communication

Challenges

- Lack of resources for consistent studies to ensure the monitoring
- We have zest, but not serious attention of HEIs' leaders
- Open dialogue and multi-way communication

Expectations

- Involving the Office or at least considerations about research(er) integrity in all aspects of research and higher education
- Widening interinstitutional cooperation at all scales through practice sharing and handling investigations



III - Training

Status

- First attempts have started this year



TRAINING

Assisting in plagiarism prevention



Librarians



Researchers

Authorship
Conflict of interest/roles

Contributing to the culture of academic integrity



Students



Academic Integrity Committees

Categorising academic malpractices



TRAINING

- ✓ Workshops by international lecturers
- ✓ Providing access to text-matching software for educational purposes (e.g. to university journals' editors, students), such as Feedback Studio [*under current consideration*]



ADVISING

- ✓ Private consultations
- ✓ FAQ
- ✓ Development of topic-related guidelines (e.g. about codes of ethics)



III - Training

Challenges

- Indifference from some members of academia, such as senior/experienced researchers
- To give a further life for knowledge

Expectations

- To go beyond self-assessment on research integrity
- To have ambassadors of research integrity to promote institutional changes



IV – Structure and process

Status

- Very few regulations
- Fragmented initiatives



NATIONAL ETHICS INFRASTRUCTURE



IV – Structure and process

Challenges

- Self-regulation vs top-down approach
- Law vs ethics (Office – courts)
- (Possible) infringer (public/official person) – journalist (public communication)

Expectations

- Clear lines and processes within a country
- European policy/standards/directive/...





THANK
YOU!

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