

ENRIO ANNUAL REPORT

2024





Foreword

ENRIO is an independent network of national organizations, institutions, or authorities that oversees compliance with research integrity or assists to create its rules in European countries. The network allows to exchange and share opinions and experiences, monitor and evaluate developments at the national, European and also global levels. ENRIO strives to fulfill these tasks in various ways: By organizing meetings (previous year in Rome and Prague) and congresses (2025 in Ljubljana) where all these topics are discussed at a high professional level and those discussions undoubtedly help practitioners in their work in the national context. Permanent work on the most important aspects of research integrity takes place within the framework of established working groups. Their outputs are extremely important for the effectiveness of ENRIO. The participation of members in advisory boards of various Horizon projects is also beneficial for spreading influence of the network. Last but not least ENRIO's cooperation with other organizations operating in the European or global arena in the environment of research integrity and scientific ethics is important and beneficial.

There are more representatives representing member organizations than in the picture below (taken in Strahov Monastery during the autumn meeting in Prague). But even so, not all European countries, nor even EU countries, are represented in ENRIO. Some national organizations have even suspended their membership recently. An important task for the near future is to find partners in countries that are not represented and to expand the number of member organizations.

The transformation from a loose network to a full-fledged international association including the establishment of a permanent secretariat and bank account is being completed. This will help in better organization of activities and internal stability and uninterrupted continuity. The election of a new board six months in advance was a step in this direction, too.

I am certain that ENRIO, from May 2025 with a new president and a new board, will be successful and complete the transformation, and develop the initiated and planned activities to the full extent.

Oldřich Tůma
ENRIO President



Photo: Miroslav Zdík Jordánek



ENRIO as a Network of National Offices and Experts

1. ABOUT 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.

2. ENRIO MEMBERS

ENRIO is proud to be supported by a diverse and growing community of members committed to advancing research integrity across Europe. Our members include national research integrity offices, ethics committees of academic institutions, national funders, networks, and individual experts, all of whom play a crucial role in fostering responsible research practices throughout Europe. The collective expertise and commitment of ENRIO members are essential to the network's mission.

In 2024, the new ENRIO members were: National Research Council (Italy), National Council for Ethics and Integrity in Science (Slovenia), Urša Opara Krašovec, and Julia Verse. ENRIO bid farewell to this members: Commission for Equal Opportunities in Science (Slovenia).



The following organisations were members of the ENRIO Association in 2024:

- 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
- 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 Council for Ethics and Integrity in Science, Slovenia
- National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- 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

Affiliates:

- Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Germany



- The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO), Germany

The following experts were individual research integrity practitioners and members of ENRIO in 2024:

- Ana Marušić
- Grace van Arkel
- Helga Nolte
- Jan Brocher
- Julia Verse
- Maura Hiney
- Michael Gommel
- Panagiotis Kavouras
- Urša Opara Krašovec

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.

3. ENRIO WORKING GROUPS

ENRIO has various working groups focusing on different areas of research integrity. The following ENRIO working groups were active in 2024:

- **Horizon Europe Working Group**

WG coordinator: Loreta Tauginienė

The Horizon Europe work programme includes calls for strengthening the ERA on key areas, including research integrity and ethics. Proposals under these topics are encouraged to involve ethics and integrity networks, such as ENRIO or other European networks of researchers and educators in the field of research ethics and integrity. This working group aims at coordinating ENRIO's support to, or participation in these projects.

- **Key definitions Working Group**

WG coordinators: Helene Ingierd, Loreta Tauginienė, Michaela Lenčėšová

Central terms, such as “research integrity”, “scientific integrity”, “research ethics”, “research misconduct”, and “scientific misconduct”, may have different perceived and legal meanings in different institutions, cultures, and countries. ENRIO recognizes that it is important to have clear and explicit core definitions to promote responsible conduct of research, to assist in addressing potential instances of research misconduct, and to strengthen research



integrity. The projects aims are to map key concepts, develop a glossary of key definitions and recommend some definitions and interpretations of key concepts.

- **Research Ethics in Humanities and Social Sciences Working Group**

WG coordinator: Vidar Enebakk

The working group was established to facilitate networking among members working on ethical issues in the humanities and social sciences. The primary purpose of the group is to share knowledge and experience in this area.

In 2024, the following working groups were established and re-established:

- **Communication Working Group**

WG coordinator: Panagiotis Kavouras

ENRIO's activities benefit from the participation of its members and other stakeholders in the field of research integrity. Information on ENRIO's activities and outcomes must be based on communication tools and strategies (internal and external) that meet the needs of its community. The aim of this working group is to maintain these tools and to develop and implement the communication strategy.

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.

3. 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 2024, these took place:

- **5-6 March 2024** in **Rome**, Italy.
40 participants (online/on-site)
- **12-13 September 2024** in **Prague**, Czechia.
46 participants (online/on-site)



ENRIO's Impact as the Voice of Research Integrity

1. Publications

ENRIO Handbooks

In 2024, the ENRIO Handbook for Whistleblower Protection in Research has further been introduced to and disseminated among new target groups. The handbook was presented to a global audience at the World Conference on Research Integrity in Athens by the working group chair Helga Nolte. It is also continuously being introduced to e.g. groups of research integrity trainers, research integrity officers and ombudspersons by ENRIO members. The chairs of the handbook's working group (Hjördis Czesnick and Helga Nolte, Germany) are inviting feedback at every opportunity and are collecting topics which could be discussed and used to improve the handbook's messages in the future. The feedback was presented to the ENRIO members at the meeting in Prague on September 12, 2024. There is a first initiative to translate the second part of the handbook encompassing tips for whistleblowers (in this case into German) in order to better reach doctoral students and other whistleblowers in their native language.

In addition to the above-mentioned presentation at the 8th WCRI in Athens, the handbook was presented to the UniWiND/GUAT Network for Trainers on Good Scientific Practice/Research Integrity as part of an online meeting on 18 April 2024. Furthermore, it is presented in all seminars and lectures conducted by members of the Team Scientific Integrity. This is a quasi-permanent dissemination.

RIPE

Research Integrity Practice in Europe (RIPE) is a new open access bulletin dedicated to current practice-oriented topics, debates, and news in the field of research integrity. It is published by the European Network of Research Integrity Offices ENRIO.¹ The editorial board comprises Hjördis Czesnick, Panagiotis Kavouras, Ana Marušić, and Anni Sairio (Lead Editor). The second issue consisted of two articles: *Promoting Research Integrity: feedback from Supervisor Training in France* (Dr Simon E.B. Thierry (Adoc Métis), and *Insights from the ENRIO23 workshop 'Integrity codes of conduct: how to implement in policy?'* (Jacopo Ambrosj (corresponding author), Hugh Desmond, Kris Dierickx, Maura Hiney, and Daniel Pizzolato).

Guest editorial on artificial intelligence

In 2023, it became clear that Artificial Intelligence has the potential to revolutionize the way we do science. Many ENRIO member organisations published a position statement about AI, or feel the need to do so. That's why at the March 2024 ENRIO

¹ <https://www.enrio-ripe.eu/>



meeting in Rome, the participants held a vibrant discussion about the key impact of AI on research integrity. Some key takeaways:

- The impact of AI on research integrity is not so direct: the norms and principles of research integrity do not change with the advent of AI.
- AI has emphasized that the essence of authorship is accountability and responsibility.
- AI opens new challenges and pitfalls for researchers, but institutions have a duty of care to support, advise and guide them.

At the same time, an editor-in-chief invited ENRIO to write a guest editorial on AI and research integrity for his journal. So a consolidated summary of the discussion on AI in Rome was submitted, accepted and published in *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology* in April 2024. It was titled "Artificial intelligence transforms research, but the integrity norms do not change" and was authored by board member Bert Seghers and president Oldřich Tůma.²

Country reports

Five years ago, Grace van Arkel, a member of ENRIO, developed the Country Reports, which were later published on the ENRIO website. These Country reports include information on initiatives that support research integrity and on established national structures of research integrity across various countries. Together, they provide an overview of the diverse national landscapes of research integrity in Europe, showcasing both the similarities and differences among countries. Since the landscape of research integrity is constantly evolving, ENRIO members were asked to review and update the Country Reports in 2024 to reflect any changes in their respective countries. The updated reports have since been published on the ENRIO website.³

2. Events

ENRIO Congress 2025

The ENRIO 2025 Congress will take place from 22 to 24 September 2025, Ljubljana, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana. The ENRIO 2025 Congress will continue the newly established series of biennial events addressing research integrity practice (RI) and the development of responsible research in Europe. On 22 September, a pre-Congress Satellite Event will be organised, such as a Round Table, Thematic Workshop, European project highlights, and Networking Event. ENRIO and the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, are organizers of the ENRIO 2025 Congress.

The Congress is aimed at all experts in research integrity and research ethics, RI officers and practitioners, members of ethics and investigation committees, representatives of research funding organisations and sponsors, and all interested

² <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.1111/dmcn.15912>

³ <https://www.enrio.eu/country-reports/>



and involved in the enhancement and sustainable implementation of good RI practices and policies.

Thematically, the Congress will emphasise power dynamics in research and institutional responsibility to foster an open, safe and inclusive research environment as a foundation for RI in everyday practice. In a broader global context, this also implies the recognition of fairness, equity and diversity as essential components of RI, as outlined in the Cape Town Statement of 2022. Contributions will reflect the range of challenges, as well as practical and emerging solutions for prevention and awareness raising.

Registration and Call for Abstracts opened in December 2024. Both are available on the newly established ENRIO Congress platform.⁴

The Programme Committee is composed as follow:

- Grace van Arkel, Netherlands; ENRIO
- Carole Chapin, France; Ofis; ENRIO-Board; previous Congress Coordinator
- Hjärdis Czesnick, Germany; German Research Ombudsman
- Vidar Enebakk, Norway; Norwegian Research Ethics Committee
- Maura Hiney, Ireland; ENRIO
- Marten Juurik, Estonia
- Panagiotis Kavouras, Greece; HEAL-Link Office - Library and Information Centre, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki
- Michaela Lenčářová, Czech Republic; ENRIO Secretary; Assistant of Program Committee
- Vesna Leskošek, Slovenia; University of Ljubljana
- Tom Lindemann, Luxemburg; LARI
- Ana Marušić, Croatia; ENRIO
- Helga Nolte, Germany; ENRIO; Chair of PC
- Urša Opara Krašovec, Slovenia; ENRIO, University of Ljubljana / Coordinator
- Anni Sairio, Finland; TENK; previous Congress Coordinator
- Loreta Tauginienė, Lithuania; Member of ENRIO-Board
- Krista Varantola, Finland; Advisor

Local Organising Committee is composed as follow:

- Marija Bešter Rogač, Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, University of Ljubljana
- Dejan Jontes, University of Ljubljana, Rector's assistant for organisation and communication
- Vesna Leskošek, Slovenia; University of Ljubljana
- Aleš Novak, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana
- Urša Opara Krašovec, Slovenia; ENRIO, University of Ljubljana / Coordinator

⁴ <https://enrio2025.si/>



- Nina Peršak, Unit for Research Ethics and Integrity, University of Ljubljana
- Jasna Podreka, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

3. Involvement in Horizon projects

PREPARED

ENRIO is involved in the Horizon Europe project PREPARED through the Finnish National Board on Research Integrity TENK. Launched in September 2022, the three-year project aims to develop ethical guidelines for conducting research during crises, ensuring that research results can be made available on an accelerated timeline. The project addresses research ethics challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a strong focus on biomedical and medical research. However, the guidelines developed should also be applicable to other research fields beyond these disciplines.

TENK's key responsibilities in PREPARED include mapping European regulatory approaches to research integrity, collaborating with stakeholders such as ENRIO and other research ethics organizations. Additionally, TENK ensures that the project's guidelines align with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity. In 2024, TENK has gathered feedback on and contributed to refining the guidelines under development.

BEYOND

ENRIO is also involved in the three-year Horizon Europe project BEYOND (2023–2025) through TENK. The BEYOND project takes a behavioral science approach to examining institutional and career-related factors that contribute to research misconduct, aiming to develop models to address and mitigate these risks.

TENK's primary role in BEYOND is to oversee communication efforts. Additionally, TENK provides expertise on the effectiveness of existing training models designed to prevent research misconduct and assesses the impact of misconduct investigations on the researchers involved.

RE4GREEN

ENRIO is involved in the Research Ethics and integrity for the GREEN transition (RE4GREEN) project through the membership of Oldřich Tůma in a Stakeholder Advisory Board. RE4GREEN is a three-year project funded by Horizon Europe which aims to develop an encompassing framework supporting the transition to a sustainable economy and society. This framework will address ethics and integrity concerns in two key areas: 1/ research and innovation with potential environmental and climate impacts and 2/ knowledge and technologies developed to tackle environmental and climate challenges.



4. Collaboration and partnerships

- European Commission (Invitation by the European Commission to give feedback on their Guidance notes on Research Ethics in Social Science and Humanities (See Annual Report 2025))
- ENAI (Lecture of the ENAI President Tomáš Foltýnek at the ENRIO Autumn Meeting in Prague)
- World Conference on Research Integrity, Athens (media partner of WCRI 2024)

5. Contributions by invitation

ENRIO's accumulated expertise is recognized beyond its membership base. ENRIO and its members

are approached formally and informally with requests and invitations like the following.

- Invitation for a guest editorial on research integrity and artificial intelligence in *Developmental Medicine & Child Neurology*. (See earlier)
- Invitation by the European Commission to give feedback on their Guidance notes on Research Ethics in Social Science and Humanities (See Annual Report 2025)
- Invitation to join the consortium or advisory board in three different Horizon project proposals following call WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-12 (Next generation of AI) and WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-09 (Reproducibility of Scientific Results)
- Invitation to present Whistleblower Protection Handbook; UniWiND/GUAT Network for Trainers on Good Scientific Practice/Research Integrity; online meeting; 18 April 2024
- Invitation of Loreta Tauginienė to give a talk "Learning through Collaboration: Practice of European Network of Research Integrity Offices" at the annual conference of the Office of the Ombudsperson for Academic Ethics and Procedures, Lithuania (11 October 2024)



ENRIO as a Healthy Association and Legal Entity

1. Governance

General Assembly

The General Assembly serves as the Association's highest policy and decision-making authority. It is made up of the Association's Member Organizations. In 2024, the General Assembly convened twice: first during the ENRIO Spring Meeting in Rome and then at the ENRIO Autumn Meeting in Prague.

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 2023, ENRIO Board members have acted as natural persons.

ENRIO Board members:

- Oldřich Tůma (President)
- Pablo Fernandez (Vice-president)
- Loreta Tauginienė (Vice-president)
- Helene Ingierd
- Bert Seghers
- Carole Chapin

The ENRIO Board held online meetings on February 1, February 26, April 5, May 14, June 28, August 13, September 5, October 8, November 26, December 18.

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 and ENRIO funds.

2. Organizational development

Strategy Task Force

In the last decade, ENRIO has grown from an informal network to a strong voice on research integrity. As a teenager, there is potential to further mature the organisation, especially by developing a strategy and mission. These would enable ENRIO to prioritize actions, it was noted in the General Assembly meeting in Rome. The Board held a meeting and interviews with members, in preparation of a plenary discussion about ENRIO's future strategy at the autumn meeting in Prague. The General Assembly decided to establish a task force to prepare work towards a longer term strategy for ENRIO. The task force met twice in December and continues its work in 2025.



Internal Rules Task Force

After the changes to the Statutes in September 2023, it was necessary to update the Internal Rules, (i) to align with the new Statutes, and in the same spirit as the Statute change, better balance flexible guidance with rules; (ii) to align with Belgian law; (iii) to explicitize some internal policies the Board or General Assembly had adopted before; (iv) to detail a procedure for election of the Board; and (v) to improve the clarity/readability and optimize the language. Accordingly, the Board proposed changes to the Internal Rules. The General Assembly valued the proposed change but decided to make a further iteration. It established an Internal Rules task force, which met twice in November and drafted a further revision, future-proofing ENRIO's Internal Rules.

Finances

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 2024, ENRIO received 53 150 € in membership fee payments and subsidized the Institute for Contemporary History in total 25 000 € for secretariat services. On 31 December 2024, ENRIO's balance was 35 352,05 EUR €.

3. Communication

