ÖAWI

AUSTRIAN
AGENCY FOR
RESEARCH
INTEGRITY

Activity Report for 2021

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1. Affairs of the Association

Meetings:

General Assembly: November 18, 2021
Meetings of the Commission: February 12, March 18, May 14, June 17, October 8 (on-site in Vienna), and December 17, 2021
Meeting of the Working Group on Plagiarism Prevention: October 15, 2021
Board Meetings: June 14 and October 21, 2021

Board:

Verena Seiboth (IST Austria), **Christine Bandtlow** (Medical University of Innsbruck), **Jean-Robert Tyran** (University of Vienna), and **Christof Gattringer** (FWF) were elected or re-elected as board members for two years at the meeting of the General Assembly. Following the (re)election of the board members, **Gattringer** was elected by the member organisations to succeed **Klement Tockner** as the new president of the OeAWI.

Members:

In 2021 the OeAWI increased its membership. The six new members are:

- **Pädagogische Hochschule (College of Education) Lower Austria** since January 1, 2021
- **Fachhochschule (U of Applied Sciences) Wiener Neustadt** since January 18, 2021
- **Webster Private University Vienna** since July 7, 2021
- **Fachhochschule Salzburg** since August 1, 2021
- **Fachhochschule Burgenland** since August 1, 2021
- **Gesundheit Österreich GmbH** since October 1, 2021

At the end of 2021, **52** institutions were full members of the OeAWI.

Administrative Office—Staff:

Katarina Furlan was marginally employed by the OeAWI from March 9, 2021, to July 31, 2021; she supported **Eva Korus** in the work of the Commission. Since November 2021, **Eva Korus** has been employed full-time (40 hours per week). In addition, the two contracts of **Eva Korus** and **Melanie Lettl** became open-ended as of June 1, 2021. At the beginning of July 2021, **Mathieu Rochambeau** joined the OeAWI team on a 30-hour per-week contract. He increased to 40 hours per week as of November 2021. He supports **Teodora Konach** as project staff in the EU projects SOPs4RI and ROSiE. Due to the extension of the EU project VIRT²UE, **Armin Schmolmüller's** contract was extended from June 1, 2021, to November 30, 2021; his weekly hours were reduced from 30 to 20.

BKMS® Compliance System

Since the implementation of the BKMS® Compliance System, a [high-security communication system](#) on the OeAWI homepage in December 2020, a total of 51 reports were received by the end of 2021. 48 inquiries were submitted by members of the OeAWI and external persons from Austria and abroad in 2021, including statements of facts and confidential documents; three reports concerned external system tests. Information and consultation regarding research integrity accounted for one third of all inquiries, almost half were reports to the Commission with requests for investigating alleged research misconduct, and in 12.5% of queries no responsibility lay with the OeAWI or its Commission.

The platform offers the possibility of complete anonymity, which a good third of all informers made use of. Far more, namely 86% of all inquirers, used the optional "mailbox" for ongoing correspondence with the OeAWI while maintaining the highest level of confidentiality on both sides.

Regarding the distribution of queries on a thematic level, most reports were related to "plagiarism" (15), followed by "other unfair research conduct" (11) and "authorship and ghost-writing" (9).

2. Raising Awareness and Prevention

eLearning-platform:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting restrictions on public meetings, very few workshops on Good Scientific Practice were held at member organizations in 2021. To make the research integrity offerings more sustainable, the previous Good Scientific Practice workshops were transformed into eLearning courses. This resulted in five courses in English on the topics: *Good Scientific Practice, Research Misconduct, Authorship & Publication, Plagiarism,* and *Data Management.*

In addition to the eLearning courses of the OeAWI that intend to teach the "Guidelines for Good Scientific Practice (GSP)", another twelve eLearning courses have been made available on the platform developed by the OeAWI and its project partners within the VIRT^{2}UE project.

To make the courses accessible to all persons affiliated with one or more member organisations, an eLearning environment has been created on the website of OeAWI (https://oeawi.at/login/). People belonging to a member organisation can register free of charge at https://oeawi.at/register/ with the e-mail address of the member organisation. Access was granted to selected member organisations in mid-December 2020, and feedback was requested. After a revision of the courses, all member organisations received access to the eLearning environment of the OeAWI in spring 2021.

In 2021, a total of 160 researchers and PhD students registered for the eLearning section of the OeAWI.

Train-the-Trainer (TtT):

The OeAWI considers itself a catalyst for the implementation of the Standards of Good Scientific Practice (GSP) in research. In 2018, the TtT was designed as a two-and-a-half-day face-to-face workshop at the request of member organisations. It aims to teach didactic skills and methods to promote GSP. Due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the TtT training could not be offered in 2021. Should it be impossible to conduct a TtT as a face-to-face workshop in any given circumstances, all teachers of member organisations can apply for access to the password-protected area on the OeAWI website (https://oeawi.at/teilnehmer-bereich/) to receive all working materials of the TtT, as well as further documents and links.

Before the COVID 19 pandemic, the TtT was held twice in German and once in English. In total, the workshops reached 52 people from different spheres of work and professional disciplines. The different backgrounds of the participants have posed a great challenge for the didactic presentation of the TtT, but at the same time, the diversity of the audience provides many opportunities for transdisciplinary exchange among the participants. The positive feedback so far has been extraordinary. The participants have come mainly from institutions in Vienna, only occasionally from the federal provinces.

The only Train-the-Trainer workshop held in 2021 was the follow-up to the TtT designed as blended learning within the VIRT²UE project. It took place online on March 24, 2021, and followed the first two sessions, which—due to the COVID-19 pandemic—also took place exclusively online on October 27, 2020, and November 5, 2020. A total of ten participants from Austria and Switzerland took part. Since any TtT always aims to have a multiplier effect, it should be emphasized that a total of 124 participants of the VIRT²UE Train-the-Trainers were taught GSP at Austrian or Swiss research institutions.

Consultation:

In 2021, the Office addressed 64 inquiries. In terms of their contents, these queries were quite diverse. They pertained to:

- Procedures regarding the investigation of research misconduct
- Authorship, criteria and international standards on questions of authorship, honorary authorship
- Definition of terminology and semantics in the scientific context
- EU projects (regulations and jurisdiction)
- Questionable use of academic titles

- Obstruction of research
- Research data management (who owns the data/who is permitted to present the data, expiration of data storage)
- Issues of research ethics (bias, disinformation, internal and external communication)
- Research Law
- Freedom of research and right to research
- Intellectual property, theft of ideas, and use of intellectual property
- Ghostwriting
- Recommendation of reviewers
- Good Scientific Practice
- Obstruction of career development
- Conflict management with journals and editors
- National and international networking
- (Non)-sanctioning of misconduct
- Plagiarism
- Ethics of publication and peer review
- False charges
- Support of external ombuds-work
- Support software for investigations
- Awarding of academic degrees
- Confidentiality obligation and rights of parties involved in the course of investigating alleged research misconduct
- Citation
- Institutions for the enforcement of ethical standards or standards of research integrity (e.g., ethics commissions, ombudsperson offices, commissions for research integrity)
- Other issues: discrimination (in the context of study law), mobbing, nepotism (in the evaluation of academic work), and duress (in the context of academic work)

Events, Workshops, Presentations:

Workshops and presentations on Good Scientific Practice (GSP) focus on the following topics: research integrity in the national and international context; the characteristics of Good Scientific Practice; planning and execution of research; data management (documentation, storage, data ownership, data use in collaborations, etc.); responsible use of research results; publication and authorship; supervision relationships and responsibilities; 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.

Due to the existing Covid-19 regulations, workshops and presentations were mostly online in 2021.

Presentations on the Activities of the Agency (OeAWI)

2/23	***Zentrum für Soziale Innovation, Executive Board, online***
2/23	***PH Lower Austria, Rectorship, online***
5/6	***Joanneum Research, Management Board, online***
6/8	***PH Lower Austria, Department Heads, online***
7/2	***Discussion Hochschulombudsnetzwerk*** on the topic 'Hochschulisches Beziehungs- und Konfliktmanagement: „Millenials" und ihre Anliegen als Herausforderung und/oder Chance?'
9/7	***Gesundheit Österreich GmbH, Management and Unit Heads***
11/8	***Medical University of Graz, Habilitierende (postdocs), online***

Lectures, Workshops, Seminars, and Panel Discussions on "Good Scientific Practice"

5/26	**Applied Science Univ. Campus Wien** (directors of studies, heads of centers of competence, members of the working group GSP), **Focus: Plagiarism and Ghost-writing,** *online*
6/7	**Online Q&A** for **doctoral candidates** in the class „Grundlagen wissenschaftlichen Arbeitens, Bioethik und Medizinethik", **Medical University of Vienna**
9/27	**Online workshop** on **„Cross-Border Investigations", ENRIO Conference,** together with Zoë Hammatt
9/29	**Online lecture** on **„Eight Months Digital Whistleblower Platform: Lessons Learned", ENRIO Conference**
10/20	**PhD Retreat of the Austrian Institute of Technology,** Rust
11/18	**Webinar** with **representatives of ERAC, SWG OSI Taskforce** on **Research Integrity und Open Science** (Teodora Konach)
11/23	**Online Lecture** on „With Good Reason for the Benefit of the Doubt" at the final **VIRT²UE Conference** (Armin Schmolmüller)
11/25	**Online Q&A** regarding GSP in the context of **PhD seminars, Donau-Universität Krems** (Teodora Konach and Armin Schmolmüller)

Debora Weber Wulff – Ghostwriting Lecture and Workshop on Stylometry (organized by the OeAWI):

Prof. Dr. Debora Weber-Wulff gave an online lecture on "Contract Cheating & Ghostwriter Market" on June 24, 2021. Subsequently, a workshop with representatives of the OeAWI and its members on the topic of "stylometry" took place in the afternoon (15 participants). On the basis of programming examples in Python, a tutorial was followed together.

3. Activities of the Commission

The Commission for Research Integrity received a total of 23 inquiries in 2021. The OeAWI Admin Office is responsible for the organisation and preparation of the agenda of the meetings; it supports the members of the Commission regarding background research and computer-assisted plagiarism checks; it also assists the members of the Commission in their interaction with all parties affected, informers, external expert reviewers and the institutions concerned (i.e., universities and research institutes); and furthermore, it advises Commission members.

The inquiries to the Commission covered the following topics: Alleged violations of GSP, inquiries regarding plagiarism in final theses, conflicts about authorship, coercion to ghost-writing, falsification of data, career obstruction through publication delay, violation of the standards of GSP regarding editorship, obstruction of research through denial of access to archives, improper establishment/management/operation of a university course of study, misrepresentation of authorship, invention of publications, and unauthorized use of titles. Furthermore, recommendations of reviewers were requested.

New Members of the Commission:

Joachim Heberle, an experimental biophysicist and professor at the Free University of Berlin, assumed his position on the Commission in the area of natural and technical sciences in May 2021. **Katrin Auspurg**, professor of Sociology with a focus on quantitative methods of empirical social research at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, is newly responsible for the area of social sciences. **Regina Aebi-Müller**, professor of Private Law and Comparative Private Law at the University of Lucerne, started her assignment for the area of law in January 2022.

4. EU Projects

VIRT²UE (June 2018 – Mai 2021, extended to November 2021)

The EU project VIRT²UE (Virtue-based Ethics and Integrity of Research: Train-the-Trainer program for upholding the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity) ran from June 2018 to May 2021. Due to delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was extended to November 2021 without adding to the costs.

The objective of this EU project was the development of a sustainable Train-the-Trainer program for teaching research ethics and research integrity. In order to promote Good Scientific Practice effectively, the principles of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ECoC) were to be communicated not only as guidelines but also as an ethical compass for scientific practice. For this purpose, a great number of mix-and-match teaching and learning materials (e.g., eLearning courses, YouTube videos, learning maps, case studies) were developed, updated, and made available to teachers in a blended learning approach (a combination of online training and face-to-face teaching). The OeAWI coordinated the development of online materials. A YouTube channel and a MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) were set up.

The results and materials of this EU project are available Open Access on the online platform "Embassy of Good Science" (https://embassy.science/). All teaching and learning materials of the project can be accessed under the VIRT²UE Training Guide.
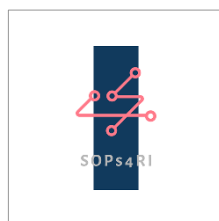
On November 2021 the VIRT²UE End Conference took place—given the pandemic, the conference was conducted online.

Deliverables:

The deliverable "Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) - 6 courses" was to be created by the end of April 2021. Being a blended learning approach, the eLearning courses were developed as preparation for the face-to-face sessions of the VIRT²UE Train-the-Trainer program, but they should also be suitable for all interested researchers' individual exploration of the topic of Research Integrity. In total, 14 eLearning courses were developed as part of four series in the VIRT²UE project. These four series and the corresponding eLearning courses can be accessed on the platform Embassy of Good Science:

- Introduction to Research Integrity
- Introduction of Virtue Ethics to Research Integrity
- Virtue Ethics under current research conditions
- Introduction to Responsible Supervision, Mentoring and Role-modeling

Due to the regulations during the COVID-19 pandemic, video production was significantly delayed. The videos can be accessed on the Embassy of Good Science YouTube channel.

SOPs4RI (January 2019 – December 2022)

SOPs4RI (Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity) is a multi-partner project funded by the European Commission to promote a strong culture of research integrity consistent with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, and to support research funding organisations as well as research-performing organisations in the transition from principles to practice.

In 2021, the 4th version of the toolbox was launched. This version contains 86 tools, 14 of them are guidelines developed by the Co-Creation Workshops within the SOPs4RI project.

The WP7, led by the OeAWI, includes two main tasks: pilot testing the toolbox and a cost benefit analysis.

We aim to pilot test the resources and tools developed within our consortium in eight concrete settings among RPOs and RFOs and collect feedback on efficiency and effectiveness as well as on costs and benefits of the toolbox. Our partners are representatives of public RFOs (Austrian Science Fund {FWF} and the Research Council of Norway {RCN}), private RFOs (La Caixa Foundation and Novo Nordisk Foundation) and four RPOs: Ghent University, Jagiellonian University, University Pompeu Fabra and Janssen Pharmaceutica N.V. (member of the European Quality in Preclinical Data project {EQIPD}).

The pilots are designed to evaluate whether the SOPs and guidelines are comprehensive and practical regarding the needs and expectations of selected institutions that are representative of key players and stakeholders within the research community (RPOs and RFOs). Ensuring an effective translation of evidence-based findings into real-world settings may require a revision of earlier steps of the process. This, in turn, will make the final version of the Toolbox useful and applicable for the intended stakeholders.

Taking a co-creating and participatory approach, the pilot tests will gather valuable and crucial input on practical issues related to implementing the SOPs and guidelines, by engaging with different stakeholders (top management – RI officers/administrators – researchers) at each pilot institution.

The work of WP7 entails three main phases:

- phase one *Planning, designing and informing*,
- phase two *Pilot testing and cost benefit analysis* and
- phase three *Analysing and reporting*.

On the 27th of April 2021, the kick-off meeting with pilot institutions took place. Mr Isidoros Karatzas, Head of sector Research Ethics & Integrity at the EC, was present during the meeting to give a broader, EU-related perspective on our work.

After the kick-off meeting two new institutions joined the pilot testing: Barcelona Biomedical Research Park and the University of Split.

In June 2021, phase two of the planned implementation strategy began. In this phase, all main elements and activities of the work within WP7 started: testing the toolbox, drafting and implementing a Research Integrity Promotion Plan (RIPP), presenting the main topics during the Content Tours meetings, offering support and guidance via the Content Helpdesk to the partner institutions, and the cost-benefit analysis.

The main task of the RIPP template and implementation guideline working group comprises of drafting an implementation guideline, envisioned to be a framework and concrete advice to both RPOs and RFOs on how to establish a RIPP and how to implement specific tools from the toolbox. The guideline is an open and inclusive way of supporting organisations in how to implement the tools and other resources from the toolbox.

The Content Helpdesk is designed to engage the institutions involved in the piloting phase with the topics identified for RPOs and RFOs within the SOPs4RI project through communication with established groups of WP7 experts. These experts are responsible for up to two topics, from the very beginning and through the whole process of pilot testing and implementation of tools. First meetings of the Content Helpdesk were an introduction to the main topics developed within our consortium, for both RPOs and RFOs (Content Tours). In this phase, responsible individuals in the pilot testing organisations will get familiarized with the SOPs, guidelines and existing resources and they can give their first feedback on both content and functionality.

The work of Content Helpdesk experts will be crucial in establishing connections with the relevant key stakeholders within the pilot institutions, enabling in-depth analysis of the topics and creating a platform for joint and shared discussion and work between the pilot institutions and the SOPs4RI partners during the whole testing phase. In 2021 ten meetings with pilot institutions were held.

For the cost-benefit analysis the leading partner is Prof. George Gaskell from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE), supported by the OeAWI and the CBA and evaluation working group.

Our work has proven to be interesting and highly valued by the pilot institutions and it is worth mentioning that in the second half of 2021, three new institutions expressed their interest to join the pilot testing: Eindhoven University of Technology, Joanneum Research, and Maastricht University.

The project period was from January 2019 to December 2022.

For more information on this project, see https://sops4ri.eu/.
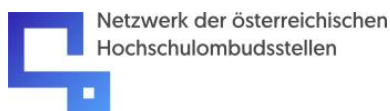
ROSiE (March 2021 – February 2024)

After its successful review in 2020, the project "Responsible Open Science in Europe" (ROSiE) officially started in March 2021. With a consortium composed of eleven international partners, the project aims to explore and develop the standards and good practices of research ethics and integrity within the Open Science and Citizen Science´s frameworks.

The OeAWI is leading the fifth work package aimed at facilitating the use of responsible and open research. To do so and reach its objective, the OeAWI launched the work package´s kick-off meeting on November 22, 2021, in which the upcoming tasks were presented to the OeAWI´s partners. This meeting set the work package´s bases and presented its tasks in preparation of the Deliverable D5.1 due in February 2022, which intends to report on existing responsible open science´s policies and guidelines.

The duration of the project is from March 2021 to February 2024.

For more information on this project, see https://rosie-project.eu/

5. National Networks, Co-operations, and Events

Netzwerk der österreichischen Hochschulombudsstellen

To increase the collaboration of all offices of ombudspersons and support their further growth, an informal Austrian network of existing ombuds offices and similar (mediation) organisations was established in Klagenfurt in June 2016. One of the first joint activities was the production of the brochure „Ombudsstellen und ähnliche Einrichtungen im österreichischen Hochschul- und Forschungsraum" (Ombuds Offices and Similar Organisations in the Austrian Higher Education

and Research World). The brochure was updated in autumn/winter 2021 and reissued in January 2022.

For more information on this project, see: https://www.hochschulombudsnetz.at

RRI-Plattform Österreich

The OeAWI is a member of the RRI Platform. This organisation considers itself a *Kompetenznetzwerk* for Responsible Research and Innovation. In Austria and internationally, it gathers existing knowledge and experience from national and international RRI projects; it promotes research exchange; it raises awareness of the RRI concept among stakeholders and the public; it supports RRI projects and promotes the implementation of RRI in Austria through these activities.

For more information, see: https://www.rri-plattform.at/

Study on "Plagiarism Assessment at Austrian Universities and Higher Education Institutions: A Status Report on Practices in Teaching and Learning":

This 2021 project was funded by the Ministry of Science and carried out by the Institute for Advanced Studies (IAS) in co-operation with Dr. Stefan Weber. Nicole Föger served as an expert at related events.

According to the website of the IAS, this study aimed to provide *"an overview of the measures, tools, and the embedding of prevention and control of plagiarism [… concerning] the academic output of regular students at Austrian higher education institutions. To achieve this goal, an online survey among higher education institutions in Austria [was] conducted. This mainly standardized survey [was] supplemented with qualitative interviews with experts and representatives of selected institutions."*

For more information, see:
https://www.ihs.ac.at/de/forschung/forschungsprojekte/project-details/studie-zur-plagiatspruefung-durch-oesterreichische-universitaeten-und-hochschulen/

6.   International Networks, Co-operations and Events

ENRIO - European Network of Research Integrity Offices

The European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) is an informal network with the aim of promoting the exchange between national and other institutions dealing with research integrity. Nicole Föger was the chair of the network from April 2012 to October 2018. During the last two years, there have been discussions about establishing ENRIO as a legal entity. It is the wish of the European Commission that all national RI organizations become part of ENRIO. The OeAWI has benefited tremendously from this network and will become a founding member in the proposed organization (a non-profit association based in Brussels).

From September 27-29, 2021, the ENRIO 2021 Congress on Research Integrity Practice took place as an online conference. The conference was designed as a platform to facilitate shared learning and exchange of experiences between experts and practitioners in the area of research integrity.

The ENRIO Conference 2021 was the first of its kind and was organized by the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK and the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) in co-operation with Aalto University. During the conference, Nicole Föger and Zoë Hammatt gave an online workshop on "Cross-Border Investigations" and an online presentation on "Eight Months Digital Whistleblower Platform: Lessons Learned".

The main topics of the conference were research integrity and related aspects, such as Open Science and EU data protection guidelines. In addition, there was a focus on research misconduct, training in GSP, and the responsibilities of research institutions and research funding organisations in cultivating appropriate research conditions. Nicole Föger was chair of the "Research integrity training track".

For more information, see: http://www.enrio.eu/.

EnTIRE

EnTIRE was an EU-funded project with the aim of creating an online platform where all information on the topic of research ethics and research integrity can be found. Nicole Föger was a member of the Advisory Board. This was also of great importance for the EU project VIRT^{2}UE, as both projects were perceived as a shared vision, and the respective results and

findings are available to the (scientific) community on a common platform, the [Embassy of Good Science](#).

Embassy of Good Science went online in autumn 2020. There users can make their own contributions on the topic of Good Scientific Practice or add to others' articles. Furthermore, Embassy of Good Science comprises a large collection of documents on Good Scientific Practice, such as training materials, guidelines, case studies, etc.

On October 25 and 26, 2021, the [final conference](#) of the EnTIRE project took place. On that occasion, the functions and special features of Embassy of Good Science were presented.

ETINED - Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education

ETINED is a network of specialists who have been appointed by the Council of Europe and the signatory states of the European Cultural Convention. The idea is that high educational quality can be achieved and corruption effectively addressed only when society is committed to fundamental ethical principles. Nicole Föger was nominated by the Ministry of Science to represent Austria on the platform. In 2021, the meeting of the network took place online due to the COVID-19 regulations.

For more information, see:
https://www.coe.int/en/web/ethics-transparency-integrity-in-education

Path2Integrity

Path2Integrity develops formal and informal methods of learning to contribute to a culture of research integrity. These include particularly "research integrity role-models" and "rotatory role-playing". The training is not only aimed at persons who are directly or indirectly involved in science but also at students at the secondary level as well as students at the post-secondary level and junior scientists. Nicole Föger served as member of the Advisory Board until the end of 2021.

For more information on Path2Integrity, see: https://www.path2integrity.eu/

ETHNA System

The aim of the project "Ethics Governance System for RRI in Higher Education, Funding and Research Centres" (ETHNA System) is to implement internal management for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) in six European research funding and research organisations. By means of ethical governance the RRI aspects of gender equality, open science and citizens' engagement and research integrity and research ethics are to be strengthened. Nicole Föger served as member of the Advisory Board until the end of 2021.

For more information on ETHNA System, see: https://ethnasystem.eu/

7.   Collaboration in Policy Documents and Publications

Detailed protocol on how the pilot tests will be carried out and how the results will be analysed

In April 2021, the OeAWI as the leading partner in WP7 in the SOPs4RI project developed the protocol on how the pilot tests will be carried out and how the results will be analysed. The protocol outlined the implementation strategy and main activities designed to successfully fulfil the aims of WP7: to test the SOPs and guidelines developed in the SOPs4RI project in a real-live setting and to give feedback to the final version of the Toolbox (5.0).

ERAC SWG OSI (2021), ERAC Standing Working Group on Open Science & Innovation Guideline Report on Research Integrity and Open Science

This guideline report presents the most striking issues that currently relate to the interactions between Research Integrity and Open Science in research policies and practice. While Research Integrity and Open Science are strongly and positively interconnected, there are also some emerging challenges that need to be properly tackled within the European Research Area, notably relating to the public dissemination of preprints and the actual levels of interoperability and reusability of research data. The report thus concludes with a set of ten actionable guidelines to further promote the mutual reinforcement of Research Integrity and Open Science, for the benefit of science and society.

8.   About the OaAWI

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 more than 50 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.

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 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 up to eight members—all of whom renowned researchers in their respective fields. To guarantee the independence from the Austrian science and research system, the seven voting members of the Commission are from abroad. As a non-voting member, an Austrian legal scholar serves on the Commission to provide expertise on the Austrian legal system. The Commission provides a neutral and factual platform for investigating (putative) 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 https://oeawi.at/).

The OeAWI is also a member of the **European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)** and thus internationally strongly connected with similar organisations. From April 2012 to October 2018, **Nicole Föger** served as Chair of ENRIO.

<u>Administrative Office</u>: Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

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