

# ENRIO ANNUAL REPORT

## 2022



The European Network of Research Integrity Offices ENRIO  
Non-Profit Association under Belgian Law  
[Palace of the Academies, Hertogsstraat 1, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM]

# PART 1: ABOUT ENRIO

## 1.1. WHAT IS ENRIO

The European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) was founded soon after the 1st World Conference on Research Integrity in Lisbon, Portugal in 2007. It began as an initiative by the then director of the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) and six others concerned with research integrity. They decided to establish an (informal) European Network to enhance research integrity within Europe in a world of growing international cooperation.

Over the last 12 years, ENRIO has grown from a small group of leading professionals into one of the key players in advancing research integrity in Europe. The network has successfully built a mission, membership and activities that are comparable to some of the other major research associations in Europe. Since the network's inception in 2008, ENRIO has rapidly enlarged its membership. On 31 January 2021, the network had 31 members who are spread across 23 countries. This membership development has increased the influence and impact of the network. In 2020 ENRIO became a legally established association, enabling it to create an effective long-term strategy for the future of the network, and for the advancement of research integrity in Europe. During a transitional phase from 2020-2022, the old network will co-exist with the association.

At the end of the previous term,<sup>1</sup> it was decided that to ensure the sustainability of ENRIO and to address emerging concerns, the Transitional Board and its successor Board will collaborate to help to ensure the growth of ENRIO through different aspects of its activity (e.g., better enabling Internal Rules, developing an effective long-term strategy of ENRIO).

## 1.2. ENRIO MEMBERS

The following organisations were members of ENRIO association in 2022:

- Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI), Austria

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<sup>1</sup> See ENRIO annual report 2021 <http://www.enrio.eu/news-activities/enrios-annual-report-2021/>

- Centre national de la recherche scientifique (CNRS), France
- Commission for Ethics in Science, Poland
- Commission for Scientific Integrity of Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS), Czech Republic
- Committee for the Integrity of Research in Catalonia (CIR-CAT), Spain
- Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science, Slovenia
- Conseil Supérieur de l'intégrité scientifique (CSIS), Belgium
- Danish Board on Research Misconduct (DBRM), Denmark
- Ethics Committee of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, Slovakia
- Ethics Committee of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain
- Estonian Research Council (ETAg), Estonia
- Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK), Finland
- Flemish Commission for Research Integrity (VCWI), Belgium
- French Office for Research Integrity (OFIS), France
- Health Research Board (HRB), Ireland
- Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI), Luxembourg
- Montenegrin Ethics Committee, Montenegro
- National Board for Assessment of Research Misconduct (NPOF), Sweden
- National Research Ethics Committees (FEK), Norway
- Netherlands Board on Research Integrity (LOWI), Netherlands
- Netherlands Research Integrity Network (NRIN), Netherlands
- Network of Responsible Conduct of Research in Greece (RCR), Greece
- Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania
- Swiss Academies of Arts and Sciences (SAAS), Switzerland
- Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Switzerland
- UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO), United Kingdom

Supporter organisations:

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany
- The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), Germany

Also, there are four individual research integrity practitioners as supporters for ENRIO.

Some offices from the former ENRIO network still need to figure out administrative solutions to join the network in a formal way as some offices have unstable funding or no legal personality. ENRIO is in contact with the members of the former network to assist their integration into ENRIO vzw.

### 1.3. ENRIO TRANSITIONAL BOARD AND ENRIO REGULAR BOARD

ENRIO's Transitional Board consisted of the then Board of the ENRIO network, the Executive Committee of the ENRIO association, and new Board members representing both the ENRIO association and the old ENRIO network. The President of ENRIO was Sanna Kaisa Spoof from the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK. ENRIO's Transitional Board was in office until May 2022.

In April 2022, the ENRIO General Assembly elected new members of the ENRIO regular Board. Among them, Oldřich Tůma (Commission for the Scientific Integrity of the Czech Academy of Sciences) was elected as the new President of the ENRIO. The Board is responsible for the execution of ENRIO's general policy and consults with all members of ENRIO on any decisions that need to be taken in that respect.

#### **Transitional Board members:**

Sanna-Kaisa Spoof (Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK)  
President of the Association & Chair of ENRIO Network

Maura Hiney (Health Research Board, Ireland)  
Vice-chair of ENRIO Network

Hjördis Czesnick (German Research Ombudsman - Office)  
Vice-chair of ENRIO Network

Pablo Fernandez (UK Research Integrity Office)  
Vice-President of ENRIO Association

Urša Opara Krašovec (Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science, Slovenia)  
Vice-President of ENRIO Association

Loreta Tauginienė (Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania)

Board Member representing ENRIO Association

Joël Eyer (French Office for Research Integrity OFIS)

Board Member representing ENRIO Association

Helga Nolte (Geschäftsstelle für Ombudsangelegenheiten der Universität Hamburg, Germany)

### **Regular Board members:**

Oldřich Tůma (Commission for the Scientific Integrity of the Czech Academy of Sciences)

President of the ENRIO Association

Pablo Fernandez (UK Research Integrity Office, UKRIO)

Vice-president

Loreta Tauginienė (Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures)

Vice-president

Helene Ingierd (The Norwegian National Research Ethics Committee, FEK)

Bert Seghers (Flemish Commission for Research Integrity, VCWI)

Carole Chapin (French Office for Research Integrity, OFIS)

### **1.4. SECRETARIAT**

Kalle Videnoja was a secretary of ENRIO from March 2019 until June 2022. Between June 2022 and October 2022 Bert Seghers acted as interim secretary. In October 2022 Michaela Lenčářová became the new ENRIO Secretary. Michaela's salary is paid by the Czech Academy of Science, thanks to ENRIO funds.

### **1.5. FINANCE**

ENRIO's finances were administered by the Federation of Finnish Learned Societies, TENK's host organization, where a temporary cost center for ENRIO was established. In December 2022, the ENRIO fund was transferred to the Institute for Contemporary

History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the ENRIO member organization holding the ENRIO Presidency.

At the end of 2022, TENK transferred 41 173, 73 € to a temporary ENRIO bank account established at the Institute for Contemporary History CAS v.v.i.

## PART 2: INTERNAL WORKING

### 2.1. ENRIO MEETINGS

The members meet twice a year for the “ENRIO Meeting” with a programme focussed on expertise sharing in research integrity and an ENRIO vzw General Assembly. In 2022, these took place:

- **28-29 April 2022 in Helsinki**, Finland.  
12 official representatives of ENRIO member organisations and 21 other guests attended the meeting.
- **20-21 October 2022 in Barcelona**, Catalonia, Spain.  
40 representatives attended the meeting.

The ENRIO Board held meetings on June 20, June 28, September 14, October 21 and December 21. Besides the physical meetings in Barcelona and Helsinki, all other meetings were held through Zoom.

### 2.2. ENRIO WORKING GROUPS ACTIVE IN 2022

ENRIO has various working groups focusing on different areas of research integrity. The following ENRIO working groups were active in 2022:

- Horizon Europe Working Group
- Whistleblowing Working Group

Other working groups previously active in ENRIO suspended their activities, due to various reasons. An objective of ENRIO for next term is to highlight the existence, composition and work of the working groups by presenting each of them on a specific

webpage on the website, where anyone can easily contact working group coordinators and consult the advancement of work, deliverables to be expected.

### 2.3. STABILIZATION OF ENRIO AS AN ASSOCIATION

The internal rules and statutes of the network and of the transitional phase are no longer accurate under the Belgian law to enable ENRIO to be operational. Although it is still desirable for ENRIO members to be legal entities (e.g. associations, RI offices, etc.), this status is not relevant for elected board members. Indeed, some executive actions that ENRIO board has to take - in particular, providing ENRIO with a functional bank account domiciled in Belgium, implementing operationally the decisions of the general assembly, and follow and manage the association's finances - cannot be (or only with major administrative difficulties) taken without having individual persons identified with regards to Belgian law.

To achieve this stabilization of ENRIO as an association, a 3 points plan was developed:

- 1) To amend the association's internal regulations to clarify the status of members, whether they are members of the association or members of the board, and their responsibilities;
- 2) To declare this information, as well as information on board members (according to new statutes) to the Belgian federal public service justice (ASBL form);
- 3) Once these documents are in order, open the ENRIO bank account and declare the persons responsible within the board (for example: president, vice-president, person acting as treasurer)

These actions will allow ENRIO to have a sustainable structure in the long term, hence facilitating the transition between each elected board.

In order to guarantee the integrity of these procedures, ENRIO will be accompanied by a lawyer specializing in Belgian public administrative law.

# PART3: ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS

## 3. EVENTS

### 3.1. THE ORGANISING OF THE ENRIO 2023 CONGRESS FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY PRACTICE

The ENRIO 2023 Congress will take place on the 7th and 8th of September 2023 Paris, Sorbonne University (International conference centre). It will provide an on-site and live streamed programme, allowing hybrid participation. Recordings of the live-streamed sessions available after the event.

A pre-congress session (6th of September) will be dedicated to collaboration and cross-pollination between EU-funded projects on research integrity / research ethics / responsible conduct of research.

Partners for organising the Congress are the French Office for Research Integrity (Ofis) and Sorbonne University.

The Programme Committee is composed as follow:

- **Krista Varatola, Chair of the Programme Committee**

*Chancellor Emerita, University of Tampere. Member of the ALLEA drafting group for the revision of the European Code of conduct for Research Integrity.*

- Carole Chapin, French Office for Research Integrity (Ofis)
- Hjördis Czesnick, German Research Ombudsman Office
- Roger Guérin, Sorbonne University
- Vidar Enebakk, Norwegian research Ethics Committee
- Pablo Fernandez, UKRIO
- Ghislaine Filliatreau, INSERM
- Maura Hiney, ENRIO
- Estelle Jaligot, CIRAD
- Panagiotis Kavouras, National Technical University of Athens (NTUA)
- Olivier Le Gall, INRAE
- Erika Löfström, University of Helsinki
- Helga Nolte, ENRIO



- Stéphanie Ruphy, Ofis
- Sanna-Kaisa Spooft, Finnish National Board on Research Integrity (TENK)

The ENRIO 2023 Congress on Research Integrity Practice is the second session of a European congress series that brings experts together to critically explore and develop research integrity practices. The aim is to work towards an increasingly responsible European research culture. The 2023 congress continues the series started in 2021 with the objective of developing the main areas of involvement for scientific integrity practitioners in Europe, including:

- Training and Supervision
- Authorship / Publication
- Communication / Media
- Preventing, Investigating and Managing Misconducts / Breaches
- Responsibilities and Actions within Research performing and funding organisations.

In addition, starting with this second event, the Congress wishes to add to these transversal themes a specific focus on two current challenges. For the 2023 Congress, those are:

- **Focus 1: Societal dimension of Research Integrity (fostering trust in science)**

Example of topics:

- The use of research publication by/for a general audience
  - Research outside the academic framework (independent researchers, research in the private sector, citizen science): how to spread good practices for a favourable environment ? How to deal with RI breaches?
  - Relations between researchers and media, media training, etc.
  - Research information & academic freedom
  - Research Integrity in times of crisis: pandemic, war, climate change awareness
  - Artificial intelligence tools
- **Focus 2: Responsible open science (Open science and research integrity / research ethics)**

Example of topics:

- Opportunities & remaining obstacles
- Challenges on open access, open data
- Role of research integrity structures / officers
- Universal principles and disciplinary practices: how to find the balance?
- Research integrity and assessment of research activities

The programme includes 4 plenary sessions with keynote speakers on the main topics of the Congress, alternated with plenary sessions, the congress will feature parallel sessions, workshops and posters.

At this date, keynote speakers are to be confirmed. Call for abstracts (presentation, workshop, poster) opens on 20 March 2023, and registration opens on 3 May 2023.

## 4. ACTIONS

### 4.1. ENRIO WHISTLEBLOWING GUIDELINES

The ENRIO working group „Whistleblower Protection” was founded in 2016 and currently comprises nine ENRIO members and research integrity experts associated with ENRIO. The aim of the working group is to develop a handbook for researchers and research institutions in Europe that provides recommendations on the protection of whistleblowers in the field of research. The handbook is aimed at both students or researchers who consider to report an alleged breach of good research practice, and at the leaderships of institutions who are responsible to implement structures that enable the safe reporting of research misconduct observations. Also, the handbook addresses research integrity officers, ombudspersons and commissions performing research misconduct investigations.

Already since 2017, a first working group had been working on the development of such a handbook and first drafts of outlines and content had been discussed by ENRIO members. Re-starting in spring 2022, the work was intensively resumed and the working group, partly composed of new members, prepared an updated and newly written draft which was discussed in several online meetings. The structure of the handbook and continuing open questions on specific topics were presented and discussed with the members at the hybrid ENRIO meeting in Helsinki on April 29,

2022. The next step was to revise this agreed draft again, which is currently being finalized by the working group. It is planned to present the finalized draft at the 2023 ENRIO Spring Meeting, and then to publish the final version of the handbook approved by the ENRIO members in a timely manner.

#### 4.2. ENRIO MEMBERS' INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

As it was stated in ENRIO Annual Report 2021, “ENRIO does not have a permanent secretariat and is, according to its Internal Rules, unable to have its own personnel, so the Board agreed that the best approach is for ENRIO to give a mandate to one or more ENRIO association members to participate as full partners in proposals.” (p. 7). Given this, a few ENRIO members joined the proposals under the Horizon Europe programme call *HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-91 – The empirical and behavioural approach to research ethics and integrity*. This call requested that the proposals must include structured cooperation with ENRIO. ENRIO was approached by two consortiums, in which some ENRIO members expressed their interest. The 3-years project funded under this call is *Beyond Bad Apples: Towards a Behavioral and Evidence-Based Approach to Promote Research Ethics and Research Integrity in Europe (BEYOND)*. It involves two ENRIO members as project partners, namely Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK and French Office for Research Integrity.

In addition, Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK has involved in the project *Pro-active Pandemic Crisis Ethics and Integrity Framework 2022–2025 (PREPARED)* as a partner institution. This 3-years project is funded under the Horizon Europe programme call *HORIZON-WIDERA-2022-ERA-01-90 – The challenges of research ethics and integrity in response to crisis: the coronavirus pandemic and beyond*. The overall goal of the PREPARED project is to develop an operational ethics and integrity framework, which safeguards key ethical values, supports a rapid and effective research response to crises and improves overall crisis preparedness. TENK's main tasks are to analyse project's outcomes with a focus on already existing guidance to promote research integrity during global crisis; deepen insights about the risks to research integrity through semi-structured expert interviews with ENRIO and ALLEA members; discuss potential gaps to the existing guidance on research integrity in global crisis through expert interviews with ENRIO and ALLEA members; and ensure that

research integrity point of view are well represented in the main deliverables of the project.

The project *Developing policies and procedures to enhance research integrity (SOPs4RI)*, in which two ENRIO members – Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI) and Health Research Board Ireland – were involved as project partners, ended in December 2022. This 4-years project was funded under the Horizon 2020 programme call *SwafS-03-2018 - Developing research integrity standard operating procedures*. The project aim was to promote excellent research and a strong research integrity culture that aligns with the principles and norms of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, and to counter research misconduct. Main deliverables, of which all ENRIO members might benefit, are the following:

- An inventory of relevant guidelines and recommendations that research performing organisations (RPOs) and research funding organisations (RFOs) can draw on when developing governance arrangements promoting strong research integrity cultures (see the toolbox <https://sops4ri.eu/toolbox/>).
- New, flexible tools and templates for RFOs (<https://sops4ri.eu/tools-for-rfos/>) and RPOs (<https://sops4ri.eu/tools/?cookie-state-change=1678171145275>) to develop Research Integrity Promotion Plans.

### 4.3. ALLEA Code

ENRIO was asked by ALLEA to formulate feedback on a preliminary draft of the update of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, developed by ALLEA's permanent working group on science and ethics. ENRIO shared this call and received 11 replies containing 131 points of feedback. A task force within ENRIO Board coordinated these replies into one single response by ENRIO. It was delivered to ALLEA on December 15, 2022.

### 4.4. ENRIO OPEN-ACCESS BULLETIN RIPE

Since 2022, work started on the *Research Integrity Practice in Europe* bulletin (RIPE). The editorial board was formed: Hjördis Czesnick, Panagiotis Kavouras, Ana Marušić, and Anni Sairio (Lead Editor). At the end of 2022, ENRIO has launched an open-access

bulletin RIPE as a 'coming soon' version that provides practical information on research integrity and research ethics in Europe.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.enrio-ripe.eu/about-ripe/>