Comprehensive Framework for Fostering Responsible Research: Lithuania

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International Conference "Plagiarism across Europe and Beyond 2017"
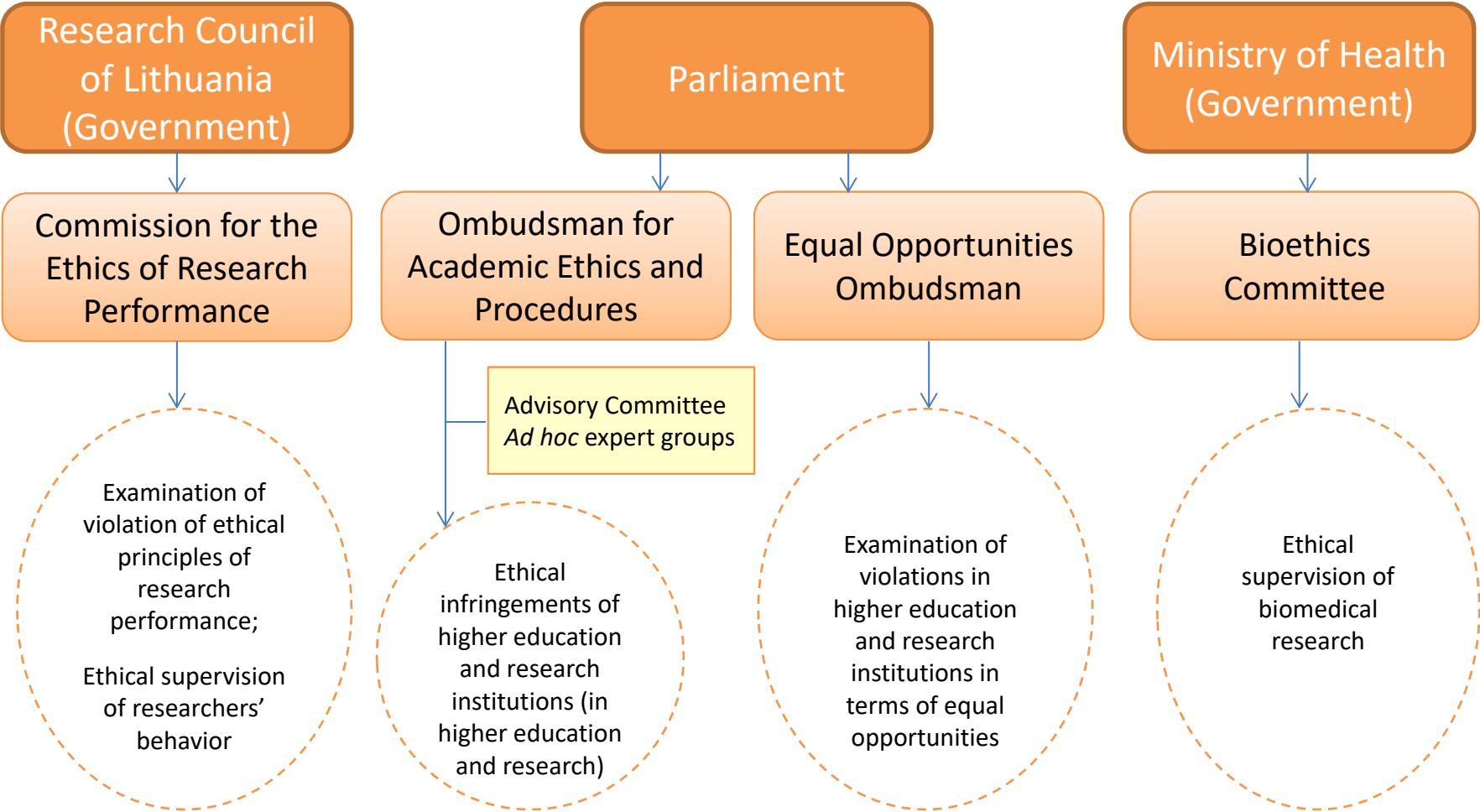24-26 May 2017, Brno, Czech Republic

Structure

- Intro

- National and institutional structures to raise awareness on research (mis)conduct

- Regulatory pitfalls

- Experiences on the collaboration with journal editors and publishers

Intro

- Doctoral Dissertation on social responsibility in the management of research performance (2013)
  - Baltic University Programme (BUP) Honorary Recognition for the Best PhD thesis in 2013 (in the field of Sustainability)

- Lately acting as Head of Academic Ethics Centre at Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania
  - Prior workplace – policy advisor in the Office of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures

- Consultancy, expert work (e.g. EC, OECD, Transparency International Lithuania Unit, Lithuanian Standards Board)

- Areas of research: research policy; doctoral studies; academic ethics; social responsibility; responsible research and innovation; public engagement

National Structure to Raise Awareness on Research (Mis)Conduct

Research Council of Lithuania (Government)

Parliament

Ministry of Health (Government)

Commission for the Ethics of Research Performance

Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures

Equal Opportunities Ombudsman

Bioethics Committee

Advisory Committee
Ad hoc expert groups

Examination of violation of ethical principles of research performance;

Ethical supervision of researchers' behavior

Ethical infringements of higher education and research institutions (in higher education and research)

Examination of violations in higher education and research institutions in terms of equal opportunities

Ethical supervision of biomedical research

National Ethics Infrastructure for Research (Mis)Conduct

1991
Recovery of Independence

2005 Recommendations for codes of academic ethics (MoES)

2009 Ineffective recommendations

Establishment of Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedure

2013 Appointment of the Ombudsman (OAEP)

2015 Recommendations for codes of academic ethics

Institutional Ethics Infrastructure on (Mis)Conduct

- Code of ethics
- Academic Integrity Committees
- Other additional rules and regulations (such as related to annual evaluation of research performance, examination procedures, appealing)
- Other institutional bodies (such as vice-rector for research, faculty, disputes commission)
- E-system of detection of similarities in students' final papers
- Ethics training

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- E-system of detection of similarities in students' final papers [scarcely used by university journals editors]
- Ethics training

Regulatory pitfalls

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CODES OF ACADEMIC ETHICS

Recommendations for codes of academic ethics

- **2005**
  - Variation of ethical norms
  - Limited application

Code for Scientists by Academy of Sciences ?

- **2015**
  - New concepts introduced and defined, such as academic ethics, socially responsible behaviour, main academic values;
  - Pledge on integrity introduced for students;
  - Embedding of principles of publicity, openness and education for the adoption of codes of academic ethics; [co-creation]
  - Principles determined for establishing an academic integrity committee (AIC);
  - Requirements defined for AIC membership;
  - Establishment of public accountability of an AIC

Code of ethics

- Compendium of values and ethical principles, i.e. <u>social</u> norms

- Formally approved code of ethics refers to <u>legal</u> norms

- Character of breaches described in a code of ethics – ethical or legal ones?

National sanctioning

- Very few sanctioning is envisaged at national scale:

  - **Publicizing decisions** taken by the OAEP (summaries available in English)

  - **5 years prohibition to submit the research proposal** to the Research Council in case of ethical breaches detected by the OAEP

Institutional sanctioning

- Sanctioning is envisaged at very few universities, BUT:
  - There are no barriers for further career pathway (e.g. in case of retractions, duplications, plagiarism)
  - Basically dismissal when research misconduct is found out is not a common sanction applied; usually, universities confine to wave back a finger (e.g. warning, reprimand)

No effective prevention and sanctioning,

neither science prestige, nor scientist reputation

?

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Experiences on the collaboration with journal editors and publishers

PRACTICES OF OMBUDSMAN FOR ACADEMIC ETHICS AND PROCEDURES

redundant publication
self-plagiarism

- The majority of editors of <u>international</u> journals had high concern regarding the paper under investigation and were prone to contribute by making their own investigation in terms of journal ethics policy

- The majority of editors of <u>national</u> journals had no journal ethics policy (all), no concern (very few), no collaboration during the investigation (all)

plagiarism (zero quotation)

- To prove own fault – publisher's or authors' (erratum or corrigendum)?
- No ethics policy of national publishers for academic (hand)books
  - Ministry of Culture that is responsible for the regulation of components of publisher's contract rejected any dialogue on introducing one more component to define in publisher's contract, notably provisions regarding ethics policy
- Non-use of quotation in handbooks or other teaching materials is a common "custom"

Thank you!

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