Akademie věd České republiky

Ethical Code for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences

The following materials were used in preparation of the Ethical Code for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences:

- *the Ethical Framework of Research, Czech Republic Government Resolution of 17 August 2005 No. 1005;*
- *the European Charter for Researchers, 2005/251/ES, Official Journal of the European Union of 22 March 2005;*
- *Good Manners in Science; A Set of Principles and Guidelines, Polish Academy of Sciences, Committee for Ethics in Science, Third (amended) edition, Warsaw 2001;*
- *Rules of Good Scientific Practice, adopted by the Senate of the Max Planck Society on 24 November 2000;*
- *Memorandum on Scientific Integrity, All European Academies, Amsterdam 2003 (On standards for Scientific Research and a National Committee for Scientific Integrity, KNAW, NWO, VSNU, 2001);*
- *Singapore Statement on Research Integrity, 2010;*
- *The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2011;*
- *Montreal Statement on Research Integrity in Cross-Boundary Research Collaborations, 2013.*

Motto: “To pursue knowledge means to lead a very active life. By saying science, you also mean effort, patience, perseverance, dedication, honesty – the very requirements of active and moral life.”
(T. G. Masaryk in Karel Čapek: Talks with T. G. Masaryk)

Education, research and innovation are the fundamental pillars of the development of today’s society. Trust in science is based on trust in the honesty of researchers when striving for new results. The results and their interpretation may be verified by the scientific community but not by the public, who are the main addressees of the results. For science to remain trustworthy, it is essential for researchers to be guided by the basic principles of morality, particularly by honesty and righteousness. Points I.–V. of the Ethical Code for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences summarise the framework principles of good conduct in science and promotes stronger moral standards desirable in academic research.

I.
General principles

A researcher:

a) observes in his work fundamental moral principles and the principles stated in this Code;

b) avoids conflict of interest arising from their position in the CAS and from related activities and their private interest;

c) is devoted to the research with full professional and personal enthusiasm. The sum of their contractual employments does not exceed 1.5 full-time employment;

d) requires co-workers to behave in compliance with these principles;

e) does not justify or cover conduct which is in violation of the principles stated in this Code, not even by pointing out the obedience or loyalty required of them;

f) considers science and research to be an integral part of culture and a basis for innovation, and defends them against possible questioning;

g) opposes unethical and improper use of scientific findings;

h) broadens and deepens their knowledge and strives to improve their expertise;

i) keeps a critical mind when it comes to their own knowledge and results as well as the results of co-workers and is open to discussion and factual arguments;

j) advocates freedom of scientific thought, expression, exchange of views and information;

k) rejects the use of non-scientific approaches and racist, religious, nationalist, and political aspects in science;

l) adheres to the principles of impartiality and independence from ideological and political pressures and the interests of pressure groups;

m) recognises and shares among the members of the scientific community the principles of reliable, trustworthy scientific work and rejects any scientific dishonesty and violations of the principles stated in this Code;

n) does not hesitate to notify the competent authorities of any misconduct in violation of the ethics of scientific and research work as soon as they become of such misconduct.

II.
Principles of research work

A researcher:

a) focuses their research on expanding the boundaries of scientific knowledge and ensures that their practical results contribute to society;

b) conducts research in a manner which does not threaten society, environment, or cultural values;

c) keeps the general principles (Art. I) in mind when acquiring, selecting, and evaluating data while simultaneously respecting the specifics of their discipline;

d) is responsible for the accuracy and objectivity of the research and is aware of the limits of the used methods of research;

e) is responsible for the completeness and verifiability of published findings and results concerning a certain issue and interprets them without bias;

f) after publication, stores primary data and documentation of all important findings for a period standard for the given field, unless other obligations or regulations prevent this;

g) is responsible for purposeful and effective use of funds allocated for research and does not copy research performed elsewhere unless it is required to verify, supplement, or compare results;

h) transmits non-confidential results of the research to the community of professionals and acquaints the general public with the results only after they have been published in specialised press.

III.
Principles of the publishing of findings and results

A researcher:

a) may be cited as the author or co-author of a publication provided if they creatively contribute to the creation thereof n, e.g. to the study designs and experiments and their implementation, to analysis, interpretation, theoretical processing, or data modelling, or to the creation of the publication and if they agree to the co-authorship:

b) recognises, in the publication, the scientific contribution of their predecessors and colleagues, which the researched builds upon and provides a clear reference to the relevant source(s) when quoting the findings of other authors;

c) cites significant works which are not in agreement with their own results;

d) in case they find a significant error in their own published data, the researched takes appropriate steps, e.g. prints errata or other corrections;

e) does not unnecessarily divide the results and findings into several publications to artificially increase the number of published works;

f) does not publish in an ethically questionable manner and does not use ethically questionable publishing platforms;

g) publishes with the aim to transmit results and findings to the scientific community, not just for the purpose of reporting works as published scientific outputs.

IV.
Principles of conduct between students and co-workers

A researcher:

a) admits students and co-workers to research on the basis of objective evaluation of their intellectual, ethical, and personality characteristics;

b) in case the researcher leads a research team, ensures correctness and

openness in mutual communication and avoids unjustifiably autocratic methods of management;

c) assesses students and co-workers based on their achievements and treats them fairly; does not require activities which are part of their own duties and does not impose any requirements which are disproportionate to their abilities and capabilities;

d) transmits their own experience, skills and principles of good behaviour as a scientist to the co-workers and students, both verbally and by their actions;

e) is dedicated to teaching of students, develops their independent and critical thinking and responsible approach to work, and respects their right to freedom of speech when it comes to expressing their opinion on research;

f) supports the qualification growth of students and subordinate researchers, their researching and publishing activities, and international contacts, and cites them among the authors of publication if they creatively contribute to the creation thereof ;

g) draws consequences from unethical behaviour of co-workers.

V.
Principles of assessment, evaluation, opponent, and expert activities

A researcher:

a) performs assessment or other evaluation activities assigned to them personally;

b) protects the intellectual property of the authors of assessed written manuscripts, project proposals, and reports; does not use the data from the evaluated documents for purpose other than preparation of an expert opinion and does not provide these data to third parties;

c) does not intentionally prolong the evaluation of the assessed work to gain benefit for themselves or third parties;

d) refuses to prepare an expert opinion if its conclusions thereof could be influenced by their own personal interest, or clearly points out this fact in advance; avoids other evident conflicts of interest;

e) prepares the expert opinions responsibly, only the area of their expertise and does not succumb to possible outside pressures which could influence the opinion;

f) during evaluation and opposition uses objective criteria, complies with the rules of the submitter, and requires the same from other participants.

VI.
Specifications for the Czech Academy of Sciences workplace

(Field specifications will be provided by the workplace.)

VII.
Procedure for investigating cases of violation of principles of good conduct in scientific research work

The following conduct is considered to be incompatible with the principles of ethical behaviour in science: fraud, forgery, plagiarism, counterfeiting, misrepresentation, deliberate deception, and theft; at any stage of the process of the scientific research work, from intention to the publication of results.

Potential violation of principles of good conduct in science is addressed:

a) directly at the CAS workplace at the level of its organisational structure, always one level higher than where the dispute occurred. Ad-hoc committees may be established at the appropriate level to resolve such disputes;

b) by the Commission for the Scientific Integrity of the CAS, if the dispute resolution lies outside of the CAS workplace competence or if the parties of the dispute are not satisfied with the conclusions of the workplace;

c) in cooperation with all participating parties, with the utmost protection of privacy. The conclusions of the resolution must be communicated to all participants and include corrective action in case of violation of ethics of scientific work. In justified cases, Art. 65 of the Statutes of the CAS, or provisions of the Labour Code, may be applied.

VIII.
Effectiveness

This Ethical Code becomes effective on 1 January 2017.