Approaches to Awareness-raising and Training in Austria

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity (OeAWI)
European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO)
Nicole Föger
Science Europe, February 2017

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

• founded in 2008
• set up as an association in accordance with the Austrian Associations Act; membership is voluntary AND is “confession” to good scientific practice
• financed by membership fees
• Not part of any Ministry; independent organization
Members

- All public Universities (21 + 1)
- Applied Universities (4)
- Private Universities (1; umbrella organisation as an associate member)
- Non-university research institutions (6)
- Research funding agencies (4)

Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

1. **Raising awareness**: seminars, lectures, workshops,..
2. „**service facility“**: 
   - guarantee independent investigation in cases of alleged research misconduct
   - advise members in all matters related to research integrity
   - mediation in case of conflict
3. **National and international networking**
6. RFOs and RPOs should make a clear statement on their public websites describing the organisation’s policy on research integrity and making it possible to download relevant documents. The information should be available in English and include the name and contact information of the person responsible for the policy within the organisation.
Approved by 37 member organisations

Contact details of all persons/boards/… being in charge of e.g. RI matters
7. RFOs should provide a clause on research integrity in application forms; [...] information about how RI is dealt with during the assessment procedure, including what is expected of peer reviewers and committee members.

8. RFOs should provide general information and/or guidelines about good research practice in the terms and conditions of grants and contracts; in some cases researchers may be required to sign a formal agreement.
9. RFOs and RPOs should actively support training in research integrity within their remits.

10. RPOs should ensure that all people working on research projects are trained in good research practice.

11. RFOs and RPOs should encourage responsible bodies to ensure that training in research integrity is mandatory and that it starts at the undergraduate/PhD level and continues throughout a researcher’s career.

12. RFOs and RPOs should encourage responsible bodies to establish train-the-trainer courses to introduce knowledge sharing and harmonization and to maintain training standards.
Oesterreichische Agentur fuer Wissenschaftliche Integrität

Workshops and seminars on research integrity*

(*here only presentations with „teaching factor“)

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<th>Year</th>
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<th>Workshops</th>
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Austria: Good practice

✓ PhD programs non-university RPOs (e.g. IST Austria, VBC, AIT)
  ➢ (used to) mandatory courses
  ➢ PhD retreats
  ➢ Highly motivated young researchers
  ➢ Sometimes on initiative of PhDs!
Austria: Good practice

✓ **Postdoc training** (Medical University Graz)
  - *mandatory* for all who want to qualify as a professor
  - whole day seminar about good scientific practice
    (includes information about ethics reviews, compliance rules,..)

✓ **Training for teachers/supervisors/senior scientists** (FH Campus Vienna)
  - “*mandatory*”
  - strongly recommended by the Vice Rector

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**EU-Project ENERI**

**ENERI:** European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity
September 2016 – August 2019

**Aims:**
- Intensive exchange of expertise in the fields of research ethics (RE) and research integrity (RI)
- Harmonisation of processes within ethics reviews and investigation procedures of allegations of research misconduct
- **Development of a core curriculum for persons, who are involved in ethics review and investigation panels**
- Database of RE/RI experts
Cooperations and Networks

National:
- Netzwerk der Österreichischen Hochschulombudsstellen
- RRI-Plattform Österreich

International:
- ENRIO (European Network of Research Integrity Offices)
- ENERI (European Network of Research Ethics and Research Integrity)
- ALLEA (All European Academies)
- ENOHE (European Network for Ombudsmen in Higher Education)
- ETINED (Pan-European Platform on Ethics, Transparency and Integrity in Education)
- HEIRRI (Higher Education Institutions & Responsible Research and Innovation)
- PRINTEGER (Promoting Integrity as an Integral Dimension of Excellence in Research)
- Science Europe Working Group on Research Integrity

OUTLOOK

- Setting up national guidelines on good scientific practice (spring 2015)
  - Implementation (2 yrs later?)
    - employment contracts (challenge civil servants!!!)
    - grant agreements
  - Train-the-Trainer courses (REC 12)
    - knowledge sharing
    - harmonization
    - maintain training standards
Promoting RI as an institution:

- communicate Standards of Good Scientific Practice!
- communicate procedures!
- RI training!
- through infrastructure (e.g. central data management)!
- Clear assignment of supervisory duties!
- Make persons responsible for RI visible!
- Positive incentives!
- Protect whistleblower!
- ..