

EURAC RESEARCH CORE ETHICS AND INTEGRITY PRINCIPLES

Eurac Research is committed highest standards of research ethics and integrity. We pursue future-oriented research that is relevant to society. In doing this, we work in close contact with the society that surrounds us. In all our interactions with society and environment, we are committed to responsible research practices. Researchers and collaborators of Eurac Research are expected to respect the dignity and rights of individuals and care for the environment and cultural objects. The *Eurac Research Core Ethics and Integrity Principles* help researchers and collaborators of Eurac Research to pursue research in conformity with the principles of respect, honesty, rigor, transparency, openness, and accountability as well as manage the risks that accompany all cutting-edge research.

Core principles of research integrity and ethics at Eurac Research

- Researchers shall ensure that they treat individuals, society, and environment in responsible manner and with dignity and respect from the planning of their research projects through to the implementation and post-project management.
- Researchers shall respect national, European, and international law, as well as established scientific principles and disciplinary norms in their research practices and data collection. If required by law, researchers shall seek the approval of an external ethics review board in addition to following established scientific principles and disciplinary norms, the Eurac Research Core Ethics and Integrity Principles, and any institute-specific internal ethics guidelines.
- Research results should be presented to the academic community and wider public in a responsible manner and timely fashion.
- In all publications and presentations of their research and results, researchers shall acknowledge any use of work by others and any conflicts of interest, interpret their research results objectively and rigorously, make justifiable claims based on their research results.
- Research data underpinning publications should be published whenever possible to permit verification of results.
- Every effort should be made to preserve research data for re-use in the future, in particular when data preservation and re-use has the potential to limit costly experiments, repetitive human participant studies, and re-collection of personal data in the future.
- In order to preserve research data for future re-use for research purposes, data subjects must consent to data preservation and re-use. Consent forms should reflect the possibility of future data re-use rather than refer to a particular research project only.

Guidelines for research involving human participants

Researchers and collaborators of Eurac Research respect the dignity, rights, and equality of all human subjects participating in their research activities and projects.

- Human participants to research are persons who voluntarily participate in research activities and contribute information about their persons, habits, actions, and/or opinions to the research activities.
- Researchers shall ensure that their research does not harm the safety, dignity, and privacy of any human participants.
- The scope and aims of a research project should be clearly identified before the recruitment of human participants to the project and inform both the recruitment and selection of human participants. All legal and ethical aspects surrounding the participation of human subjects in research activities must be given due consideration at this stage, including aspects such as incidental findings.
- Human participants must be given sufficient information about the research project in advance so that they could decide whether or not they wish to participate in the given project. The consent to participate should be expressed in writing and human participants have the right to withdraw their consent at any time during the implementation of the research project or thereafter, in which case all data about the participants who withhold consent must be destroyed and no longer used in research.
- In case the participants are underage, or incapable of giving consent, consent must be received from the participants' parents or legal guardians. The obligation of informed consent can be omitted only with the approval of the regional ethics review board.
- Only such data about human participants that is necessary for research project for which the participants have given their informed consent shall be collected and processed.

Guidelines for research involving personal data

Eurac Research is committed to protecting the personal data of all human participants to our studies.

- Personal data should be collected and processed only when the planned research activities cannot be completed by collecting anonymized data.
- Researchers must familiarize themselves with national, European, and international law on personal data. In particular, researchers should refer to D.Legs. 196/2003 and contact the Legal Office of Eurac Research in case of any questions or doubts.
- Researchers must understand the differences between “personal data” and “sensitive data” as codified in national law (D.Legs. 196/2003) and how each type of personal data must be treated for research purposes.
- Personal data can be collected and processed only for the specific scope for which informed consent of the data subject has been received.

Guidelines for field research

Eurac Research is committed to care for the physical and cultural environment in which our researchers and collaborators conduct research as well as the safety and well-being of our researchers and collaborators. Eurac Research expects all researchers and collaborators to approach the physical and cultural environments in which they work with respect and responsibility, which includes careful and continuous risk management throughout the planning and the implementation of research projects.

- The research preparation phase should include a risk assessment for all fieldwork sites. A clear plan to avoid and minimize risks should be elaborated, identifying both risks arising from fieldwork sites as well as risks to the fieldwork site arising from the research activities planned and conducted there.
- Clear procedures should be established to ensure the safety of both research subjects as well as the researchers.

In addition to the Eurac Research Core Ethics and Integrity Principles, each Institute of Eurac Research shall ensure that their research is conducted according to current legal norms and discipline-specific ethics and professional codes and standards. Each institute develops and keeps up-to-date its internal ethics and integrity procedures and guidelines.