

## Research groups work as transparently and openly as possible!

### Description and background

This learning unit:

*Introduces citizens and (future) researchers to research collaborations*

*Challenges citizens and (future) researchers to understand the conditions of good collaborative research*

*Enables citizens and (future) researchers to understand research agreements*

### Role Model

### Keywords

*Reliable Working Relationships;  
Mistrust; Agreement;  
Research Roles and Responsibilities*

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

### Learning Objectives

- 1** *Listen actively and present aims and wishes in research groups*
- 2** *Learn to respect and accept the aims and wishes of others in research groups*
- 3** *Practice understanding and being understood in a dialogue*

### Learning Stages

- 1** *Introduce the topic*
- 2** *Motivate by introducing an interesting example*
- 3** *Be open and transparent, so that research can flourish*
- 4** *Come to an agreement*
- 5** *Reflect on collaborative research*

## “Quote about Collaborative Working”



## 1 Introduce the topic:

### Homework (before the unit starts) or reading session

For basic explanations of collaborative work, you can watch the short video “Collaborative Research Solutions” by Graham Sustainability Institute.

Read the paragraph on collaborative working in “The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”

Look up Path2Integrity’s comic about collaborative work, “Building a Foundation”.

Collaborative Research Solutions (Graham Sust. Institute):



European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity:



Building a Foundation (Path2Integrity):



## 2 Motivate by introducing an interesting example:

**Review or look up the story from LONA Science Centre (video or text).** The research the students are talking about is a collaborative research project studying how people react in stressful situations. The results will be used to adapt professional training programs for firefighters, police and rescue crews.

**Sketch the different roles within this research project by drawing stick figures for each of the following four collaborative players on your classroom chalk board or flip chart:**

<b>Prof. Weis’ team</b> <i>LONA Science Centre</i> conducting the research	<b>Police &amp; fire brigade</b> funding the research	<b>Prof. Surinares</b> <i>Pakistan</i> collecting additional data	<b>Education agency</b> developing evidence-based training courses for fire fighters and policemen
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**Embellish the stick figures with representative heads and coat buttons.**



## 3 Engage in storytelling:

**Be open and transparent, so that the research can flourish.**

**In groups of 3-4 people, imagine that each of you is one player in this collaborative research project.** You are all reluctant to cooperate, because in your last collaborations you experienced disagreements and disrespectful accusations. But this research project is too important to fail. Future fire fighters and policemen, as well as the people who rely on them, are depending on your results being reliable. That’s why you want to establish a strong base from the beginning.

**Allocate a stick figure to each person, and take on that role.**

Prof. Weis’s team fears overly protective partners. The police and fire brigade fear communication problems. Prof. Surinares fears unequal contributions from the different participants, and getting insufficient recognition. The education agency needs clarification about roles and responsibilities in this undertaking

**Ask your partners what they would like.** Make sure you understand everybody. Each of you should use the following phrase at least twice: *Do I understand you right, that you want me to...*

### Research collaborations

Research collaborations can help increase the likelihood of finding answers to challenging questions. At the beginning of a collaboration, in order to be successful, all collaborators agree on

- taking on „responsibility for the integrity of the research“;
- “the goals and... the process for communicating“;
- the “expectations and standards [that will apply]“;
- the “procedures for handling conflicts and possible cases of misconduct“
- “being properly informed and consulted about submissions for publication of the research results.“

(ECoC, 2017, p. 6-7)

## 4 Come to an agreement:

**Leave your group and consider the wishes you heard from your project partners.** To avoid jeopardising the research project, draft a contract in which you pay attention to fulfilling your partners’ wishes.

**Come back together in your group and compare your drafts.** Discuss when differences appear, and alter the texts until all partners agree.

## 5 Reflect on collaborative research:

**Come together as a class and discuss:**

What advantages does collaborative research have?

What pitfalls exist in research collaborations and how can they be overcome?



Black / White

Research / Espionage

Shared knowledge / secret information

Openness / Mistrust

Transparency / Disguise

