



European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity

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ENERI project
2nd Newsletter

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 710184



ENERI project background

The European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity (ENERI) establishes an operable platform of actors in the fields of research ethics and research integrity. The reliability and credibility of research and science do not depend only on its excellence and productivity but also on the players' awareness of highest standards of ethics in research and commitment to a responsible conduct of research. Research ethics addresses the application of ethical principles to the various fields of research. This includes ethical aspects of the design and conduct of research, the way human participants or animals within research projects are treated, and aspects of scientific misconduct. Research integrity is recognized as the attitude and habit of the researchers to conduct research according to appropriate ethical, legal and professional frameworks and standards.

The fields of research ethics and research integrity combine general ethical reflections, ethics and law as academic disciplines addressing research activities, moral attitudes of researchers, normative policies of stakeholders like sponsors or funding organizations, and various ethical expectations of the civil society. ENERI is based on existing networks, projects and infrastructures that already initiated and developed important steps in sharing information, training and capacity building. Research ethics committees, review boards, ombudspersons' offices, research integrity offices and supporting structures are the established bodies monitoring, accompanying and assisting the process of responsible and justifiable research. Therefore the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) and the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC) mutually initiated ENERI in collaborations with experts in academic research ethics (RE) and responsible research and innovation (RRI), practitioners in training and education in research ethics, and specialists in e-communication and database design.

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ENERI main objectives

To achieve a sustainable mutual learning process and an active exchange of experiences among the existing networks and between various stakeholders there is a need to develop appropriate communication tools allowing borderless communication among all partners involved. This will encourage all partners to actively share their perspectives, knowledge and experience in the field and to hear and take into consideration the perspectives, knowledge and experience of others in their own field of activities. In this process, the platform ENERI of research ethics and research integrity will also encourage interaction with other stakeholders and society at large. This will facilitate *several types of actions*:

- sharing experiences: communication and exchange
- improving competence: training and capacity building
- ensuring awareness: indicators of effectiveness and certification
- enhancing interaction: harmonisation and synergies

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Research Integrity Offices (RIO) Boot Camp —

*1st ENERI RIO Boot was successfully held in Rome, Italy
April 9-10, 2018*



The boot camp hosted 21 participants from the [ENRIO](#) network (European Network of Research Integrity Offices). The facilitators of the boot camp were research ethics and integrity experts of ENERI.

ENERI organized a RIO Boot Camp at the National Research Council (NCR) in Rome. While this was a boot camp with an integrity focus it also highlighted research ethics and overlapping issues in line with the aims of the ENERI project. The boot camp focused on the ALLEA Code of Conduct, conflict of interest, authorship and plagiarism, GDPR, building a culture of integrity, and ethics review in non-medical fields. All sessions involved discussion and debate around cases. However, there clearly is also much common ground and interest for exchange of views and learning from good practices. This was also reflected in the feedback of the boot camp: The participants rated the boot camp as an overall positive experience.

The ENERI RIO Boot Camp was organized by the University of Helsinki with the aid of the National Research Council of Italy and the University of Vilnius.



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SwafS clustering event

*ENERI participated at the SwafS clustering event in Brussels, Belgium that was organized by EC Research Executive Agency
June 1, 2018*

The objective of the SwafS (Science with and for Society) clustering event was to foster cooperation, establish project synergies & develop cooperation plans based on predefined sub-clusters and SwafS projects.

RE&RI training and capacity building

DEFORM

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IRT2UE

RE&RI communication, legacy and sustainability

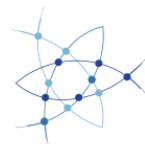
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RE&RI guidelines and regulatory framework



SHERPA



PRO-RES



PANELFIT



TRUST
Equitable Research Partnerships



sienna.

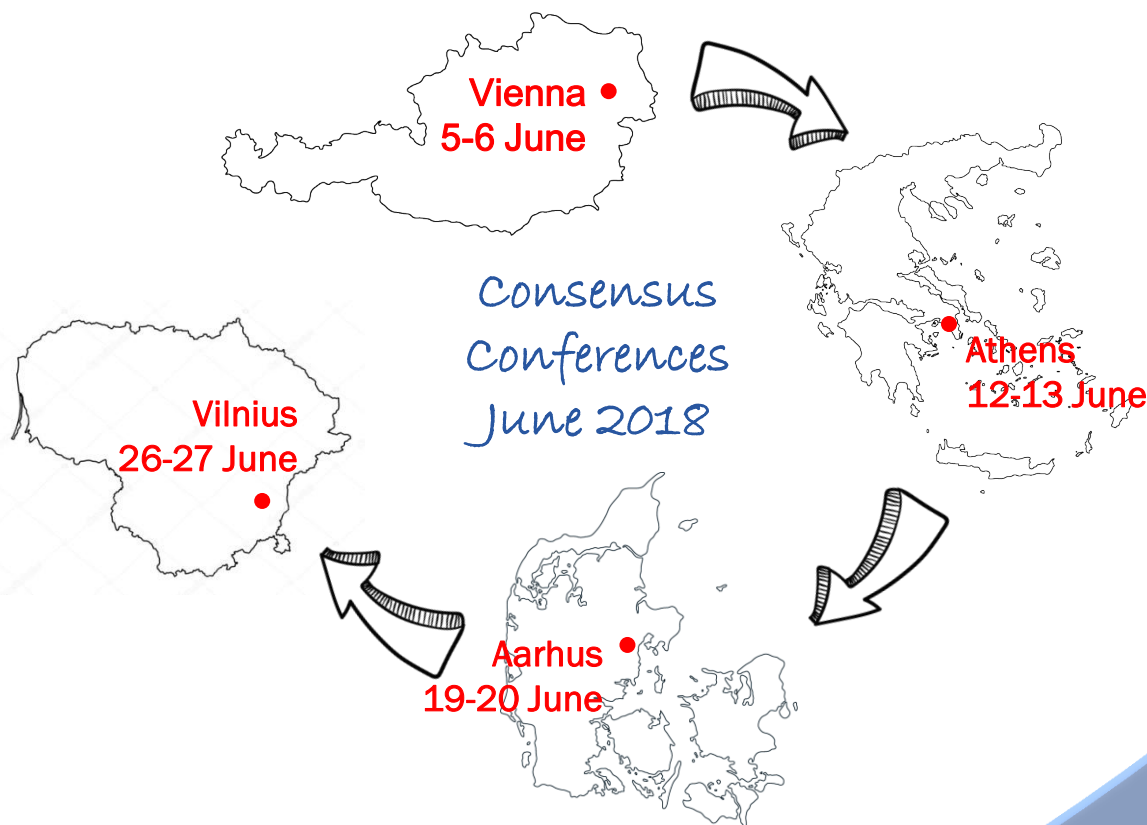
The clustering event was organized by the EC Research Executive Agency



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ENERI series of Consensus Conferences

As part of the empirical programme of Work Package 6 (Monitoring and Certification) a series of Consensus Conferences (CCs) was delivered in four European cities (Vienna, Athens, Aarhus, and Vilnius) with a total participation of 50 people. CCs aimed at involving in the key decisions about the planned e-database of potential expert users as well as non-experts to validate our findings of the qualitative and quantitative part of the empirical programme. The CCs mainly supported the view of the experts surveyed.



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ENERI series of Consensus Conferences

Potential users and other key stakeholders came to a conclusion (with strong minority opinions in the case of Aarhus, regarding Q1 and Q3) that:

- **Q1:** A broad, diverse and inclusive approach should be applied to RE/RI expertise
- **Q2:** Individual profiles should be semi-structured; they are to include predefined key areas/themes of expertise to be filled in with short descriptions + open categories
- **Q3:** The database should offer self-registration of experts
- **Q4:** Members must not go through a training course before being allowed to register in the database, but such a course(s) should be offered as optional
- **Q5:** Individual profiles should not focus on quantifiable elements of experience (such as years of experience in ethics, or number of cases assessed, or number of EAUs participated in) within particular areas of expertise (majority position only)
- **Q6:** The database should not require personal certification of any type to enter the database

The series of CCs was organized by the
Institute of Advanced Studies with the aid of
the local organizing committees.



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
Vienna

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ENERI consortium partners participated at the



Toulouse, France | July 9-14, 2018

Reproducibility: successes to-date, challenges ahead

D. Taylor (*Cell Press*), L. Bouter (*VU Medical Centre*), C. Soderberg (*Open Science Center*), I.J. Aalbersberg (*Elsevier*), N. Föger (*OeAWI/ENRIO*)

Integrity in scientific research

J.-P. Alix (*Mouvement Universel de la Responsabilité Scientifique/Euroscience*), M. Leduc (*CNRS COMETS*), A. Rouby (*FNR/ENRIO*; on behalf of Nicole Föger *OeAWI/ENRIO*)



EuroScience Session - NewHoRRizon: Citizens' participation in research and innovation agenda setting and beyond: Opportunities in Horizon Europe 2021-2027

E. Griessler (*IHS*) and
R. Braun (*IHS*)

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Capacity building through development of integrity and ethics infrastructure

ENERI project will create support materials for Research Ethics (RE) and Research Integrity (RI) capacity building. While RE Committees (RECs) and RI Offices (RIOs) are key actors in facilitating RE and RI, there may be countries that lack infrastructures, as well as training opportunities for actors in related key positions.

A compendium is being produced that collects components of an infrastructure aiming to provide guidance in what to take into consideration when introducing elements into a developing infrastructure. These include, among others, how to introduce and establish:

- ✓ guidelines for the responsible conduct of research (RI)
- ✓ an infrastructure for handling misconduct (RI)
- ✓ a system for whistleblowing and whistleblower protection (RI)
- ✓ a system of research integrity advisers (RI)
- ✓ an infrastructure for ethics review in non-medical fields (RE)
- ✓ boot camps for research ethics and research integrity training (RI, RE),
- ✓ national training on research ethics and research integrity for junior academics (RI, RE)
- ✓ an infrastructure for ethics review in medical fields (RE), and
- ✓ reorganizing RECs and the new Regulation for clinical trials (RE).

These components draw on experiences and good practices from Europe and beyond. The sections address issues of definition, content, scope, stakeholders, and responsibilities. It will be available within the ENERI training materials by the end of 2018.

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Research Ethics Committees (REC) Boot Camp

*The 2nd ENERI REC Boot Camp will be held in Prague, Czech Republic
March 26, 2019*



The REC Boot Camp is to be held in connection to a EUREC meeting in Prague, March 26, 2019. Planning is well under way. Originally, a boot camp utilizes the idea of a single case, which is analysed, role played and discussed from a number of different angles. This approach provides the opportunity to get to depth with a case and practice competences vital for REC activities. However, the Prague BC will include more cases that will be followed up from different perspectives in the spirit of a “Boot camp”, that will allow us to better reflect the European diversity.

The ENERI REC Boot Camp will be organized by the University of Helsinki with the aid of EUREC and the University of Vilnius.



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More info on ENERI project

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Project partners



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National Technical
University of Athens



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