

WG3.4: Ethics issues (legal elements) in H2020 Actions – pre- and post-award phases – Part 2 – Case studies

HOW TO DEAL WITH ETHIC ISSUES?

UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA APPROACH

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University of Ljubljana (UL)

- Established in 1919.
- 26 full Members (3 art academies and 23 faculties) and 3 associated Members (National University Library, University of Ljubljana Central Technical Library, University of Ljubljana Innovation-Development Institute).

UL in numbers in 2014

- Annual budget: 324,689,669 (EUR)
- Number of staff: 5,481; Number of students: 42,922
- Projects:
 - National research funding: 205 programs, 79 applied projects, 219 basic projects
 - 439 European projects
 - 123 other international projects
 - 648 projects with the industry/users of knowledge
 - 12 scientific meetings

UL Scientific / Research areas

- Natural sciences and mathematics
- Engineering sciences and technologies
- Medical sciences
- Biotechnical sciences
- Social sciences
- Humanities
- Interdisciplinary studies

Ethics – what is it?

The basic concepts and fundamental principles of decent human conduct. It includes study of universal values such as the essential equality of all men and women, human or natural rights, obedience to the law of land, concern for health and safety and, increasingly, also for the natural environment. See also morality.

Source:

<http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/ethics.html#ixzz41ShWklaC>

Research ethics

Ethics is given the highest priority in EU funded research: all the activities carried out under **Horizon 2020** must comply with ethical principles and relevant **national, EU and international legislation**, for example the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Research ethics in H2020

Ethical research conduct implies the application of fundamental ethical principles and legislation to scientific research in all possible domains of research. The process to assess and address the ethical dimension of activities funded under Horizon 2020 is called the **Ethics Appraisal Procedure**.

It concerns all activities funded in Horizon 2020 and includes the **Ethics Review Procedure**, conducted before the start of the project, as well as the **Ethics Checks and Audits**.



Ethics appraisal steps

Activity	Who?	When?	How?
Ethics Self-assessment	Applicant	Application phase	Consideration of ethical issues of the proposal
Ethics Pre-screening/Screening	Ethics experts	Evaluation phase	Review of application material
Ethics Assessment (for proposals involving hESC or raising serious ethical issues: severe intervention on humans)	Ethics experts	Evaluation/ Grant preparation phase	Review of application material
Ethics Check/Audit	Ethics experts	Implementation phase	Review of project deliverables/interview with applicants

Annotated Model Grant Agreement

Section 4: Other rights and obligations.

Article 34: Ethics

- Obligation to comply with ethical principles
- Activities raising ethical issues
- Activities involving human embryos or human embryonic stem cells
- Consequences of non-compliance

UL approach to Research Ethics issues

- General documents:

EU Charter for Researchers, Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, ethical rules and codes of each profession and scientific discipline

- UL Internal documents

Code of Ethics for researchers at the UL, Code of Ethics of the UL, Rules and procedures from different UL members

Ethics committees on the national level

- Medical Ethics Committee (Ministry of Health)
- Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food)

regulated by Slovenian law

UL Ethics committees

for optimum protection of the interests and well-being of participants in scientific and research work

- Ethics committee for sport (Faculty of Sport)
- Faculty of Arts Ethics Committee
- Faculty of Education Ethics committee
- the rest of UL members don't have any special ethics committees; responsible persons for ethic issues are deans

- Program of regular informing of researchers about the UL ethical principles and codes of ethics on the research area
- Current UL activities related to H2020 requests for compliance with EU ethical and fundamental rights

- **Sources:**

- <https://www.uni-lj.si/>
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm
- http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/amga/h2020-amga_en.pdf
- <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/ethics.html#ixzz41ShWkIaC>
- <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/rights/whatIsAResearcher>



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