

Activity Report 2016

1. Affairs related to the association

Meetings:

General meeting (GM): 5 October

Commission meetings: 25 January, 9 June and 25 November

Meeting of the Working Group on Combating and Preventing Plagiarism: 29 June

Board meetings: 31 May and 22 September

Affairs related to the Board:

Prof. Josef Smolle, former rector of the Medical University of Graz, departed from the Board; Prof. Christine Bandtlow, Vice-Rector of Innsbruck Medical University, was elected to the Board during the association's general meeting.

New employee:

Ms. Birgit Buschbom has been employed at the association's office since October. She works 20 hours per week, of which ten hours are devoted to the EU project "European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity" (ENERI). The remaining ten hours are funded by the OeAWI. In her work for the OeAWI, Ms. Buschbom is collaborating with Nicole Föger to develop a train-the-trainer programme and will begin to hold training seminars in the humanities and social sciences in 2017.

New location:

At the end of September, the OeAWI Office moved out of the FWF building ("Haus der Forschung") and rented two offices on Mariahilfer Strasse in Vienna. The Association's new address is:

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI)
Mariahilfer Strasse 123, 3rd floor
(c/o Regus)
A-1060 Vienna, Austria
(+43-1) 59999 ext. 8001 or 8017

2. Awareness-raising and prevention activities:

Advisory services:

In the year 2016, the OeAWI Office handled 21 inquiries submitted to the association. The topics covered in those inquiries were highly diverse: authorship conflicts, data ownership disputes, duplicate publishing / self-plagiarism, ethical issues, (centralised) data management and data documentation, data reproducibility, questions from integrity officers on procedural matters or new guidelines, problems related to the supervision of junior researchers, ghostwriting and requests for support in establishing research integrity contacts abroad.

Publications:

The OeAWI brochure "Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice" has also been available in print since April 2016, and by the end of the reporting period some 1,200 copies had been dispatched upon request or distributed at events.

Events, workshops and lectures:

Topics covered: Research integrity in the national and international context, definition of good research practice, planning and writing scholarly works, data management (documentation, storage, ownership, handling of data in cooperation arrangements, etc.), responsible handling of research findings, publications and authorship, supervision relationships and responsibilities, responsible interaction with colleagues, conflicts of interest, peer reviews, research misconduct, "sloppy science", questionable and unacceptable research practices, and fictitious cases of research misconduct.

Lectures, workshops and seminars on good practice in research:

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- ò 19 January and 27 June: Half-day workshops for students in the PhD programme at the Vienna BioCenter (in English); compulsory for all new doctoral students
- ò 22 January: Half-day workshop for doctoral students at the University of Graz (in English), upon invitation by the university's DocService unit
- ò 4 May: Half-day multidisciplinary workshop for doctoral students at the University of Vienna
- ò 10 and 17 June: Half-day workshops for doctoral students at IST Austria (in English); mandatory for all students who have begun working on their dissertations at IST

- ò 6 October: Presentation at a university education conference held at FH Campus Vienna
- ò 17 November: Lecture for post-doctoral researchers (including scholars working on their Habilitation theses) at the Medical University of Graz during a one-day training event on research and good scientific practice
- ò 29 November: Half-day workshop for post-doctoral researchers at IST Austria (in English)
- ò 20 December: Keynote speech for employees at Vienna BioCenter Core Facilities GmbH (VBCF)

3. Activities of the Commission for Research Integrity

The Commission received a total of 14 inquiries in 2016. The OeAWI Office handles the organisational and substantive preparation of meetings and advises Commission members.

The 2015 Annual Report of the Commission for Research Integrity was published on the Agency's website (www.oeawi.at) in May.

4. National events/networks



Establishment of a national network of ombudsman's offices at Austrian institutions of higher education

On 2 June, a conference on conflict management and quality assurance by ombudsman's offices in Austrian higher education (for students and for the sake of good research practice) was held in Klagenfurt, Austria. The conference was organised in cooperation with the ombudsman's office for students (www.hochschulombudsmann.at) and was attended by more than 60 interested parties. During the event, the "Klagenfurt Declaration" was signed by representatives of Universities Austria, the Association of Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences (FHK), the Austrian Association of Private Universities, the Conference of Rectors of Teacher Training Institutions, the AAU Klagenfurt student union and the Austrian Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy (http://www.hochschulombudsmann.at/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Klagenfurter-Erkl%C3%A4rungfinal_bf.pdf, in German).

The participants plan to organise joint training events and conferences on conflict management, mediation, the establishment of ombudsman's offices and other related topics. The network's first joint brochure (November 2016) is already available under "Links/National activities" on the Agency's website (www.oeawi.at) and provides an overview of ombudsman's offices at Austrian universities, institutions of higher education

and non-university research institutions. The brochure is the result of intensive research by the Ombudsman's Office for Students (with special thanks to Josef Leidenfrost and Alberina Nuka).

For more information, please visit www.hochschulombudsnetz.at (in German).



Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) Platform Austria

The OeAWI is a member of the RRI Platform. On 27 January, 23 June, 20 September and 30 November, Nicole Föger took part in meetings of the RRI Platform on behalf of the OeAWI.

On 12 December, a joint event entitled "Ethics in Research Practice: Paths to Implementation" was held at the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) in Vienna. Matthias Kaiser (University of Bergen) gave the keynote speech on "Guiding instead of Prohibiting: Research Ethics in Times of Crisis", and Jacqueline Broerse (VU Amsterdam) spoke about "Responsible Research and Innovation: The Collaborative Turn in Research Ethics". In addition, four workshops were held on "Autonomous Vehicles, Ethics and the Future of Mobility", "Institutions & Ethics", "CRISPR/Cas9: How can we address the risks?" and "Researchers & Ethics: Challenges in Practice". The event drew a large audience, with more than 80 attendees participating actively in the workshops. The participants were enthusiastic about the opportunities for networking and exchange on the topic.

More information is available at www.rri-plattform.at

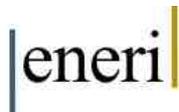
5. Collaboration in the development of fundamental documents and publications

Revision of the European Code of Conduct:

At the request of the European Commission, the European Code of Conduct published in 2010 was updated. To this end, a working group was set up within the All European Academies (ALLEA) federation to involve relevant stakeholders through a consultation process. All ENRIO member organisations were thus invited to submit comments and opinions. The OeAWI made a substantial contribution to this process.

6. International activities

International cooperation:



European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity (ENERI)

In September 2016, ENERI was launched as an EU project with the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) and the European Network of Research Ethics Committees (EUREC) as key partners. The OeAWI is a member of ENRIO and represents the network as a partner in the ENERI project. In the course of the project, the OeAWI will receive some €220,000 in funding (overall budget: €1.5 million; project partners: 11; duration: September 2016 to August 2019).

The core objective of this EU project is an intensive exchange of information between experts in research ethics and research integrity as well as a harmonisation of processes in ethics reviews and investigations of alleged research misconduct. After mapping the networks involved in these activities, the project partners will identify similarities and differences in structures and procedures in order to learn from each other and to leverage synergies. As for training activities, the project calls for the development of various training modules for researchers (e.g., members of ethics commissions and commissions for the investigation of alleged research misconduct) as well as the collection of training materials. The results of the EU project will be published on the ENERI and ENRIO websites. The project partners will also compile an expert database (ResearchEthicsGate) with contact information and information on the experience of experts in these two fields.

For more information, see www.eneri.eu.



European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)

This network has been chaired by Nicole Föger (OeAWI) since April 2012.

The first ENRIO meeting in 2016 was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on 14 and 15 April upon the invitation of the Committee for Women in Science (CWS), which is part of the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. On 14 April, a national stakeholder meeting was held under the title "Responsibility and Ethics in Science", during which Nicole Föger was invited to

present the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity. Slovenia does not yet have its own national organisation for research integrity but is planning to establish one, and the CWS has played a leading role in this process.

In preparation for the General Meeting, an ENRIO Strategy Group meeting was held in Lisbon on 7 and 8 April.

The second ENRIO meeting in 2016 was held as a joint meeting of the Slovak Research and Development Agency (SRDA) and the OeAWI. Over 35 representatives from Europe took part in the event, and the topics of discussion included the Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education (ETINED); the cooperation between the OeAWI and the Ombudsman's Office for Students; the position paper on research integrity published by the German Council of Science and Humanities; and the ENERI project.

For more information, see www.enrio.eu.

International invitations and lectures

[Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University \(OIST\)](#)

On 12 February, the OIST held an open seminar on the "Promotion of Research Integrity" in Okinawa, Japan. Over 200 people attended. Nicole Föger was invited as the keynote speaker on "The European Way to Promote Research Integrity".

[European Network of Research Ethics Committees \(EUREC\)](#)

On 29 February, Nicole Föger was invited to the EUREC network's general meeting (EUREC is also project partner in the ENERI project) in Berlin and gave a short talk about ENRIO. For more information, please visit www.eurecnet.org.

[League of European Research Universities \(LERU\)](#)

On 8 and 9 March, the LERU Expert Group on Research Integrity organised a conference entitled "Ways to Foster Research Integrity and Good Research Practice" in Lund, Sweden. Nicole Föger was invited to speak on 8 March, and the title of her presentation was "Research Integrity Offices: Advisors, Mediators, Trainers, Pioneers". More information about LERU <http://www.leru.org/index.php/public/activities/thematicgroups/>.

[Promoting Integrity as an Integral Dimension of Excellence in Research \(PRINTEGER\)](#)

This project received funding under the GARRI 5.2010 call. Nicole Föger is a member of the Policy Advisory Board, which held its first meeting in Brussels on 9 March. For more information on the project, please visit www.printeger.eu.

[Higher Education Institutions and Responsible Research and Innovation \(HEIRRI\)](#)

Nicole Föger is a member of the Multidisciplinary Contents Council (part of the Advisory Board) in this EU-funded project. On 18 March, HEIRRI held a conference entitled "Teaching Responsible Research and Innovation at University" in Barcelona; the advisory boards con-

vened on the day before the conference. The consortium also includes a project partner from Austria, as the Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS) is represented by Erich Griessler in the project.

On 15 June, a workshop entitled "Development of RRI Training Programmes for Higher Education Institutions" was held at the IHS in Vienna (Dr. Erich Griessler and his team are project partner of HEIRRI). Some 20 stakeholders tasked with disseminating RRI training plans at Austrian institutions were invited to the workshop. Nicole Föger represented the OeAWI as a trainer in research integrity at the event.

During the second workshop, held on 8 September, participants presented and discussed concrete training programmes for a wide variety of target groups (bachelor's, master's and doctoral students, etc.)

More information on the project can be found at www.heirri.eu.

About the OeAWI:

The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) was established as an association in late 2008 by its twelve founding members. The association has now grown to 37 member institutions, including all Austrian universities, universities of applied sciences, various non-university research institutions and research funding agencies. The Agency is funded entirely by its membership dues, the amount of which is based on the size of each member institution.

Key tasks of the OeAWI:

The Agency makes its knowledge available for the sake of preventing research misconduct and raising awareness. It also advises inquiring parties on issues related to research integrity. In addition, the Agency offers lectures and workshops on the topic of good research practice for member institutions.

The Austrian Commission for Research Integrity is an independent body of the Agency and was established to deal with specific cases of alleged research misconduct. The Commission consists of six members, all of whom are renowned researchers in their respective fields. In order to ensure their independence from the Austrian science and research system, all members of the Commission are from outside Austria. The Commission provides a neutral and factual platform for investigating (alleged) cases of scientific misconduct thoroughly and objectively. It operates on the basis of its Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines for the Investigation of Alleged Scientific Misconduct (Annex I to the Rules of Procedure; available at www.oeawi.at).

The OeAWI is a member of the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO), which enables the Agency to network with similar organisations at the international level. ENRIO currently includes the national bodies responsible for research integrity from 23 European countries. Since April 2012, Nicole Föger has also held the ENRIO Chair.

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