

Global initiatives to promote Good Conduct in Research

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Most countries

- Fund national programmes of research
- Cooperate with other countries in research projects and programmes
- Employ researchers trained overseas
- Require research to be conducted with integrity
- Place the responsibility for good conduct with the individual researcher
- Place the responsibility for investigating allegations of misconduct with employer and/or funder



Handling misconduct within international collaborative projects

- Are there national contacts in each country
- Does the agreement detail how such investigations be conducted
- Which partner (country) should take an investigation forward
- Procedures, policies and standards may be different between countries



International Initiatives

- Initiatives to promote systems for research integrity are being taken forward by:
 - the OECD Global Science Forum
 - The EC - Expert Group “Integrity in Research - a Rationale for Community Action”
 - Cooperation between the European Science Foundation (ESF), Alliance of European Academies (ALLEA) and UKRIO



OECD GLOBAL SCIENCE FORUM

Two initiatives:

- Report on Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct
- International Co-ordinating Committee for Facilitating Research Misconduct Investigations



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

International discussion facilitated by the OECD reached six conclusions:

- A. An optimal strategy consists of actively promoting integrity and deterring misconduct within all of the components of the research enterprise.



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

B. Administrations are encouraged to make sure that such a system is explicitly and deliberately put in place and publicised in the relevant communities, based on a wide-ranging consultation with principal stakeholders: researchers, funding agencies, scientific publishers, representatives of the public.



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

- C. Any systems for receiving allegations should be characterised by sensitivity, confidentiality, objectivity, and fairness and those running such a system should have the appropriate competence, training and mandate (including links to higher-level authorities, should they be needed) and authority to resolve those disputes.



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

D. Misconduct investigations must satisfy the highest levels of integrity and accuracy. Fairness and credibility are critical, as reputations of researchers are easily damaged and difficult to restore.

Corrective actions should be consistently applied, and aimed at undoing the consequences of misconduct.



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

E. Misconduct in international collaborative projects is especially challenging due to incompatible definitions, standards & procedures. Greater Internationalisation of research means competent national administrations should cooperate more, to understand each others requirements & constraints. *



Best Practices for Ensuring Scientific Integrity and Preventing Misconduct

- F. Understanding the causes is useful for devising effective measures for preventing misconduct in research, and for dealing with it when it occurs. A number of hypothetical causative factors are enumerated in the OECD report, and, for each one, corresponding remedies can be devised.



OECD GSF International Co-ordinating Committee for Facilitating Research Misconduct Investigations:

Taking forward two strands of work:

Development of General principles for conducting investigations in international settings (US Lead)

Development of generic models/misconduct templates for international research agreements (UK Lead)

Investigating international misconduct
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UK Research Integrity Office



EC Initiative

Directorate L - Science, economy and society

Governance and ethics

Commissioned an Expert Group to provide views on the steps towards developing *a proper policy on scientific integrity at EU level. This policy, developed in synergy with the EC's ethical review and ethical audits, will add to the credibility and quality of European research.*



EC Expert Group

Convened in March 2007 and made recommendations.

- The Commission might consider initiatives to promote the widespread adoption of standards and definitions by eligible institutions in member states
- The Commission might consider making the adoption of agreed national standards a condition for eligibility to receive commission funding
- The Commission might consider actions to promote the discussion of integrity in research at the level of public policy



Commission Funding

In November 2007 the commission issued a call under
Science in Society: *Area 5.1.3.2 Promoting trust and
self-regulation in the scientific community*

SiS-2008-1.3.2.1: Supporting trans-national exchange of experience between Research Integrity structures

The structures responsible for dealing with integrity at
national level are therefore invited to submit proposals
aiming to exchange their views and progress towards a
common European approach.

Funding Scheme: Co-ordination and support actions



European Coordinated Approaches to Research Integrity (ECARI)

Cooperative programme led by the ESF and partners –

European Federation of National Academies of Science and Humanities (ALLEA);

UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO)

Bid for a 30 month programme with six work packages.



European Coordinated Approaches to Research Integrity (ECARI)

Main Programme to include:

Developing a European Code of Research Conduct (Lead ALLEA)

University procedures for dealing with research integrity and activities to foster the responsible conduct of research (Lead ESF)

European Network of Research Integrity Offices (Lead UKRIO)



European Coordinated Approaches to Research Integrity (ECARI)

Other work packages are to develop:

The ESF Member Organisations' Forum on research integrity to compare policies (All Partners)

The Global Research Integrity Clearing House – to provide a location for the deposition of policies and procedures (All Partners)

A European contribution to the Second World Conference on research Integrity (All Partners)



Summary

There are currently a number of linked Global & European initiatives to:

- Promote best practice in research
- Promote the adoption of appropriate mechanisms for handling misconduct in research
- Develop standards and codes of practice for research which might gain national and international adoption.

With the UK, through the Research Integrity Office, involved in all these initiatives.

