

Coordinated – yet fragmented?

ANJAM LATIF SHUJA, senior advisor, National research ethics committees, Norway

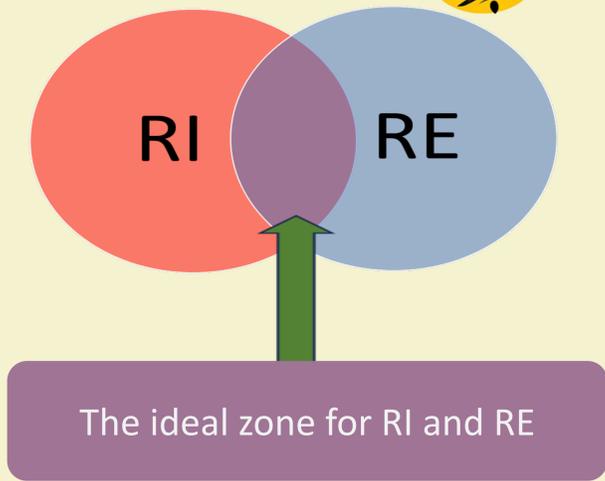
Research Ethics and Research Integrity

Targeted efforts from the EU in the policy area of research integrity have contributed to an appropriate focus on research integrity (RI), over the past few years. The European Code of conduct for research integrity is a good example of how policy development in an area such as RI has contributed to more harmonization in this field. The question now is, how can the EU contribute to develop policy objectives, creating more attention towards research ethics (RE) - in the professional environments by the professionals themselves?

Policy efforts from the European Union



What's next?



What is research ethics?

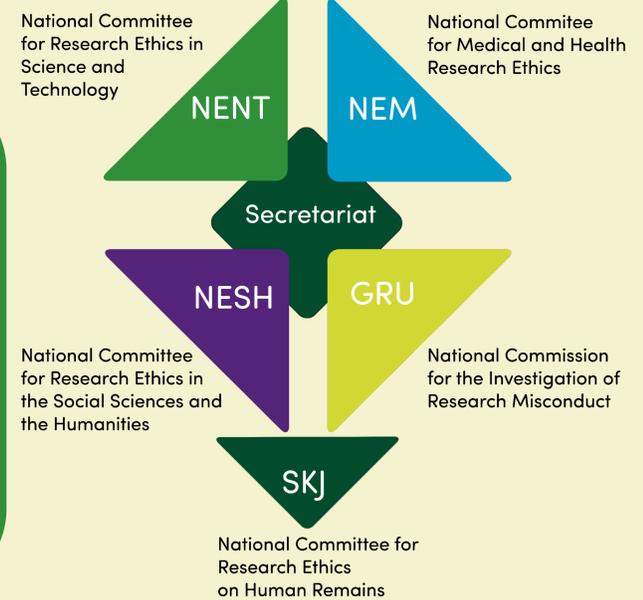
Research ethics is applied ethics in the scientific field. In the national guidelines, research ethics is defined as «values, norms, and institutional arrangements that help constitute and regulate scientific activities» (NENT 2016, NESH 2021).



The Norwegian system



The guidelines are advisory and are intended to contribute to developing ethical judgement and reflection, clarifying ethical dilemmas, promoting responsible research and preventing misconduct. They elaborate on various considerations and obligations, and they specify the responsibility of researchers, research institutions, and other research actors.



What's next - can we change the path of path of dependency, towards more focus on research ethics?

Since the RE and RI area varies from country-to-country more collective policy efforts from the EU will lead to harmonizing disparities across European countries. Effort from the EU has already been a source for reducing fragmentation in the field of RI. Now, efforts to find a path towards RE are required.

Viewed in this context, the Norwegian model for RE and RI is an assessment for learning, as it is a framework based on Legislative regulations that provide transparent and predictable procedures for the management of RE and RI. The Norwegian way of organizing RE and RI reduces fragmentation and unclear responsibilities, while preserving the professional independence.

