

UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA

Code of Ethics and Conduct of Research

Research Ethics Committee

UNIWA

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**CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT IN RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF WEST ATTICA (UNIWA)**

**CHAPTER A
GENERAL RULES**

**Article 1
Scope of application**

This Code contains rules of ethics and conduct that must be applied to all research and developmental activities carried out under the responsibility or with the participation of the scientific staff of UNIWA, on or off its premises, with or without funding. The rules of ethics and conduct in research are also applicable to the activities of providing specialised research services, training programmes or other scientific applications managed by the Financial and Administrative Support Unit (F.A.S.U.) of the Special Account for Research Grants Funds (S.A.R.G.) of the University of West Attica (UNIWA).

**Article 2
Concept and purpose of research**

Research is creative work aimed at the promotion and dissemination of scientific knowledge, the exploitation of which contributes to the well-being of society as a whole and the improvement of the quality of life, while at the same time supporting the educational process.

**Article 3
Basic principles of research activity
Obligations of researchers**

1. Research, whether basic or applied, individual or collective, must be conducted with respect to scientific truth, academic freedom, life, nature and the environment, the biological and spiritual integrity of human beings, human dignity, intellectual property and personal data. During the implementation of the research, any discrimination against people on the basis of their ethnicity, race, national origin, language, gender, religion, private life, physical ability, sexual orientation or socio-economic status must be avoided.
2. Researchers enjoy the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of research, which they must protect from political, ideological or other pressures or interference from third parties.
3. Researchers are committed to respecting the general principles relating to the protection of the dignity and fundamental freedoms and rights of the human person, the protection of personality, equality, the protection of private and public health, the protection of the child and of vulnerable groups, and the protection of biodiversity. They are also committed to protecting the personal data of participants in the research, in full compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation, the relevant Greek legislation and the decisions of the Hellenic Data Protection Authority.
4. When conducting research, researchers must be aware of, and comply with, the provisions of the relevant legislation, the ethical and moral principles governing the specific research project and the ethical principles of the professional discipline, to which they belong.

5. Researchers must ensure that research participants give informed consent after informing them of the objectives of the research, the duration of their participation, the possible adverse effects or potential benefits of the research and the possibility of withdrawing their consent at any time.
6. When undertaking, conducting and publishing the results of research, researchers must ensure that: (a) the necessary and required permissions for the implementation of the specific research have been obtained from the competent bodies; (b) no conflict of interest exists or will arise in the conduct of the research, which would prohibit or impede the conduct of the research in an objective and scientifically impartial manner; and (c) the protection of intellectual property and the protection of personal data of third parties is not infringed in any way.
7. Researchers should not duplicate previous research of others unless there is a scientific justification for doing so. Plagiarism, misappropriation or falsification of others' achievements are expressly prohibited and are subject to criminal and disciplinary sanctions.
8. The design and conduct of a research project must follow the rules of scientific documentation. Researchers must submit to the Research Committee the full results of the research project and allow free access to them. Selective publication of only those results that seem to confirm the original working hypothesis leads to misleading results with adverse consequences for science and society. Fabrication or falsification of research results is expressly prohibited and may result in disciplinary and criminal sanctions.
9. Researchers must keep a complete record of the development and results of a research project, so that it can be monitored, ensuring in all cases that the intellectual property rights on the subject matter of the research, which are acquired by the researchers according to the degree of their contribution, are safeguarded.
10. Researchers are required to disclose the source or sources of funding for their research. When concluding an agreement for the funding of a research project it is not permitted to include terms that clearly jeopardize their freedom to design, conduct or publish their research. The use of the title of an administrative post held by a member of the teaching and research staff in a collegiate body for the purpose of seeking external funding shall be permitted only with the consent of the collegiate body concerned.
11. Researchers should notify the Research and Management Committee of the UNIWA of their proposals for legal participation in research projects carried out outside the UNIWA.
12. UNIWA does not implement research projects for foreign Military Organisations, except for projects of the Greek Armed Forces that serve National Security.
13. The conduct of research on the premises of the UNIWA should not interfere with other educational processes and functions.

Article 4

Compliance with safety rules

1. When carrying out research activities, researchers must ensure that measures are taken and, in general, that the safety rules provided for by the general and specific provisions of the legislation in force are observed. If compliance with safety regulations depends on the existence of specific infrastructure and equipment, they must contact the competent bodies of the UNIWA to take the necessary measures.
2. Researchers must inform research participants fully and honestly about the scope of the research and the expected results and take all necessary measures to protect the health of research workers

from accidents and any side effects of the research.

Article 5
Relationships between researchers

1. Researchers have an obligation of mutual respect, confidentiality and the right to equal treatment. Experienced researchers should introduce younger researchers to research methodology and ethics in order to advance research activity. Younger researchers deserve respect for their personalities and a fair assessment of their abilities. Similarly, younger researchers have an obligation to respect and acknowledge the experience of older researchers.
2. The individual contribution of each researcher to collective research activities should be recognised. It is the researcher's right to accurately reflect this contribution, either in any public presentation of the research project or in scientific publications. The responsibility for this rests with all members of the scientific team, and in particular the scientific leaders of the programme.

Article 6
Promotion of research projects

1. The promotion of research programmes must be done with the purpose and in a way that serves to inform the scientific community and the general public and not for individual or professional promotion in an unfair way. It is essential that all the scientists who took part in the research are mentioned.
2. In the case of a printed or electronic publication of part or all of the results of the research project, the name of the Institution within whose premises the specific research project was carried out must be indicated.
3. The reference to potential sponsors should be made in such a way as not to create confusion as to the sponsor of the research, nor create the impression of advertising a specific product nor give the impression of a permanent link between the sponsor and the UNIWA.

Article 7
Submission of a written declaration

When submitting proposals, applications or contracts for the preparation of research, researchers are obliged to declare in writing that they have taken note of this Code, and undertake the obligation to comply with its terms and provisions, as well as that there is no conflict of interest in the respective case, where this is required.

CHAPTER B
PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR - PARTNERS

Article 8
Recruitment of partners

1. In funded projects, where the Principal Investigator is appointed by a collective body of the UNIWA, he/she must recruit his/her partners in accordance with the procedures laid down by the

Funding Body, where provision is made for this purpose.

2. In case there is no relevant provision, the recruitment of collaborators is carried out according to the provisions of the Programme Management Guide of the S.A.R.G.

3. Candidates who consider that the rules of transparency and meritocracy have not been respected are entitled to appeal, within 5 days of the notification of the relevant decision to the University's Research and Management Committee

Article 9

Obligations of Principal Investigators

1. When carrying out research, Principal Investigators must comply themselves and also ensure that their collaborators comply with the general and specific relevant provisions of the legislation in force, the fundamental moral and ethical principles and the provisions of this Code.

2. Principal Investigators of research projects must briefly, but honestly and adequately, inform the citizens who are going to participate in research about the objectives of the project. Where the consent of the citizen participating in the research is required, the information must be complete. They must also inform citizens who are not involved in the research but who are directly affected by its conduct.

3. Principal investigators of collective research should not appropriate research projects for their own individual promotion or display research findings as their individual work. Respecting the individual contribution of each researcher and respecting transparency and mutual information are obligations of all research participants.

4. Any outsourcing of part of the research or research support work to third parties is under the responsibility and supervision of the Principal Investigator.

5. In the case of more than one Principal Investigator Scientific each one of them must also comply with all the obligations of this Code.

6. Serious infringement of the provisions of this Article by the Principal Investigator of the research may constitute grounds for the termination of the research project. The termination is decided by the Research and Management Committee, following a recommendation from the Research Ethics Committee, which is issued following a written and anonymous complaint. Before any recommendation is made by the Research Ethics Committee, both the complainant and the Principal Investigator of the research shall be invited to appear before the said Committee to present their views on the complaint orally or in writing. If they are invited at least two (2) days before the meeting and do not appear, the Committee proceeds to discuss the case.

Article 10

Obligations of partners

1. While conducting research, the partners enjoy freedom of thought and expression of opinion, while respecting restrictions on this freedom imposed for the organisation and guidance of the research activity by the scientific officer of the research.

2. During the research the Partners should: (a) carry out their research activity with the primary aim of advancing scientific knowledge and the welfare of society as a whole; and, (b) comply with the provisions of the law relating to the subjects of research, the rules of professional ethics and the provisions of this Code.

3. Serious breach of the provisions hereof by research partners or failure to comply with the instructions of the principal investigators concerning the breach of ethical rules may lead to their replacement.

CHAPTER B SPECIFIC RULES

Article 11 Research in social sciences

1. Research in the social sciences is conducted in compliance with the basic rules on confidentiality, anonymity of the research subjects and protection of their personal data in general, and where required, the permission of the Data Protection Authority must be sought.

In social research, researchers must strictly observe the provisions of the legislation for the protection of the individual and constitutionally protected rights of research participants. They must also respect social, cultural and individual differences in their roles, including those due to gender, age, religion, minority, national origin, disability, socio-economic level and sexual preferences (Article 14 ECHR), and strictly observe in every case the provisions of international and Greek legislation on equal treatment, racism, immigrants, refugees, foreigners. No research may be carried out without the consent of the participant in the research, which shall be obtained after informing the participant of the purpose of the research.

2. Researchers conducting research on prisoners must comply with the provisions of the Penal Code, as in force. The use of experimental interrogation methods that may cause risks to the physical or mental health of the participants or offend their personality and dignity is not permitted.

3. Research in sport should be governed by the Olympic Ideals. It is not allowed to use methods that are contrary to the regulations in force to increase athletic performance.

4. Researchers should pay particular attention to the basic principles, as well as to the international and Greek legal provisions for the protection of the rights of children and vulnerable social groups. In the case of legal entities, the required written consent is provided by the legal representative of the participant entity and verbal consent is required from the participant. The above consents are freely revocable.

Article 12 Research in biomedical sciences

1. Research in the biomedical sciences should aim to prevent disease and improve the health of the human subject and of society as a whole, and should be conducted with full respect for the internationally ethically accepted principles of autonomy, benefit or no harm and distributive justice

2. No biological, medical, biotechnological or psychological research involving human beings may be carried out without their prior written consent, which shall be obtained after they have been thoroughly informed of the nature, purpose, scope and methodology of the research and of the present or future risks which it may entail. In cases of participation of persons not capable of legal transactions, the written consent of their legal representatives is required, which can be freely revoked at any time.

3. Researchers must comply with the provisions of the applicable European and Greek legislation on

the protection of personal data at the beginning, during and after the research and, where required, seek the approval of the Data Protection Authority.

In the relevant Program protocol, they must state, among other things, the time of storage and destruction of samples of genetic material or other biological samples and data.

4. Under no circumstances does the research justify the commission of a criminal act such as injury, illness or deterioration of the condition of the participants in the research.

5. The economic exploitation of the human body, its organs, cells and genome, as well as the economic exploitation and the violation of the personality of the persons involved in the research, shall not be permitted in the course of research or under the pretext of research.

6. Researchers conducting research in laboratories on microorganisms, including genetically modified organisms that may cause any infection, allergy, toxicity, must comply with the relevant provisions of the legislation in force.

7. Funding of research by a pharmaceutical company or a company manufacturing or marketing mechanical or biotechnological equipment requires a written declaration by the company that it accepts the obligation to comply with this Code.

8. Research on children, minors and other vulnerable social groups must be specifically justified, its results cannot be obtained in any other way and special care must be taken to protect the rights of the participants. In particular, research involving children must be conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Code of Conduct and Ethics in Research with Children issued by the Society for Research on Child Development and the applicable European and Greek legislation.

9. Research on human embryos shall be carried out under the terms and conditions laid down in the specific legislation on medically assisted reproduction. Research is carried out on surplus human gametes, zygotes and fertilised oocytes, provided that written consent is obtained from the donors for this purpose, as well as permission from the National Authority of Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR). In this case, researchers must comply with the provisions of the relevant European and Greek legislation on the protection of the personal data they collect and process.

10. Clinical trials of medicinal products intended for human use may be carried out subject to the approval of the Scientific Council of the hospital where they will be carried out, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant legislation (Regulation 536/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council). The relevant approval shall be submitted to the Research Ethics Committee, which shall give its opinion on the basis of the provisions of this Regulation on the conduct of the research.

11. In biomedical research, researchers must comply with the Code of Medical Ethics in force and the general and specific provisions in force depending on the topic of the research activity (human organ transplants, medically assisted reproduction, clinical trials of drugs, etc.).

12. The Research Ethics Committee of the UNIWA evaluates research proposals that involve clinical studies or human trials, without substituting the competent Scientific Council of the hospital where the study is conducted or other legally competent committees, but taking into account their previous documented evaluations of the specific study.

13. Cadaveric research may only be carried out with the written consent of the deceased person's relatives. If it is an unclaimed corpse, the research cannot begin before ten (10) days have passed since the death occurred.

Article 13

Animal research

1. Research involving animals should aim to improve the quality of life of humans and animals and to protect the natural environment for the benefit of human and animal health or welfare. In particular, relevant animal experiments should have as their main objective the testing of the quality, potency and, in general, the safety of medicinal products, foodstuffs and other substances or products aiming to (i) The avoidance, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of diseases, health disorders or other abnormalities or their effects on humans, animals or plants. (ii) The evaluation, investigation, regulation or modification of physiological characteristics in humans, animals or plants.
2. Animal research should be carried out only if there is no alternative method of research and in the number of animals strictly necessary. Researchers should take care to avoid unnecessary suffering and distress of the animals and to adapt the conditions of their accommodation in the laboratories to their natural living environment.
3. According to animal welfare principles, research should be guided by the ethical treatment of animals, respect for their genetic identity, and the selection of the appropriate animal species for experimental purposes.
4. Experiments on animals may be carried out by appropriately trained persons (e.g. graduates in Veterinary Medicine, Medicine, Biology). A prerequisite for the correct use of animals for experimental purposes is the knowledge of their morphological and physiological characteristics, as well as their "zootechnical" requirements. Thus housing, feeding and care must be proportionate to the needs and requirements of the animals.
5. The use of animals for experimental purposes is governed by the basic principle of the "3 Rs" (replacement, reduction, refinement). According to the principle of replacement, an attempt should be made to replace animals with other lower organisms that have less developed nervous systems and experience less pain, such as plants, microorganisms and metazoa. Where animals cannot be replaced, care should be taken to reduce their numbers (reduction). The design of the experiment should be such that it gives reliable results using the smallest possible number of animals. The refinement of the methods will help to cause minimal pain and discomfort.
6. Experiments using endangered species of wildlife are prohibited, unless the research is aimed at the conservation of these animals. Stray pets may under no circumstances be used as laboratory animals.
7. Researchers must comply with the rules of the relevant legislation (p.d. 56/30.4.2013, which adapts Greek legislation to Directive 2010/63/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes and the provisions of Law No. 4521/2018 [Art. 23 (2)], as supplemented by the Veterinary Agency's recommendations for guidelines for the housing and care of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.
8. The Research Ethics Committee of the UNIWA evaluates research proposals involving animal research without substituting the competent Committee for the Evaluation of Experimental Protocols (E.A.P.), where required, taking into account the previous documented evaluation of the E.A.P. for a specific proposal and checking whether the submitted research proposal is covered by the approval of the competent E.A.P. The decision of the Research Ethics Committee of the UNIWA does not replace the licensing provided for in the P.D. 56/2013 or any other relevant provision.

Article 14

Research on biodiversity and the cultural environment

1. Researchers, when conducting research that may affect biodiversity, must strictly observe the relevant provisions of Greek, European and international legislation for the preservation of biodiversity, after obtaining any required permits from the competent authorities, in particular the relevant provisions of the UN Convention on Biodiversity (Rio de Janeiro Convention), and the accompanying Cartagena protocol on biosecurity, as well as EU Regulation 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species (Invasive Alien Species).
2. Researchers, when conducting research on genetically modified organisms (GMOs), must strictly observe the provisions of the relevant Greek and European legislation, in particular the provisions of Community Directive 2001/18, as incorporated into Greek legislation with YA 38639/2017, as well as the provisions of Community Directive 1998/81, as incorporated into the Greek legislation with YA ΗΠ/11648/1943/2002, as amended by Directive 2015.412, which harmonized the Greek legislation with JMD 2775/128098/8.12.2017 on the limited use of genetically modified organisms .
3. The use or transportation of radioactive substances requires a special licence from the Greek Atomic Energy Commission (EEAE) in accordance with the provisions of the applicable legislation.
4. Researchers must take special measures for their own protection and for the protection of the public in the event of the use of ionising or non-ionising radiation in research, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.
5. When conducting research, researchers must comply with the provisions of the applicable European and Greek legislation on waste management and environmental protection in general.
6. Researchers must comply with the provisions for the protection of cultural heritage, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force from time to time.
7. The rules of the Code of Ethics of Greek Engineers of the Technical University of Greece, as applicable, must be observed during the execution of technical works within the framework of the research.

CHAPTER D

RESEARCH ORGANISATION UNIWA

Article 15

Obligations of the UNIWA as a research organisation

1. UNIWA guarantees the constitutionally guaranteed independence of researchers, in the sense of the unhindered execution of their research initiatives, subject to compliance with the provisions of the relevant legislation and the presentCode. It shall also be responsible for the transparency of its financial resources, in particular as regards the conditions for accepting public or private funding.
2. UNIWA guarantees the protection of the labour rights of researchers, with regard to the research carried out in its facilities, taking particular care to comply with safety rules to protect the health of researchers, public health and the environment.
3. UNIWA must support the continuous training of researchers, including training in the principles and rules of research ethics, and keeping them up to date with scientific developments.
4. UNIWA ensures the establishment of an interdisciplinary Research Ethics Committee corresponding to the teaching subjects of its faculties and departments, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force for the establishment of the Research Ethics Committees and supports its smooth operation.

5. UNIWA ensures the dissemination of the results of the research produced in the framework of its research activities to the international scientific community and society at large in a responsible and comprehensible manner. It also ensures the protection of its intellectual property rights, as well as the intellectual property rights of its researchers.