



ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT



Activity Report for 2022

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1. Association Affairs

Meetings:

General Assembly: October 25, 2022 (online)

Extraordinary Assembly: November 30, 2022 (online)

Meetings of the Commission: March 18, 2022 (online), June 10, 2022 (Vienna), September 19, 2022 (online), December 19, 2022 (Vienna)

Board Meetings: January 10, 2022 (online), July 6, 2022 (online)

Board:

Helmut Denk (OeAW) und **Sabine Seidler** (UNIKO) were re-elected as board members for two more years at the meeting of the General Assembly. **Manuela Baccarini** (University of Vienna) was elected to the board by the member organisations to succeed **Jean-Robert Tyran** for two years.

Members:

In 2022 the OeAWI increased its membership: The four new members are:

- **Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung – eco Austria** since January 1, 2022
- **Wiener Institut für Internationale Wirtschaftsvergleiche – wiiw** since January 1, 2022
- **Anton Bruckner Private University** since Juli 1, 2022
- **Sigmund Freud Private University** since October 1, 2022

Two new associate members are:

- **KDZ – Zentrum für Verwaltungsforschung** since April 1, 2022
- **WPZ Research GmbH** since April 1, 2022

At the end of 2022, **56** institutions were full members of the OeAWI. **Five** institutions are associate members.

Administrative Office—Staff:

In the Admin Office there was a change of leadership. After eleven years of service to the OeAWI, **Nicole Föger** left the office of managing director at the end of January 2022. **Christof Gattringer**, Chair of the OeWI Board and President of the FWF, was her interim successor. Starting on April 1, 2022, **Sabine Chai** assumed the position.

Due to the final work on the EU project VIRT²UE, **Armin Schmolmüller's** contract was extended for the months of January and February 2022. It expired on March 2, 2022.

2. OeAWI Renewal Process

An eventful year started for the OeAWI with the appointment of a new chairperson of the Board at the end of 2021, which was followed by a change of leadership at the Admin Office early in 2022. This process required reflection on the goals, tasks and opportunities of the agency. Of course, this also required an evaluation of existing challenges. Two key aspects should be mentioned here: (1) Fortunately, the association had grown considerably since its foundation and its membership had become more heterogeneous. However, the association's structures and national networks had not adapted to the same extent. (2) Due to the long-standing focus on keeping membership fees low – while demand increased –, the association's reserves had been depleted. This required immediate action.

Therefore, a strategy group consisting of representatives from the Board, the member institutions and the Admin Office was established to initiate the process of overcoming these challenges and developing a positive vision for the future. This group met several times in 2022.

An essential result of the discussions was the realization that regular long-term exchange with all member institutions would be needed in order to jointly tackle challenges in the area of scientific integrity and to articulate positive goals for the protection of good scientific practice. This will require more opportunities for substantive exchange such as discussion rounds, conferences and other events. A long-term goal would also be the development of common standards beyond the guidelines of the OeAWI on GSP. More exchange will also provide an opportunity to communicate more clearly what services the association can offer its members and what is outside its responsibility.

Given the limited capacity of the office's human resources, innovations need to be developed with sustainability in mind. For example, if the Association wants to offer a conference every year, how should this be organized so that it can be implemented regularly? As in any association, exchange and cooperation can only be as lively and strong as the members' contributions. The aim over the next few years will be to actively revitalize the Association and make an effort to involve newer members in particular in the dialogue.

With regard to the finances of the OeAWI, a short-term solution was found at the General Assembly in 2022. Working groups were set up for 2023 to revise both the OeAWI financial model and the by-laws.

3. Raising Awareness and Prevention

a. Training Programs

In addition to strategic planning for the revitalization of the association's network (OeAWI-Net), a concept for training courses on Good Scientific Practice (GSP) was developed to support researchers at every stage of their career. However, implementation requires close collaboration with the institutions offering the training. Therefore, this project has been put on hold until the next performance agreement.

Train-the-Trainer (TtT):

The OeAWI considers itself a catalyst for the implementation of the Standards of Good Scientific Practice in research. In 2018, at the request of member organisations, the TtT was designed as a two-and-a-half-day face-to-face workshop. It aims to teach didactic skills and methods to promote GSP. In 2022 the TtT training could not be offered. Whenever it is impossible to conduct a TtT as a face-to-face workshop, all teachers of member organisations can apply for access to the password-protected area of the OeAWI website (<https://oeawi.at/teilnehmer-bereich/>) to receive all working materials of the TtT, as well as further documents and links.

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 VIRT²UE 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 2022, a total of 123 researchers and PhD students registered for the eLearning section of the OeAWI.

b. Consultation

In 2022 the Admin Office addressed 62 inquiries. In terms of their contents, these queries were quite diverse. They pertained to:

- Authorship: Parameters of authorship; criteria and international standards on questions of authorship; honorary authorship; accurate author affiliations; accurate publishing
- Intellectual property: Plagiarism; ghostwriting; correct citation; self-plagiarism in master's theses and cumulative dissertations; theft of ideas and use of intellectual property; fear of future misuse of ideas/contributions/abstracts; copyright of teaching materials; recommendations to higher ed institutions regarding procedures in case of suspected

ghostwriting; background information on ghostwriting and ghostwriting agencies; dealing with misuse of one's own publications by "paper mills" in China

- Fake conferences and „predatory“ journals
- Data: Data falsification; data fabrication and manipulation; copyright of data; retention periods for research data; research data management (who owns the data/ who has the right to store the data/who has the right to use the data); criteria of GSP in regard to measuring equipment in scientific studies; misuse of personal/biographical data in a dissertation
- Supervision of junior scientists: Problems of supervision of theses; obstruction of junior scientists' careers
- Obstruction of research activities
- Discrimination after disclosure of violations of GSP
- Requests for assistance from defendants in cases of false accusations of research or other professional misconduct
- Experts' Statements: Selection and recommendation of evaluators; formal criteria for selection process; formal criteria for the written evaluations; honoraria for evaluators' work
- Investigation procedures: Difference between OeAWI and higher-ed institutions; information regarding procedures in international contexts; confidentiality and rights of all parties involved when suspected scientific misconduct is investigated
- Responsibility for investigations regarding academic theses: OeAWI versus higher ed institutions
- Grant agencies: Complaints about expert opinions and review processes in funding applications; inquiries about statistics/time series relating to the awarding of funds
- Complaints about contact points for GWP/research integrity: (Non-)sanctioning of misconduct; breach of confidentiality; discrimination after whistleblowing
- Misconduct in the work environment of research activities: Discrimination; bullying; nepotism (in the evaluation of academic work); abuse of power; labor law violations; employment policy at universities
- Responsibility for the assessment of academic quality of theses and publications
- Research integrity and quality assurance in the sciences
- General queries reaching the OeAWI: about its organizational structure; investigative findings following recent or long-standing proceedings of cases; ostensible violation of confidentiality on the part of OeAWI representatives; OeAWI publications (annual reports of the Commission; activities reports of the OeAWI; info brochures on GSP and RI); user rights of the OeAWI eLearning offerings in professional development programs; statistics and time series for case submissions; cases of alleged plagiarism and ghostwriting;

relevance of GSP for colleges of visual/performing arts; legal aspects of cumulative dissertations

c. Events, Workshops, Presentations

The OeAWI itself organises events and provides speakers for events organised by other institutions on invitation.

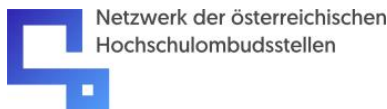
Workshops and presentations on Good Scientific Practice (GSP) focus on the following topics: research integrity in the national and international context; the characteristics of GSP; planning and execution of research; data management (documentation, storage, data ownership; data use in collaborations, etc.); responsible use of research results; publication and authorship; supervision relationships and responsibilities; responsible cooperation with colleagues; conflicts of interest; peer review; scientific misconduct; questionable and unacceptable practices (“sloppy science”); discussion of fictitious cases of scientific misconduct.

OeAWI Events

Date	Title, Place, and Other Details
6/20	<p><i>Meeting: Data Protection and Whistleblower Protection in the Practice of Ombudsman Boards and Offices, Palais Rottal</i></p> <p><i>A joint event of the Austrian Ombudsman Board, the Tyrolean and Vorarlberg Ombudsman Offices, the OeAWI, the Ombudsman Office for students in the Ministry of the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Network of Ombudsman Offices in Higher Ed.</i></p>
	<p><i>Input by Eva Korus, OeAWI:</i></p> <p><i>Whistleblower Protection in Practice –The OeAWI Process</i></p>
11/22	<p><i>Research Integrity Promotion Plans for Horizon Europe Projects, Hotel Steigenberger</i></p> <p><i>As part of the final meeting of the pilot studies for the Horizon 2020 project SOPs4RI (see section EU projects), the OeAWI also organized an event for members introducing them to the project and the new requirements for EU project applications based on it. Presentations were given by Isidoros Karatzas (Head of the Research Ethics and Integrity Sector of the European Commission), Mads Sørensen (project coordinator), Serge Horbach (co-author of the Research Integrity Promotion Plans), Stefanie Van der Burght (Ghent University, pilot institution) and Susan Hommerson (Eindhoven University of Technology, pilot institution).</i></p>

Presentations, Workshops, Seminars, and Panel Discussions

Date	Title, Format, OeAWI Representatives, Institution
8/26	Whom to Trust? The Challenge of Being Excellent, Relevant, and Trustworthy Panel discussion at the European Forum Alpbach Moderation: Minister Martin Polaschek und Christof Gattringer (FWF) Participants: Sabine Chai (OeAWI), Martina Merz (University of Klagenfurt), Eva Schernhammer (Medical University Vienna, GECKO), Tobias Thomas (Statistics Austria), Markus Weisskopf (Wissenschaft im Dialog)
9/6	Research Integrity Interactive Keynote lecture by Teodora Konach at the 48. yESAO Conference , Krems
9/22	The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) Presentation by and discussion with Sabine Chai at EMBO Workshops on Research Integrity, Vienna BioCenters
10/7	The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity: Structure, Functions, and Processes Presentation (online) by Sabine Chai at a session of the Lithuanian Parliament on the topic „Governance Models for European Agencies of Research Integrity: What Is Our Position?“ (Mokslinių tyrimų sąžiningumo tarnybų valdymo modeliai Europoje: kur mes esame?)
10/17	Research Integrity , Workshop by Sabine Chai at AIT PhD Seminars , Hirschegg, Vorarlberg
10/18	Good Scientific Practice , Presentation and Workshop by Sabine Chai at the Data Steward Certificate Course of the University of Vienna
11/25	Good Scientific Practice: An Introduction Presentation by and discussion with Teodora Konach at PhD Joint Module , University for Continuing Education Krems

d. 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 organisations was established in Klagenfurt in June 2016. One of the first joint activities—between the OeAWI and the Austrian Students Ombuds Office—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. The fifth print run of the brochure was prepared in fall 2022 and published in January 2023.

A meeting on the topic *Data Protection and Whistleblower Protection in the Practice of the Ombudsman Boards and Offices* on June 20, 2022 at the Palais Rottal (Vienna) was jointly sponsored by members of the Higher Education Ombuds Network (in particular, the Austrian Students Ombuds Office and the OeAWI). After the opening address by Nikolaus Forgó (University of Vienna) on the topic *Individuals and How They Deal with Their Data in the Public Electronic Space (up to and Including Complete Encryption)*, there were inputs on the status of data and whistleblower protection at participating institutions; and working groups were created on the issue of handling anonymous complaints as well as the presentation of cases in the media.



Photo credit: Ernst Holub

Image 1 (left): Roll-ups of the Austrian Students Ombuds Office and the OeAWI

Image 2 (right): Presenters and Organisers of the Meeting *Data Protection and Whistleblower Protection in the Practice of the Ombudsman Boards and Offices*, June 2022 (Vienna)

For more information, see: <https://www.hochschulombudsnetz.at>

Working Group Combating and Preventing Plagiarism

The working group was founded in 2011; it has members from more than 20 Austrian universities and research institutions and is dedicated to all issues related to combating and preventing plagiarism.

In 2022, the working group met on October 14 at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw). Topics discussed included the need for better cooperation with publishing houses (so that plagiarism software can utilize a more complete database), the current status

of the use of plagiarism checking software at universities, how to deal with suspected cases of plagiarism after proceedings have been concluded, and issues relating to the appointment of external reviewers.

e. 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 founded in 2008 with the aim of promoting the exchange of national and other institutions dealing with research integrity. In 2020, ENRIO became a legally established association, making it possible to develop an effective long-term strategy for the network and for the promotion of research integrity in Europe. The European Commission would like all national RI organisations to become part of ENRIO. The OeAWI benefits greatly from this network and is a founding member of the newly established organization (a non-profit association based in Brussels).

The network met twice in 2022. A central topic at the spring meeting was the work on the ENRIO Whistleblower Protection Guidelines (see point 6: Participation in policy documents and publications) as well as the establishment of an ENRIO Journal (RIPE) and a working group on the association's communication.

A central topic of the fall meeting was the outcome of the Horizon 2020 project *Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity (SOPs4RI)*. As a representative of both the OeAWI and the consortium, Sabine Chai presented the Guidelines for Research Performing Organisations and Research Funding Organisations, and the Research Integrity Promotion Plans. She also led a discussion on the opportunities and challenges of their implementation.

For more information, see: <http://www.enrio.eu/> and in the ENRIO Annual Report 2022: <http://www.enrio.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/ENRIO-Annual-Report-2022.pdf>



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. Sabine Chai was nominated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Research as Austria's representative on the platform.

The annual meeting of the platform took place from November 17-18 in Strasbourg. Central topics were the *Recommendation on Countering Education Fraud* prepared by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, possibilities to take legal action against education fraud,

the role of ENIC/NARIC institutions in the fight against forged documents and so-called diploma mills, as well as the exploration of new possibilities offered by digitalization.

For more information, see:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/ethics-transparency-integrity-in-education>

4. Work of the Commission

The Commission for Research Integrity received 21 new inquiries in 2022. The Admin Office was responsible for the organizational and content-related preparation of the meetings; it supported the Commission members regarding research and plagiarism software checks as well as in their communication with those affected, whistleblowers, experts and the institutions involved (usually universities, universities of applied sciences, non-university research institutions, publishers of scientific journals) and advised the Commission members.

The inquiries to the Commission concerned alleged violations of the GSP, among them: plagiarism in theses, conflicts over authorship, coercion to ghostwrite, data falsification, career obstruction by delaying publication, violation of GSP standards regarding editorship, resubmission of a closed case, obstruction of research by denying access to archives, irregular establishment/management/running of a university course, misrepresentation of authorship, invention of publications and unauthorized use of titles. In addition, the Commission responded to requests for recommendations of reviewers.

New Members of the Commission:

Johannes Rincke, professor of Economics at the Department of Business, Economics and Social Sciences at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, took up the representation of the area of economics in November 2022.

BKMS® Compliance System:

Following the implementation of the BKMS® Compliance System (a high-security communication system on the OeAWI website) in December 2020, a total of 82 reports reached the OeAWI up to the end of 2022. 78 inquiries were submitted by members of the OeAWI and external persons from Austria and abroad, including statements of facts and confidential documents; four reports concerned external and internal system tests. Information and advice on research integrity accounted for 37% of inquiries, 44% were reports to the Commission with requests for investigating alleged scientific misconduct, and in 15% of queries no responsibility lay with the OeAWI or its Commission.

The platform offers the option of complete anonymity. This was also used by 29% of whistleblowers. Far more, namely 85% of all enquirers, used the optional "mailbox" for ongoing correspondence with the OeAWI while maintaining the highest level of confidentiality on both sides (see Image 3).

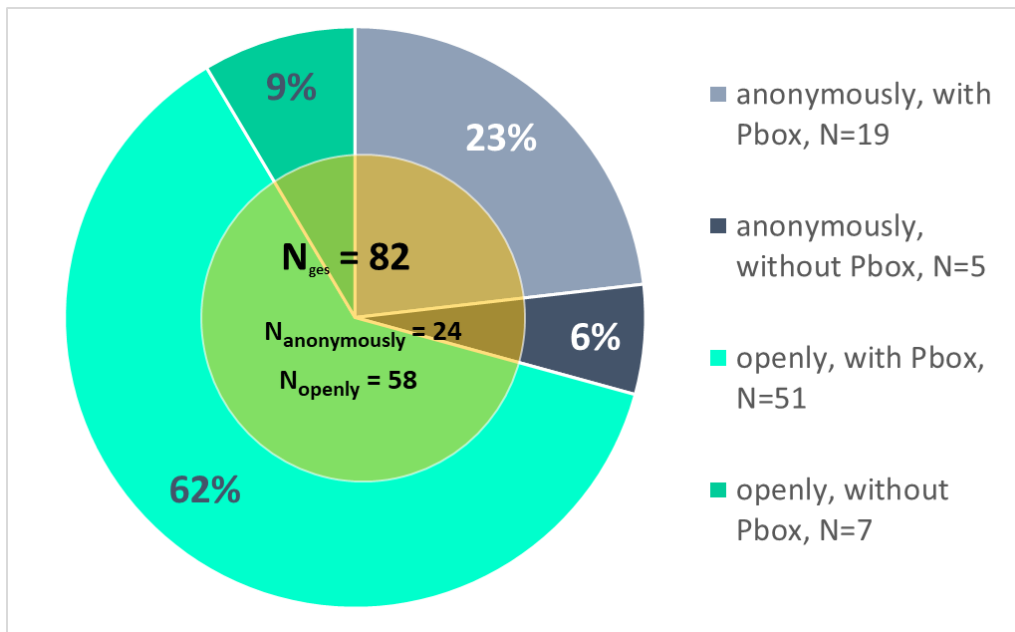


Image 3. Queries with or without the creation of a postbox (Pbox), submitted anonymously or openly, via the BKMS® Compliance System between December 2020 and December 2022.

In terms of the distribution of inquiries at the content level, most reports were for 'Plagiarism' (28), followed by 'Other scientific misconduct' (17) and 'Authorship and ghostwriting' (13), see Image 4.

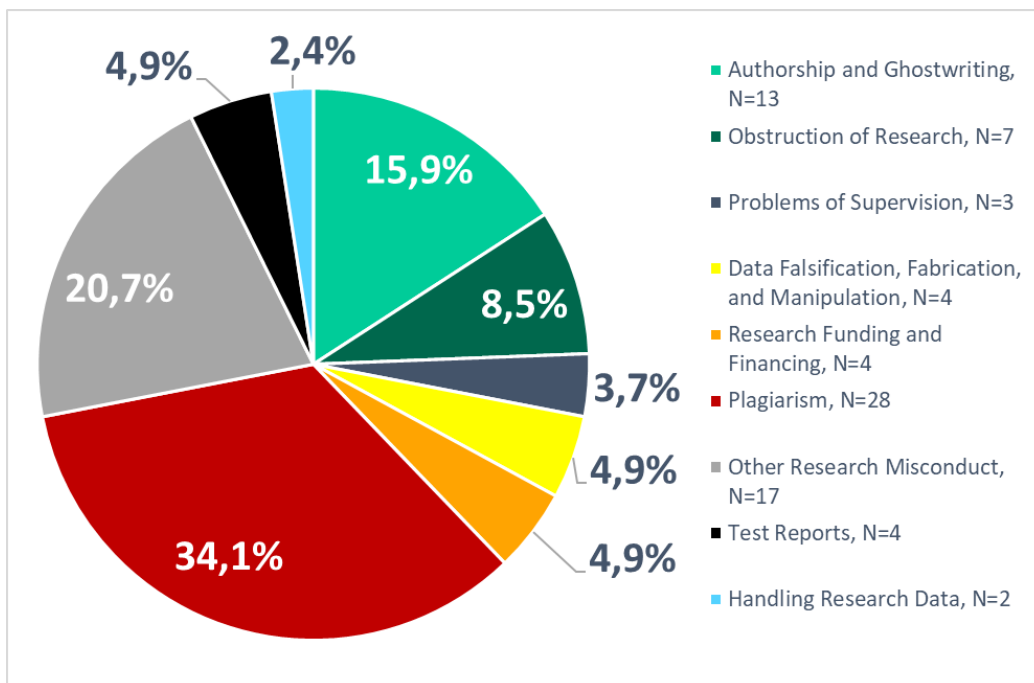


Image 4. Queries (according to topics) submitted via the BKMS® Compliance System between December 2020 and December 2022.

After two years of using the BKMS® Compliance System, we can summarize the experience of the OeAWI as follows: The need to actively create a mailbox and always log in again for any follow-up communication unfortunately leads to the loss of some whistleblowers who either forget to set

up the mailbox when reporting for the first time or fail to check for replies afterwards. On the other hand, some whistleblowers also contact the OeAWI by email or telephone, which makes it difficult to keep track of multiple lines of communication. It would also be desirable to have the option of sending documents to whistleblowers. Right now, this is not possible in the system. On the positive side, however, the system enables complete anonymity, ensures confidentiality and is GDPR-compliant. Furthermore, it allows the convenient processing of queries via one channel, reliable documentation, and meaningful statistical evaluation. Another useful feature is the completion of reports in accordance with the dual control principle and the option to use the system in German or English. Based on the (still limited) data available to the OeAWI, there has been no increase in malicious whistleblowing due to the option of anonymous submissions.

5. EU Projects



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.

The project was started in 2019 and was completed successfully in December 2022.

The 5th version of the SOPs4RI project [Toolbox](#) was published in December 2022. This version contains 131 tools, 14 of which are guidelines developed by the Co-Creation Workshops as part of the project. It also includes two topic-specific guidelines: How to do a RIPP guideline and a template for creating a Research Integrity Promotion Plan (RIPP).

The Work Package (WP7) led by the OeAWI comprised three main tasks: the implementation of a pilot test of the Toolbox, a cost-benefit analysis and, after an amendment, a survey of research funding agencies to support the cost-benefit analysis. Starting in 2022, Teodora Konach was primarily responsible for the implementation of EU projects at the OeAWI with the support of Mathieu Rochambeau and the OeAWI's managing director Sabine Chai.

The chronology of work of WP7 was divided into three main phases:

- Phase One: Planning, conception, and information
- Phase Two: Pilot testing and cost-benefit analysis
- Phase Three: Analysis and reporting

Pilot Testing for the Toolbox

The aim of the pilot tests was to test the resources and instruments developed by the consortium itself in eight specific settings at RPOs (Research Performing Organisations) and

RFOs (Research Funding Organisations) and to collect feedback on the efficiency and effectiveness as well as on costs and benefits of implementing the SOPs and guidelines available in the Toolbox. The kick-off meeting with the pilot institutions took place on April 27, 2021. Pilot institutions were 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 of Preclinical Data Project {EQIPD}). Two more organizations joined this group after the kick-off meeting (Barcelona Biomedical Research Park and University of Split) and five more in 2021 (Singapore University of Technology and Design, Croatian Science Foundation, Eindhoven University of Technology, Maastricht University and Joanneum Research). With 15 institutions (ten RPOs and five RFOs), the group of pilot institutions ultimately included seven more institutions than envisioned in the grant agreement.

The pilot studies were used to assess whether the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and guidelines are comprehensive and practical and also meet the needs and expectations of the selected institutions, which are representative of the key stakeholders and interest groups within the research community (RPOs and RFOs).

The report on the pilot studies (Deliverable 7.2 *Report on pilot studies*) was completed on time in August 2022. This was the final step in the processing of the Toolbox leading to the publication of version 5.0, which is now available online.

Another aim of the pilot studies was to encourage participating institutions to continue the process of positive change after completing the pilot phase. In support of this goal, a workshop was offered by members of WP7 and representatives of the pilot institutions at the 7th World Conference on Research Integrity on May 29, 2022 in Cape Town, South Africa.

Upon successfully completing the pilot studies, members of WP7—in collaboration with the pilot institutions—presented the results at a number of events, including the 10th meeting of the Ethics and Research Integrity Officers Network (ERION), a round table with representatives of RPOs, RFOs and the Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), and a presentation and discussion round specially created for members of the OeAWI on the significance of the guidelines developed as part of the project for future applications for EU project funding (see Image 5).



Photo credit: Sabine Chai

Image 5. SOPs4RI Consortium und Representatives of the Pilot Institutions, Nov. 2022 in Vienna

Cost-Benefit Analysis

The cost-benefit analysis was coordinated by the London School of Economics and Political Sciences (LSE) as part of WP7. LSE was supported by the OeAWI, the WP7 lead, as well as EARMA and the working group on cost-benefit analysis and evaluation. Costs and benefits were assessed both through ongoing communication with the pilot institutions during the project and through a questionnaire in February 2022. Deliverable 7.3 *Cost-benefit analysis* was completed on time in August 2022.

Survey of Research Funding Organisations in Support of the Cost-Benefit Analysis

This additional task was started in early 2022 and was primarily carried out by the University of Essex in co-operation with other members of WP7 (including the OeAWI). The survey collected details on the research ecosystem—specifically, the existing policies on research integrity at funding organisations—and what challenges or limitations RFOs identify in implementing them in RPOs. The results of the survey were also submitted in August 2022 as Deliverable 7.4 *Results from survey of research funding organisations*.

Project duration: January 2019 to December 2022.

For more information on this project, see <https://sops4ri.eu/>.

The project "Responsible Open Science in Europe" (ROSIE) started in March 2021 after receiving funding from the European Commission in 2020. 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 (WP5) aimed at facilitating the use of responsible and open research. On November 22, 2021, the OeAWI hosted a kick-off meeting for the Work Package, where the upcoming tasks were presented to the partners of the OeAWI. This meeting set the basic parameters of the Work Package and presented its tasks in preparation of the Deliverable D5.1, which was to provide a report on existing strategies and guidelines for responsible open science. The report was completed by the February 2022 deadline.

Following this initial success, the OeAWI led the development of the next two deliverables of WP5: D5.2 *Strategic Policy Paper on responsible Open Science* and D5.3 *Policy Document complementing the European Code of Conduct*. The process started in October 2022 with a co-creational workshop in Norway involving the project partners and including an international drafting group selected to support the drafting and editing of both documents. The Strategic Policy Paper is being developed with the aim of supporting policy makers, research institutions, publishers, researchers, and the global public to create efficient policies and guidelines and to promote the maintenance and implementation of responsible Open Science. The policy document is intended to provide a set of guidelines for relevant stakeholders in the field of research ethics and research integrity to ensure the responsible promotion and implementation of Open Science. Both documents are to be finalized by June 2023.

Project duration: March 2021 to February 2024.

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

6. Contributions to Developing Policy Documents and Publications

ENRIO Handbook on Whistleblower Protection in Research

A working group of the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO), originally founded in 2016, was revived in 2021. As Working Group on Whistleblower Protection in Research, it worked intensively on guidelines for the protection of whistleblowers in 2022. Helga Nolte (University of Hamburg) and Hjördis Czesnick (Ombudsman for Science) chaired the group, which includes a total of ten members from eight countries, including the OeAWI represented by Eva Korus. Publication of the handbook was planned for the end of 2022, but is now expected in 2023.

7. Resources

Embassy of Good Science | https://embassy.science/wiki/Main_Page

As part of the EU project EnTIRE (Mapping Normative Frameworks for Ethics and Integrity of Research), an online platform was created on which all information on the topic of research ethics and research integrity can be found.

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.

The results and products of all EU-funded projects on research integrity or ethics must be made available on this platform.

The following projects are examples:

Path2Integrity: Development of teaching materials on research integrity for the upper secondary level and beyond.

VIRT²UE: Development of a Train-the-Trainer program for teaching research ethics and research integrity

8. The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (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 more than 60 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.

For more information on purpose, activities, structure and organisation of the association, see its bylaws: <https://oeawi.at/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/FINAL-Statuten-OeAWI-Stand-Nov-2019-1.pdf>

For more information on current activities of the association, see <https://oeawi.at/en/>

Administrative Office: **Austrian Agency for Research Integrity**

Dr. Nicole Föger

Until January 31, 2022, Managing Director, Consultation and Training

Sabine Chai, PhD

Since April 2022, Managing Director, Consultation and Training

MMag. Teodora Konach

EU-Projects SOPs4RI, VIRT2UE and ROSiE, Training

Samuel Muehlechner, BA

System Administrator, IT-Management, Consultation

Armin Schmolmüller, MSc

Until February 28, 2022, EU-Project VIRT2UE, Training

Melanie Lettl

Assistant to the Management, Administration of EU-Projects

Dipl.-Geogr. Eva Korus

Coordinator of Commission Affairs, Consultation

Mag. Mathieu Rochambeau

EU-Projects SOPs4RI and ROSiE

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