

VIRT2UE

Train-the-trainer program for teaching research integrity from a virtue ethics perspective

The Embassy of Good Science Foundation

What is VIRT2UE?

The VIRT2UE Project has developed a blended learning train-the-trainer program which provides participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct a research integrity course from a virtue ethics perspective.

Trainers are taught how to foster reflection on scientific virtues, and how to promote understanding of the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**

To date, nearly 600 trainers having taken the programme.

Theoretical approach

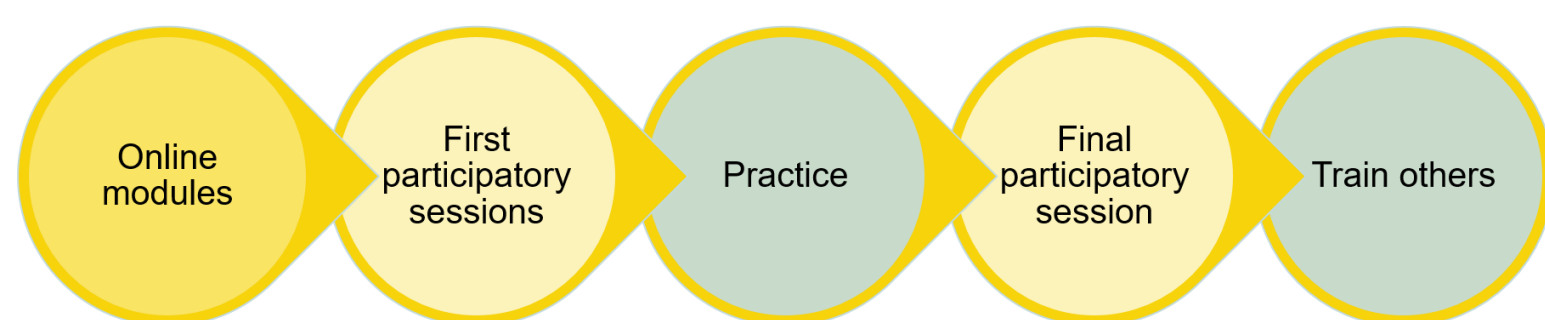
VIRT2UE takes a virtue ethics approach, to:

- Go beyond focusing on rules and compliance and foster learning how to apply rules in specific complex situations
- Develop researchers' moral sensitivity, teaching them to reflect on the goals of the profession and the researcher qualities that support those goals
- Help participants to become better researchers.
- Giving them the training and motivation needed to share their training in Research Integrity with others at their institutions.

The program is conceptually and theoretically underpinned by:

1. Virtue Ethics;
2. The Ethos of Science;
3. Learning by doing;
4. Learner-centred teaching.

Programme schedule



Online modules

Trainers follow four series of eLearning modules:



Participatory sessions

Trainers take part in two participatory sessions, first as participants then, later, as trainers. Trainers experience, learn how to facilitate, and practice, five structured exercises (see side bar) which aim to encourage group reflection on practice.

Evaluation

A process revealed a high appreciation of the program and its materials by the trainers: with 60% and 80% giving scores of >8 out of 10 for the e-learning and the participatory exercises, respectively.

A five-country outcome evaluation for researchers taught in VIRT2UE based research integrity courses is currently being conducted in institutions which embedded the approach in:

- The Netherlands;
- Croatia
- Italy
- Turkey
- The UK.

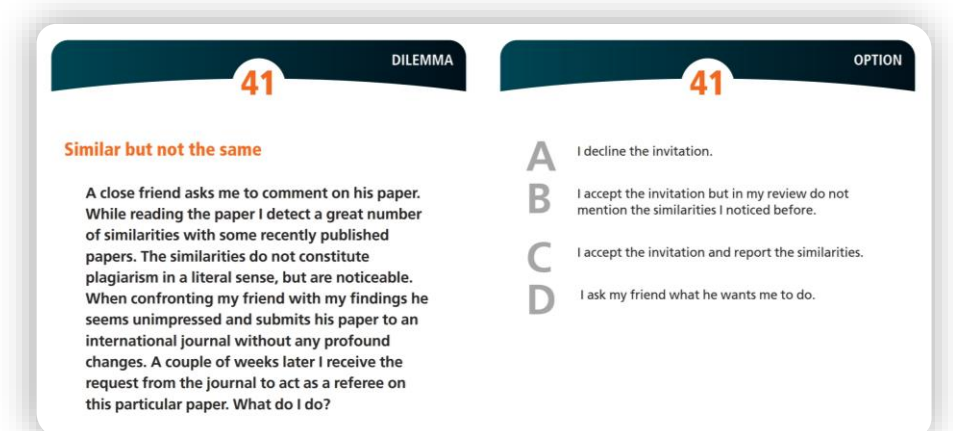
Participatory exercises

1. Debate and Dialogue

Aim: To identify the features of, and differences between, debate and dialogue.

2. The Modified Rotterdam Dilemma Game

Aim: To reflect on alternative courses of action and identify the principles and practice at stake



3. The Varieties of Goodness

Aim: To understand the multidimensional nature of goodness and to reflect on understandings of 'goodness' in research.

4. Virtues and Norms

Aim: To identify virtues that would guide actions in real research integrity dilemmas and to describe the course of action that would follow.



5. The Middle Position

Aim: To foster sensitivity for scientific virtues and acknowledge the ambiguity of virtues for guiding action

