

NEWSLETTER

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF
RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES



NEW EUREC Website is LIVE

It was about time that our website got a new look, and now the new EUREC website is live: <https://eurecnet.eu>

The EUREC website not only shines in a fresh user-friendly design but also compiles relevant information for REC members and other interested parties.

You will find position papers from our network on topics like compensation of research participants or ethics reviews beyond biomedical research, insights from our working groups, training materials, codes and guidelines that have been co-developed as part of our research projects, and much more.



Have a look at our new website, and get to know the EUREC Office team, the EUREC Board and representatives of our Network!



What's new in our projects?

PREPARED

The PREPARED team convened in Paris to deliberate on the PREPARED Code: A Global Code of Conduct for Research during Pandemics. The draft Code is open for public consultation until 14 November 2024, and all are invited to help shape a robust ethical framework for future pandemic research [here](#).

Also, an interactive-learning app has been launched for Android and iPhone, offering students, researchers, and the wider public engaging cases on ethical dilemmas encountered during the pandemic in relation to research ethics and integrity.

Additionally, EUREC is formulating guidelines for prioritising research during the COVID-19 pandemic and plans to issue a call for REC funding during crises.



Download the [PREPARED App](#) now!



RE4GREEN

RE4GREEN successfully launched in February, and participants for the project's Social Labs, which engage diverse stakeholders on topics at the intersection of environmental ethics, research ethics and integrity, and R&I, were recruited. EUREC has successfully referred global REC members to these Social Labs and is currently analysing relevant training materials and ethics guidance.



Read more on the project's participatory activities in the Social Labs [here!](#)



EUREC's role in EU-funded projects



As a key partner in various EU-funded projects, EUREC contributes its expertise to advancing research ethics, integrity, and responsible research and innovation. In every project, EUREC brings in the unique perspective of RECs. Additionally, the EUREC Office plays a vital role in stakeholder engagement, ethical analysis, and organising training programmes for researchers, REC members, and ethics experts.

What's new in our projects?

BEYOND

BEYOND has reached its midpoint and is progressing successfully! Several BEYOND partners actively contributed to insightful presentations at the World Conference on Research Integrity, held in Athens in June 2024.

Currently, BEYOND is focused on developing new training materials centred on research ethics and integrity, including a comprehensive trainer's guide. These resources build on the achievements of previous EU-funded projects, with significant input from EUREC. On September 30th, BEYOND organised an online policy event addressing the socio-economic consequences of research misconduct.

The surge in attention underscored the growing recognition of BEYOND's efforts, the far-reaching implications of research misconduct, and the pressing need for strong policy measures to mitigate its socio-economic impacts.



Read BEYOND's latest [policy brief here!](#)



VERITY

Amid the summer heat and the historic backdrop of the Acropolis, EUREC hosted a vibrant stakeholder meeting for VERITY in Athens. Members of the Advisory and Impact Board engaged in lively discussions, reflecting on the project's findings so far. These discussions focused on the roles and responsibilities of stewards of trust.

VERITY has now entered its second phase, having completed data collection on public trust in science. These insights will shape crucial recommendations for stakeholders, including RECs. The recommendations are currently being worked on in co-creative workshops designed to strengthen the ecosystem of trust.



VERITY is centred around three questions:

What do people trust?



Whom do people trust?



How is trust built?



VERITY's newest open access publication is out!

"The Role of Stewards of Trust in Facilitating Trust in Science: A Multistakeholder View."

Download the PDF and read the full article for free [here](#).

What's new in our projects?

irecs

The irecs project is now in its third year. To discuss the work accomplished, the project partners gathered this May at the beautiful and historic campus of Vilnius University, Lithuania. This meeting focused on the development of innovative training to enhance REC reviews of emerging technologies, particularly AI in health and healthcare, extended reality, genome editing, and bio-banking. These training sessions are planned to start in 2025 and will invite research ethics experts, researchers, and students to participate.

Additionally, the Vilnius meeting was a valuable opportunity for irecs project partners to connect with EUREC members and explore overlapping topics, further enriching collaborative efforts.



Read more in the irecs [project news section here!](#)



STRATEGIC

Launched in May 2024, the STRATEGIC project unites seven partners from Africa and Europe, all working together to bolster ethics and regulatory institutions for clinical trials and research in Sub-Saharan Africa. EUREC's role is central to this mission, focusing on the development and testing of training materials to enhance the capacity for evaluating health technologies and fostering ethical awareness. In its early phase, EUREC conducted extensive desktop research and online consultations, identifying numerous relevant organisations, projects, and initiatives. These findings are showcased in detailed "country cards" and compiled into a comprehensive mapping report, offering a valuable resource for the project's future work.



Subscribe to the [STRATEGIC newsletter](#) to stay informed!



Updates from our Working Groups

Our two working groups are the driving force for ethics-based change in the research ecosystem. Through dynamic discussions, engaging webinars, and the development of position papers, we strive to make a lasting impact.

Working Group 1 Legal and Policy Issues of RECs



WG1 has been hard at work! The group recently published its position paper on the compensation of research participants, which is now available [here](#). Additionally, WG1 has made significant contributions to the Declaration of Helsinki, submitting proposed revisions that emphasise inclusivity in research. Notably, one of their key recommendations on the provision of the standard of care has been adopted in the newly updated Declaration, now reflected in Article 31. In October, WG 1 also launched a webinar series on vulnerability in research, with the first session featuring expert presenters from the World Medical Association, CIOMS, and Med-Ethics EU. The session recording and presentations can be viewed [here](#).

Working Group 2 Broadening the Scope of RECs



WG2 is pleased to announce that its latest position paper, entitled "Expanding the Scope of RECs to Research with and on Humans Beyond Biomedical Research", has just been published. This paper highlights the growing need for robust ethical governance in diverse research fields, spanning social sciences, humanities, and cutting-edge technologies. By extending beyond traditional biomedical boundaries, EUREC champions interdisciplinary collaboration and fosters dialogue across RECs. This initiative aims to promote a unified yet culturally sensitive approach to research ethics, addressing the distinct ethical challenges that arise across varied research methodologies.

Read the full position paper [here](#).



Save the date
23 January 2025,
14:00–15:30 CET

Webinar: "Vulnerability in research: how might responsible inclusion look in practice?"

Jointly organised by WG1 & WG2, this webinar will explore case studies related to vulnerability in research. Registration opens soon — check our website!

Coming soon...



AIOLIA: New project starting in February 2025!

The project AIOLIA, which will address complex challenges arising from the need to operationally interpret EU AI law and global AI regulation in the field of human cognition and behaviour, received a perfect score in the EU Horizon evaluation process, securing funding to move forward. Congrats to our colleagues from the coordination team at CEA – the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission – and all contributing partners!

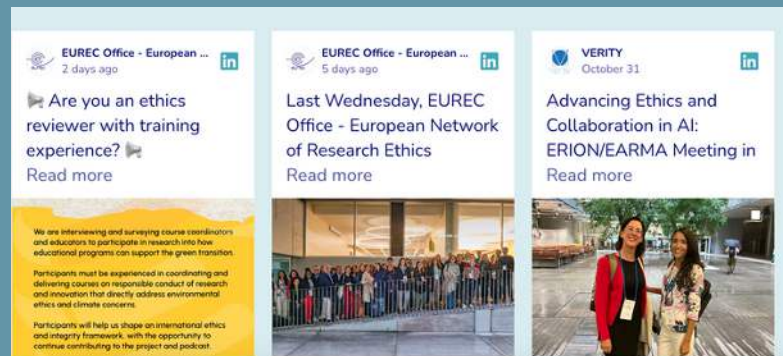
EUREC will manage the Stakeholder Advisory Board and will be involved in training development.

We are very much looking forward to our upcoming tasks on this highly relevant research topic!

Follow us on LinkedIn!

On [LinkedIn](#), we regularly share updates on our numerous collaborations. Join our 800+ subscribers and follow our account to stay up to date, like, comment, and share our posts!

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