



The AIRC policy on research integrity

AIRC recognizes that scientific research conducted to the highest standards of integrity is essential to ensure high quality, reproducible and trustworthy results. AIRC supports the principles and guidelines on research integrity set out by the All European Academies federation ([European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity](#)), and trusts that the scientific endeavors of researchers funded by AIRC are driven by common values of reliability, honesty, respect, integrity and accountability.

Based on these premises, personnel (scientific and administrative staff) involved in a research project funded by AIRC is expected to comply with ethical principles of good scientific practice and engage in honest behavior. In particular, research centers where scientists conduct AIRC-funded research must:

1. Promote principles of reliability, honesty, respect, integrity, responsibility and accountability in all areas of research, e.g. by establishing and implementing rules of good scientific practice in research design, methodology and analysis; by using generative Artificial Intelligence tools responsibly to ensure the originality, validity, reliability and integrity of outputs created or modified by generative AI tools (this includes ensuring funding applications contain accurate information and do not contain false or misleading information); by adhering to Host Institution policies on the use of generative AI tools, particularly those concerning plagiarism and fabrication; by following the same principles in dissemination and communication; by providing guidelines and infrastructure to properly generate, manage, protect and preserve original data and other research materials; by mentoring junior scientists; and by offering training opportunities on responsible conduct of research.
2. Have in place a formal, written policy for preventing and dealing with scientific misconduct. AIRC reserves the right to request a copy of such document. Scientific misconduct, i.e. a deliberately dishonest behavior against standards of integrity, rigor and good scientific practice, includes but is not limited to: fabrication, falsification, omission or improper representation of scientific results; plagiarism; hiding the use of AI or automated tools in the creation of content or drafting of publication; establishing, supporting, or deliberately using journals, publishers, events, or services that undermine the quality of research ('predatory' journals or conferences and paper mills); accusing a researcher of misconduct or other violations in a malicious way; violating ethical standards and legal protocols for human subject or animal research. Scientific misconduct does not include honest, unintentional errors. The policy should describe: the procedures and timescales for enquiries and investigations; possible sanctions in case of proven misconduct; how an appeal can be made; the procedures to ensure the confidentiality of the investigation and of all parties involved.
3. Investigate allegations of suspected scientific misconduct. In case of allegations involving researchers funded by AIRC, the institution should promptly notify AIRC and keep it informed. AIRC



reserves the right to suspend the grant during the investigation and, in case the allegations are upheld, to impose sanctions that may include: the termination of the grant; the obligation to return grant money to AIRC; the ineligibility to apply to AIRC grants; the exclusion from AIRC review panels and other bodies.