

# CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCIENTISTS

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APPROVED

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## PREAMBLE

The mission of science is to find out about the world's phenomena and processes and the discovery of new facts. The scientific discovery process must be based on the ethical norms of research and the principles of discussion which have been formulated in this document and conform to international and national legal norms.

## 1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.1. A scientist's ethical principles are based on general human values and the moral norms of professional activity.
- 1.2. A scientist must operate in accordance with the ethical principles of a scientist and legislation.
- 1.3. A scientist must be aware that science is an important area of world discovery and a component of culture.
- 1.4. A scientist must stand against inhumane or incorrect use of scientific achievements which are harmful to humanity, must inform and warn society and scientific circles about the consequences of such activities, and must also refuse to take part in such activities.
- 1.5. A scientist must continually broaden and deepen his/her knowledge and improve their professional qualifications.
- 1.6. A scientist must maintain a critical attitude in their professional activity: facts and evidence must be given a higher value than views expressed by scientific, societal or political authorities.
- 1.7. A scientist must promote scientific freedom: the freedom to choose a problem to solve and the approach to research, freedom of thought and speech; must stand against the censorship of scientific publications, against restrictions on free access to sources of information and the free exchange of opinions with other scientists. However, a scientist must agree with restrictions on scientific freedom if this is demanded by norms provided in legislation (for example, about state secrets and patent rights), especially those that protect a person's dignity and rights.
- 1.8. A scientist must not become involved in the solution of a scientific problem if scientific research standards have not been provided.
- 1.9. A scientist must not support the involvement of a person with unsuitable qualifications in scientific activity, or the utilization of science for populist or demagogic aims.
- 1.10. A scientist must not act according to selfish personal, national, racial or political criteria in their scientific activities.
- 1.11. A scientist must not unjustifiably build up or undermine another scientist's professional reputation.
- 1.12. A scientist's remuneration must not determine the quality of their work.

## 2. THE SCIENTIST AS A CREATIVE PERSONALITY

- 2.1. The main motivation for a scientist's activities must be the inner challenge to discover and understand the regularity of nature or society and the desire to enrich the achievements of one's scientific field.

2.2. A scientist must be responsible to their employer or the funder of their research, while at the same time ensuring the objectivity and independence of their research data from any previously expressed wishes of the employer or the funder about the expected results and the conclusions resulting from them.

2.3. A scientist has moral and legal rights to defend their discovery and the copyright on the innovation.

2.4. A scientist must only take on the types of scientific tasks that they are adequately qualified to undertake.

2.5. In scientific research, the inviolability of a person's dignity must be observed, so as not to come into conflict with the principles of humanism and the norms of international human rights. Research, where the subject of the research is a person, must be done according to internationally recognized bioethics principles, respecting the autonomy and privacy of the person subject of the research, as well as ensuring the protection of the person's health and data. In accordance with legislative requirements, prior to the commencement of the research, the field's research ethics committee and/or the researcher must evaluate whether the anticipated benefit from the research results will justify the possible risks to the person subject to the research and to society. Before obtaining informed consent, the person subject of the research must be informed about the aim of the research, the process, methods, source of finance, anticipated benefits, potential risks and the rights of the research participant. The person subject to the research has the right to terminate their participation in the research at any time.

2.6. In research, where a person is the subject of the research, the priority must be to involve adult persons, who are able to provide informed consent. In cases, where a significant research aim in the group to be researched can only be achieved by involving minors or adult persons who are unable to provide informed consent, the informed consent of each person's legal representative must be obtained in accordance with the requirements of legislation. A minor or a person who is unable to provide informed consent, must be informed about their participation in the research according to their ability to understand. In undertaking the selection of research participants, the researcher must observe the principles of justice so that persons from specific social groups are not included in the research just because these persons have difficulties in protecting their rights.

2.7. Experiments with laboratory animals must be undertaken in accordance with the principles of good scientific practice and international bioethics principles, protecting these animals from pain and suffering. In cases when painful procedures cannot be avoided, the scientist must justify the need for such research or must also reduce the intensity of the pain to the maximum degree.

2.8. The scientific research must be undertaken in a way that, wherever possible, the surrounding environment and people are not harmed.

2.9. A scientist must observe their scientific field's specific ethical norms and the requirements of legislation and must follow the development tendencies of these ethical norms.

2.10. A scientist must publish the results of their research to the extent that this is permitted by data protection and confidentiality requirements prescribed by national legislation and contract provisions, taking into account international and national legislation in relation to data protection and confidentiality. Publishable results, which may be inconvenient to others or do not conform with the hypothesis of the work must not be hidden.

2.11. The publication of the results of any scientific work undertaken collectively must be coordinated with the project or scientific group leader and all co-authors.

2.12. Copying the work of, or fragments from other scientists, without references to the author or source, is considered to be plagiarism or a breach of copyright.

2.13. The repeated publication of one's previously published works without references to them is ethically unacceptable. One and the same scientific data can be used only if the first publication is indicated.

2.14. Only those scientists who have actually and creatively participated in the execution of the corresponding scientific work can be considered to be the authors of the scientific results and the publications based on them. Gratitude must be expressed to persons who have assisted in the interpretation or processing of results or have in some other way substantially facilitated the research and whose contribution does not conform to the mentioned authorship criteria. Gratitude must also be expressed to the contributors of the financing for the research.

### **3. THE SCIENTIST AS A TEACHER AND CREATOR OF A SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL**

3.1. One of the goals of the activities of a creative scientist, especially the founder of a new scientific direction, is the creation of a scientific school. The personality of the scientific school's leader must serve as a benchmark in the observation of ethical norms in science.

3.2. A scientist brings together students, teaches them, and involves them in research, motivating the younger generation to actively participate in research work.

3.3. A scientist who undertakes teaching activities, must teach their students the basic ethical principles of a scientist.

3.4. A scientist must observe democratic norms and a collegial style in their activities within their group of scientists.

#### **4. THE SCIENTIST AS A REVIEWER**

4.1. A scientist is responsible for the objective review of publications and their doctoral thesis. The review must not be superficial, unjustifiably favourable or unjustifiably unfavourable.

4.2. The involvement of interested persons in the preparation of the review is prohibited.

4.3. In undertaking the functions of a reviewer of scientific work, this must be done confidentially and anonymously if this is required by the client. A scientist may only take on the review and evaluation of such work as is within the boundaries of his/her competence. If the content of the article to be reviewed exceeds the boundaries of the reviewer's competence, he/she must decline the review.

#### **5. THE SCIENTIST AS AN EXPERT**

5.1. In selecting an expert for a scientific project or programme, preference should be given to an active scientist with internationally recognized publications.

5.2. A scientist should only undertake the evaluation of a scientific project or programme if the science direction for which the expert's report is to be provided, conforms to the scientist's specialization, knowledge and experience.

5.3. A scientist should prepare the expert report, taking into account scientific opinions in the corresponding field of research and based on his/her competence on this issue.

5.4. If there is some basis for the scientist to believe that his/her participation in the expert's report could be understood publicly as a conflict of interest or could be judged to be tendentious or biased, he/she should decline the provision of the expert's report. In such a case, the scientist should inform the client.

5.5. Information obtained during the expert's report is confidential. The expert is not permitted to use this information to unjustifiably turn upon an institution or person or to use it in other ways for selfish interests.

5.6. During the deliberation on the scientific expert's report, the presence of the author of the work which is subject to the expert's report is not permitted, but in the case of an appeal, discussion may take place with the presence of the author.

5.7. The expert's report's final evaluation must be accessible to the submitter of the scientific project. The expert has the right to remain anonymous.

5.8. A scientist is not permitted to be an expert in cases where the provision of an expert's report can create a conflict of interest: when the matter is connected with interest in a biased outcome from the expert's report for him/her, a relative, a person close to him/her or the interests of the institution which he/she represents. In undertaking the expert's report, the expert's personal attitude towards the author who is the subject of the expert's report, due to psychological, ideological or political motives, should not be expressed.

#### **6. THE SCIENTIST AS A PARTICIPANT IN SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSION**

6.1. Scientific discussion and polemic are a form of scientific activity.

6.2. In criticism, discussion and polemic, a scientist (irrespective of their scientific degree or titles) must observe the principle of equality, and not permit the sorting out of personal relationships or the caricaturing of the person being criticized.

## **7. THE SCIENTIST AS A POPULARIZER OF SCIENCE**

7.1. A scientist must respect the right of the community to be informed about scientific achievements and must enhance opportunities to enforce these rights, acting against deception of the community or the delay of information, or its distortion.

7.2. In his/her research work, a scientist must facilitate constructive dialogue with the community on scientific issues which concern the community in relation to the research process and its utilization.

7.3. A scientist must act against pseudo-scientific declarations which are disguised with scientific phraseology, in an argumented way.

7.4. In popularizing the results of their scientific work, a scientist must refrain from self-glorification.

## **8. THE SCIENTIST AS A MEMBER OF SOCIETY**

8.1. A scientist must use their knowledge, intellect and authority for the benefit of the community.

8.2. It is desirable for a scientist to participate in the activities of scientific societies and associations.

8.3. A scientist must not allow the use of their scientific authority in political advertising.

8.4. A scientist, who has a particular position in the government or in an administrative institution, must not derogate from the scientific ethical principles which are included in this code.

## **9. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CODE OF ETHICS FOR SCIENTISTS**

9.1. Create a joint LAS and LCS Scientists' Ethics Committee, which informs the LAS and LCS about its decisions, conclusions and recommendations, to facilitate the observation of these decisions, conclusions and recommendations.

9.2. The LAS and LCS ensures the availability of the Code of Ethics for Scientists and the implementation of the decisions/recommendations adopted by the LAS and LCS Scientists' Ethics Committee.

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