



University of Zagreb

Research and ethics: a pathway to academic integrity

SESSION II: ACADEMIC INTEGRITY & SCIENCE POLICY

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Issues to be tackled:

- ❖ How it used to be?
- ❖ Where are we today?
- ❖ Instead of conclusion, some predictions for future



How it used to be?

Research accross disciplines

- less advanced technology
- less sensibility to wording (content?)
- less concern with privacy
- slow “travelling” of information
- less possibility to check originality
- smaller access to information



Researcher's environment

- less preserved for quick advancements
- less pressure for publishing
- smaller number of researchers
- less urge for continuous production
- less financially demanding
- lower level of competition

safer, more relaxed

or

less demanding, equally productive?



Societal/academic context:

- more expensive research
- economic crisis and uneven distribution of a shortage of money accross regions
- European demographic changes ➡ hunt for talents/students
- research convergence on global level vs national priorities



Where are we today?

What is on a table?

financing

- financing sources vs. academic freedom (e.g. donation)
- a researcher right to publish → is it in force?
or
is it jeopardized?
- conflict of interest
individual institutional
- industry – academics relation



Where are we today?

What is on a table?

- very competitive environment - microlevel
- macrolevel
- publish or perish
- global struggle for funding
- more and more struggle for talents
- society flooded with research results
- non-publishing of the negative results

do we have an elephant on a dining table?

research



Where are we today?

Some of the consequences:

- increase of plagiarism among academics
- increase of plagiarism among degree takers
- unresolved conflict of interest
- unbalanced awareness of the problem among different stakeholders



Where are we today?

What is our response?

- more regulations on institutional level – overregulated?
- individual awareness – academics, students
- a need for structural measures
- and before everything – INSTITUTIONAL SINCERITY



How is going to be?

tougher!

- Requesting and redefining rules for:
 - publishing
 - governing university – industry relationship
 - general principles and structures by all funding agencies



- to protect academic freedom
- to reconsider solutions for financial pressures (donors vs government grants vs escalating tuition fees) ➡
to keep pace with rising costs and enrolments
- to reconsider protocols for accepting money



- international fund raising and academic integrity →
vital for all universities
- nowadays universities are global enterprises (educating students for around the globe, delivering research with a benefits for the globe)
- global competitiveness asks for global resources





Essential questions need to be answered:

- is the proposed **use** of funding appropriate
- is the **source** of funding appropriate





On institutional/individual level:

- a) to demonstrably maintain high standards of academic integrity
- b) to nurture ethical behaviour and independence
- c) to establish clear policies and protocols on educational and research integrity



Everything well known, easy to say, hard to do?

Shouldn't be!

WE MUST ENSURE

AUTONOMY, INDEPENDENCE, ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

of our universities



Universities are important settings in which young people develop values and where knowledge is promoted and advanced. Universities can best fulfil this role if they are autonomous, independent and free of external influence. However, the question of their funding has recently threatened to undermine the academic integrity of universities.

Transparency international, 2013

Thank you!
Hvala!

