



9th ERION Meeting

ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

10 May 2022

Author(s)*

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Agenda of the EARMA 9th ERION Meeting, 10 May 2022

ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY IMPLEMENTATION IN THE CONTEXT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

ERION is the Ethics and Research Integrity Officer Network within EARMA. It is an open community to discuss the practical and implementation side of Research Ethics and Integrity. The community is for all those that need to ensure compliance, efficiency, functionality, fairness and robustness in the practices and processes in their organisation. Such people may have titles as Ethics/Integrity Officer, Administrator and many others. You should have the role of a practitioner within your organisation. This event is NOT about Research in Ethics and Research Integrity.

Date: 10 May 2022

Place: DoubleTree by Hilton Brussels City

Tuesday, May 10, 2022, 9:00 – 17:00 CET

all time in CET, Brussels time

9:00 – 9:45	<i>Good morning Coffee & Registration</i>
09:45 – 10:00	<p>Welcome from EARMA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borana Taraj, Senior Community & Project Manager, EARMA • Nik Claesen, Managing Director, EARMA
10:00 – 10:45	<p>SESSION 1: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ETHICS IN HORIZON EUROPE</p> <p>In this session, we will discuss the challenges for collaboration in the European Union with a focus on research integrity and ethics related issues. A speaker from the European Commission will focus on challenges at the European level in the framework of the European Research Area (ERA) Pact and the Global Approach to Research and Innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Isidoros Karatzas, Head of the European Commission's Ethics and Research Integrity Sector</i> <p><i>Moderator: Jonas Åkerman, Research Integrity and Ethics Coordinator, Stockholm University; ERION Co-Chair</i></p>
10:45 – 11:45	<p>Session 2: RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES FOR ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY</p> <p>We will discuss with international networks, e.g. from Africa and Asia what are the obstacles</p>

	<p>for collaboration outside the EU, what implementation challenges for ethics and research integrity and how we can adopt new ways to improve international research collaborations. Speakers from international networks will bring their experiences with working with the EU in an open discussion on exploring ways to improve international research collaborations and equal partnerships.</p> <p>1) Fairness as a benchmark in African-European research collaborations: Challenges, insights, and recommendations</p> <p>Researcher collaborations between Europe and Africa are many, and have been in existence probably for at least the last four decades, if not more. However often the playing within these collaborations’ fields are not level, and have led to a situation that African researchers sometimes refer to as ‘scientific colonialism’. Funder requirements, entrenched power imbalances, human resource imbalances, research systems imbalances and many other factors perpetuate this. In this presentation I will provide some background to this context and then discuss how projects like the Research Fairness Initiative (COHRED) and the proposed Cape Town Statement on Fostering Research Integrity through the promotion of diversity, equity and fairness, can help address some of these problems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lyn Horn, Director of the Office of Research Integrity at the University of Cape Town; African Research Integrity Network <p>2) Challenges towards international harmonization of research practices: Insights from the Asia Pacific Research Integrity (APRI) Network</p> <p>There have been significant investment in research and innovation in the Asia Pacific region in the recent years, generating around 30% of the world’s annual research output. The increasing population of trained researchers are working in diverse cross-disciplinary research areas, many of these involve collaborations across institutions in different regions and countries. Institutional assessment of research impact, incentives for researchers and reward mechanisms may not be well aligned with the principles for collaborations. The Asia Pacific Research Integrity Network was formed with the goal of increasing the awareness and sharing best practices in research integrity, developing opportunities for collaboration, and fostering a culture of responsible research conduct. The diverse cultural, language and economic backgrounds of the researchers in the region do present challenges for research organizations to come up with workable recommendations for training, policy development and quality assurance in responsible research practices. The activities and progress towards harmonization of research practices in the Asia Pacific region will be discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mai Har Sham, Professor of Biomedical Sciences; Asian and Pacific Rim Research Integrity (APRI) Network <p><i>Moderator: Stefanie Van der Burght, Research Integrity Advisor, Ghent University, ERION Co-Chair</i></p>
<p>11:45 – 12:45</p>	<p>Networking Lunch</p>
<p>12:45 – 14:00</p>	<p>SESSION 3: EXAMPLES OF OBSTACLES FOR ETHICS AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS</p> <p>In this session, we will focus on specific examples of obstacles for ethics and research integrity in European and international research collaborations. We will have four sessions with invited speakers who will set the scope for the respective topics and provide inspiration</p>

for the community. We will dive deeper into each of the topics during the break-out groups discussions starting after this session.

1. Ethics review systems: Challenges in research Ethics processes in Africa

The Ethics approval process for clinical trials in Africa is constantly evolving. Reviewers are gaining more experience in the review process but the process itself can be slow and cumbersome. Mechanisms are being put in place in Africa for centralised review to streamline the process of multiple country submissions and build review capacity, but do they work? What are the main points for consideration when submitting a trial for approval?

- **Mary-Ann Richardson, Clinical Trial Manager, ISGlobal**

2. Knowledge safety and respect for human rights at partner organisations

We will discuss with a representative from Ghent University about the ethical conditions for collaborating with other universities and organisations. E.g. shared values (respect for human rights, not misusing the shared (dual-use) research results, ...) and how the university tries to implement such a policy. We will keep in consideration the recently updated European framework for the topic, e.g. the European Commission Strategy for European Universities (focusing, inter alia, on shared academic values) and a working paper on tackling foreign interference in academia.

- **Vincent Eechaudt, Research Policy Advisor, Ghent University**

3. Transfers of personal (research) data outside of EU

Although the exchange of knowledge and (personal) data are key in international research and collaborations, it may bring legal and ethical challenges. Especially with regard to the exchange of sensitive and personal data, extra attention and precaution is needed. GDPR clearly states that personal data must be protected within national borders, European borders, and beyond. In addition, the expectations of other stakeholders and the participants of the research (data subjects) must also be met. During this session, we will discuss the framework for the exchange of personal data, with a focus on protecting privacy within the ethical framework of research.

- **Hanne Elsen, Data Protection Officer, Ghent University**

4. The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: Implications for research

Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization (ABS) is dealt with by the Nagoya Protocol, a supplementary agreement to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In this session we will briefly present the Nagoya Protocol and relevant EU regulations and their consequences for research. We'll further touch upon recent negotiations ongoing under different international processes that expand the coverage of ABS to a broader scope including non-material genetic resources.

- **Hendrik Segers, National Focal Point to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences**

Moderator: Borana Taraj, Senior Community & Project Manager, EARMA

<p>14:00 – 15:15</p>	<p>BREAK-OUT GROUPS DISCUSSION</p> <p>Based on examples provided in session 3, we will discuss in four groups based on the following questions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are the issues, obstacles, struggles or bottlenecks that you are experiencing? ○ What are the frequently asked questions (FAQ) for each topic? ○ What are the next steps that you foresee to put in place? <p>In preparation of the group discussions, all ERION colleagues are encouraged to include their questions and expectations for the session at this link.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What questions/information would you like to get out of this group discussions? ○ What do you expect from the group discussions? <p>❖ Group 1: Ethics review systems: Challenges in research Ethics processes in Africa</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Mary-Ann Richardson, Clinical Trial Manager, ISGlobal • Rapporteur: Joana Porcel, Research Manager, IS Global <p>❖ Group 2: Knowledge safety and respect for human rights at partner organisations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Vincent Eechaudt, Research Policy Advisor, Ghent University • Rapporteur: Stefanie Van der Burght, Research Integrity Advisor, Ghent University, ERION Co-Chair <p>❖ Group 3: Transfers of personal (research) data outside of EU</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Hanne Elsen, Data Protection Officer, Ghent University • Rapporteur: Eva Cools, DBA Manager & Research Manager, Vlerick Business School <p>❖ Group 4: The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing: Implications for research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator: Susan Hommerson, Policy Officer medical/medical device, Eindhoven Institute of Technology • Rapporteur: Jolanda Habraken, Senior coordinator human-related research / Secretary ethical review committee
<p>15:15 – 15:30</p>	<p>Wrap-up session</p> <p>All groups will gather together to identify common themes and ideas emerged during the break-out groups and share these among community members. We will make use of interactive tools such as Mentimeter.</p> <p>Short reports from the breakout sessions will be put on ERION Community platform. If you do not yet have access to the platform, please register on the EARMA website here.</p> <p>Please find a short tutorial about the ERION Community platform here: https://youtu.be/SI2P7bGLu0</p>
<p>15:30 – 17:00</p>	<p>Networking & Goodbye Coffee</p>

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