Path **2** Integrity

S01

Society needs responsible research!

Description and background

This learning unit:

- *Introduces citizens to responsible research*

- *Challenges citizens to value responsible research results used in society*

- *Enables citizens to realise how important good research and reliable results are*

- *Emphasises that research integrity safeguards research for society*

An advocate for research integrity

Alexander Gerber

Keywords

Research and society; responsible research; reliable research results; research principles; researchers' impact

This unit has been prepared for non-disciplinary learning groups.

Learning objectives

1 *Identify and accept researchers' impact on society*

2 *Realise the importance of responsible research*

3 *Request that researchers conduct responsible research*

Learning stages

1 *Become familiar with the topic*

2 *Dive into an interesting story*

3 *Engage in storytelling*

4 *Put the pieces together*

5 *Reflect on rules for researchers*

"Scientists with integrity reflect on why they actually do science – be it in medicine or mechanics, in communication or cultural studies."

(Alexander Gerber, an advocate for research integrity)

1 Become familiar with the topic:

Homework (before the unit starts)

Learn more about how research affects your everyday life. Identify three examples of how research findings affect your life and prepare to present them in class.

2 Dive into an interesting story:

Review or look up the story from LONA Science Centre (video or text).

Briefly repeat the story and flesh out who is attentive, respectful, open, responsible, motivated, impartial etc.

3 Engage in storytelling:

Come together in groups of three to four persons. Write a scene of a play in which Emma, David and Rebecca meet their mayor and the head of the fire brigade one day after their visit to the LONA Science Centre.

Discuss the following topics before you start writing:

1. Who are the actors in your play?
2. What do they think about bad research, and why?
3. Who could request the researchers from LONA Science Centre to conduct research responsibly? How could s/he do that?

Your scene should include a dialogue about good research. By putting honesty, respect, reliability and accountability first, your actors should link their dialogue to the happenings at LONA Science Centre. Write your scene.

Read all of your stories aloud!

Society needs researchers with research integrity

Researchers with research integrity are able to explain step by step how they arrived at their research results. Society can rely on their developments and results.

"It is of crucial importance that researchers master the knowledge, methodologies and ethical practices associated with their field. Failing to follow good research practices violates professional responsibilities. It damages the research processes, degrades relationships among researchers, undermines trust in and the credibility of research, wastes resources and may expose research subjects, users, society or the environment to unnecessary harm."

(ECoC 2017, p. 8)

4 Put the pieces together:

Come together in class.

Collect why citizens should request responsible research from academia. Decide together how citizens can request researchers to conduct responsible research and write it into your notebook.

5 Reflect on rules for researchers:

Return to your stories with the groups you were working in earlier. Imagine that other students will watch your scene. Decide together which actions your fellow students should learn through your scene.

For society, researchers should _____.

For society, researchers should _____.

Citizens should request _____.