



## CHALLENGES OF ETHICS IN CURRENT RESEARCH

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Nowadays, we experience a worldwide upward trend in the requirements of ethics in scientific research represented by a series of international treaties and pacts. All these demands are an expression of the involvement and commitment of international bodies at the highest levels regarding the assumption of a set of ethical rules.

Thus, following international bodies have developed documents that reflect ethical issues in scientific research: the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Forum of National Ethics Councils (NEC Forum).

Good conduct in scientific research refers to:

- compliance with the law;
- guaranteeing freedom in science, scientific research and education;
- observance of the principles of good scientific practice;
- assuming responsibilities.

The research and development (R&D) institutions, as well as their employees have the obligation to respect the legal norms and normative acts in force, which regulate the social relations that are born in the field of scientific research and innovation.

The knowledge progress bases on the freedom of scientific research. But this privilege is restricted by: respect for dignity and human rights, animal protection and environmental protection. On the other hand, the freedom of scientific research is ensured by: free access to information sources, free exchange of ideas, non-interference of the political factor in research - development and innovation activities; respectively non-censorship of scientific products.

With regard to the above considerations, R&D institutions and their employees have the following responsibilities related to academic ethics:

- The management of the R&D units must ensure the organizational structure and the conditions that allow the observance of the principles and standards of good conduct in scientific research, as well as the good functioning of the ethics commission.

- The R&D institutions, as well as the scientific researchers themselves bear the responsibility for observing the ethical norms and values in research and development. Consequently, they have direct obligations on: respect for the right to life, respect for individual freedom, respect for human dignity, protection of human beings, animals and the environment, freedom of expression, food security and the security of the data computer system.

- The authors of the same scientific product are jointly and severally liable for its correctness. Honorary authorship is not accepted.

- They have the duty to notify the state institutions if they find out that the results of scientific research may have a negative effect on the society.

- Responsibility to use correctly the research funds.

Through this message, I fully support the development of ethical principles and norms at each academic level, because they are guiding the scientific researchers for behaving in ways that are morally right, are helping them to balance competing values and to evaluate ethical dilemmas.

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