

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

Österreichische Agentur für wissenschaftliche Integrität (OeAWI)

History

The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity was initiated in 2008 by twelve founding members as a registered non-profit society. In the meantime, it has a total of 37 member institutions, in particular all Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences and various non-university research and funding institutions. The agency is exclusively financed by membership fees which are determined by the institution's size.

Main tasks

- **Investigation**
- **Training**
- **Promoting Research Integrity**

The agency is responsible for investigating alleged cases of research misconduct in Austria in a professional manner, evaluating the severity of each violation and proposing consequential measures with the first two tasks being assigned to the Commission for Research Integrity, an independent body consisting of distinguished non-Austrian scholars.

Furthermore, the agency is aiming to prevent questionable and unacceptable research practices (at best research misconduct) and to raise awareness by offering lectures and workshops on "good scientific practice" to its member institutions. Additionally, the agency provides advice to its members in all matters related to research integrity. As to research misconduct the agency will publish recommendations of what should be regarded as misconduct and how to detect and prevent it.

Investigation

The Commission for Research Integrity has neither an arbitrary nor an adjudicative function but offers a neutral and factual platform for investigating thoroughly and impartially (alleged) cases of research misconduct. Any individual as well as any institution in Austria can approach the Commission of Research Integrity which is in case of non-members free to decide whether an allegation is to be pursued.

The Commission for Research Integrity constitutes an independent body of the society "Austrian Agency for Research Integrity" which particularly deals with cases of research misconduct. It consists of six members who are renowned scientists in different fields of expertise. They are nominated by the Austrian Science Board and appointed by the society's general assembly. The Commission's members are non-Austrian citizens in order to guarantee independence from the Austrian science system.

Training

Furthermore, the agency applies its knowledge to the task of preventing questionable and unacceptable research practices (at best research misconduct) and raising consciousness for it. In workshops, the participants discuss cases of research misconduct in small working groups. For universities with international researchers the workshops are also offered in English.

Contact

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