the embassy of good science
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
Tool box

Exercises (offline and online) targeting different learning goals:

- Adaptable to context
- Easy to use and train
- Modular
Blended learning training program

1. ONLINE assignment
2. Face to face training
3. Exercises
4. ONLINE assignment
5. Face to face training
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!)
Virtue ethics approach
“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
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 Game**: 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.

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Reflection on the concept of goodness in research

Skills to moderate shared reflection

Reflect on the practical meaning of virtues in context

Acknowledge moral ambiguity

Focus on practice

Middle position

Virtues and norms

Dilemma Game

Debate Dialogue

Self Declaration

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