

## Annual Report 2017

### **1. Affairs of the Association**

#### **Meetings:**

**General Assembly (GA):** October 16

**Meetings of the Commission:** May 12, October 23, and November 24

**Meetings of the Working Group on Controlling and Preventing Plagiarism:** May 4 and December 4

**Board Meetings:** April 27, October 12, and December 5

#### **Board:**

At the General Assembly of October 16, the President of the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), **Prof. Dr. Klement Tockner**, was unanimously elected to the position of new chair of the Association. He thus succeeded **Prof. Dr. Christine Mannhalter**, who had held this position since 2014. PD **Dr. Monika Schmoll** (AIT), representing non-university institutions on the Board, was re-elected in her function for another two years.

Effective December 18, **Prof. Dr. Heinz Faßmann** (University of Vienna) terminated his work on the Board following his appointment as Federal Minister of Education, Science, and Research. In addition, **Prof. Dr. Oliver Vitouch** resigned from his position on the Board of the Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) due to the fact that his chairmanship of Universities Austria (uniko) ended at the end of the calendar year.

#### **Administrative Office-Staff:**

From mid-March to the end of July, **Mag. Alexandra Mariotti** worked at the admin office of the Association for 20 hours a week. In October **Mag. Sabine Schnetzinger** succeeded her; she has been working in a support function at the office for 30 hours a week.

## **2. Raising Awareness and Prevention**

### **Working Group on Controlling and Preventing Plagiarism:**

During 2017, the working group met twice. At the first meeting on May 4, **Karl-Gerhard Straßl** (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna/mdw) gave a presentation on ghostwriting. Following the second meeting of the working group in December, representatives of the anti-plagiarism software Turnitin were invited to demonstrate their products and discuss the latest product developments.

### **Consultation:**

In the course of 2017, the office addressed 29 queries. In terms of their contents, these queries were quite diverse. They pertained to:

- Authorship
- Plagiarism
- Ghostwriting
- Procedures of the Commission
- Publications
- Referencing Withdrawn Publications
- Revocation of Academic Degrees/Titles
- Training Modules on Data Protection
- Ethics Approvals
- Data Analysis
- Ethical Research
- Flawed Data Representation
- Permission to Use Visual Materials
- Approval Proceedings regarding Doctoral Theses
- Data Access
- Wage Dumping
- “Self-Plagiarism”
- Requests for contacts to Agencies for Research Integrity abroad
- Ownership/Copyright of Data
- Multiple Academic Titles

### **Guidelines on the Issue of Dual Use:**

The Board has decided to develop guidelines on “Dual Use” and share these with the members of the Agency (OeAWI). **Prof. Dr. Iris Eisenberger** (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences/BOKU) has been asked to take the lead on this project.

**Events, Workshops, Presentations:**

Workshops and presentations on good scientific practice focus on the following topics: Research integrity in national and international contexts; principles of good scientific practice; planning and implementation of research projects; data management (documentation, data archiving, data ownership, data use in collaborative projects, etc.); responsible use of research findings; publication and authorship; responsibilities and supervision ratios; responsible cooperation with colleagues; conflicts of interest; peer review; research misconduct; “sloppy science”; questionable and unacceptable research practice; discussion of fictitious cases of research misconduct.

**Presentations on the Activities of the Agency (OeAWI)**

2/22	Workshop ‘ <b>Advancing Research Integrity Practices and Policies: from Recommendation to Implementation</b> ’ of the <b>Science Europe Working Group on Research Integrity</b> in Brussels <i>Presentation on the training programs of the Agency (OeAWI)</i>
3/16	<b>Meeting of Netzlex</b> , University of Graz
3/28	<b>Stakeholder Meeting</b> organized by the <b>coordinators of the EU projects on the topic “Research Integrity”</b> in Amsterdam <i>Presentation on the training sessions the Agency (OeAWI) offers</i>
4/5	<b>Info-Brunch</b> for Team Members of the <b>Ministry of Education, Science and Research</b> (former <b>BMWFW</b> )
5/9	<b>Conference “Degree Theses”</b> organized by the Library and the Office of Academic Services of the University of Vienna
5/28	<b>5<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Research Integrity</b> in Amsterdam: <i>Pre-Conference Workshop „How to set up a national or regional network for research ethics and integrity?”</i>
9/8	<b>DEFORM (Determine the Financial and Global Impact of Research Misconduct)</b> Stakeholder Workshop in Heraklion/Crete
9/20	<b>Conference on Doctoral Studies</b> (Paracelsus Medical Private University, Salzburg)
9/21	<b>German and Austrian University Ombudsman-Networking Conference</b> (University of Salzburg)
11/13	<b>Information Event</b> at the University of Innsbruck
11/30	<b>ENRIO Working Group Whistleblowing and Investigation</b> in Helsinki

Lectures, Workshops, and Seminars on “Good Scientific Practice”

1/27	<b>Workshop</b> (conducted in English) for all <b>doctoral students of the Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT)</b> at its <b>PhD Retreat</b> in Hirschegg, Klein-Walser Tal
3/8	<b>Lecture</b> (in English) for the <b>doctoral students of the Institute of Science and Technology (IST)</b> in Maria Gugging
3/15	<b>Case study discussion</b> with <b>doctoral students of the Institute of Science and Technology (IST)</b> in Maria Gugging
3/26	Half-day <b>Workshop</b> for <b>doctoral students</b> at the PhD Center of the <b>University of Vienna</b>
5/2	<b>Lecture</b> (in German) for <b>Bachelor students</b> at the <b>Center for Translation Studies at the University of Vienna</b>
10/24	<b>Workshop</b> (conducted in English) for <b>doctoral students</b> of the <b>Paracelsus Medical Private University (PMU)</b> , Salzburg
21/11	<b>Workshop</b> (conducted in English) for <b>doctoral students</b> of the <b>University of Graz</b> (organized by <b>Doc Academy</b> )
28/11	<b>Lecture</b> (in German) for <b>post-doctoral researchers</b> (at the level of Habilitation) at the <b>Medical University of Graz</b> as part of their day-long seminar “ <i>Aufbau Forschung: Good Scientific Practice</i> ”
29/11	<b>Workshop</b> (conducted in English) for <b>doctoral students</b> at the PhD Center of the <b>University of Vienna</b>
12/13	<b>Lecture</b> (in English) at the <b>Medical University of Graz</b> as part of the event <b>DocDay2017</b>
12/14	<b>Workshop</b> (conducted in English) for <b>doctoral students</b> at the <b>Max F. Perutz Laboratories (MFPL)</b>

### 3. Activities of the Commission for Research Integrity

The Commission received a total of 25 inquiries in 2017. The OeAWI admin office is responsible for the organization and the preparation of the agenda of the meetings; it supports the members of the Commission in their interaction with external expert reviewers and the institutions concerned (i.e., universities and research institutes); and it also advises Commission members.

The inquiries submitted to the Commission covered the following topics: disputed right of (co)authorship, suspicion of translation plagiarism, false information regarding resume and publications, theft of ideas, problems accessing source material, tarnishing of research

reputation, not citing reference original publications, ghostwriting, various inquiries regarding suspected plagiarism in master's theses and dissertations, incorrect interpretation of data, influence peddling in commissioned work, irregularities in the process of a *Habilitation*, problems getting a *Habilitation* recognized, assistance in identifying expert reviewers abroad.

The 2016 Annual Report of the Commission for Research Integrity was published on the Agency's website ([www.oeawi.at](http://www.oeawi.at)) in November 2017.

#### **4. EU Project**



*European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity*

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In September 2016, the EU project **ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity)** was launched. Key ENERI project partners are **ENRIO (European Network of Research Integrity Offices)** and **EUREC (European Network of Research Ethics Committees)**. The Agency is a member of ENRIO and represents the network as a project partner in the EU project. The overall budget for the project amounts to € 1.5 million. There are altogether eleven project partners involved. The project duration is from September 2016 to August 2019. The key objective of this EU project is intensive info sharing among experts in research ethics and research integrity as well as the harmonization of processes in ethics reviews and investigations of alleged research misconduct.

On January 13, a **Think Tank Meeting** of the project partners took place in Berlin. The so-called “leading questions” characterized the agenda—among them, the cooperation with other EU projects on ethics and integrity, the development of training programs, and the possibilities of “capacity building.”

##### **Deliverables:**

The first deliverable “**Mapping questionnaire**”, for which the OeAWI was responsible as Work Package Leader, was completed by the end of February. This questionnaire collected comprehensive data on national structures and activities pertaining to research integrity. The survey was intended to obtain an overview of individual countries. An additional deliverable for which the OeAWI assumed responsibility was the **relaunch of the ENRIO website** at the beginning of May. On the site ([www.enrio.eu](http://www.enrio.eu)) you can find important information about all the members of the organization, up-to-date info on events regarding research integrity, and a collection of many relevant and useful documents on the topic of research integrity.

One of the upcoming deliverables will be **developing training materials** and **holding a first training seminar (RIO Boot Camp)** for researchers who serve in ethics commissions or commissions investigating alleged research misconduct but also for individuals in support functions for such commissions. Needless to add that the OeAWI contributes to these activities and will undoubtedly benefit from the results—as will, of course, all members of the OeAWI.

### **Stakeholder Workshop**

On September 28 and 29, the first **“Stakeholder and Policy Group Workshop”** took place in Athens. More than sixty participants from all over Europe attended—among them representatives of ministries, ethics commissions, organizations dealing with research integrity, universities as well as journalists covering science, editors, and civil society actors. The topics included:

- Good and Bad Practice in Research Ethics and Research Integrity (RE/RI)
- Infrastructure for RE/RI: New Challenges
- Training in RE/RI
- The Future of RE/RI
- Findings and Results of the Stakeholder Workshop

In a highly interactive framework that allowed different stakeholders to present their perspectives, participants explored these topics. The findings ought to support the ENERI project in achieving the set goals.

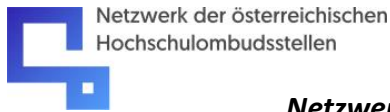
### **Lectures/Presentations on the EU Project ENERI**

5/30	<b>Poster presentation</b> on ENERI at the <b>World Conference on Research Integrity (WCRI)</b> in Amsterdam
9/18	<b>Lecture</b> on ENERI at the <b>SATORI Final Conference</b> in Brussels
11/15	<b>Lecture</b> on ENERI at the <b>RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) Platform</b> in Graz; the title of the talk was <i>“Responsible Research and Innovation – Was bedeutet verantwortungsvolle Forschung und Innovation in der Forschung?”</i>

For more information on ENERI see [www.eneri.eu](http://www.eneri.eu)

On February 13 and 14, Nicole Föger and Birgit Buschborn attended a training session on project administration of EU projects offered by the **Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)**.

## 5. National Networks, Cooperations and Events



### *Netzwerk der österreichischen Hochschulombudsstellen*

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In order to increase the collaboration of all ombudsman-offices and support their further growth, in June 2016 an informal Austrian network of all existing ombudsman-offices and similar (mediation) organizations was established in Klagenfurt. The purpose of this network is to create connections across Austria and encourage professional exchange of experiences amongst all members of the network.

On March 24, Nicole Föger attended the **Intensive Seminar on the Annual Report 2015/2016 of the Ombudsman-Office for Students**. Approximately 30 representatives of public and private universities, universities of applied sciences, and other institutions were in attendance. In the course of this event the so-called “Ombudsman-Net of Higher Education” (Hochschulombudsnetz) was presented (see [www.hochschulombudsnetz.at](http://www.hochschulombudsnetz.at)), which the OeAWI—in collaboration with the Ombudsman-Office for Students—had created the previous year.

On June 8 and 9, the network offered a seminar on **„Konfliktvermittlung an Hochschulen: Trainingsseminar zu den Themen Mediation und gewaltfreie Kommunikation“**. Twenty participants were registered for the fee-based seminar. The trainers were Deborah Bellamy (communications consultant), Dr. Friedrich Reif-Breitwieser (lawyer and mediator), and Brigitte Slepicka (coaching, mediation and controlling).

On September 20, the network organized a conference on doctoral studies in Austria at the **Paracelsus Medical Private University (PMU) Salzburg, “Doktoratsstudien im österreichischen Hochschulraum: Grundsätzliches, Alltägliches“**. There were more than 60 participants. In the afternoon one could join one of two parallel working groups discussing either “Betreuung, Beurteilung” or “Dateneigentum, Aufbewahrung”.

Emphasizing good neighborly relations in European higher education, on September 21, the **Annual Meeting of the Austrian and German Ombudsman-Networks in Higher Education (Ombudshochschulnetzwerke)** was held at the **University of Salzburg**.

Since September of last year, the **new website** <http://www.hochschulombudsnetz.at> has been online. There you can find information about the network of Austrian ombudsman-offices in higher education, a map indicating all such offices and the relevant contact persons, a calendar of events hosted by the network and its partners (Ombudsman-Office for Students and OeAWI), as well as various interesting documents and links.



## *RRI-Plattform Österreich*

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The OeAWI is a member of the RRI Platform. This organization considers itself a competency network. It gathers relevant knowledge and experience connected to national and international RRI projects; it promotes research exchange; it raises awareness of the RRI concept among stakeholders and the general public; it supports RRI projects and through these activities, it assists implementing RRI in Austria. Every two or three months, the members get together for a meeting.

As mentioned above, the OeAWI contributed to one of the RRI Platform events on November 15 in Graz offering a lecture entitled **“Responsible Research and Innovation – Was bedeutet verantwortungsvolle Forschung und Innovation in der Forschung?”**. In addition to the presentations in the plenary sessions, working groups focused on diverse topics, such as self-driving vehicles, IT design and development, genome editing, climate engineering, and research with children and teenagers.

More than 60 participants demonstrated lively engagement in their individual topic clusters. Among other things, participants could learn about the ongoing activities of the members of the platform. OeAWI, for example, presented the Horizon 2020 project ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity).

For more details, see the website [www.rri-plattform.at](http://www.rri-plattform.at)



## *Fachhochschulkonferenz (FHK)*

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On January 19, Nicole Föger and Birgit Buschbom followed an invitation to meet with representatives of the Austrian Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences (FHK), the organization’s General Secretary, Mag. Kurt Koleznik, and Senior Counsel, Mag. Heidi Esca-Scheuringer. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss possible cooperations with the OeAWI.



## 6. International Networks, Cooperations and Events



### *European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)*

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The European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) is an informal network serving the purpose of promoting the exchange among national and other institutions that deal with questions about research integrity. Since April 2012 Nicole Föger has been the chair of this network.

On May 27, the first ENRIO meeting of 2017 was held in **Amsterdam**. The working group “Mapping” presented its first results: the data mined from the questionnaire about commonalities and differences in structures, processes, codes of conduct, etc. in each European ENRIO member state. Among the invited guests there were Lauran Qualkenbush from the **Association of (American) Research Integrity Officers (ARIO)**, Dorian Karatzas, Head of Ethics and Research Integrity Sector of the **European Commission**, Bregt Saenen from the **European University Association—Council for Doctoral Education (EUACDE)**, and Niels Mejlgaard from the **University of Aarhus**.

The **National Council of Ethics in Life Sciences** invited ENRIO to hold its second meeting on October 2 and 3 at the national Parliament in **Lisbon**. Two new participants — one from Poland (National Science Center), the other from Slovakia (Slovak Academy of Sciences) — attended the meeting. Erika Löfström (University of Helsinki, project partner in ENERI) was the guest speaker reporting on the current status of training programs for members of ethics commissions or members of commissions for research integrity. On day 2 of the meeting the working groups discussed “Whistleblowing and Investigation” and “Training”.

On November 30 and December 1, the **ENRIO Working Group Whistleblowing and Investigation** conducted its follow-up meeting in Helsinki.

For more information, see [www.enrio.eu](http://www.enrio.eu).



**DEFORM**

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On September 7 and 8, a stakeholder workshop of the EU project **DEFORM (Determine the Financial and Global impact of Research Misconduct)** took place in Heraklion/Crete. Its topic was “*Governance of Science and Research Integrity: Agencies, Researchers, Case Studies*”. Approximately 30 representatives of various target groups were invited to provide input on the EU project.

For more information, see [www.deform-h2020.eu](http://www.deform-h2020.eu)



## **EnTIRE**

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EnTIRE is an EU-sponsored project with the purpose of establishing an online platform that would provide comprehensive information on the topic of research ethics and research integrity. The kick-off meeting took place on June 1 in Amsterdam. As a member of the **Advisory Board**, Nicole Föger was invited to the launching of the project.

For more information on EnTIRE, see [www.entireconsortium.eu](http://www.entireconsortium.eu)



## **European Universities Association - Council of Doctoral Education (EUA-CDE)**

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On March 30, David Oliva Uribe (Head of the **EUA Council for Doctoral Education**) and his colleague Bregt Saenen came to visit OeAWI in Vienna. The discussions focused on opportunities for cooperation in the development of training programs on research integrity in and outside of Europe. The EUA represents about 800 members in 47 countries.

For more information, see [www.eua-cde.org](http://www.eua-cde.org)



## **PRINTEGER**

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PRINTEGER is the acronym for "**Promoting Integrity as an Integral Dimension of Excellence in Research**". It is an EU project and receives its funding through the GARRI 5.2010 Call. Nicole Föger is a member of the **Policy Advisory Board**.

On October 18, the second "**Joint Research Integrity Policy Meeting and Policy Advisory Board Meeting**" was held in Brussels. In her function as Policy Advisory Member, Nicole Föger attended. During the first part of the meeting, project partners presented some preliminary findings and invited discussions among all participants. During the second part, members of the Advisory Board had the opportunity to offer some recommendations, particularly on the issue of implementing specific findings.

For more information, see [www.printeger.eu](http://www.printeger.eu)



**SATORI**

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The acronym SATORI stands for „**Stakeholders Acting Together on the Ethical impact Assessment of Research and Innovation**“. It is sponsored by the EU in the context of the H2020 program. SATORI aims to develop a common European framework of ethical principles and practical approaches so as to promote a much better understanding of research ethics.

On January 31 and February 2, SATORI conducted a **workshop in Ljubljana**. As one of the invited stakeholders, Nicole Föger was asked to discuss and review the final documents regarding the standards of “Ethics Assessment”.

On September 18, the concluding event (**Final Conference**) of this EU project took place in Brussels. On this occasion, Nicole Föger gave a presentation on the ENERI-project.

For more information, see the website <http://satoriproject.eu>



***Science Europe Working Group on Research Integrity***

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Science Europe is an umbrella organization of European Research Funding Organizations (RFO) and Research Performing Organizations (RPO). In 2013, a working group on the topic of research integrity was established. Until 2015 Nicole Föger represented the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) in this working group.

On February 21 and 22, a final workshop on the topic “**Advancing Research Integrity Practices and Policies: from Recommendation to Implementation**” was held in Brussels. The mandate of the working group was not extended beyond the initial three years. Nicole Föger was the lead author of the chapter about RI training in the booklet „**Survey Report: Research Integrity Practices in Science Europe Member Organizations**“. At this final meeting, she was invited to present the recommendations for “Research Integrity Training” described in the booklet. She could draw her examples of challenges and best practice from the training programs of the OeAWI.

For more information on this working group, see

[www.scienceeurope.org/policy/policy-areas/research-integrity](http://www.scienceeurope.org/policy/policy-areas/research-integrity)

This conference was held in Amsterdam between May 28 and 31. Its thematic focus was „**Transparency and Accountability in Research**“. Being a member of the **European Advisory Board**, Nicole Föger was involved in the preparation of this event. The OeAWI was represented in a number of workshops and presentations:

- Pre-conference workshop “**RIOs and dealing with research misconduct: sharing practical knowledge, needs, tips and resources**” Nicole Föger, C. K. Gunsalus, Zoë Hammatt, Erika Löfström & Luran Qualkenbush
- Pre-conference workshop “**How to set up a national or regional network for research ethics and integrity?**” Laetus Lategan, Edith Sempe, Nicole Foeger, Fenneke Blom
- Poster presentation “**The European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity (ENERI)**” Birgit Buschbom

For more information, see [wcric2017.org](http://wcric2017.org)

## **7. Collaboration in Policy Documents and Publications**

### **Revision of the European Code of Conduct:**

Responding to a request of the European Commission, the European Code of Conduct (2010) was updated. For this purpose, a special working group was established in the organization All European Academies (ALLEA). The working group in turn chose to include important stakeholders through a two-tier consulting process. The members of ENRIO were invited to submit their perspectives; thus, also OeAWI. In April 2017, the revised version of the Code was made public. It will be translated into other European languages.

Link to the European Code of Conduct:

[www.allea.org/publications/joint-publications/european-code-conduct-research-integrity](http://www.allea.org/publications/joint-publications/european-code-conduct-research-integrity)

### **SATORI Ethics Assessment:**

At the end of January, the Research Center of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts in Ljubljana hosted the “**SATORI heritage workshop**”. As one of the invited stakeholders, Nicole Föger was asked to discuss and review the final documents regarding the standards of “Ethics Assessment”.

The acronym SATORI stands for „**Stakeholders Acting Together On the Ethical Impact Assessment of Research and Innovation**“. It is sponsored by the EU in the context of the H2020 program. SATORI aims to develop a common European framework of ethical principles and practical so as to promote a much better understanding of research ethics.

For more information, see [www.satoriproject.eu](http://www.satoriproject.eu)

## About the OeAWI:

The **Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI)** was established as an association in 2008 by its twelve founding members. The association has now grown to 38 member institutions, including all Austrian public 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 offers advice to inquiring parties on issues related to research integrity. Furthermore, the Agency offers lectures and workshops on the topic of good scientific practice for member institutions.

The Austrian Commission for Research Integrity is an independent body of the Agency, which was established to deal with specific cases of alleged research misconduct. The Commission consists of six members—all of whom renowned researchers in their respective fields. In order to guarantee the independence from the Austrian science and research system, all members of the Commission are from abroad. The Commission provides a neutral and factual platform for investigating (suspected) cases of research misconduct thoroughly and objectively. It operates on the basis of its Rules of Procedure and the Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice (attached to the Rules of Procedures—available at [www.oeawi.at](http://www.oeawi.at)).

The OeAWI is a member of the **European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)** and thus internationally strongly connected with similar organizations. At this time, 22 European countries have their national bodies responsible for research integrity represented in ENRIO. Since April 2012, Nicole Föger has served as Chair of ENRIO.

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