

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN THE LUXEMBOURG NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND (FNR) AND THE LUXEMBOURG AGENCY FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY (LARI)

As a Member Organization of the Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI), the Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR) has delegated the responsibility to investigate cases of alleged research misconduct and other unacceptable research practices related to research funded by the FNR to LARI's National Commission for Research Integrity (CRI). The roles, responsibilities and operating procedures of LARI in general and the CRI in particular as well as the obligations of LARI Member Organizations during and after inquiries and investigations are described in the *Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity*.

This Memorandum of Understanding supplements the Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity by describing the interaction between the FNR and LARI during inquiries and investigations in more detail. The document sets forth key principles and standard operating procedures with the objective to strike a balance between the need for the FNR to collaborate and be informed about cases of alleged research misconduct and other unacceptable research practices related to FNR-funded research and the need for the FNR to keep an unbiased and neutral perspective on the projects and researchers they fund.

The *Memorandum of Understanding* outlines procedures based on the presumption of innocence and aims to protect researchers as well as the legitimate interests of the FNR. Insofar as CRI inquiries and investigations are concerned, it should always be presumed that researchers follow good research practices until an investigation has concluded otherwise.

There shall be **two contact points** for LARI at the FNR during and after investigations of cases of alleged research misconduct and other unacceptable research practices: 1) the **Secretary General** and 2) the **Research Integrity Officer**.

If LARI seeks information on the funding status of researchers to whom the allegations refer during inquiries into cases of alleged research misconduct and other unacceptable research practices as defined in Section 7 of the *Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity*, access to relevant project administrative data information will be provided through a secure online platform without involvement of FNR personnel.

SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General shall be the designated interlocutor for LARI regarding **notifications** of the CRI's **decision to launch an investigation**. If an investigation involves research funded by the FNR, the FNR is considered a LARI Member Organization directly involved in the case.

The Secretary General shall also be the designated interlocutor for LARI **at the end of and after the investigation** as defined in Section 11 of the *Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity* and **whenever special preventive measures during an investigation are deemed necessary by the CRI** as defined in Article 9.6. The **objective** of the interaction between LARI and the Secretary General at the end of and after the investigation shall be to **inform the FNR whether research misconduct or other unacceptable research practices did occur and give**

recommendations on corrective, restorative, and/or preventive measures if and to the extent considered necessary and appropriate by the CRI and to ensure preventive actions are undertaken by the FNR during an investigation if such measures could prevent damages.

If the investigated case of alleged research misconduct or other unacceptable research practices involves research funded by the FNR, the FNR will receive the CRI's Final Report in accordance with Section 11 of the *Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity*. Final Reports will be sent to the Secretary General in her/his capacity as the FNR's chief executive officer with overall responsibility for ensuring the implementation of recommendations.

In exceptional circumstances, the Secretary General will be contacted by LARI during an investigation. This will be the case if the CRI concludes during an investigation that special preventive measures by the FNR are necessary to prevent damage.

If credible evidence clearly indicates that preventable damage could occur if no action by the FNR were undertaken, the CRI will ask the FNR to immediately put on-hold the disbursement of grant payments that have not yet been made and take all other actions in its power to prevent damage.

RESEARCH INTEGRITY OFFICER

The Research Integrity Officer shall be the interlocutor for LARI **during the investigation** as defined in Section 9 of the *Rules of Procedure for the National Commission for Research Integrity*. The **objective** of the interaction between LARI and the Research Integrity Officer at this stage shall be to **ensure effective collaboration between the FNR and the CRI during an investigation.**

The Research Integrity Officer shall be authorized to exchange confidential information with LARI as needed during an investigation and be bound by a non-disclosure agreement not to share any confidential information obtained during interactions with LARI with anyone other than members of the CRI or LARI's Secretariat. At the point of the interaction between LARI and the Research Integrity Officer, an investigation will have been launched and will be ongoing. Requests for information by the CRI at this stage may pertain to all aspects of the project(s) under investigation if the CRI has reason to believe that the FNR may have access to relevant information.

For each Party, the Memorandum of Understanding will come into force on the date of signature by the Party's authorized representative and shall remain in force for a period of 1 year.

The Memorandum of Understanding may be amended or modified by written agreement of all signatories or their substitutes.

This Memorandum of Understanding is a mutual statement of intent among Parties, who agree to make every reasonable effort to fulfil the intentions expressed herein.

Luxembourg National Research Fund (FNR)

Name of signatory: Andreea Monnat

Position: Acting Secretary General

Date: 03-Feb-2025 | 14:47 CET

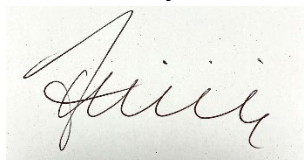


Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI)

Name of signatory: Mr Jean-Claude WIWINIUS

Position: Chair of the Board of Directors

Date: January 31st, 2025



Name of signatory: Mme Professor Dr Babette SIMON

Position: Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors

Date: January 31st, 2025

