Assisting you to advance with ethics – A workshop by ethical advisory group of European Network for Academic Integrity

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Ethics and ethical behaviour (often linked to “responsible practice”) are the fundamental pillars of a civilised society. The focus on ethical behaviour is indispensable in certain fields such as medicine, finance, law or anything that would include, affect, transform, or impact upon individuals, communities or any living creatures. Therefore, many institutions within Europe have set up their own committees to focus on or approve activities that have ethical impact. In contrast, lesser developed countries (within Europe or beyond), are trying to set up these committees to govern their academia and research. As the first European consortium established to assist academic integrity, we felt the importance of guiding those institutions and communities that are trying to teach, research, and include ethical principles. Therefore, we have set up an advisory group to support matters related ethics, setting up ethical committees and assist on ethics related teaching activities.

This short workshop will focus on ways by which we could help those who are in need of advice and assistance to develop their own institutional practices. The workshop will start by introducing to the recent developments in the international code of ethics for educators and its domains. We will discuss basic needs to set up an institutional ethical committee that functions as an independent body to implement ethical behaviour in academia and research. The workshop will also show some examples of problem-based learning approach to teach ethics.

In summary the workshop would highlight and discuss:

- the important aspects of “international code of ethics for educators”
- the basic needs of an ethical committee within an institution.
- a typical ethical approval process with information
- the ways to obtain informed consent with some examples
- some problem-based learning case studies that can be used in teaching ethics

Keywords: ethics, problem-based learning, ethical committee, academic integrity.