

FROM ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH INTEGRITY TOWARDS INTEGRITY IN BUSINESS AND SOCIETY

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This presentation aims to explore two sub outputs of the first intellectual output of the project Bridging Integrity in Higher Education, Business and Society (BRIDGE). Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project (2020-1-SE01-KA203-077973) involves six partners from five countries and seeks to reveal the connections (“Bridges”) between academic integrity, research integrity, integrity in business and integrity in citizen science in order to make the transition between these fields easier for master and doctoral students as well as for their supervisors.

While academic integrity targets teaching staff and students at all levels of education, research integrity aims at doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, scientific staff and technical staff involved in research. By focusing on the master and PhD level, the bridge between academic and research integrity will therefore create a smooth transition between those two fields within academia. The bridge between academic integrity, research integrity, and integrity in business will facilitate transition from the academic enterprise to the business enterprise by highlighting common ground for integrity in both fields. The bridge between academic integrity, research integrity, and society will prepare master and doctoral students to participate and lead citizen science (CS) projects in which scientist-supervised citizens participate in research and develop opportunities for social and civic engagement through formal or non-formal learning activities.

First part of the presentation conveys the findings of the desk research conducted in partner countries about background information on the national aspects of business ethics and citizen science: definitions in national documents (or discourses) and evidences such as initiatives, research projects,

sources that are found in countries regarding academic integrity, research integrity, and integrity in business and/or citizen science.

Second part of the presentation reflects on whether and to what extent academic and research integrity is taught in business and citizen science related courses in higher education institutions. Therefore, the desk research of the descriptions of the courses related to business ethics and citizen science of higher education institutions was conducted.

Third part of the presentation reveals how values of academic integrity and research integrity are reflected in research papers related to business ethics and citizen science. The research aimed to find in scientific literature definitions of the concepts of business ethics and citizen science, as well as if/ to what extent main academic integrity values are included into academic literature related to business ethics and citizen science.

The result of the desk research has indicated the areas of possible improvement of the connection between academic integrity in business and citizen science in order to interconnect the ethical aspects of these fields and provide a smoother transition for students and early career researchers between them. However, we have also found areas where interconnectedness exists although not always highlighted. The findings provided insights that will be used to create recommendations for early career researchers (master and doctoral students) and their supervisors, and raise awareness about the ways integrity (both academic and research) practices lead to the development of the transferable ethical skills in the field of citizen ethics, business ethics, as well as to a more sustainable society.