

ENRIO ANNUAL REPORT 2023





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. 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.

ENRIO aims to promote the exchange of information and experiences between the members, sharing information and good practices in raising awareness, sharing knowledge in handling allegations of research misconduct, supporting and advising countries that lack a national structure, and building up relationships with other organizations with European and global interests in research integrity. Therefore, ENRIO organizes the ENRIO Congress on a two-year basis, publishes an open-access bulletin, and brings out handbooks providing information on best practices in research and research integrity.

1.2. ENRIO MEMBERS

The following organisations were members of ENRIO association in 2023:

- Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI), Austria
- 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 (NREC), 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 five 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 BOARD

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. Since September 2022, ENRIO Board members have acted as natural persons.

ENRIO Board members:



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

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 (Flemisch Commission for Research Integrity, VCWI)

Carole Chapin (French Office for Research Integrity, OFIS)

1.4. SECRETARIAT

Michaela Lenčářová has acted as a secretary for ENRIO since October 2022. Michaela's salary has been paid by the Czech Academy of Science, thanks to ENRIO funds.

1.5. FINANCE

ENRIO's finances are administered by the Institute for Contemporary History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the ENRIO member organization holding the ENRIO Presidency, where a temporary cost center for ENRIO was also established.

In 2023, ENRIO received 48 350 € in membership fee payments and subsidized the Institute for Contemporary History in total 22 000 € for secretariat services. On 31 December 2023, ENRIO's balance was 29 465 €.



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 2023, these took place:

- **17-18 April 2023 in Brussels, Belgium.**
45 official representatives of ENRIO member organizations and 7 other guests attended the meeting (online/on-site)
- **5 September 2023 in Paris, France.**
33 representatives attended the meeting ((online/on-site)

The ENRIO Board held meetings on February 21, May 16, June 21, August 22, November 10 and December 20. Besides the physical meetings in Brussels and Paris, all other meetings were held through Zoom.

2.2. ENRIO WORKING GROUPS ACTIVE IN 2023

ENRIO has various working groups focusing on different areas of research integrity. The following ENRIO working groups were active in 2023:

- Horizon Europe Working Group
- Whistleblowing Working Group

In 2023, the following working groups were established and re-established:

- Key definitions Working Group
- Research Ethics in Humanities and Social Sciences Working Group

Other working groups previously active in ENRIO suspended their activities for various reasons. The activities of the ENRIO Workings groups are presented on the ENRIO website.



PART 3: ACHIEVEMENT AND IMPACTS

3. EVENTS

3.1. THE ENRIO 2023 CONGRESS FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY PRACTICE

The ENRIO 2023 Congress took place on the 7th and 8th of September 2023 in Paris, Sorbonne University (International conference center). A pre-congress session (6th of September) was dedicated to collaboration and cross-pollination between EU-funded projects on research integrity/research ethics / responsible conduct of research. The French Office for Research Integrity (Ofis) and Sorbonne University were partners in organizing the Congress.

The ENRIO 2023 Congress on Research Integrity Practice was the second session of a European congress series that brings experts together to critically explore and develop research integrity practices. The aim was to work towards an increasingly responsible European research culture. The 2023 congress continued 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 organizations.

In addition, starting with this second event, the Congress added to these transversal themes a specific focus on two current challenges. For the 2023 Congress, those were the societal dimensions of research integrity (fostering trust in science) and responsible open science (Open science and research integrity/research ethics).

The Programme Committee was responsible for the quality and contents of the program and for the peer review process. Krista Varantola chaired the Programme Committee. The members were Carole Chapin, Hjärdís Czesnick, Roger Guérin, Vidar Enebakk, Pablo Fernandez, Ghislaine Filliatreau, Maura Hiney, Estelle Jaligot, Panagiotis Kavouras, National Technical University of Athens, Olivier Le Gall, Erika Löfström, Helga Nolte, Stéphanie Rupy, and Sanna-Kaisa Spooft.

The program included five plenary sessions with keynote speakers on the main topics of the Congress, alternated with parallel sessions, workshops, and posters. The congress gathered c. 250 registered participants from 28 countries, including RI practitioners and experts, research administrators, researchers, managers, and others in leadership positions. Congress provided an on-site and live-streamed program, allowing hybrid participation. Recordings of the live-streamed sessions are available on the ENRIO Congress platform and on the Ofis' website.¹

Program

7 September – 2 plenary sessions, 2 symposiums, 4 oral sessions, 4 workshops
8 September – 3 plenary sessions, 6 oral sessions, 6 workshops.

¹ <https://www.ofis-france.fr/colloque/congres-enrio-2023/>



4. ACTIONS

4.1. ENRIO WHISTLEBLOWING GUIDELINES

In July 2023, ENRIO published the "Handbook on Whistleblower-Protection in Research". It is aimed at all researchers and students who wish to report a suspected violation of good research practice. Furthermore, it is addressed to those who, as the heads of institutions, are responsible for the implementation of structures that enable the safe reporting of observations of research misconduct. A further target group consists of research integrity officers, ombudspersons and commissions conducting investigations into research misconduct.

The idea of appointing an ENRIO working group to formulate recommendations for the protection of whistleblowers in research was realized in 2016, and the first working group discussed initial drafts of the structure and content in 2017/2018. ENRIO members were continuously informed about the ongoing discussions at the meetings in Lisbon (2017) and Rome (2018). After an organizational break, the working group was reconstituted in autumn 2021, now consisting of nine ENRIO members and research integrity experts associated with ENRIO. In the initial discussions, the plan emerged to create a detailed handbook on the topic, which would illustrate the various aspects in a way that the information and recommendations would be applicable at the European level.

An intensive resumption of work took place, and the working group produced an updated and rewritten draft, which was discussed in several online meetings. The structure of the handbook and the remaining open questions on specific topics were presented to and discussed with members at the hybrid ENRIO meeting in Helsinki in April 2022. After several rounds of review and editing, a final draft of the handbook was presented at the ENRIO Spring Meeting 2023 in Brussels and was well received by the members, so that the "ENRIO Handbook on Whistleblower Protection in Research" could be published on the open access platform Zenodo in July 2023. The printing of the brochure was funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the Handbook was presented by the working group chairs at the ENRIO Congress 2023 in Paris.²

4.2. ENRIO MEMBERS' INVOLVEMENT IN EUROPEAN PROJECTS

BEYOND

The Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK, representing ENRIO in Project BEYOND, focused on communication and outreach activities in 2023. Key achievements of the project include the release of a Policy Brief on the socio-economic effects of research misconduct. This document will be widely disseminated in early 2024 to engage stakeholders and the public. TENK also launched a website (<https://beyondbadapples.eu>) and a LinkedIn page, boosting our online presence. At

² The Handbook on Whistleblower Protection in Research is available here: <https://www.enrio.eu/wbp/>



the ENRIO 2023 Congress in Paris, the French Office for Research Integrity (OFIS) organized a pre-conference session as a part of BEYOND's horizontal engagement with other EU funded research ethics and research integrity projects.

PREPARED

In 2023, significant part of ENRIO's representation in PREPARED involved finding research integrity experts for workshops that reviewed project's first year's findings. TENK mainly worked on scoping out the research integrity landscape in Europe. The main goal was to better understand and map out the different research integrity regulations in Europe. The objective was to guarantee the usability of the project's deliverables across diverse regulatory environments throughout Europe. PREPARED was also showcased at the ENRIO 2023 Congress.

4.3. ENRIO OPEN-ACCESS BULLETIN RIPE

Since 2022, work has started on the Research Integrity Practice in Europe bulletin (RIPE). The editorial board was formed: Hjordis Czesnick, Panagiotis Kavouras, Ana Marušić, and Anni Sairio (Lead Editor). RIPE is an open-access bulletin providing practical information on European research integrity and ethics. RIPE was launched at the 2023 ENRIO Autumn Meeting. The first issue consisted of four articles: *Welcome from the Editorial Board*; *Unpacking the Ukrainian paradox*; *Accelerating responsible conduct of research in a multidisciplinary research community*; and *Agents of Change in Research Integrity*.

Further issues are following.³

³ RIPE is available here <https://www.enrio.eu/ripe/>