



**European Network  
for Academic  
Integrity**

# **Victim Support Portal – an interactive online platform to support victims of misconduct in research and education**

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Researcher**



**International conference on  
integrity in higher education,  
business and society**

2nd BRIDGE Multiplier event

A one-day online conference co-organized by Kherson National  
Technological University (Ukraine) and Uppsala University (Sweden)

May 18th 2023

# Who are the victims of academic malpractice?



*“My PhD advisor stole my research data!”*

*“One of my co-authors manipulated data and now I’m being accused!”*

*“My paper was plagiarised!”*

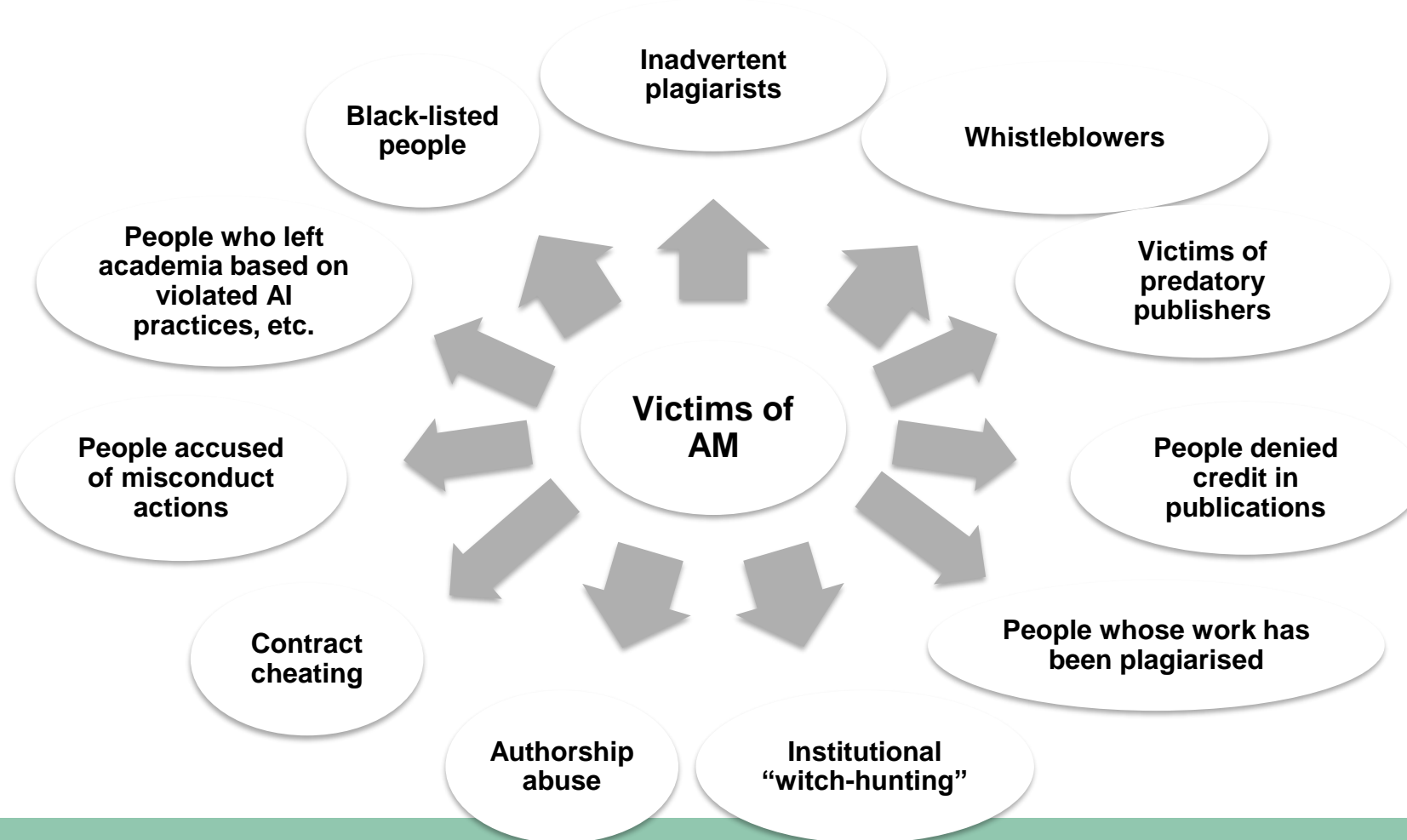


*“My teaching materials are being used elsewhere without my consent!”*

*“I’ve reported a bad action and now I’m being persecuted!”*

*“I’m not a co-author of a paper I did most of the work!”*

# Who are the victims of academic malpractice?

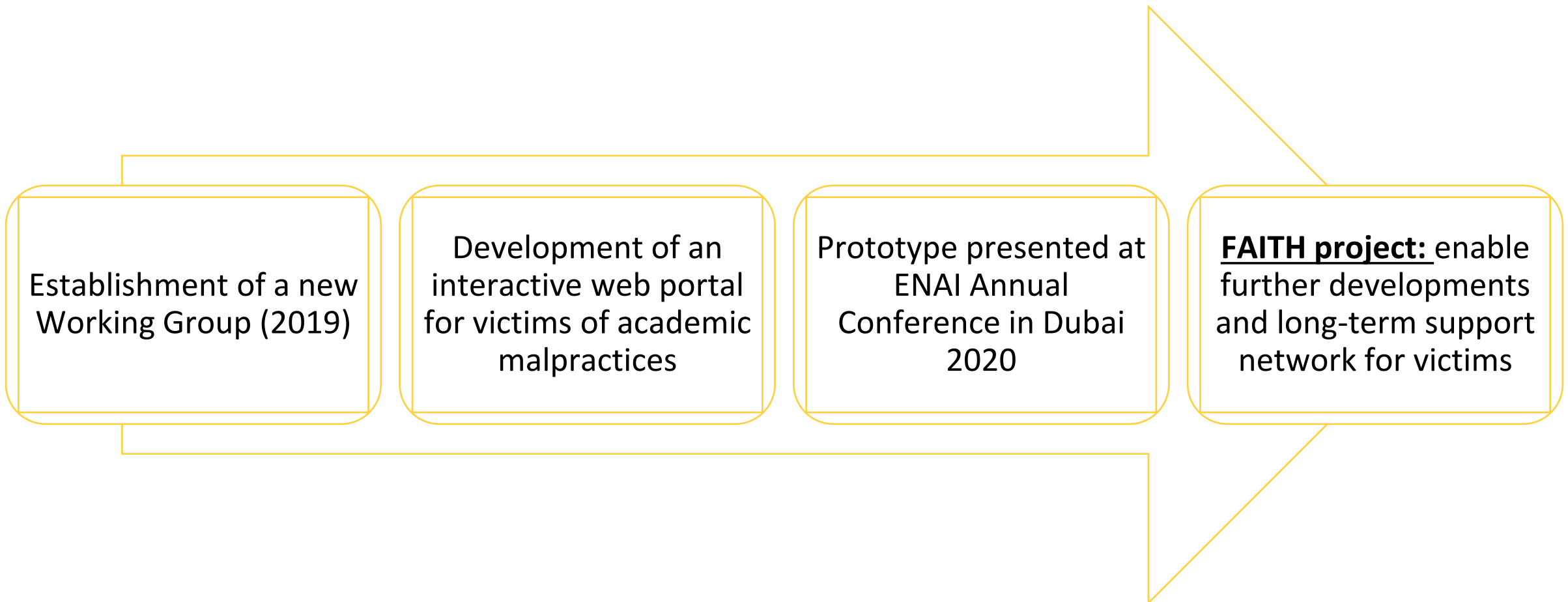


# Do victims of unethical actions feel supported? ENAI

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- ✓ Few research on reporting academic/research misconduct and the impacts on both the victims and the respondents (see Gunsalus, 1998; Bouter & Hendrix, 2017);
- ✓ Filing charges of scientific misconduct can be a risky and dangerous endeavor – whistleblowers often pay a high price!
- ✓ Lack of institutional support mechanisms and formal procedures!
- ✓ Reporting suspected scientific misconduct is a shared and serious responsibility of all scientific community!
- ✓ The two sides of the coin: misconduct or misunderstanding?

# Roots to the Victim Support Portal



# Erasmus+ FAITH project



<https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/faith/>

- ✓ FAITH – Facing Academic Integrity Threats
- ✓ Cooperation partnerships in higher education (2021-1-TR01-KA220-HED-000027559)
- ✓ Timeline: 28th Feb 2022 – 27th Feb 2025 (36 months)
- ✓ Budget: 274,709.00 EUR



## PR1 – Policy for good practice

- Establish a benchmark for minimum standards for Academic Integrity policies in Europe and beyond based on good practice internationally

## PR2 - Proactive approach to deter academic misconduct

- Design evidence-based guidance and training materials on how to prevent, detect and deter academic misconduct

## PR3 – Support for victims of academic misconduct

- Establish an interactive portal and support network for victims of academic misconduct

# Victim Support Portal



<https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/>



Home [Victim Support Portal](#) [Ask a Question](#) [Discussion Forum](#) [Stories](#) [Blog](#) [Resources](#) [FAQs](#) [Login](#) [Registration](#)



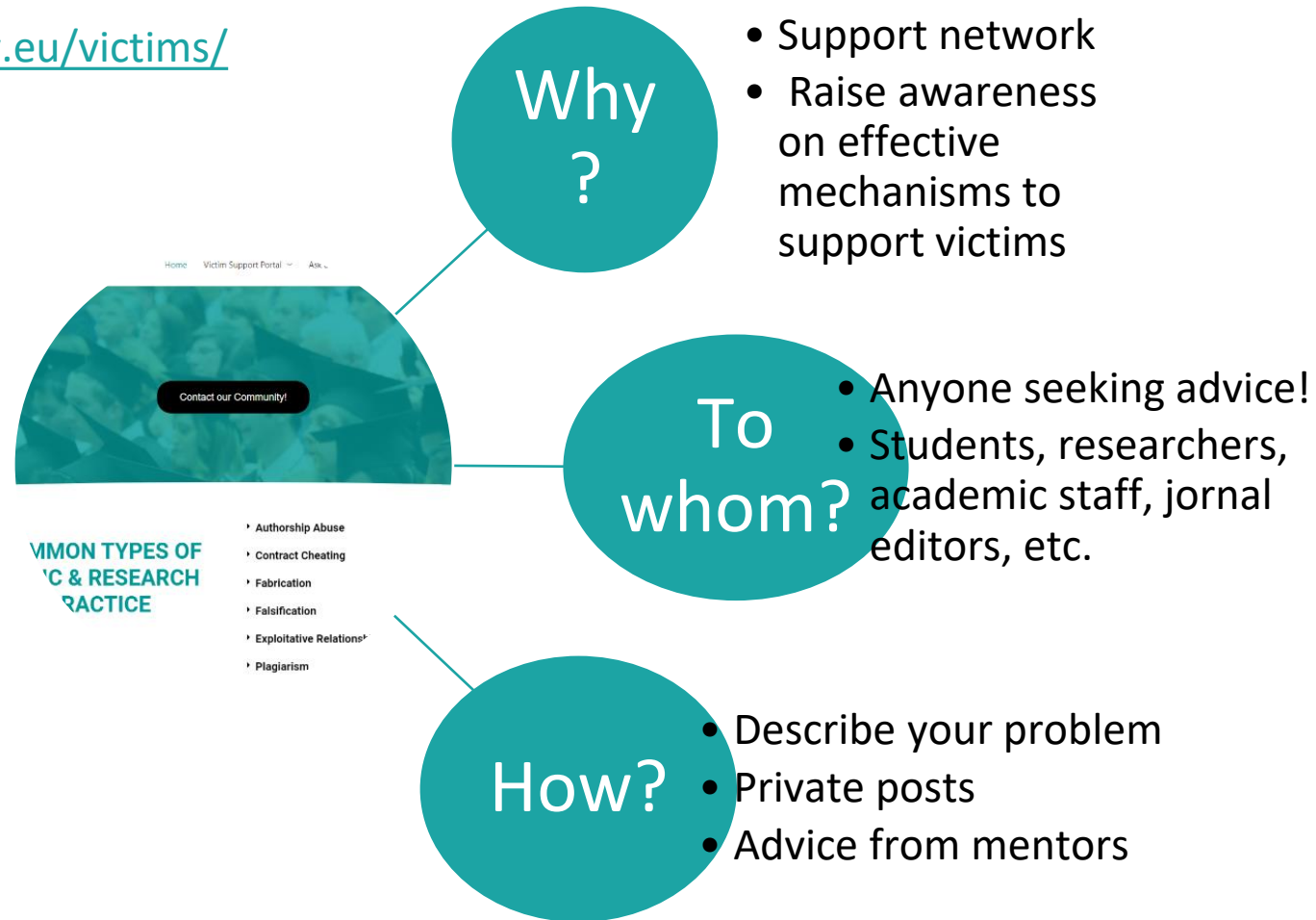
## THE COMMON TYPES OF ACADEMIC & RESEARCH MALPRACTICE

- ▶ Authorship Abuse
- ▶ Contract Cheating
- ▶ Fabrication
- ▶ Falsification
- ▶ Exploitative Relationship
- ▶ Plagiarism

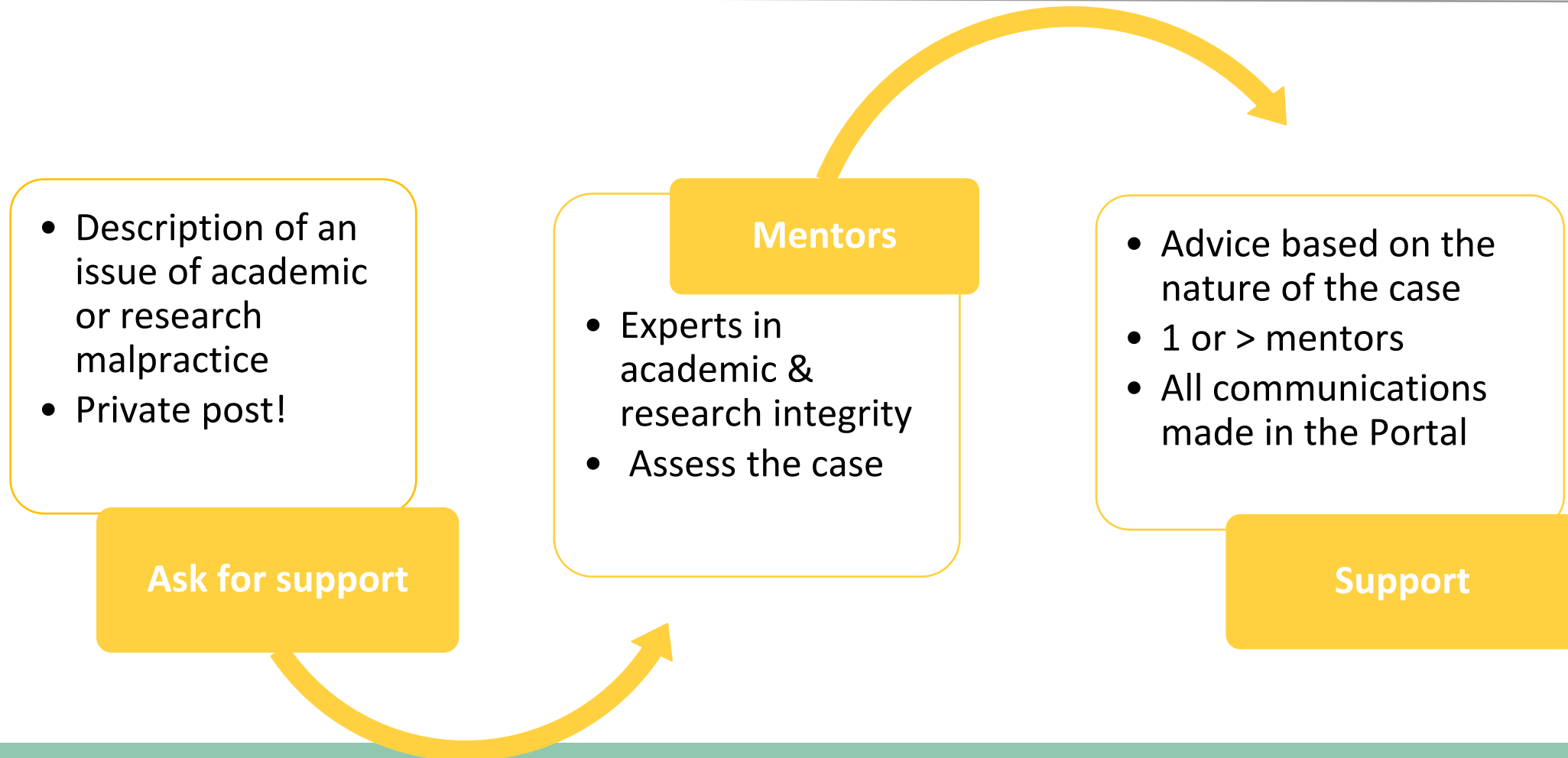


# Victim Support Portal

<https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/>



# How to seek support?



# Meet our Mentors



- ✓ Academics and researchers from the FAITH project and ENAI;
- ✓ Experts in academic and research integrity issues (e.g. plagiarism, authorship, publication ethics; AI policies; etc.)
- ✓ Mentors will be assigned to a case, based on the expertise of the mentor and nature of the case;
- ✓ Victims may choose the mentor (optional).



Rita Santos  
ENAI (Czechia)



Salim Razi  
Canakkale Onsekiz Mart University  
(Türkiye)



Ece Zehir Topkaya  
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Shiva  
Sivasubramaniam  
University of Derby (UK)



Tomáš Foltýnek  
Masaryk University (Czechia)



Irene Glendinning  
Coventry University (UK)



Július Kravjar  
ENAI (Czechia)

# Meet our Mentors



✓ Click on individual mentors to learn more about their expertise!



✓ <https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/list-of-mentors/>



Sonja Bjelobaba  
Uppsala University (Sweden)



Milan Ojsteršek  
University of Maribor (Slovenia)



Özgür Çelik  
Balıkesir University (Türkiye)



Zeenath Reza Khan  
University of Wollongong (Dubai)



Laura Ribeiro  
University of Porto (Portugal)



Teddi Fishman  
Independent Researcher (USA)

# Raising Awareness on Victims of Academic Misconduct



- ✓ Cases made public after receiving informed consent from the victim
- ✓ Raise awareness and support people facing similar problems
- ✓ Interact with others!
- ✓ Comments made public only after assessment of content

## Welcome to the Discussion Forum

Share your situation to get feedback and advice from people who might have experienced similar issues or are knowledgeable in the field. Help us build a community of support for the victims of misconduct and questionable practices in research and education! Share your voice! You are not alone!

**Note:** The cases presented here are based on real events shared by people who have been unfairly disadvantaged by misconduct and questionable practices in research and education. All personal details have been anonymized. Approved consent was received from the subject of this case for it to be published here.

Comments made about the following cases will only be made public after they have been assessed and approved by our team of mentors.

Order By: Active Category × Clear Filter

	<b>My thesis has been plagiarized several times. What can I do?</b> 898 views Rita Santos Changed status to publish 3 hours ago	1 votes	2 ans
	<b>How to deal with a published PhD thesis plagiarizing an Independent research work?</b> 28 views Rita Santos Changed status to publish 3 hours ago	0 votes	2 ans
	<b>Plagiarized Medium article</b> 616 views Tomáš Foltýnek Answered question 23. 4. 2020	0 votes	1 ans

# Raising Awareness on Victims of Academic Misconduct



## Stories



- Real cases of academic and research misconduct
- Open discussions

## Blog



- Personal reflections from mentors & other experts on academic & research malpractice
- Open discussions

## Resources



- Relevant bibliography
- Guideline documents
- Webinar & other educational materials

**You are welcome to contribute with stories, blog posts and resources!**

# Raising Awareness on Victims of Academic Misconduct



## Stories



### What to do when AI tools publish papers t

"Leading international scientists who discovered artificial intelligence that have been published in their name have taken action." Jack Grove. Identity theft victims back legal action against journals Accessed: 16th February 2023  
Times Higher Education, 2nd February  
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/identity-theft-action-against-journals> Accessed: 16th February 2023  
been raised ...



### Fired postdoc faked recommendation letter

Following the filing of a complaint and affidavit in July 2

## Frequently Asked Questions

Here you may find useful information about the Victim Support Portal and the answers to your questions. If you don't find an answer to your question, please email us at: [victims@academicintegrity.eu](mailto:victims@academicintegrity.eu). We hope that you will find useful tips and information here.

### About the Portal

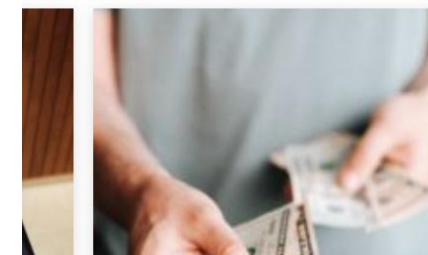
- + Why was the Victim Support Portal created?
- + Can I disseminate the Victim Support Portal to my Institutional and personal contacts and social media?
- + Can I use the documents and other resources available in the Portal?

### Asking a question or sharing a situation

- How can I ask a question or share a problem of misconduct or questionable practice in research or education that I am currently experiencing?

You may ask a question or share a problem of misconduct or questionable practice in research or education that you are currently experiencing using the Menu "Ask a Question". You will be asked to provide a title and a description of your problem. You will also be asked to select one or more categories that best describe your situation. If you wish, you may select one or more mentors to support you in finding a solution to your problem. All requests submitted will be private by default and only visible to our mentors.

d network on issues related to academic and research research.



Contract cheating – a problem that probably won't cool down anytime soon

ber  
19  
Are you reading a paper and suspect that the paper was not written by the person who submitted it? This problem...

Read More



Julius Kravjar  
19. 1. 2023

# Victim Support Portal - Impact



- ✓ > 7,000 page views
- ✓ > 600 users
- ✓ > 50 countries
- ✓ 9 cases supported
- ✓ 2 cases made public
- ✓ Main issues: plagiarism, data manipulation, peer-review and authorship, work dispute
- ✓ Conference presentations, partners' local presentations, interview, webinar, leaflet



COUNTRY	USERS
United Kingdom	104
United States	88
Portugal	75
Czechia	38
Slovakia	38
Turkey	30
Slovenia	27



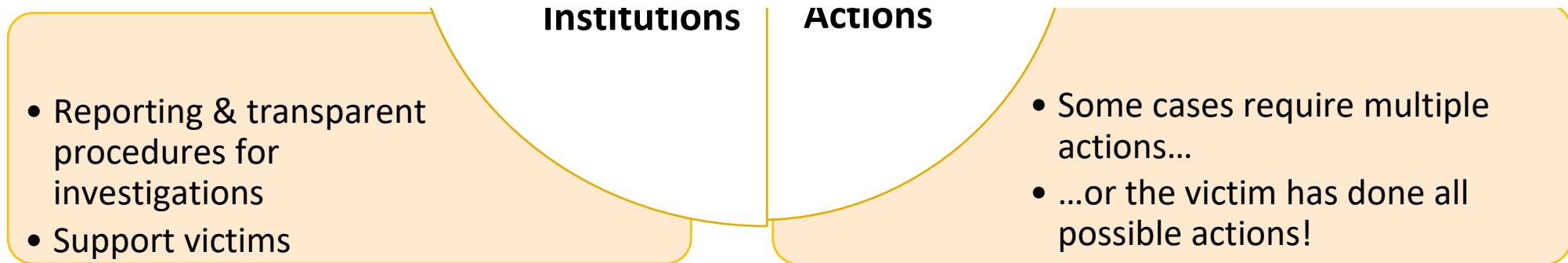
# Supporting Victims – Lessons learned from the Portal



Dear all,

Thank you so much for your response to my case. I would like to express my gratitude to all the mentors for their time and expertise. Thank you for the detailed steps on the letters's content – that's very helpful. I'm glad that this forum exists and that you are open to the community regardless of background. It has been challenging as an independent to push back on the University and be heard, and it was very reassuring to have your input, support and opportunity to share my experience with others.

With gratitude,



# Thank you for your attention!



## Contact us anytime!

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