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Developing a face-to-face train-the-trainers program for fostering virtues in research integrity

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Overview

- 1. Virt2ue project**
- 2. Virtue ethics approach**
- 3. Face to face training**
- 4. Conclusions**



Virt2ue project

Developing a train the trainer blended learning
program

VIRT2UE training

Train the trainer blended learning program

- Develop innovative blended learning **train-the-trainer** program on ethics and research integrity
- Organize 25 trainings in 10 different European countries
- Promote the **understanding and upholding** the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- Enable **contextualized** ERI teaching across Europe



Blended learning

Tool box

Exercises (offline and online) targeting different learning goals:

- ✓ Adaptable to context
- ✓ Easy to use and train
- ✓ Modular





Online components

- Theoretical knowledge (European Code of Conduct, ERI issues, Virtue ethics approach to ERI, etc...)
- Input and preparation for face-to-face training (reflection forms, questions, learning goals, feedback)
- Community of trainers (and trainees!)

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Virtue ethics approach

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Scientists are exemplary to the extent that they embody the virtues that dispose them towards the ideal practice of science's distinctive methods for achieving its goals

Pennock and O' Rourke 2017, p. 245

European Code of conduct for Research Integrity

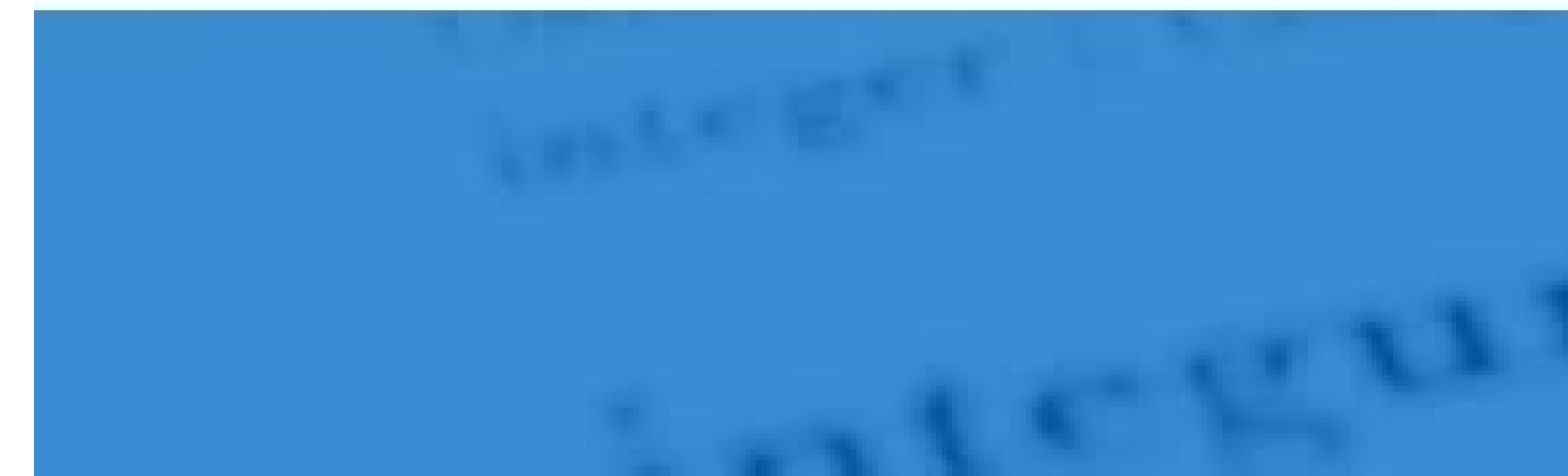
Principles

- Reliability
- Honesty
- Respect
- Accountability



The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity

REVISED EDITION



Virtue based learning

Acquiring knowledge and learning how to apply it

- Knowing about codes and rules is not enough
- Education and experience are both required
- Acknowledge uncertainties and motives (vs. only compliance)



Core elements of the face-to-face training

Developing exercises to reflect on virtues in
context

Core elements

Reflection on virtues in context

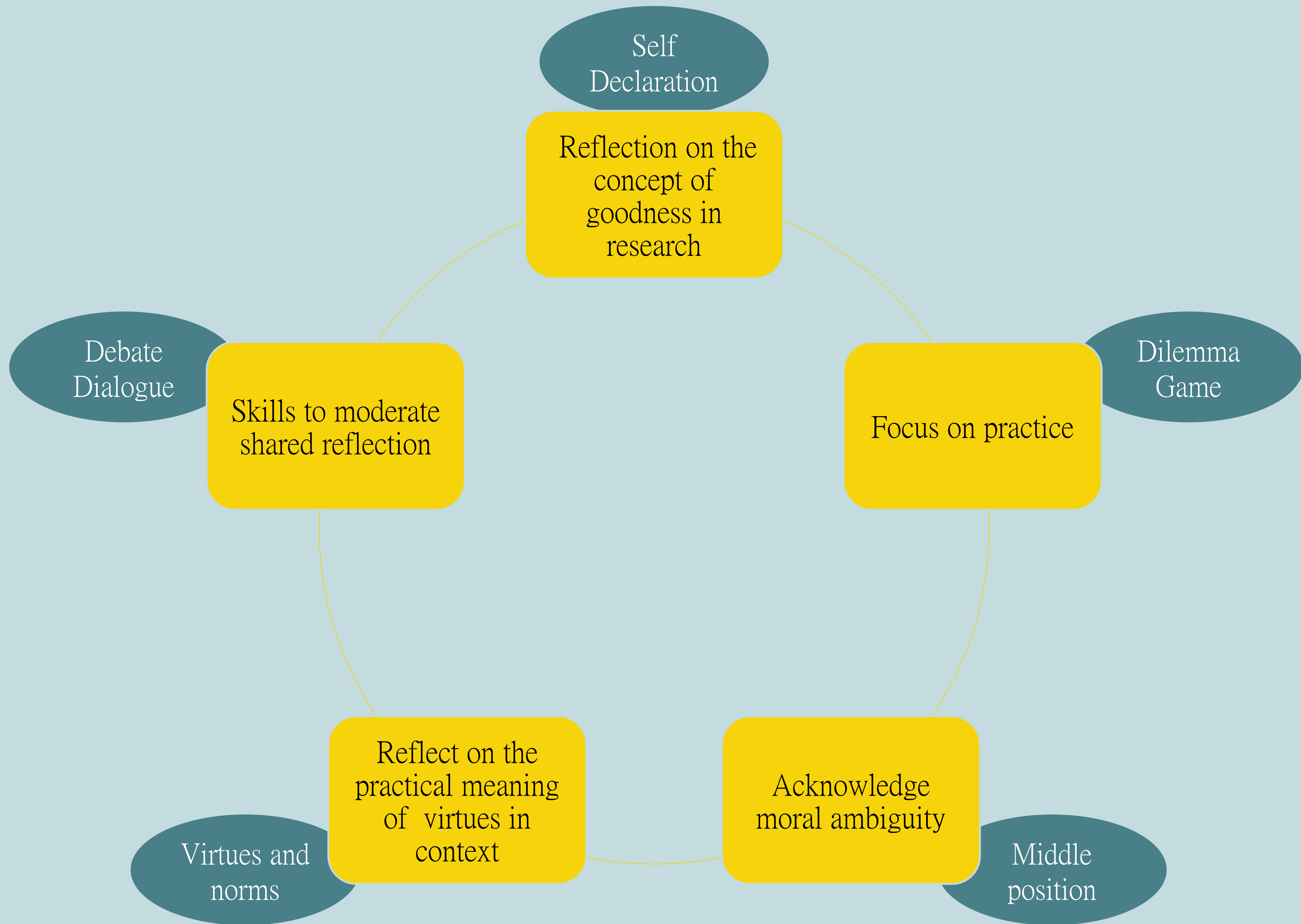
- Learning by doing
- Individual and group reflection
- Building up on personal knowledge/experience
- Integration of codes and principles in professional life

Face to face

Tool box

1. **Self-declaration Approach:** use participants responses a pre-distributed self-declaration sheets to deepen reflection about the concept of goodness.
2. **Rotterdam Dilemma Game¹:** confront participants with dilemmas they are likely to encounter in their actual research activities.
3. **Debate-Dialogue:** cultivate dialogical skills and understand what is needed to foster reflection in others by means of dialogue.
4. **Virtues and Norms:** reflecting on dilemmas by means of understanding how virtues can be embodied in practice.
5. **The Middle Position:** Look critically into the nuances of the practical meanings of abstract research integrity virtues in everyday research practice.

1. Dilemma Game. *Erasmus University Rotterdam* Available at:
<https://www.eur.nl/sites/corporate/files/dilemmagame-mrg.pdf>.





Conclusions

Looking forward to the training

Looking forward to the training

Expectations and challenges

- Train 3050 trainers in Europe (domino effect)
- Adaptability of the training material to cultural contexts
- Cultural differences



Thank you



References:

Pennock, R. T., & O' Rourke, M. (2017). Developing a Scientific Virtue-Based Approach to Science Ethics Training. *Science and Engineering Ethics*.

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