

## **ACADEMIC ETHICS CODE OF THE STATE RESEARCH INSTITUTE CENTRE FOR PHYSICAL AND SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY**

### **CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Academic Ethics Code (hereinafter - the Code) of the State Research Institute Centre for Physical and Sciences and Technology (hereinafter - FTMC) was prepared in accordance with the Articles of Association of FTMC, the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, Recommendations to Institutions of Science and Studies on the Preparation, Adoption and Implementation of Codes of Academic Ethics, approved by the Order No V-38 of 25th August 2020 of the Controller of Academic Ethics and Procedures of the Republic of Lithuania, other legal acts in force in the Republic of Lithuania and taking into account the international practice of implementation of the provisions of academic ethics.

2. The Code is designed to determine the most important norms of ethical academic behaviour by establishing the unanimous content of principles of academic ethics for all members of the academic community.

3. Typical cases of breaches of ethics norms are identified in the Code, but their list is not exhaustive. The circumstances of a particular event determine the fact of a breach of ethics in each case.

4. The Code is applied to all members of FTMC academic community: researchers and other explorers, emeritus researchers, doctoral students, persons and employees engaged in study practice or voluntary activity (Members of the FTMC's administrative and management bodies, etc.), directly involved in research and FTMC studies.

### **CHAPTER II GENERAL ACADEMIC ETHICS REQUIREMENTS**

5. Ethical conduct of members of the academic community must be based on common human values, norms and principles that establish moral norms of behavior, responsibility to society and nature.

6. The right to express the thoughts freely, create, conduct scientific researches, choose research topics, raise hypotheses, choose scientific sources, and express motivated criticism is guaranteed to the member of the academic community. FTMC aims to protect every member of the community from unreasonable restrictions, create conditions for academic freedom, mutual trust, respect and creativity of community members.

7. Members of the academic community must exercise academic freedom responsibly and support knowledge-based decisions, oppose the use of unconfirmed scientific results or non-scientific assertions in decisions affecting the community, give priority to facts and knowledge over the views expressed by the authorities, not be guided by personal or political interests, educate young researchers not only by imparting the experience and knowledge to them, but also by implementing ethical standards and norms.

8. A member of FTMC community, who operates in FTMC undertakes:

8.1. to consider the interests of FTMC and, as far as possible, contribute to the implementation of its operational objectives;

8.2. not to use the name and resources of the Center for private business, political, religious activities or personal needs;

8.3. not to allow the cases that may involve corruption, dishonesty, fraud or attempts to improperly influence a member of FTMC community, disclosure and disclosure of information about misconduct by managers, corruption, abuse of office, or negligence is not considered a breach of loyalty to the FTMC.

8.4. in relations with members of the community and other citizens, not to discriminate such persons on the basis of age, gender or sexual orientation, disability, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, political opinion.

9. Members of FTMC community have the right to state their views on the organization and administration of scientific researches openly, express critical thoughts, maintain open, public discussion of issues;

10. Researchers' relations with colleagues in their institution and with colleagues in other institutions must be based on the principles of respect, impartiality and tolerance. Unfair

competition, humiliation, discrimination and conflicts of interest, participation in dishonest, illegal transactions, withholding information for individual or all employees must be avoided.

11. Members of the FTMC academic community should follow the general principles of academic ethics. The most important principles of academic ethics are given below, but their list is not exhaustive.

11.1. Fairness for truth, knowledge, science and equality;

11.2. trust that promotes the free exchange of ideas and enables everyone to reach their potential;

11.3. justice, ensuring equal institutional requirements, the practice and procedures and their implementation for all members of the academic community;

11.4. respect for human rights, ideas, suggestions, reasoned criticism and copyright in interpersonal relations, scientific activities, in the education of the younger generation and in other science-related activities;

11.5. responsibility in activities and during demanding the ethical behaviour from other members of the academic community;

11.6. equality with regard to national legislation, legislation approved by FTMC and the heads of the institution.

### **CHAPTER III SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES**

12. Scientific researches at FTMC must be conducted honestly, morally and responsibly. Scientific researches must not harm society, nature or culture.

13. Authors of scientific works and publications are persons that have participated creatively in scientific work. Acknowledgments are expressed to co-workers, who have provided technical assistance or made comments relevant to the research. The arrangement of surnames in the publication of several authors is decided by the authors.

14. Academic ethics is violated by the omission of researchers, who have made a significant scientific contribution to publicized scientific or technological development work, failure to indicate co-authorship or indication of unreasonable co-authorship, inclusion of a person in co-authors without his consent.

15. Academic ethics in scientific activities is also violated by the following actions:

15.1. falsification of scientific data or results and documents describing them or other documents and data important to scientific activities;

15.2. concealing of the data or conclusions obtained during studies, when it contradicts the hypothesis or developed interpretation being tested;

15.3. willful providing of the misleading information about the research methodology, materials or devices used, databases and sources of financing, willful specifying of the data of a non-existing source or source description;

15.4. misappropriation or deliberate damage of the research data or their descriptions obtained by other researchers, computer programs created;

15.5. plagiarism, when the authorship or co-authorship of the real author (s) is deliberately concealed, scientific results, texts or illustrative material of other authors or insignificantly modified scientific statements are submitted without indicating the source;

15.6. Antiplagiarism, when scientific results, illustrative material or excerpts of text are republished, when this is prohibited by the publishers;

15.7. reproduction of the research works, violating the rights of publishers, research customers or FTMC;

15.8. other fraudulent actions that are grounds for claiming that the prohibition of plagiarism has been violated.

### **CHAPTER IV EDUCATION OF RESEARCHERS**

16. It is the duty of the researcher to involve the young people that are most talented and interested in science, in the scientific work, direct, advise and provide the methodological support.

17. Relations between a scientific supervisor and a subordinate must be based on the principles of mutual respect. The supervisor must avoid imposing his / her opinion, demonstrating an advantage, must act impartially, regardless of personal sympathies, gender, nationality, race, religion, and do not give any doctoral student or trainee privileges over other students.

18. Researchers involved in the education of young scientists must assess the knowledge and scientific achievements of students and doctoral students fairly and honestly.

19. When agreeing to lead a doctoral study, the scientist must assess the viability of the proposed scientific topic and the means available for the implementation of research.

20. When assessing doctoral studies achievements and scientific dissertations, it is obligatory to do so objectively and impartially, in accordance with global scientific standards. The

influence of personal interests and acquaintances must be avoided.

21. When working with young colleagues and students, the scientist must set an example of ethical and democratic behaviour for them.

## **CHAPTER V REVIEWING AND EXPERTISE OF RESEARCH WORKS**

22. When participating in evaluations of research works, dissertations, projects, presentations for an award and other expert activities, it is necessary to adhere to impartiality and objectivity, to distance from personal interests and the influence of other persons.

23. The reviewed research work or project must be evaluated objectively. The reviewer may not be an interested person or person that has a prior provision in relation to the work being evaluated or its author.

24. The researcher should review only the works for which he has the sufficient competence.

25. When objectively assessing the reviewed work, the scientist must not create artificial obstacles to further researches and publication of the author's results.

26. The results of the expertise should not be influenced by employers, sponsors, personal relationships or interests.

27. Information obtained during the expertise may not be used for own interests or interests of other interested persons or organisations. The expert shall be entitled to his anonymity.

28. The scientific degree must be awarded only to researchers who have acquired a sufficient qualification.

## **CHAPTER VI SCIENTIFIC DISCUSSIONS**

29. The scientific discussion is an important form of scientific work. The right of others to have and express their opinions must be recognised in the discussions.

30. The opinion of the researcher in the discussions must be based on arguments. The researcher must provide the data, results, test methods and procedures fairly.

31. The researcher must avoid prejudice in relation to the work criticized and avoid humiliating of the dignity of the author.

## **CHAPTER VII SCIENTIST AND SOCIETY**

32. The use and promotion of scientific achievements must be a constant concern of the researcher, giving priority to the needs of the Lithuanian economy and society.

33. Scientific achievements must be presented to the society in the understandable form, without prejudice to the principles of scientific interpretation and without the use of scientifically incorrect statements.

34. The scientist must help the society during distinguishing of scientific knowledge from pseudo-scientific theories.

35. The researcher must try to involve colleagues in the activities of promotion of science.

## **CHAPTER VIII FINAL PROVISIONS**

36. Supervision and control of implementation of the Code must be performed by the Commission for the Supervision of Academic Ethics (hereinafter - the Commission). The composition of the Commission shall be proposed by the Scientific Council of FTMC, it is approved by order of the Director of FTMC. The procedures, operating principles, rights and obligations of the Commission are embedded in the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

37. The Commission examines breaches of employee ethics, finds the fact of infringement and, depending on the gravity of the infringement, warns a member of the community in writing or recommends that FTMC administration would impose appropriate sanctions.

38. The Code shall be approved, amended or repealed by the decision of the Scientific Council of FTMC.

39. The Code shall be made publicly available on FTMC website.

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