



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT



supporting research integrity at the national level


Teodora Konach

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI)

Crisis of truth and trust

PLOS MEDICINE

BROWSE PL

 OPEN ACCESS

ESSAY

Why Most Published Research Findings Are False

John P. A. Ioannidis

Published: August 30, 2005 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124>

Brief report

The carnage of substandard research during the COVID-19 pandemic:
a call for quality **FREE**

 [Katrina A Bramstedt](#)^{1, 2}

Correspondence to Professor Katrina A Bramstedt, Bond University Faculty of Health Sciences and Medicine, Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia; txbioethics@yahoo.com

Research Misconduct

OPEN ACCESS Freely available online



How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data

Daniele Fanelli*

INNOGEN and ISSTI-Institute for the Study of Science, Technology & Innovation, The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Fanelli D (2009)

PLoS ONE 4(5):

e5738. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0005738>

2 % of scientists **admitted** to have fabricated, falsified or modified data or results at least once

Up to 34 % admit other questionable research practices (QRP)

14 % of scientists **observed** fabrication, falsification or modification done by colleagues

Up to 72 % observed others doing questionable research practices (QRP)

21 studies included; „tip of the iceberg“

Factors influencing RI



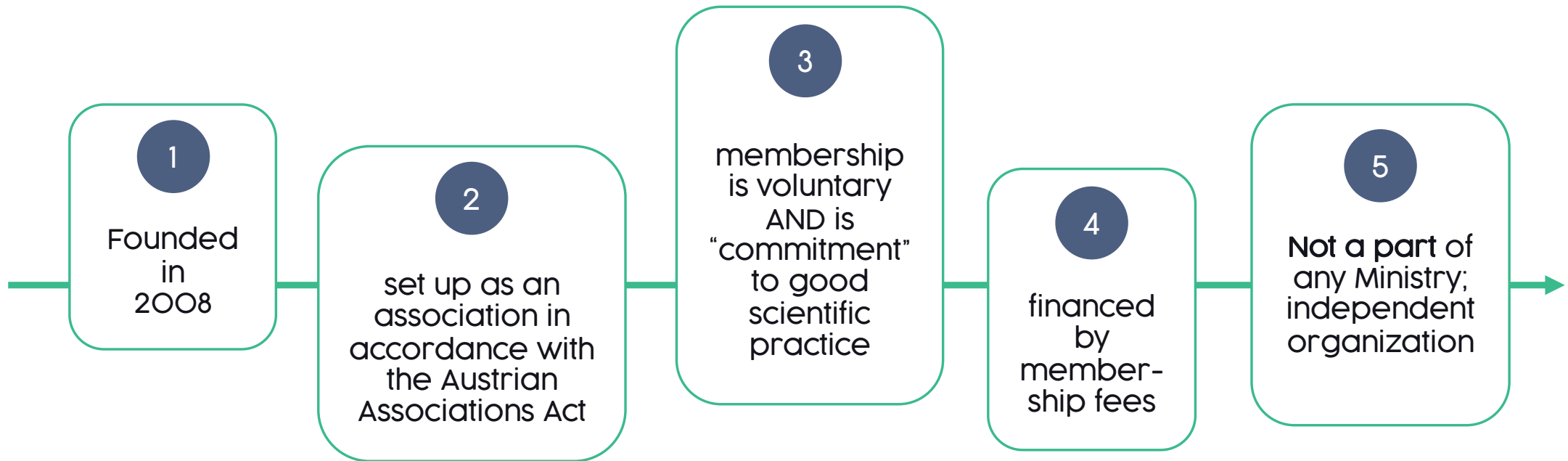
RI is not only the responsibility of individual researchers

Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

Setting the organisational framework

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

OeAWI



Administrative Office

OeAWI

Administrative office:

- **First point of contact** in cases of alleged research misconduct
- **Communication with all persons involved**
- **Support and advising of the Commission** (e.g. international context)

Commission

- **Responsible for investigating cases** of (alleged) research misconduct thoroughly and objectively.
- It constitutes an **independent body** and consists of renowned researchers, mainly from abroad
- It is responsible for cases in **Austria**, related to Austria or involving Austrian researchers
- Representing **different fields**: humanities, law, social sciences, life sciences, natural and technical sciences, economic sciences and medical sciences

Tasks of the OeAWI

Focus on information and prevention

- **Prevention & Raising Awareness**
(e.g. Training)
- **Advising**
- **Investigation**
- **National & International Networking**

Investigation

Investigation of
allegations of cases
of research
misconduct

Prevention

Awareness for the
Standards of Good
Scientific Practice

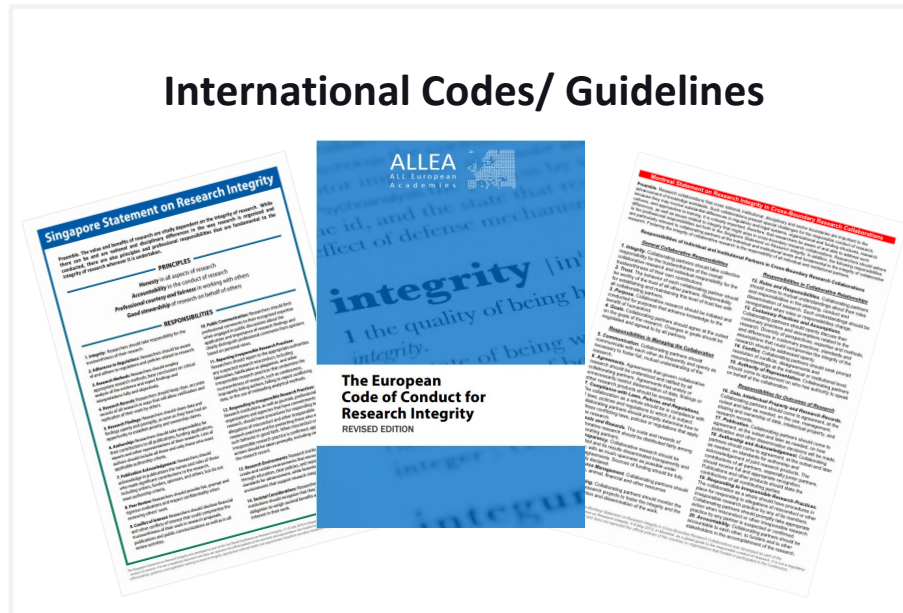
Training

Facilitation of Good
Scientific Practice

Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice

Setting the policy and regulatory framework

Codes / Guidelines

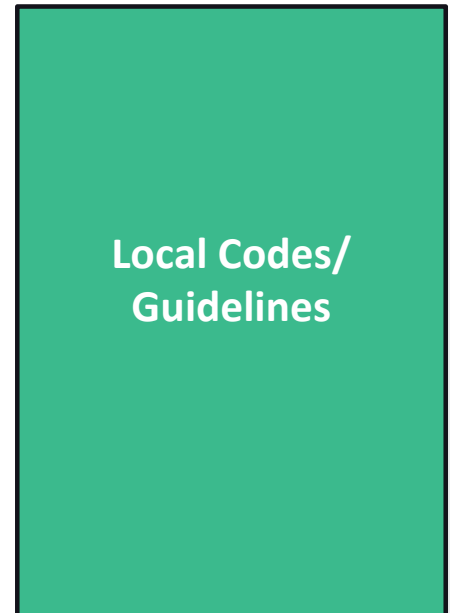


www.wcrif.org/guidance

www.allea.org



www.oewi.at



All European Academies (ALLEA) The European Code of Conduct

published in 2017 (2022/2023 under revision)



Good research practices are based on fundamental principles of research integrity. They guide researchers in their work as well as in their engagement with the practical, ethical and intellectual challenges inherent in research.

These principles are:

- **Reliability** in ensuring the quality of research, reflected in the design, the methodology, the analysis and the use of resources.
- **Honesty** in developing, undertaking, reviewing, reporting and communicating research in a transparent, fair, full and unbiased way.
- **Respect** for colleagues, research participants, society, ecosystems, cultural heritage and the environment.
- **Accountability** for the research from idea to publication, for its management and organisation, for training, supervision and mentoring, and for its wider impacts.

Common guidelines

published in April 2015

JOINT PROCESS (2014/2015):

**Discussed with and approved by
(then) 37 member organisations**



Research Misconduct & breaches of GSP rules: most frequent problems

Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



Research misconduct refers to

- wilful
- conscious or
- grossly negligent

violations of the **Standards of GSP (§ 2)**.

Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



FFP

- Fabrication of data
- Falsification of data
- Plagiarism

Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



- Unjustified refusal to provide access to primary and original data
- Obstructing the research activities of other scientists/researchers
- Sabotaging research activities
- Providing inaccurate information in a grant proposal which may place competing scientists/researchers at a disadvantage
- Creating disadvantages to the career advancement of whistle-blowers

Research Misconduct

OeAWI guidelines for GSP



Research misconduct can also include involvement in other persons' violations, e.g.:

- Active involvement in the misconduct of others
- Co-authorship of publications based on falsified data or otherwise generated through violations of the GSP-standards
- Neglect of supervisory obligations

Out of scope of these rules....

- Statements within the scientific discourse
 - Errors made in good faith
-

- Mobbing
- Sexual harassment
- ...

How to foster Research Integrity?

What can a research/funding institution do?

- Aspirational guidance needs to be translated to **concrete policies**
- With the goal to **support** researchers and institutions
- The plan should be **comprehensive and tangible** to address various dimensions of RI

From principles to practice

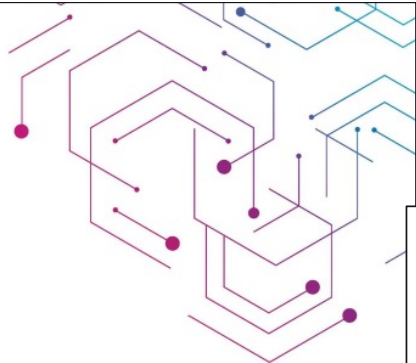
How to develop a Research Integrity Promotion Plan




All research performing organizations (RPOs) and research funding organizations (RFOs) should have a RIPP

- The RIPP should outline the **steps** that the RPO or RFO will take to promote research integrity in the context of its mission and disciplinary focus
- It should **address a number of RI topics** – and outline policies for how these topics will be handled.



The way forward: Research integrity by design



**Guideline for Promoting Research Integrity
in Research Performing Organisations**




Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity (SOPs4RI) project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 824481



**How to
create and
implement a
Research Integrity
Promotion Plan (RIPP)**

A guideline (ver. 2.0)

Serge P.J.M. Horbach and Mads P. Sørensen on behalf of SOPs4RI



TEMPLATE FOR WRITING A
RESEARCH INTEGRITY PROMOTION PLAN
FOR RESEARCH PERFORMING
ORGANISATIONS

1

Research Integrity tools for RPOs

The SOPs4RI Toolbox is a structured collection of easy-to-use Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines that Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) can use to develop their own Research Integrity Promotion Plans (RIPPs). The SOPs4RI Toolbox will contain supplementary resources that can inspire policy makers to foster research integrity at the organisational level.

GUIDELINE

SOPs4RI: Topics to be addressed by RPOs

A description of the 9 topics to be addressed in a research integrity promotion plan.

[OPEN LINK >](#)

GUIDELINE

Research Integrity Promotion Plan

How to create and implement a Research Integrity Promotion Plan

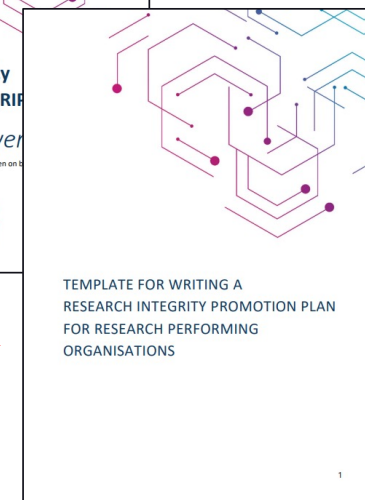
[OPEN LINK >](#)

TEMPLATE

Research Integrity Promotion Plan

Template for Research Integrity Promotion Plan for RPOs

[OPEN LINK >](#)



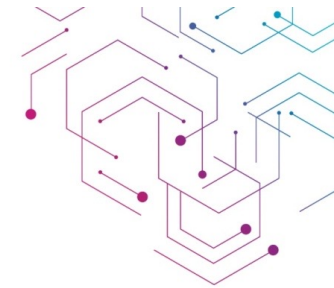
SOPs4RI



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT

Policy impact

Research Integrity in EU projects



Declaration included in part A of each submitted EU research proposal

6) We declare that the proposal complies with ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity as set out in the [ALLEA European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#), as well as applicable international and national law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its Supplementary Protocols. [Appropriate procedures, policies and structures](#) are in place to foster responsible research practices, to prevent questionable research practices and research misconduct, and to handle allegations of breaches of the principles and standards in the Code of Conduct.



SOPs4RI



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT

The toolbox @ sops4ri.eu

sops4ri.eu



SOPs4RI

HOME THE PROJECT ▾ TOOLBOX MEET OUR TEAM NEWS CONTACT US

Achieve Research Integrity with our Toolbox

A collection of easy-to-use Standard Operating Procedures and Guidelines that Research Performing and Funding Organisations can use to develop their own Research Integrity Promotion Plans.

2 SECTIONS 15 TOPICS 120 TOOLS

[VIEW TOOLBOX >](#)



SOPs4RI



ÖAWI
ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT

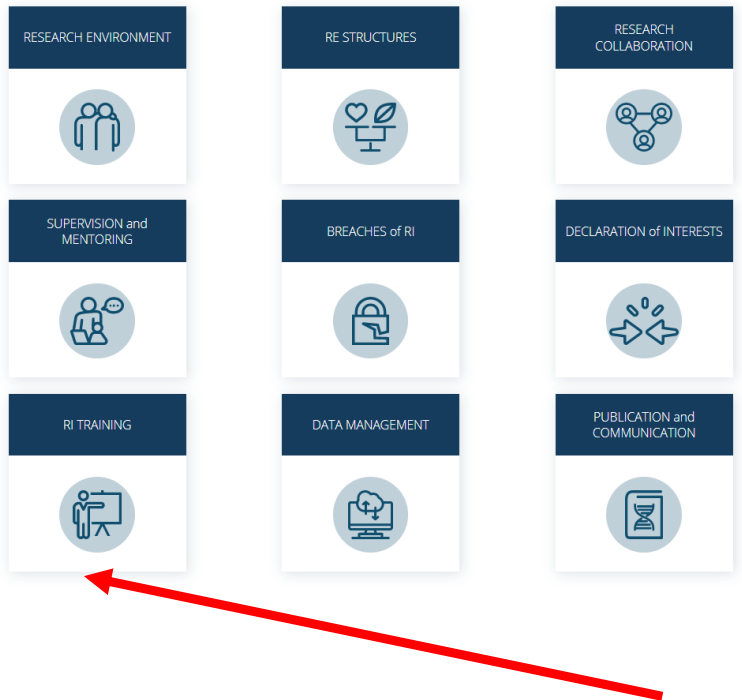
Research Integrity tools for RPOs

The SOPs4RI Toolbox is a structured collection of easy-to-use Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines that Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) can use to develop their own Research Integrity Promotion Plans (RIPPs). The SOPs4RI Toolbox will contain supplementary resources that can inspire policy makers to foster research integrity at the organisational level.

GUIDELINE
 SOPs4RI Topics to be addressed by RIPPs
 A description of the 9 topics to be addressed in a research integrity promotion plan. [OPEN LINK >](#)

GUIDELINE
 Research Integrity Promotion Plan
 How to create and implement a Research Integrity Promotion Plan. [OPEN LINK >](#)

TEMPLATE
 Research Integrity Promotion Plan
 Template for Research Integrity Promotion Plan for RIPPs. [OPEN LINK >](#)



SOPs4RI



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
 AGENTUR FÜR
 WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
 INTEGRITÄT

Thank you!

Teodora Konach
Teodora.Konach@oeawi.at



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT