

UNIVERSITAS STUDIORUM FLUMINENSIS
UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

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**RULES AND REGULATIONS ON SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC, AND
INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA**

(consolidated text)

Rijeka, July 2024

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Pursuant to the provisions of the Statute of the University of Rijeka (CLASS: 30-01/23-01/05, Reg. No.: 2170-137-01-23-2, consolidated text of October 2, 2023), the University of Rijeka Senate at its 85th session held on September 22, 2023, adopted and on its 97th session held on July 23, 2024 amended the

RULES AND REGULATIONS ON SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC, AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RIJEKA

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

- (1) These Rules and Regulations specify the forms, measures, and procedures related to the performance of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities at the University of Rijeka (hereinafter: the University).
- (2) The use of terms with a gender meaning in this document respect the principles of gender-sensitive and gender-neutral language and take into account the clarity of provisions and legibility of the text. In this regard, all language forms in this document refer to all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.

Article 2

The scientific, artistic, and innovation activities at the University of Rijeka are based on the values of accountability and innovation, whereby the pursuit of excellence and creativity in the science and arts is a prerequisite for genuine and quality achievements aimed at the well-being of humans and their natural habitat. Ethical conduct, sustainable development, community engagement, and knowledge valorisation are the pillars of academic institutions' social confidence.

Article 3

- (1) Scientific, artistic, and innovation activities are carried out for the common good, with full enjoyment of the fundamental rights necessary for critical and creative thinking and creativity, and with respect for the highest standards of ethical conduct.
- (2) The University is committed to creating the conditions that enable high-quality achievements and competitiveness, as well as all the goals of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities envisaged by the Act on Higher Education and Scientific Activity and the Statute of the University, in line with the standards of the European Research Area (ERA).
- (3) The University engages in scientific, artistic, and innovation activities based on:
 1. Freedom and autonomy of scientific and artistic creativity,
 2. Open science and open innovation,
 3. Knowledge as a value of universal significance for the overall development of humankind,
 4. The scientific method as an instrument for creating new knowledge,
 5. Ethics and academic integrity of teachers, scientists, and artists,
 6. Public accessibility of the results of research and artistic work,
 7. Care for the development of research careers,
 8. Encouragement of the development of careers of early-career researchers – assistants and senior assistants,
 9. Development of doctoral studies, particularly through the activities of the University Doctoral School,
 10. Research aimed at knowledge valorisation, the creation of innovations, and the development

of technologies in the national framework, in the European Research Area, and in the global areas of science and knowledge development,

11. Liaison with the higher education system,
12. International quality standards and networking within the alliances of European Universities and other international associations and initiatives,
13. Encouragement and acceptance of the specifics of national contents,
14. European, national, regional, and institutional fields of smart specialization,
15. Intellectual property protection,
16. Conservation and protection of natural resources,
17. Social responsibility and engagement of teachers, scientists, and artists, as well as of the scientific, artistic, and innovation activities.

Article 3a

- (1) The scientific, artistic, and innovation activities at the University are carried out by the researchers. Researchers are hereby defined as professionals engaged in the conception or creation of new scientific or artistic cognitions based on original concepts or hypotheses.
- (2) The researchers can be involved fully or partially in different types of activities of Article 4 of these Rules and Regulations in any sector of the economy or society as well as in disseminating and valorising research results. They may also be partially involved in, among others, project management, teaching, mentoring, supporting evidence-informed policy making, open science practices, knowledge and technological transfer activities, and science communication. Researchers identify options for new research and development activities, and plan for and manage them by using high-level skills and knowledge.
- (3) Researchers can conduct their activities with equal relevance in all sectors performing research and innovation, including academia, industry, business, public administration and the non-profit sector, where their skills, knowledge and attitudes can be beneficial to society, the research and innovation system, and the economy.
- (4) Early-career researchers are those at the beginning of their career paths, and are framed by the following profiles:
 - R1 – First Stage Researchers: researchers doing research under supervision up to the point of a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience – as a rule these are the assistants and PhD students of the University;
 - R2 – Recognised Researchers: researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who have not yet established a significant level of independence in developing their own research, attracting funding, or leading a research group – as a rule these are the senior assistants and postdocs of the University.
- (5) Senior researchers are, in turn, framed by the following two researcher profiles:
 - R3 – Established Researchers: researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who are able to independently develop their own research, attract funding, and lead a research group – at the University these are, as a rule, Assistant and Associate Professors;
 - R4 – Leading Researchers: researchers with a PhD or equivalent level of competence and experience who are recognised as leading their research field by their peers – at the University these are, as a rule, Full Professors and Full Professors with Tenure.

II. FORMS OF SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC, AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

Article 4

- (1) The scientific activities include the fundamental and the applied scientific research.
- (2) Fundamental research represents experimental or theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge about the fundamental principles of phenomena and observable facts without direct market application.
- (3) Applied scientific research encompasses industrial research, experimental development, and their combination. Industrial research represents planned research or critical review aimed at acquiring new knowledge and skills needed to develop new products, processes, or services or achieve significant improvement of existing ones. Experimental development involves acquiring, combining, shaping, and using existing knowledge and skills needed to develop new or improved products, processes, or services and may include activities for the conceptual definition, planning, and documentation of new products, processes, or services.

Article 5

The objectives of the scientific activities at the University of Rijeka are:

1. Expansion and deepening of scientific knowledge,
2. Contribution to addressing global scientific, societal, economic, cultural, and developmental challenges of humankind, as well as those of strategic importance for the European Union, the Republic of Croatia, and Rijeka with its wider region,
3. Generation of innovation and all forms of intellectual property protection,
4. Encouragement of sustainable and inclusive development,
5. Achieving competitiveness and societal relevance of scientific programmes and projects, as well as fostering economic and social development based on them,
6. Integration of scientific activities with higher education and innovation ones,
7. Development of competitive projects,
8. Development of doctoral studies, capacities of supervisors, and careers of young researchers.

Article 6

- (1) In scientific activities, the University strongly encourages the application of open science principles, thus promoting:
 - findability, accessibility, interoperability, and reusability (FAIR principles) of all research activity results, regardless of the field and type of scientific activities and the language in which the results of scientific activities were made and published;
 - scientific collaboration and sharing of scientific information for the benefit of science and society;
 - openness in the process of knowledge generation and evaluation, and communication of science outside of the scientific community;
 - transparency, public accountability, collaboration, participation, diversity, inclusion, sustainability, quality, integrity, mutual understanding and value.
- (2) Open science is based on the principles of open knowledge and open scientific communication, open scientific infrastructure, open and community engagement, and open dialogue among research systems and stakeholders.
- (3) Open knowledge and scientific communication encompass open access to scientific publications, research data, metadata, open educational resources, software, codes, hardware, research methods, and reviews.
- (4) Open scientific infrastructure is the shared infrastructure that supports open science and serves

various communities. It may include shared access to physical or virtual facilities, laboratories, innovation incubators, and science parks, as well as open services and resources.

- (5) Open and community engagement are based on collaboration between scientists and stakeholders outside of the academic community, through open research practices and tools that are available to a wider range of interested parties and which involve them.
- (6) Open science promotes open dialogue between researchers, other knowledge creators, and the broader community. It promotes adherence to international rules and norms and recognition of a fair and equitable share of the created values and benefits.
- (7) The open science activities are further defined by the University's Open Science Policy adopted by the Senate. The University Library, in coordination with the vice-rector responsible for scientific activities, is responsible for the development and promotion of open science at the University.

Article 7

- (1) Artistic activities include artistic creation, artistic research, and the development of the creative potential in the artistic domain and within an interdisciplinary scope.
- (2) Fundamental artistic research represents artistic practices and production, generation of new artistic technological processes and technologies, creative interpretative artistic techniques and methods, and their application in fundamental artistic activities.
- (3) Developmental artistic research represents systematic work towards the development of artistic procedures and creative processes associated with practical experiences aimed at creating artistic works and the continuous development of artistic processes.
- (4) The objectives of artistic activities are:
 - encouragement and fostering artistic creation,
 - development of artistic production,
 - protection and preservation of cultural heritage,
 - stimulating development of cultural industry,
 - liaison of artistic activities and higher education.

Article 8

- (1) The University's innovation activities include knowledge valorisation as an activity which creates economic, societal and other values as well as policies that benefit the community and contribute to the growth of the regional innovation ecosystems. These activities are based on research and the knowledge acquired in the process, as well as on networking different stakeholders and areas into the so-called 'pentahelix innovation framework' (i.e., involving partners from academia, industry, local government, the civil sector and the wider public). They are conducted in cooperation with the community, and satisfy the needs of citizens and inform the decisions for resolving societal challenges.
- (2) The regional innovation ecosystem implies an engagement of the stakeholders in the pentahelix framework so as to implement innovation activities in a particular area that does not have to be limited to administrative units (cities/counties), nor a single country. It is based on smart specializations that enable countries/regions to focus on their advantages.
- (3) Knowledge valorisation encompasses knowledge transfer and socially engaged research along with technology transfer, social innovations, and other activities that develop innovation concepts, prototypes, and products. It also includes the development of innovative services that have higher added and/or societal value and encourages all forms of intellectual property protection (i.e., patents, trademarks, registered industrial designs, designation of geographic origins and originality, protection of topographies of semiconductor products, recognized plant varieties).
- (4) Knowledge transfer encompasses cooperation, interaction, and sharing of knowledge,

technologies, and other intellectual assets of the University's research and innovation activities with stakeholders outside of the academic community, especially the private sector and the public administration, that result in societal and economic values. Knowledge transfer can be in the form of:

- business cooperation,
 - innovation projects,
 - development of technological solutions (new or significantly improved products and services (innovations), production processes related to newly developed or improved technological solutions, intellectual property protection related to innovations, and bringing innovations to the market (commercialisation)).
- (5) A special type of knowledge transfer is the so-called 'flipped knowledge transfer' (stimulated by the demand of outside stakeholders following the principle of open innovation processes), which is bidirectional, focused on the value creation along with the inclusion of social and business actors (SBAs) in the joint solution-oriented creative process. It is inter- and transdisciplinary and it includes the sharing of ideas, data, experiences, and skills.
 - (6) Technology transfer is a part of knowledge transfer that relates to the commercialisation and market exploitation of the results of research and professional activities and innovations. Deep-tech innovations are herein those innovations that are based on state-of-the-art and high-end science and have the potential to create transformative and high-risk solutions as well as innovations for global societal challenges.
 - (7) Social innovations encompass the development and the implementation of new solutions that include changes in the concepts, products, processes, and services, or in the organization, and aim at improving the welfare and well-being of individuals and communities.
 - (8) The University's innovation activities are further defined by the University's Innovation Policy, the Rules and Regulations on Intellectual Property Management, and other University bylaws adopted by the Senate. The University's innovation activities are based on its areas of smart specialization that the Senate, upon Rector's proposal, periodically aligns with European, national, and regional smart specializations.
 - (9) The University Centre for Research and Innovation, in coordination with the vice-rector in charge of innovation, is responsible for the development and promotion of the University's innovation activities.

III. MEASURES CONNECTED TO THE SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

Article 9

- (1) Based on its Strategy and its Statute, and with the goal of an authentic promotion of European values of peace, enlightenment, and harmonious relations, while recognizing itself as a modern European University, especially as member of the Young Universities for the Future of Europe (YUFE) alliance as well as the Young European Research University Network (YERUN), the University encourages international cooperation through these networks and all other forms of international liaison into strategic international partnerships and institutional cooperation.
- (2) The University thus encourages and enables incoming and outgoing mobility of its students and staff, especially at the international level.

Article 10

The University functionally integrates the design, conduct and advancement of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities of its constituents, especially:

- Establishing strategic decisions on development of scientific, artistic, and academic excellence,

- Creating strategic decisions on scientific and professional activities,
- Making strategic decisions on the execution of open-science principles, on the management of open-research infrastructure and data-management, as well as on data-storage infrastructure according to the open-science principles,
- Creating decisions on smart specialization fields,
- Joining international university networks and university alliances as well as participating in strategic international partnerships,
- Participating in the design of European policies,
- Development of doctoral studies and setting criteria for the respective supervisors,
- Fostering scientific research and supporting the application for competitive funding,
- Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary research, especially via the University's research and development centres,
- Work on shared scientific infrastructure.

Article 11

- (1) Planning, monitoring, and incentivizing scientific, artistic, and innovation activities are conducted at the University, as well as in its constituents and legal entities whose main activities fulfil the University's mission.
- (2) The monitoring of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities is carried on through the quality assurance system regulated by the University of Rijeka's Rules and Regulations on the Quality Assurance System and the relevant University constituents' bylaws.
- (3) The scientific, artistic, and innovation activities are closely monitored by the University's Science Council and the Expert Council for Research and Innovation, alongside the comprehensive involvement and support of the University Centre for Research and Innovation. The International Scientific Council assists the University's Management and the Senate in improving and developing scientific activities, while the Economic Council assists the Management and the Senate in the field of innovation activities.
- (4) The University takes special care of the development of human and infrastructural resources for the management of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities at the University Centre for Research and Innovation and the organisational units of the Centre.

Article 12

- (1) Taking account of the international standards of excellence, open science, and open innovation, the University Senate and the councils of the University constituents recognize, incentivise and reward the scientific, artistic, and innovation work of their employees and their organizational units, including the elements of academic assessment and career development.
- (2) Incentivising, recognition, and rewarding measures may be included into the additional institutional criteria for the scientific-teaching, artistic-teaching, teaching, associate, and professional employee selections.
- (3) These measures also include the elimination of internal obstacles towards strengthening the scientific, artistic, and innovation activities.
- (4) Incentivising, recognition, and rewarding measures must be open, transparent, and merit-based.

Article 13

- (1) The funding of scientific and artistic projects is to be included in the Programme Contract as well as in the available dedicated and own University's and constituents' funds taking into consideration the potential contributions from all the involved disciplines. Socially engaged research, as well as multi-, inter- and transdisciplinary research are also encouraged, especially via the University's

research and development centres.

- (2) When it comes to project funding, the University takes special care of early-career researchers and their career development needs.

IV. PROCEDURES RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC, ARTISTIC AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES

Article 14

- (1) The University of Rijeka, its constituents, as well as its legal entities whose main activities fulfil the University's mission, all implement procedures to include scientific, artistic, and innovation activities in the respective education processes, as well as linking these activities with the broader community. This encompasses outreach of scientific, artistic, and innovation activities, and the involvement of general public therein.
- (2) In all the scientific, artistic, and innovation activities performed at the University, particularly great attention is devoted to promoting and securing the implementation of ethical principles and values, as specified in the University's Code of Ethics approved by the Senate.
- (3) The University constituents shall aim at involving their students in the scientific, artistic, and innovation activities as well as promoting and evaluating their engagement in such activities, all in line with constituents' needs and capabilities and taking into account the level of the results achieved by the students themselves.

V. FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 15

- (1) The University's constituents will align their acts that regulate the scientific, artistic, and innovation activities according to these Rules and Regulations, taking into due consideration the specifics of the different areas of sciences and arts.
- (2) These Rules and Regulations enter into force on the eighth (8th) day following their public announcement.



University of Rijeka, Croatia