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Real life example: One Hasty Decision

See the attached PowerPoint presentation to see the complete example.

Date: 2019-06-14

## About this document

This document is a real life example illustrating importance of the values of academic integrity in professional life. It was created as a part of *Toolkit for cross-sector cooperation in terms of academic integrity* within Erasmus+ project.

It is a ready-to-use case study accompanied with didactic notes and discussion questions and/or other tasks for the audience. Find more case studies in [ENAI database of educational materials](http://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/all-materials/?key-words%5b%5d=real-life-example).

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# Real life example: One Hasty Decision

# Basic information

* **Target audience**: *Graduate students, junior faculty, junior researchers*
* **Summary**: *The harshest sanctions which could be imposed when plagiarism has officially been detected*
* ***Objective:*** *To help students consider the consequences of academic dishonesty in professional work life*
* ***Length:*** *30 minutes*

# Material

* The attached presentation to be projected to the audience
* Last page of this document – the text of the story, as handouts for the audience

# Teaching methods

* Discussion over the presented case study.

Real life example: One Hasty Decision

Alex was employed as a full-time professor at Rabbit Habit University, one of the most high ranking universities in Neverland.

As a promising faculty member, he published numerous articles in different academic journals.

His intellectual background was being appreciated by his own institution and students.

However, one hasty decision was enough to ruin all his academic career.

Prof. Dr. Alex Greenwich was publishing articles mostly in the field of international relations.

Prof. Greenwich aimed to edit a collection entitled ‘X Geopolitics and Economy in Neverland’ so he contacted some notable academics working in the field.

Related to this, Prof. Greenwich contacted Dr. Jason Blue, one of the most notable academics in Neverland working on X Region Politics.

In his email, Prof. Greenwich said that he would publish Dr. Blue’s article in his edited collection as a chapter.

Like all the other academics could do, Dr. Blue sent his article to Prof. Greenwich with great pleasure.

However, whenever Dr. Blue asked questions regarding the publishing process of the book, Prof. Greenwich was giving reluctant responses, namely, excuses.

For instance, in one of his emails, Prof. Greenwich said to Dr. Blue that he was on vacation and later he said that he was trying to reach some more scholars to release a more comprehensive book.

What is worse, after a period of time, Prof. Greenwich stopped contacting Dr. Blue.

In other words, Prof. Greenwich did not respond to the emails of Dr. Blue.

This made Dr. Blue to take an action: He decided to publish the study himself, not as a chapter but as a book.

So, he tried to extend the literature in his study by specifically searching for newly published studies related to this topic.

While Dr. Blue was reviewing the literature, he came across something shocking.

He checked it many times in order to be sure, but unfortunately, that shocking thing was in front of him, on his laptop screen.

Dr. Blue noticed that his article was already presented and published by Prof. Greenwich in one of the prestigious conferences called ‘International Conference on X and Y Economies’.

As soon as Dr. Blue noticed that Prof. Greenwich had the article published in the conference book on pages 110-125, Dr. Blue sued him for pecuniary and non-pecuniary damages.

In addition, he wrote a petition to Neverland Council of Higher Education and Prof. Greenwich’s workplace, Rabbit Habit University regarding that plagiarism issue.

During the trial, Prof. Greenwich defended himself by stating that *“he used Dr. Blue’s sentences inadvertently and he had no time to paraphrase properly because the conference deadline was tight”*.

His final big excuse was that *“one hasty decision made me act like that”*.