

Research groups work as transparently and in as open a way as possible!

Description and background

This learning unit:

Introduces researchers to norms in research collaborations

Builds the competency to set common objectives and norms in research collaborations

Challenges researchers to choose norms, which your research partners agree on while working collaboratively

Emphasises openness and transparency.

Role Model

Keywords

*Roles and Responsibilities,
Research Agreements,
Transparency, Openness*

This unit has been prepared for disciplinary learning groups.

Learning Objectives

- 1** *Listen actively and present your own wishes, aims and goals*
- 2** *Accept and learn to respect others' wishes, aims and goals*
- 3** *Practice being able to understand others and be understood by them in dialogues*
- 4** *Learn to discard arguments that cannot be backed up*

Learning Stages

- 1** *Introduce the topic*
- 2** *Motivate by choosing an interesting problem*
- 3** *Write down your wishes, aims and goals*
- 4** *Discuss and reach agreement*
- 5** *Reflect on reaching an agreement, and on their importance*

“Quote about Collaborative Working”



1 Introduce the topic:

Homework (before the unit starts) or reading session

Read the paragraph on good research practice in “The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity”.

Look up the sketch about collaborative working on the Path2Integrity website (“Building a Foundation”).

Discuss any questions regarding the material, and the meanings of any unknown words.

European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity:



Building a Foundation (Path2Integrity):



2 Motivate by introducing an interesting problem:

To learn about research integrity, please select an example from your discipline. Choose a situation in which collaborative work is common. Here are two possible examples:

- 1 “To promote more female speakers at high-level European conferences, three partners decided to work together on project X3. X3 supports high-level conference hosts by conducting and publishing the results of a survey about the most pressing needs of women while they are at conferences.”
- 2 “To tackle health challenges in Europe, 15 institutions from different European countries support an experiment with different randomised trials to improve patient care”.

These examples are similar in that they refer to collaborative teams pursuing scientific results using known and state-of-the-art research procedures. If one of these examples is relevant to you, you are welcome to use it. If not, please select an equivalent example from your discipline. Write it down in one or two sentences.

3 Write down your wishes, aims and goals

- a Working alone, imagine that you are conducting the research in the example you’ve chosen. Flesh this out in detail.
- b You do not know who your partners will be. Write down which research practices they might use that would jeopardise the research results.
- c Consider what you would need from your project partners so as not to step into this pitfall.
- d Outline what your partners should write down in advance of the project, so that you can confidently start your project without hesitation or discomfort to achieve research results.

Be transparent and open!



Which roles and responsibilities do the different partners in a collaboration have?

Think about processes such as research reporting on findings and problems; collecting and storing information; changing research design or models, etc.

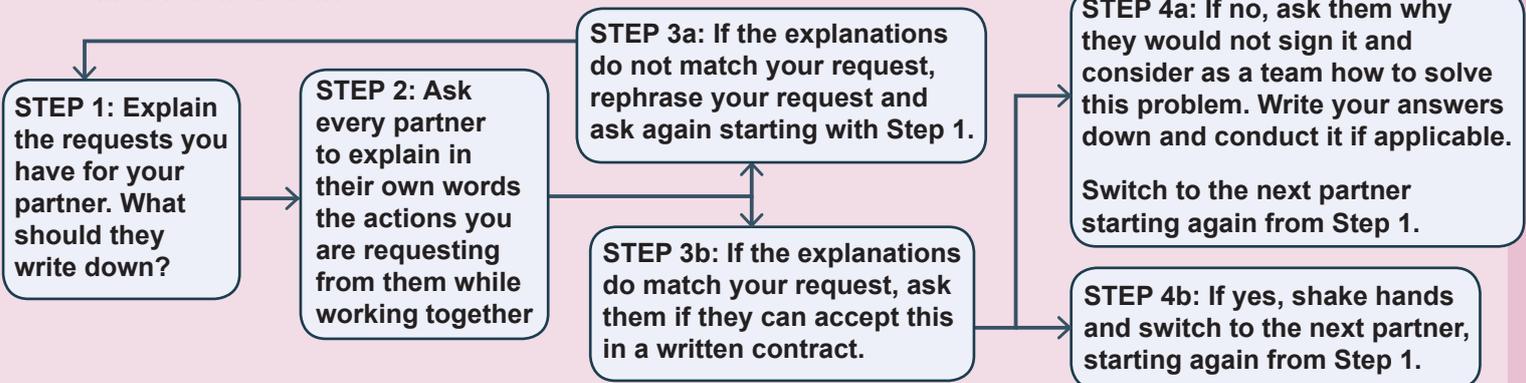
Think additionally about intellectual property rights and ownership issues for data and publication.

When does the collaboration start? When does it end? Which Code of Conduct should the different partners adhere to?

4 Discuss and reach agreement

In groups of 2 or 3, go through the next steps:

- e Present your request for collaborative work to one other, starting with one partner and following the instructions below:



5 Reflect on reaching an agreement, and on their importance

As a class, discuss:

- what did different groups agree on, and why?
- what was challenging in the process?
- if groups couldn’t come to an agreement, how did they proceed?
- why is an agreement necessary in research collaborations?

