



FRENCH OFFICE
FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY

**Fostering a common culture
of research integrity**



The OFIS

Research and innovation are central to development projects and democratic life in our society. This role confers great responsibilities to all those engaged in such activities for good research practices. Research integrity is essential for the proper functioning of research communities and for maintaining a relationship of trust between the world of research and the other components of society.

The French Office for Research Integrity (OFIS) contributes to the definition of the national research integrity policy. It supports all the actors who contribute to the compliance with the rules that guarantee honest, rigorous, reliable and credible research. The whole ecosystem creates the conditions for this compliance: researchers, institutions, funding agencies, publishers, assessment agencies, public authorities, media, whistle-blowers, research integrity officers, etc. To build and share a common culture of research integrity, the OFIS missions are organised into three main categories: observatory, resources, animation and prospective studies.

The OFIS was created in 2017 as a department of the Hcéres, and represents France in the European and international cooperation bodies in this area. The OFIS has a board, the French Council for Research Integrity (CoFIS) which guides and supervises its work.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICERS

Research integrity officers are at the heart of the system to promote and protect research integrity. They are appointed by their institution, which must provide them with the resources they need to carry out their missions. In France, these officers play a part in defining the research integrity policy of their institution, advise the staff, receive reports of misconduct and investigate them impartially and confidentially.



Observatory

The OFIS acts as a national observatory on the implementation of research integrity policies, resulting in particular from the commitment to the French Charter for Research Integrity of 2015 and from the Research Programming Law of 2020. Within this framework, it updates the directory of research integrity officers and produces a report every two years on the progress of policies implemented by the institutions. The OFIS also conducts surveys to provide a more precise insight into developments in the research integrity landscape.

Resources

The OFIS fosters sharing of good practices: it provides all stakeholders with tools for training and awareness-raising and to promote research integrity (FAQ, guidelines, MOOCs, videos, etc.). It disseminates collective work conducted by research integrity officers. It carries out a documentary, regulatory and scientific watch. As a part of this activity, the OFIS publishes literature reviews of specific themes (e.g. predatory journals) and of new challenges raised in research integrity by developments in research practices: open science, citizen science, big data, etc. It presents the results of research projects in these areas and identifies research themes to be developed.

Animation and prospective studies

As part of its contribution to defining the national research integrity policy, the OFIS steers working groups in charge of producing analyses, opinions and proposals, working in close partnership with various stakeholders. It organises conferences on emerging themes, such as “Research Integrity and Open Science” or “Research Integrity and Public Speaking by Researchers”. It also coordinates the Annual Conference of Signatories of the French Charter for Research Integrity. Every month, the OFIS issues a newsletter.

WHAT IS RESEARCH INTEGRITY?

“Research integrity as referred to in Article L. 211-2 of the Research Code is defined as the set of rules and values that must govern research activities to guarantee that they are honest and scientifically rigorous.”



RESEARCH INTEGRITY IN FRANCE, IN A FEW DATES

2015 – French Charter for Research Integrity

2016 – Corvol Report. Ruling on doctoral training in research integrity and research ethics

2017 – (Mandon) Legal Notice: creation of the OFIS within the Hcéres, obligation for institutions to appoint research integrity officers.

2020 – Research Programming Law: inclusion of research integrity in the Research Code, decree defining the obligations of institutions and the missions of research integrity officers.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

THE OFIS ANSWERS

WHERE CAN I FIND
A TRAINING IN RESEARCH
INTEGRITY?

WHAT'S NEW
ABOUT RESEARCH ON
RESEARCH INTEGRITY?

WHAT DO THE
REGULATIONS ON
RESEARCH INTEGRITY SAY?

WHAT IS THE FRAMEWORK
FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY
IN OTHER COUNTRIES?

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN RESEARCH INTEGRITY,
DEONTOLOGY, ETHICS?

HOW TO PROMOTE
RESEARCH INTEGRITY
IN MY LAB?

HOW TO COMBINE OPEN
SCIENCE AND RESEARCH
INTEGRITY?



Direction: **Stéphanie Ruphy**
Contact: contact.ofis@hceres.fr
Address: **2 rue Albert Einstein, 75013 Paris**
Website: <https://www.hceres.fr/fr/office-francais-de-lintegrite-scientifique-ofis>