

**M1**

**The research environment constitutes itself through clear infrastructure, policies and procedures!** (cf. ECoC 2017, p. 5)

## Description and background

This learning unit:

*Introduces (future) researchers to research infrastructure, rules and procedures*

*Challenges (future) researchers to value responsible research and reliable research results*

*Enables (future) researchers to realise research infrastructure, rules and procedures*

*Emphasises that research is embedded in a research environment*



*An advocate for research integrity*

*Maria Leptin*

## Keywords

*Research environment; research community; research infrastructure; rules and procedures*

*This unit has been prepared for disciplinary learning groups.*

## Learning objectives

- 1** *Identify, accept and actively use research infrastructure, rules and procedures*
- 2** *Learn about research infrastructure and the structure of one research environment in particular*
- 3** *Justify rules for good research practice*
- 4** *Request that research institutions and organisations provide proper infrastructure*

## Learning stages

- 1** *Become familiar with the topic*
- 2** *Dive into an interesting story*
- 3** *Engage in storytelling*
- 4** *Put the pieces together*
- 5** *Reflect on the research environment*

**“The research community must work together to promote research integrity.”  
(Maria Leptin, an advocate for research integrity)**





## 1 Become familiar with the topic:

*Homework (before the unit starts) or reading session*

Read the paragraph on research environment in “The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”

Bring the complete code with you to class, and discuss the meanings of any unknown words.

[European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)



## 2 Dive into an interesting story:

Read or recall together Hannah’s protocol and briefly flesh out what happened in the meeting. The protocol shows arguments against a research integrity policy. Take your time and consider arguments in favour of a research integrity policy. To do so, carefully read the preamble of The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (use QR code or link above).

Write your arguments into your notebook!

## 3 Engage in storytelling:

Choose one person in your class to be a moderator that leads you through the next steps. Move all tables and chairs aside.

Get into groups of three or four, and select one of the following roles for your group:

Part 1: Head of your research faculty

Part 2: Head of a funding agency important in your field

Part 3: Whistleblower

Part 4: Representative of the government

Part 5: Representative of your researchers community

Part 6: Editor of a scientific journal from your field

Part 7: Representative of the early career researchers from your field

[Research Community Safeguards](#)



Familiarise yourself with your role. What guidelines, procedures or infrastructure does your role entail in order to foster good research practice?

Find some online references that outline what your role does in order to foster good research practice. Pick three or four of the most important ways in which it does this, such as rules, procedures or infrastructures. Each of you should familiarise yourself with one way to foster good research practice. Present them in big letters on a piece of paper.

## 4 Put the pieces together: 5 Reflect on the research environment:

Spread out in the room, holding up your paper. Read what others have written on their papers and find someone whose message goes well with yours.

Together, brainstorm a research landscape for your discipline.

Draw the landscape on a piece of paper, and have it photocopied so that it can be passed around.

Meanwhile, start a question-and-answer circle around the room. One person should ask their neighbour: *How and why do you foster research integrity?* The neighbour should answer as clearly as possible and then ask the next student the same question. This should continue until everyone has both asked and answered.

Move the tables and chairs back to discuss the activity as a class.

Together, agree on the most important part of the research landscape for your discipline.

*Who was missing in your portrayal?*

*Where was there a lack of clear infrastructure, rules or procedures in your discipline?*

Formulate three statements with the words: *The research environment in our discipline should \_\_\_\_\_!*

Copy these statements into your notebook.

How can you handle these leaps in your upcoming research? Find solutions together!

