



POSTER PDF

MANIFESTATIONS OF RESEARCH ETHICS AND INTEGRITY LEADERSHIP IN NATIONAL SURVEYS

Cases of Estonia, Finland, Norway, France and the Netherlands

OBJECTIVE AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS

National surveys provide a picture of a wider research community and outline information of research ethics and integrity on a macro level (systems approach, see Bertram Gallant, 2011). We looked at the 'health' of the research community on the societal (national) level, namely based on the national RE/RI surveys. Data on the wider research community is usually difficult to obtain for institutions, but a nation-wide survey may provide information on REI aspects that higher education institutions may further focus on. We posed the question:

- *How is research ethics and integrity (REI) leadership manifested in national surveys?*

THEORETICAL UNDERPINNINGS

The well-being and integrity of research community is connected with leadership which means anticipating problems, perceiving them accurately and being ready to provide viable solutions (Bertram Gallant, 2011; Tammeleht et al., 2022).

REI leadership framework (Tammeleht, et al., 2022) combines ethical, authentic and transcendental leadership and means leadership on every level in the HE institution including supervisors, programme leaders, research team leaders, department heads to deans and rectors. The leadership principles to facilitate building a culture of integrity are:

- *researchers' needs*
- *developing the community*
- *leaders' personal competencies, and*
- *encouraging an open research culture.*

METHOD

This research involved a meta-analysis for a cross-case study of five countries: Estonia, Finland, Norway, France and the Netherlands. We identified published reports or articles of national REI surveys of the five partner countries and conducted a deductive thematic analysis, the themes being the four leadership principles. Each report was analysed by two researchers separately, and all content was pooled into a summary and each identified code was treated as equally

important (see perspectivism, Flick, 2013). Our research design followed Yin's (2018) Type 3 multi-case study procedure in which we treated each national survey as a holistic case in its own context and reported results country by country. To provide national context, we used ENRIO country reports.

RESULTS

Even though the national surveys do not directly measure the leadership aspects (some do), there are results that are directly or indirectly related to leadership.

REI leadership principle	Examples from national surveys	Country
Researchers' needs	Uncertainty of career advancement, need for knowledge about rights and new guidelines (data management), how things are done in the community, and how to manage pressure	Finland
	Senior academics admit to insufficient supervision (17%), which may be directly connected with junior academics/researchers engaging in QRPs	The Netherlands
Community	70% of respondents know about guidelines, 61% know about RI advisors (29% have used their help), 44% of people say that training is available (even though only 21% have participated in them). 56% of researchers have not participated in any RE training in the past 5 years	Estonia
Leaders' characteristics	32% of respondents had noticed bullying or harassment at work which may be directly connected with leadership inefficiency. In open answers researchers indicated that things were often 'done the way they always have been done', but this was not transparent to everyone.	Estonia
Research culture	More than 70% of respondents are content with supportive community, encouragement by leaders and the team, equal treatment and open communication.	Finland

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main goal of BEYOND is to explore and advance individual and institutional responsibilities in the promotion of research ethics and research integrity, with particular focus on the prevention of research misconduct through guidance and educational instruments. Based on the results, we recommend the following:

- The research community often recognizes very well the circumstances, which lead to

problematic behaviors, but may not know how to deal with these, or feel that evaluation indicators are beyond their control. *Leaders must recognize the role of external pressure on research behavior and together with the research community seek ways to navigate these pressures.*

- While researchers perceive FFP as serious misconduct clearly, there is a need to also clarify QRPs. *Leaders should open a floor for discussing various QRPs and support the research community in considering their impact on the quality of research.*

- Supportive and safe work environment is crucial for high quality research. *Leaders can emphasise valuing collaboration over competition, and encourage open discussions on misconceptions and mistakes.*

- The way the leaders display their attitudes and beliefs towards REI influences the way researchers perceive the importance of REI. *Leaders are in a key role to communicate common REI values.*

- Trust is essential in an honest work culture. *Leaders are in a key role to model good practice.*

- REI infrastructure, including guidelines, procedures and training opportunities, is vital. *Leaders constantly outline the availability of support.*

- Leaders are learners. *Leaders themselves may need support and training in REI, leadership, and supervision/mentoring.*

We recognise limitations in this study. Most national surveys differ from each other and have different emphases. Making a comparison is challenging. Therefore, we approached the research task from a case study approach.

REFERENCES

- Bertram Gallant, T. (Ed). (2011). *Creating the Ethical Academy: A Systems Approach to Understanding Misconduct and Empowering Change*. New York: Routledge.
- Tammeleht, A., Löfström, E. & Rodríguez-Triana, M. J. (2022). Facilitating development of research ethics leadership competencies. *International Journal of Educational Integrity*.
- Flick, U. (Ed.). (2013). *The SAGE handbook of qualitative data analysis*. Sage.
- Yin, R. K. (2018). *Case study research and applications* (Vol. 6). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.
- ENRIO Country Reports: <https://www.enrio.eu/country-reports/>