

Consent of research and scientific integrity

Responsibly conducted research is considered that research which encompasses all the enumerated criteria for scientific integrity, collegiality, protection of examinee, protection and care of research animals, integrity towards the institution and social responsibility.

1) Scientific Integrity

- a. All project researchers and assistants are competent in the field of research, which is validly supported by relevant evidence (references and curriculum vitae), and whose authenticity and validity is guaranteed by the senior researcher's signature.
- b. The right to research results, intellectual, proprietary and other rights, to the amount or relative to the relationship in which the Ministry finances, that is, collaborates in financing the project, shall be regulated by the Agreement on Scientific Project Work.
- c. All data analysis resulting from research is correct and in conformity with scientific methodology. Statistical analysis of data is performed exclusively using correct and the most stringent criteria and testing.
- d. Presented research results in any form whatsoever, correspond exactly to the conducted research, and neither in the minutest form is there fabrication, correction or plagiarising of data, results, ideas, procedures or words in the procedures for proposing, conducting, revising or presenting the research. The research application in its research idea and aim is the original work and neither does it in any part contain unauthorised appropriation of extraneous ideas, data, results or words.
- e. Only original authors' works directly linked to research shall be considered as scientific reports stemming from research/projects, therefore excluding all forms of inappropriate scientific conduct, such as auto-plagiarising and double publications.

2) Collegiality

- a. Authors and co-authors of all scientific reports and publications arising from the project/research fulfil the stated criteria: (a) development of research idea along with cooperation in the design of concept and form of research; and (b) gathering, analysis or interpretation of research results; and (c) writing and formatting the scientific report and publication or critical revision and final approval of the scientific report and publication. Author should fulfil at least one condition from each category a, b, c.
- b. Exchange of information is free, as is use of equipment which is publicly funded.
- c. Mentor relationships arising from the project/research with obligations of seniority and subordinate rest on mutual respect and agreement concerning intellectual ownership of results, procedures, patents and similar.

3) Protection of Examinee

Every research/project has the approval of the relevant body – ethics committee of the institution or similar - and abidance to all international and local laws, regulations and directions concerning protection of examinee is demanded. Along with the approval of competent ethics committees, whose confirmation signed and sealed by the institution must be compulsorily attached to a printed copy of the research application, the senior researcher of the project/research in consent pledges:

- a. voluntary cooperation of all examinees;
- b. informed consent of examinee;
- c. confidentiality, secrecy and anonymity of information on examinees;
- d. favourable ratio of cost/benefit for examinees.

4) Protection/Care of Research Animals

If research animals are used in the research/project, the senior researcher guarantees strict abidance to the Animal Welfare Act (Official Gazette, no. 19/99) and specifically describes and confirms abidance to the Act along with relevant documentation on procedures, protocols, institutions, enclosures, manner and competency in maintaining live research animals and certificates of competent institutions (ethics committees, authorised veterinarian and similar).

5) Integrity in relation to institution

The senior researcher in signing guarantees:

- a. absence of financial or proprietary conflict of interest and the absence of conflict of interest in relation to the parent institution;
- b. absence of conflict of loyalty/commitment to parent institution while conducting the research/project, absence of research for private or public institution whose scope is greater than the scope of regular work or completely prevents the administration of regular work;
- c. familiarity of rules/directions/statutes of the institution within which recommends conducting research.

6) Social Responsibility

The senior project researcher in signing accepts the social responsibility to:

- a. accepts proposals which have social significance/priority;
- b. guarantees abidance to the highest ecological norms, and a detailed description of environmental impact (and social) as well as the manner of treatment of toxic and other waste produced during research;
- c. guarantees that all procedures and used materials in the research/project comply with the positive regulations of the Republic of Croatia.