

## ROMANIAN ACADEMY

### Institute of Sociology

## Code of Ethics, Professional Deontology and Integrity of Researchers

### CHAPTER I. GENERAL DISPOSITIONS

**Art. 1.** This Code was elaborated in accordance to:

- Law no. 206/2004 concerning the good conduct of scientific research, technological development and innovation,
- Rules of organization and functioning of the National Council of Ethics for Research, Technological Development and Innovation (approved by Order no. 4393/2012 of the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports,
- Law no. 8/1996 on copyright and related rights,  
*all* with subsequent amendments and supplements.

**Art. 2.** The profession of researcher in sociology involves important considerations of ethical, deontological and professional and moral integrity, since there is direct contact between researchers and individuals, social groups and human communities.

**Art. 3.** The profession of sociologist requires transparency and probity across research, development of professional competence, humanism and objectivity, fair treatment and respect for dignity of people as research subjects.

**Art. 4.** The purpose of this code is to warn researchers on the potential implications and consequences caused by incompetence or dishonest use of knowledge and sociological theories and to stimulate taking a collective attitude towards behaviour that violates the principles of ethics in scientific research in general, in the sociological research in particular.

### CHAPTER II. NORMES OF GOOD CONDUCT IN THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE

**Art. 5.** The Institute of Sociology militates for ethical principles and intellectual and moral integrity to guarantee scientific and sociological research.

**Art. 6.** Respect for ethical principles, intellectual property and copyright is a professional obligation of all members of the Institute of Sociology. Proven violation of this obligation is considered liable and will be punished according to the seriousness of the penalties which may include discontinuation of employment.

**Art. 7.** Good Conduct principles in research consist in meeting the requirements of Law 206/2004, and concern:

1. The overall scientific activity of the institute;
2. Outreach, publishing and disseminating the results of research conducted at the institute;
3. Field research and collecting statistical data;
4. The evaluation of results and individual work at the Institute;
5. The activity of persons responsible for the management of the institute.

### **CHAPTER III. POTENTIAL VIOLATIONS OF STANDARDS OF GOOD CONDUCT IN RESEARCH INSTITUTES**

**Art. 8.** Are considered scientific misconduct from the rules of good conduct in the internal scientific activity of the Institute the following:

- a) fabrication of results or data and presenting them as research data from field data or as calculations of the National Institute of Statistics or other national or local institutions;
- b) distorting or falsifying data obtained through field research and data collection;
- c) preventing or undermining the research of other co-workers by damage or destruction of computers, documents, software, and electronic data necessary to other researchers from the Institute for carrying out or completing research.

**Art. 9.** Are considered scientific misconduct from the rules of good conduct in public communication, publication, dissemination and popularization of scientific research results of the Institute, including the projects proposals and applications submitted within public funds competitions:

- a. plagiarism;
- b. self-plagiarism;
- c. to include as co-authors in the list of authors of a scientific publication, one or more persons who have not significantly contributed to the publication or to exclude co-authors who contributed significantly to publication;
- d. to include a person without her consent in the list of authors of the scientific publications;

- e. unauthorized publication or dissemination of results by the authors, hypotheses, theories or unpublished scientific methods;
- f. the introduction of false information in applications for grants and funding, the application files for research positions, for habilitation or university teaching positions.

**Art. 10.** Are considered violations of the rules of conduct by persons in leadership positions of the Institute in their research activities the following:

a. Abuse of authority:

- To get the quality of author or co-author of publications of subordinated researchers;

- To get pay, remuneration and other material benefits of research projects led or coordinated by subordinated persons;

- To get the quality of author or co-author of publications of their subordinates or to get pay, remuneration and other material benefits for the spouses, in-laws or relatives up to the third degree inclusive;

- To impose unjustified own theories, concepts or results to subordinates;

b. Obstruction of the Commission ethics or of any Commission of CNECSDTI during an analysis of violations from good practice in research committed by his subordinates;

c. Infringement of the provisions and legal procedures on rules of conduct in research provided by the Law no. 206/2004, the Code of Ethics of the Institute, the specific ethics codes, the Regulations of Organization and Functioning (ROF) of the Institute, including failure to implement the sanctions imposed by the Commission or by CNECSDTI.

#### **CHAPTER IV. CLARIFICATIONS ON PLAGIARISM AND SELF-PLAGIARISM**

**Art. 11.** Any full or partial reproduction of intellectual contributions should be adequately specified by indicating its author, the work, page reference, etc. Non-adequate attribution confuses and can generate violation of copyrights and moral rights of the author / authors as much as a violation of professional ethics and implicit obligations:

- a. Infringement of intellectual property and moral rights of authors are achieved through:
  - Display a text from a paper without specifying the author / authors;
  - Paraphrasing a text from a publication without mentioning the author / authors;

- Unassigned reproduction of ideas, arguments, data, results etc. in a manner that gives the impression that they belong to the person who quotes;
- Public presentation of ideas, research results, assumptions, data representations (graphics, video, audio etc.) of other authors as being their own;
- Acquisition of intellectual contributions (translation, systematization, tables, graphs etc.) of other authors and their public presentation in scientific papers or publications without explicit mention of the sources of these contributions.

b. It is not considered as reprehensible the citing of unassigned contributions from the sphere of general culture or common knowledge, whose paternity is widely known, and thereby cannot cause confusion or fraudulent arrogation of merit.

c. If the person who quotes (without appropriate assigning) explicitly provides that quote belongs to someone else, thus emphasizing that in no way he/she claims its paternity (on the basis of expressions such as "it is often said that ...", "it was sometimes argued that ...", "some authors have argued that ..."), it cannot be accused of fraudulent use of sources or copyright infringement - but depending on context, the person can be accused of imprecision, inaccuracy, negligence etc. The abuse of unattributed quotes is professionally unacceptable and reprehensible.

**Art. 12.** The existence of original contributions in a particular publication or book does not condone moral and professional responsibility with the author, if in addition to these contributions, he included some fragments (inappropriate assigned) whose presence is a violation of intellectual property.

**Art. 13. (a)** Taking in a book the integral or part of a text previously published by author in periodicals, the resuming in a journal of largest circulation of personal contributions already published in a publication of small circulation (scientific journal, proceedings etc.), the resuming in a handbook or in a didactic material of a personal contribution previously published in a research paper, the republication of the same personal text in another language and other similar auto-reproductions are not considered liable. In all cases, however, the author has the moral duty to explicitly warn the text reader that he/she resumes an already published text or material, specifying exactly where the original version was published.

**(b)** In cases where an author abuses of self-citation, repeatedly publishing and republishing without good reason the same own contribution, in an attempt to create a false impression of intellectual fecundity, self-citation becomes liable in terms of rules of integrity. Of particular severity is the attempt of intellectual fraud consisting in self-citation of own contributions to ensure undeserved benefits (promotion to a higher post, winning a contest or distinctions etc.).

## **CHAPTER V. OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES THAT MAY ATTRACT ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITY BY ASSOCIATION WITH VIOLATIONS OF GOOD CONDUCT IN THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE**

**Art. 14.** Other situations that may trigger ethical responsibility by association with violations of good conduct in the research activity of the Institute are the following:

1. active participation in the misconduct of others;
2. being aware of others misconduct and choosing not to communicate that to the Commission of Ethics or to the CNECSDTI;
3. co-authorship of publications containing falsified or invented data.

## **CHAPTER VI. SITUATIONS NOT CONSIDERED VIOLATIONS OF GOOD CONDUCT RULES IN THE RESEARCH ACTIVITY OF THE INSTITUTE**

**Art. 15.** The following situations are not considered violations of good conduct rules in the research activity of the Institute, given that they are specific factors for research:

1. contradictory statistics from different sources on the same indicators;
2. differences in design and theoretical approach of a theme or research project;
3. differences of interpretation of data and therefore differences in the findings;
4. methodological differences in approaching a theme or research project.

## **CHAPTER VII. THE ETHICS COMMISSION OF THE INSTITUTE**

**Art. 16.** The finding of serious misconduct and identification of those responsible shall be made by the Ethics Commission of the Institute or in special situations by National Council of Ethics (CNE), according to the law. The sanctions imposed by one of the two instances are implemented by the Director of the Institute within 30 days from the date of issuance of a decision.

**Art. 17.** It is forbidden occupying a research position by persons who are found guilty of serious violations of rules of research conduct.

**Art. 18.** Regardless of the time when it was proved that a person has made serious violations of good practice in research, the competition for a research position he/she occupied shall be cancelled and the employment contract terminates according to the law.

**Art. 19.** The structure and composition of the ethics commission is proposed by the Scientific Council of the Institute of Sociology. The commission's members are people with professional prestige and moral authority. The director or the scientific director cannot be members of the commission.

The Ethics Commission proposes rules of procedure that will be validated by the Scientific Council within sixty days of the commission's appointment.

**Art. 20.** The Ethics Commission receives complaints in writing. Commission responds to the author of the notification within 45 days of its receipt and shall notify the outcome of the proceedings after their closure.

**Art. 21.** In exceptional cases where the Ethics Commission will mediate in accordance with its Statute disputes involving moral choices in research, the ethics commission may recommend to the management of the Institute appropriate measures to settle such disputes and give sanctions according to the law.

#### **CHAPTER VIII. FINAL DISPOSITIONS**

**Art. 22.** The Institute of Sociology considers this Code of Ethics an instrument to prevent breaches of professional ethics and deontology by the Institute employees.

**Art. 23.** This Code of Ethics should be applied by all employees of the Institute, regardless of the position they occupy in the hierarchy of the institution.

**Art. 24.** This Code of Ethics shall come into effect from the date of its adoption by the Scientific Council of the Institute of Sociology, with a simple majority of its members. It will be reviewed periodically; any subsequent changes to their regulatory provisions should be made following the approval of a simple majority of the members.

**Art. 25.** Failure to comply with this Code involves penalties under the Labour Code.