

# the embassy of good science

Your platform for research  
integrity and ethics.

**Presentation by Natalie Evans**

**Assistant Professor**

**Amsterdam University Medical Centers**



The EnTIRE and VIRT2UE projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreements N 741782 and N 787580.



# Why we're building this for the research community

*The relevance of this platform*



The EnTIRE and VIRT2UE projects have received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreements N 741782 and N 787580.

*Complex normative  
framework*

*New technologies and  
methods*

*The relevance of this platform*

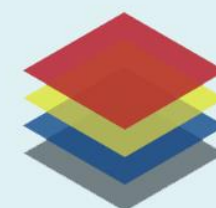
*“ Conduct high quality research and achieve  
good and relevant results*

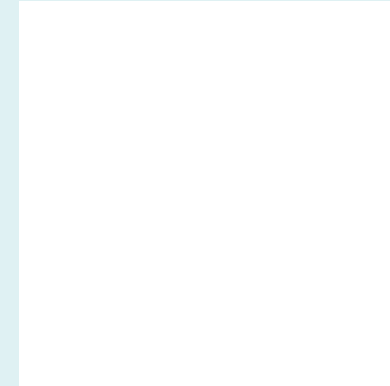
*Pressure to  
publish*

*Participatory and  
stakeholder driven  
research*



The Ethics Codes  
Collection





# By researchers, for researchers

*Who are launching this  
platform? And for who?*

# With a network of institutions...

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## We consulted stakeholders all over Europe...

- Belgium
- Croatia
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- The Netherlands
- Portugal
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Ukraine



**Launching a  
platform for  
researchers  
worldwide.**



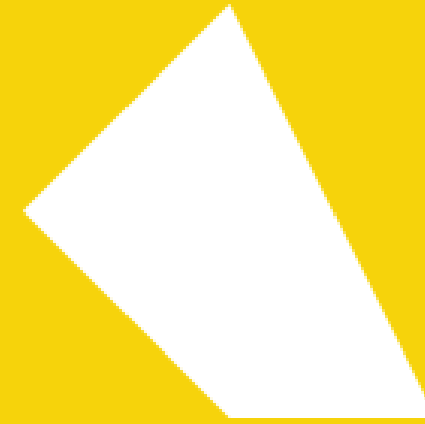


# Your platform for research integrity and ethics

▶ The Embassy story 2:07 min

[What's here for me?](#)





**Theme pages**



# Themes

about important Good Science themes that will stimulate  
ness and dialogue around relevant issues or 'hot topics'. We  
invite you to add or edit the pages in this section.

+ Add Theme

## Good Practices

115 themes

## Misconduct & Misbehaviors

46 themes

## All Themes

176 themes

### Questionable Research Practices in Analysis and Reporting

Data driven hypotheses without disclosure ('HARKing')

Duplicate publications and secondary publications

Improper data use (a bias distorting research results)

Inaccurate representation of results in the media

Inferring from P-values

Insufficiently reported study flaws and limitations

Non-reporting of negative findings

Outcome reporting bias

P-value hacking

Publication bias (positive results)

Salami publication

Conflict of interest in peer review

Editorial conflicts of interest

Intellectual conflicts of interest

The influence of pharmaceutical company on drug availability

### Questionable Research Practices in Data Collection

Inadequately handle or store data or (bio)materials

Keeping inadequate notes of the research process

### Questionable Research Practices in Study Design

Inappropriate study design

Non-disclosure of changes to the research design

Posing irrelevant research questions

### Questionable Research Practices in Collaboration

(re)submitting manuscripts

Fake peer-review

Gender bias

Hostile peer review

Inappropriate

Self-plagiarism

Turning a blind eye to research integrity

Unfair review

### Research misconduct

Fabrication

Falsification

Dissemination

# Insufficiently reported study flaws and limitations

## What is this about?

Every research has its flaws and limitations, a failure to report these however is a questionable research practice. Insufficiently reported study flaws and limitations are considered one of the most common questionable research practices or examples of ‘sloppy science’. Since these ‘sloppy’ practices are much more frequent, they are arguably more detrimental to science than research misconduct (falsification, fabrication, and plagiarism) <sup>[1]</sup>.

## Why is this important?

There is no such thing as perfect research. Every study, whether it is experimental or observational, has its limitations and deficiencies that can influence outcomes of the research <sup>[2]</sup>. Not reporting them properly is dangerous, because it could lead to over-confidence in flawed findings <sup>[1]</sup>. This, consequently, could reflect negatively on trust between scientists and decrease the public trust in science <sup>[4]</sup>. Different types of limitations that can occur during the research process in the first place are related to sample size, methodology, lack of resources and time constraints <sup>[6]</sup>.

Since limitations are a natural part of the research process, they should be fully reported and described. Reporting flaws and limitations shows that a researcher fully understands the topic <sup>[2]</sup>, informs and gives readers an opportunity to detect existing gaps in research <sup>[2]</sup> and provides them with a

✎ edit

⋮

Any questions or experiences to share?

Join our discussions >

### Related Resources

#### Guidelines

**Edanz. Writing Point: How To Write About Your Study Limitations Without Limiting Your Impact**

🔗 [Open](#) ⓘ [About](#)

#### Guidelines

**Organizing Academic Research Papers: Limitations of the Study**

🔗 [Open](#) ⓘ [About](#)

#### Cases

**Limitations are not properly acknowledged in the scientific literature**

🔗 [Open](#) ⓘ [About](#)

[◀ Themes](#)

# Edit a theme

We invite you to share your knowledge and write about a theme which you find relevant, interesting or controversial. You can share your own expertise, present your new initiative, write a commentary about one of the resources hosted on The Embassy, or simply describe a topic that you think should be shared with the research community.

Before you submit, please be aware of our [community guidelines](#).

## Theme

### Type

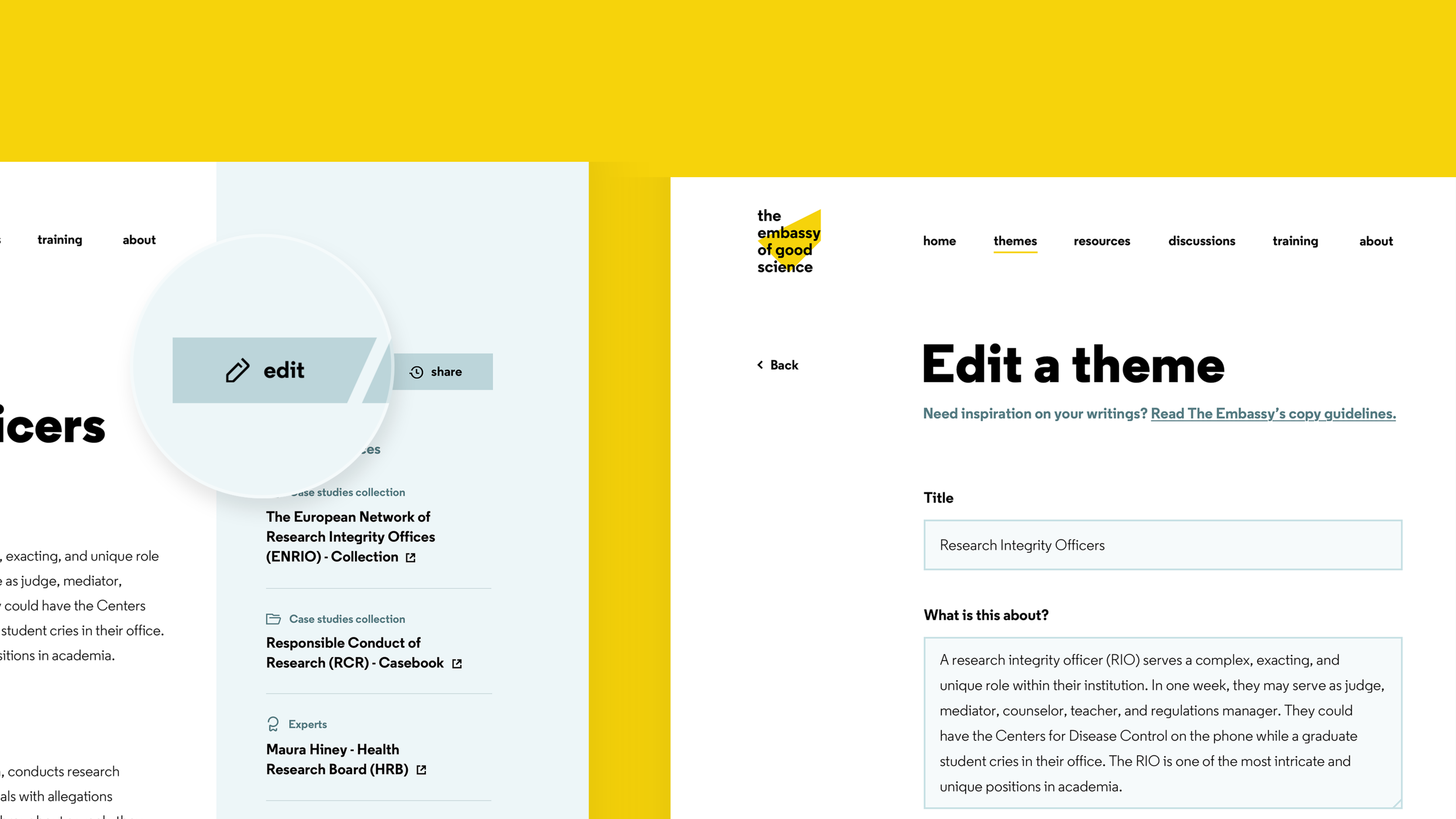
- ☒ Principles & Aspirations ☐ Good Practices ☐ Misconduct & Misbehaviors  
☐ Other

### Parent Theme

Keep it short: what is this about. What can we expect from this?  
Why would you want to experience this? If applicable, use a theme page to explain the theoretical background instead of describing it here.

### What is this about











# Officers

, exacting, and unique role  
e as judge, mediator,  
r could have the Centers  
student cries in their office.  
positions in academia.

, conducts research  
als with allegations  
omplaints and the

 edit

 share

-  Case studies collection
- The European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO) - Collection** 
-  Case studies collection
- Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) - Casebook** 
-  Experts
- Maura Hiney - Health Research Board (HRB)** 

< Back

# Edit a theme

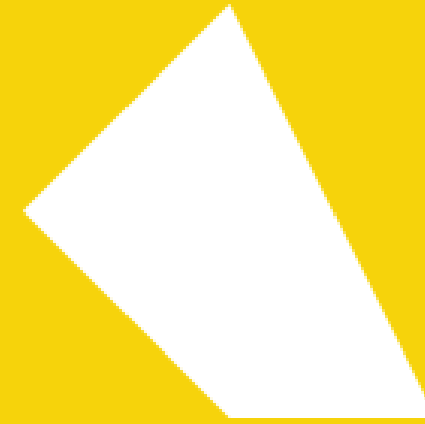
Need inspiration on your writings? [Read The Embassy's copy guidelines.](#)

## Title

Research Integrity Officers

## What is this about?

A research integrity officer (RIO) serves a complex, exacting, and unique role within their institution. In one week, they may serve as judge, mediator, counselor, teacher, and regulations manager. They could have the Centers for Disease Control on the phone while a graduate student cries in their office. The RIO is one of the most intricate and unique positions in academia.



# Resources



# Resources

[+ Add Resource](#)

Materials that help you in your every-day research practice to do Good Science.



## Guidelines

123 resources



## Cases

436 resources



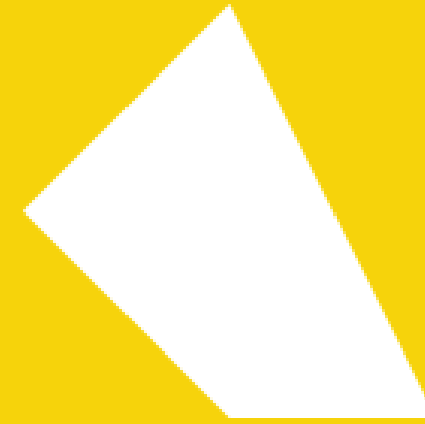
## Education

251 resources



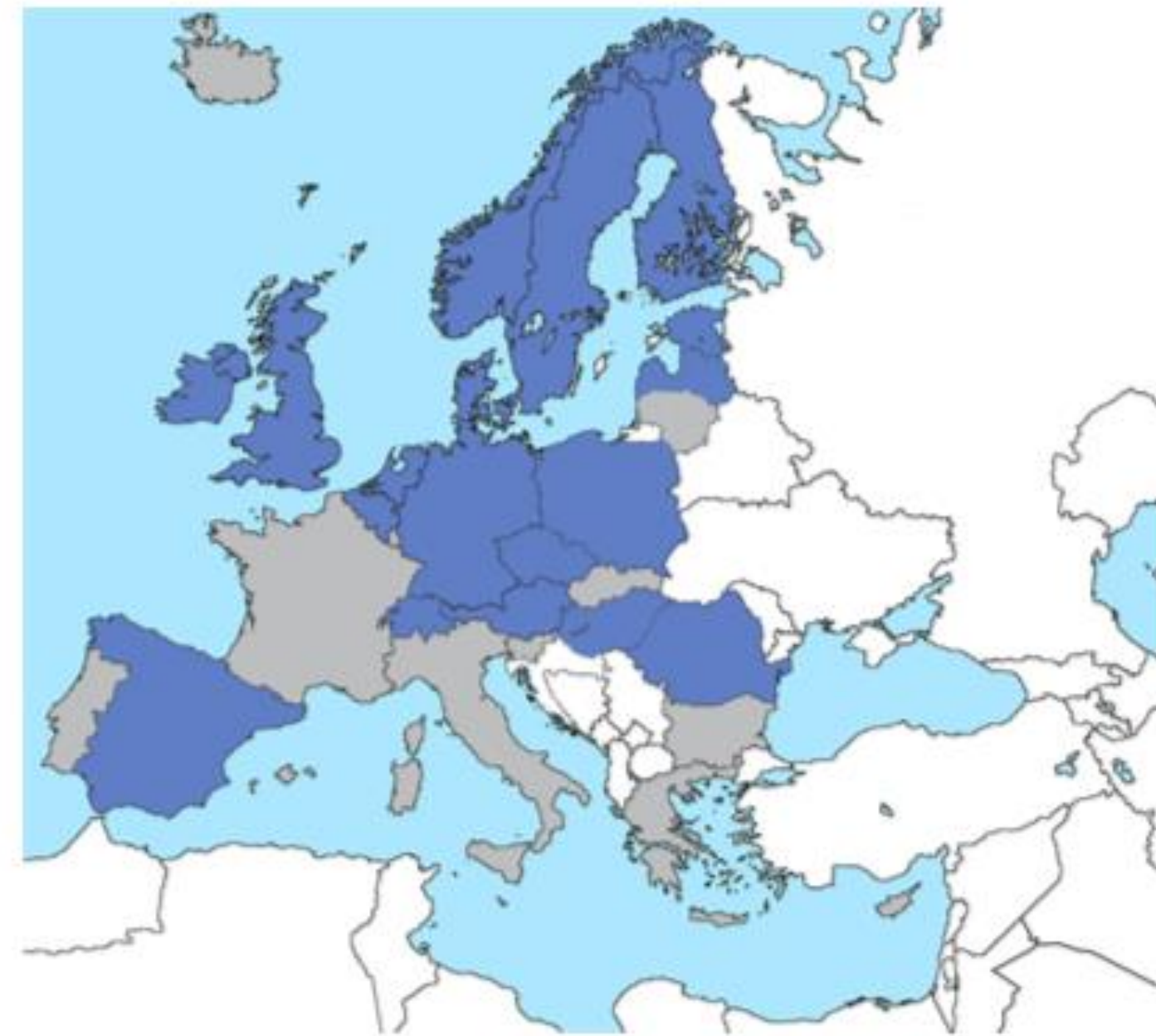
## All Resources

836 resources

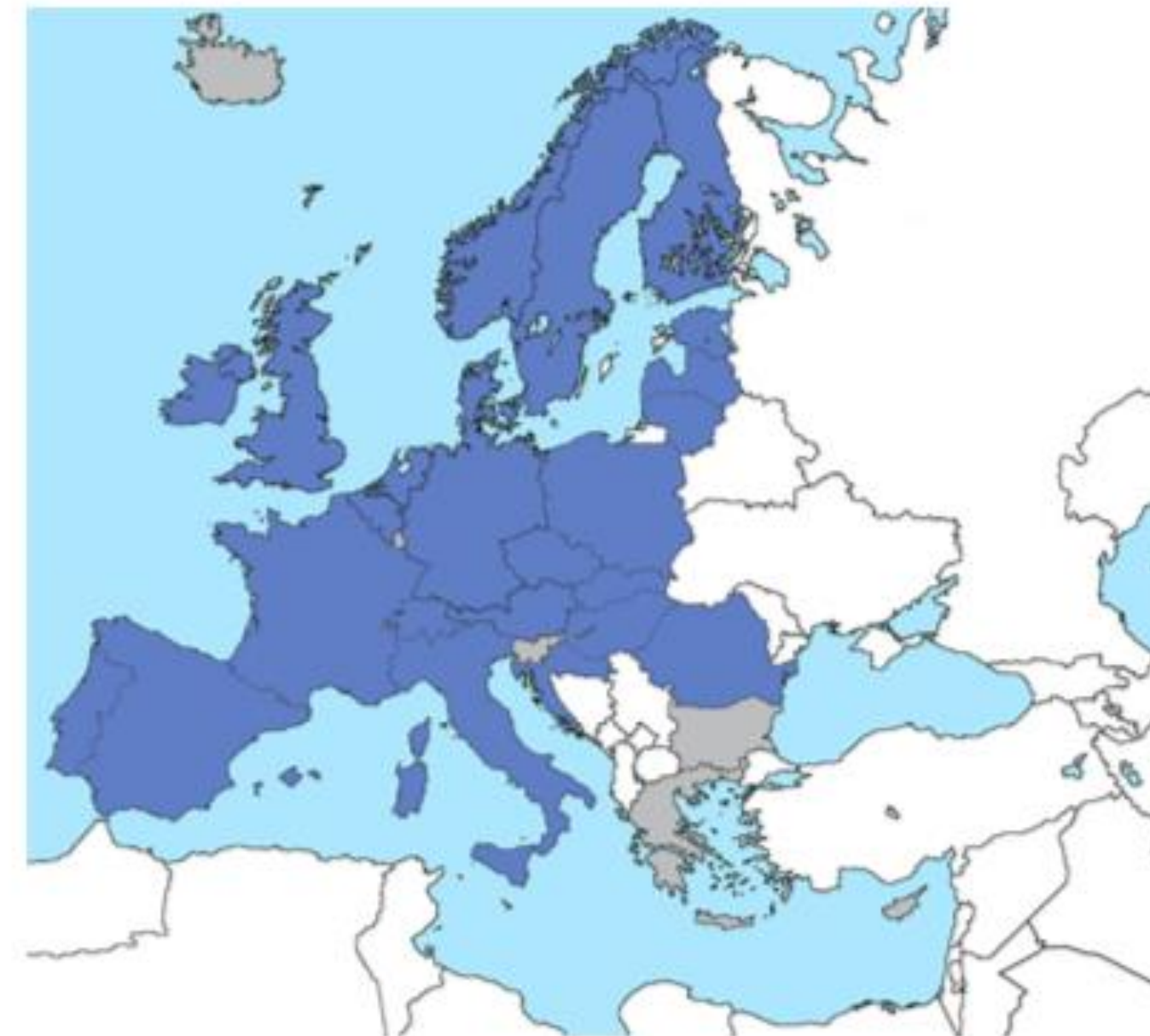


# **Resources: Guidelines**

# National research integrity guidance



2012



2020

Countries with leading regulatory documents concerning RI in 2012 (left) and 2020 (right).



=

Leading national-level code  
not found

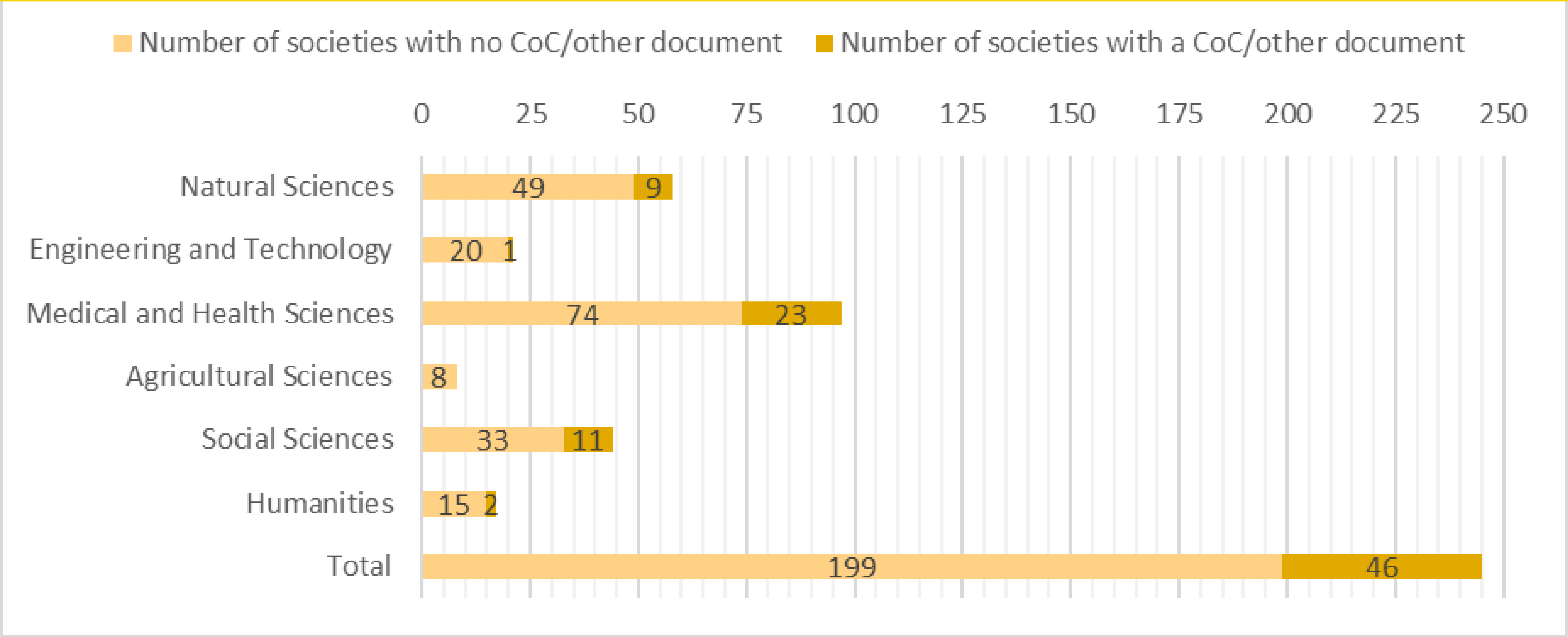


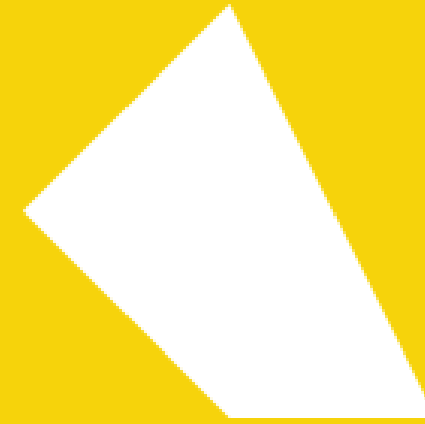
=

Leading national-level code  
present



# Discipline specific guidance on research integrity





# **Resources: Cases and Scenarios**

# Real case descriptions

the embassy of good science

home themes resources discussions training about

search the embassy

Back

Cases

Add Resource

In research, sometimes things go wrong. The reasons are diverse and not always easy to identify. Here you will find a selection of research ethics and research integrity cases, to learn from mistakes and foster debate around them.

Cases

For whom is this important? Research Area Who When

+ More filters

436 Resources ordered by recently added

Cases

"A Little Thing Like Plagiarism"

Open About

Cases

"Hot" Gifts

Open About

Cases

'Climate Skeptio' Journal Shuttered Following 'Malpractice' in 'Nepotistio' Reviewer Selections

(17-1-2014)

Open About

Cases

'I am really sorry': Peer Reviewer Stole Text for Own Paper

Retraction Watch(14-3-2016)

Open About

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Resources

Cases

## A Japanese developmental biology center, scientific misconduct and suicide

### What is this about?

In 2014 in a stem cell research institute in Japan a research misconduct case came to light. The case was excessively covered by the media, with the media not only portraying the accused scientists as perpetrators, but criticizing the entire research centre. One of the members of the research centre committed suicide, causing upheaval in the Japanese research scene. As the case describes, the damage of the scientific misconduct reaches far beyond the misconduct itself.

### Why is this important?

Scientific misconduct cases should be dealt with carefully, with appropriate protections in place for those that did not commit the misconduct. The 'side effects' of misconduct, including reputational damage, should be minimized or restored when a person or institute has been inaccurately accused of misconduct.

### For whom is this important?

Researchers Early career researchers PhD students Research performing organisations Research funding organisations Media

### Other information

When	Where
2014	Japan
Virtues & Values	Good Practices & Misconduct
Reliability Honesty	Fabrication Falsification

open resource

### Any questions or experiences to share?

Join our discussions

#### Related Resources

Cases

##### The Saga of Korean Women Who Provided Eggs for Embryonic Stem Cell Research

Open About

#### Related Themes

"Mat da billion blood" (airing your...)

Fabrication

# Hypothetical scenarios



## Training, Supervision and Mentoring with Integrity: An Educational Scenario by the EnTIRE project

### Background

Professor Donnadiou, working as an expert in computational archaeology at a prestigious university in Paris, is principal investigator for a large European research project on archaeological innovation. He is the leader of a challenging work package on sustainable archaeology, involving four other partners from universities in Bologna, Thessaloniki, Haifa and Oxford.<sup>1</sup> Donnadiou is the only full professor in the work package; the others are all early- or mid-career researchers with backgrounds ranging from archaeology and social science to ethics. One of the more ambitious work package deliverables is to develop a Global Ethics Code for Archaeological Research. The overall coordinator of the European research project is Professor Poortenwitz from Potsdam, famous for developing new approaches to surveying archaeological landscapes with drones and artificial-intelligence-led spatial data analysis.

<sup>1</sup> The scenario is completely fictional.

### Issue 1

To get a better idea of the kind of ethical issues experienced by archaeologists in the field, the members of the sustainable archaeology work package decide to conduct a series of surveys and interviews amongst archaeologists. Research protocols are submitted to the respective research ethics committees in the partner universities. Unfortunately, the research ethics committee in Haifa, which is dominated by members with a medical and life sciences background, keeps asking critical questions about the grounded theory approach proposed by the researchers. It turns out that the Haifa research ethics committee has only recently started to broaden their scope and assess research protocols outside of the fields of medicine and the life sciences. The Haifa research ethics

committee members seem to lack a genuine appreciation and thorough understanding of certain research methodologies developed in

the social sciences and humanities that do not easily harmonize with the hypothetico-deductive approach that they are familiar with.

### 1a. Questions for Research Administrators

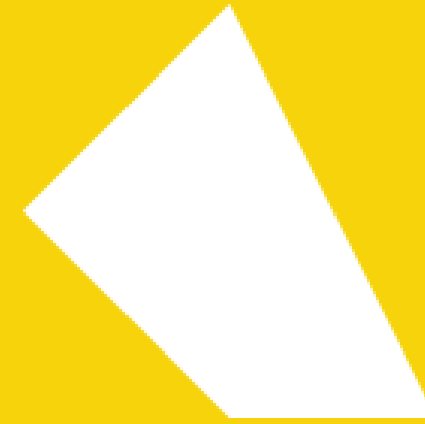
1. Should universities provide the members of their research ethics committee with regular training in research design, methodology and analysis of a wide variety of disciplines so that they are better equipped to deal with research protocols that come their way? What are your reasons? How could your institution provide such training in a way that is sustainable and cost-efficient?

### 1b. Questions for Research Ethics Committees and Research Integrity Offices

1. Are members of research ethics committees responsible for ensuring that they are sufficiently familiar with research designs, methodologies and analytical tools of a wide variety of disciplines in order to assess research protocols? What are your reasons? If there was a lack of knowledge regarding a particular research design or methodology, how might your committee address the knowledge gap in order to assess the protocol?
2. Do university research integrity offices have a duty to investigate complaints against their research ethics committee in cases where the committee is alleged to be biased against certain minority disciplines? Would your university's codes and guidelines relating to research integrity be able to capture such a complaint? If such a complaint was deemed to be founded, what sanctions and recommendations could your research integrity office impose on members of the research ethics committee?

### 1c. Questions for Researchers

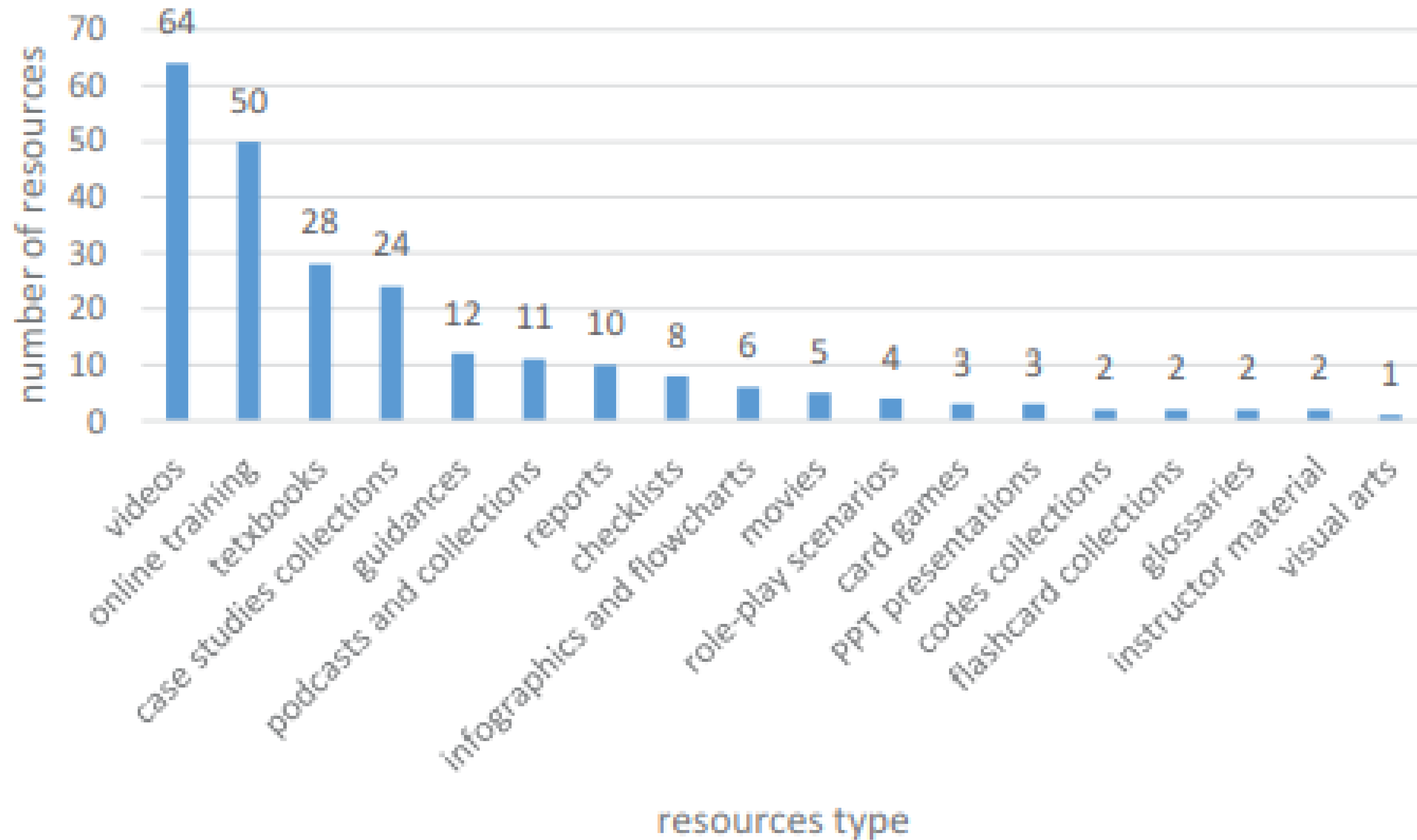
1. If you found that your university's research ethics committee was either unwilling or unable to deal with your submitted protocol in a satisfactory manner, what steps could you take to address the issue?



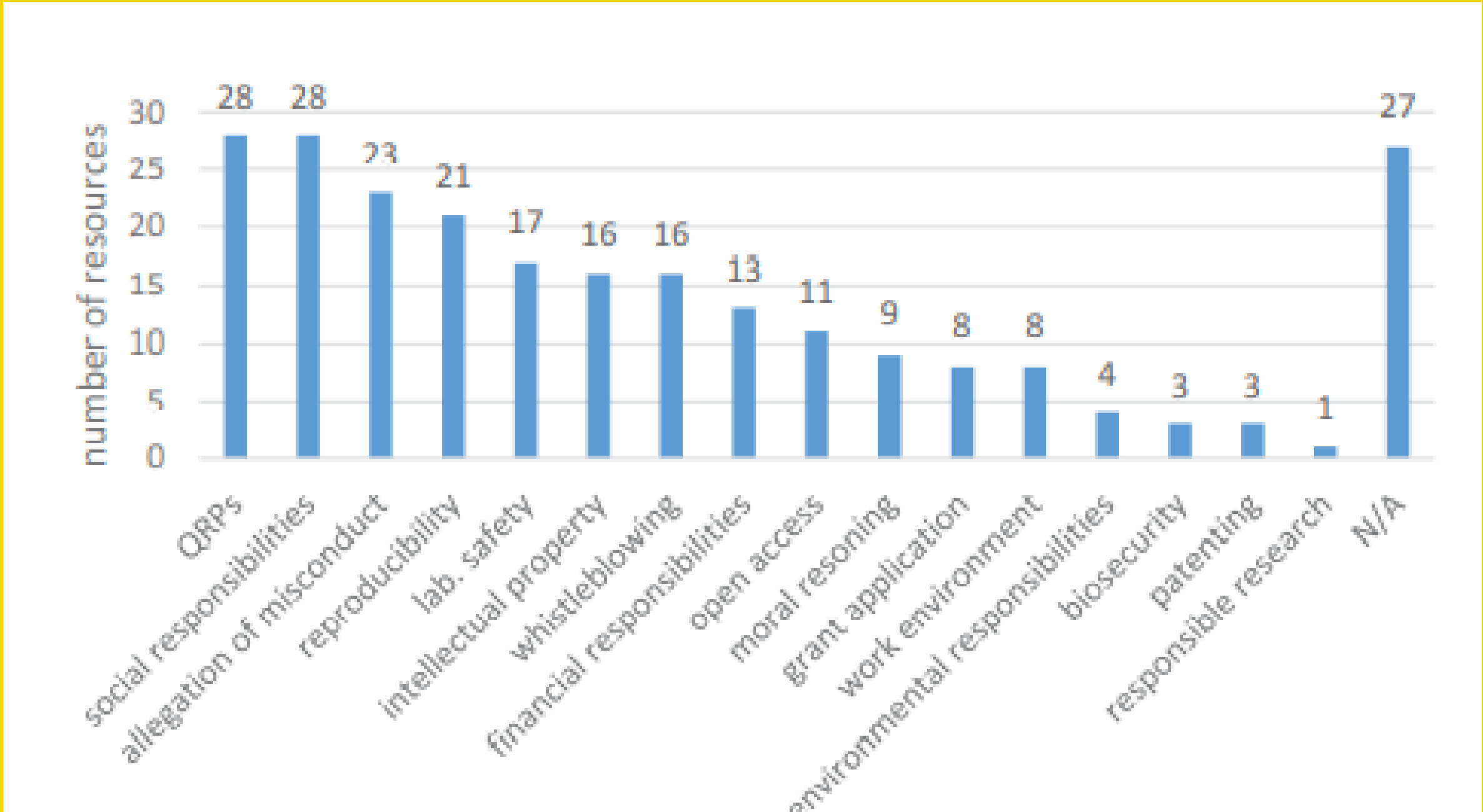
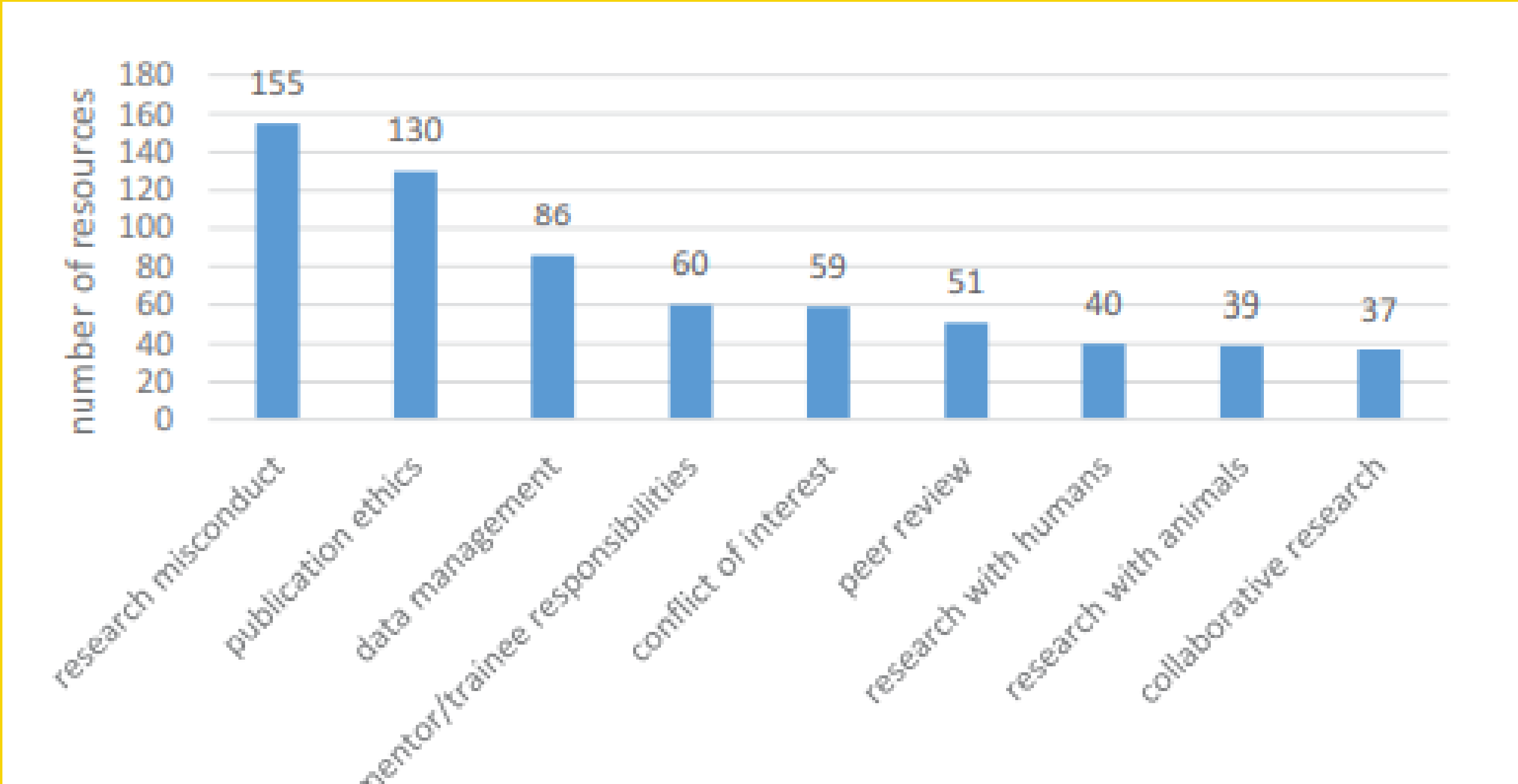
# Resources: Education

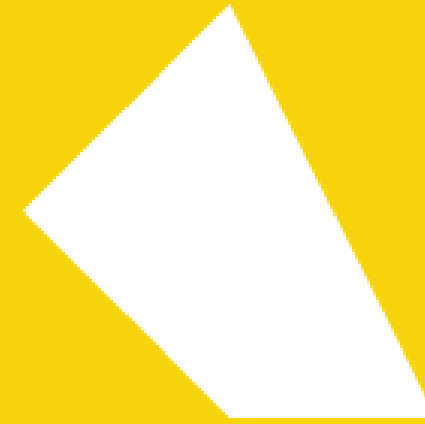


## Existing educational resources



# Covering a range of topics

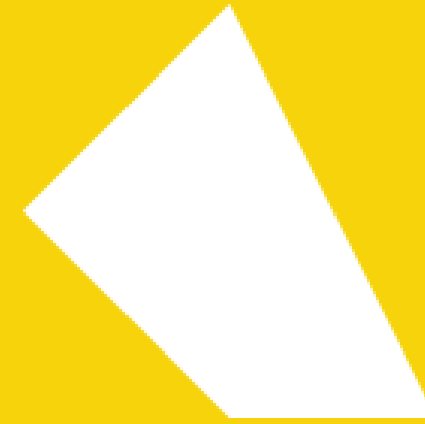




**Training**



**TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM**



**Community**



# Community

+ Add

Updates from the community of research integrity and ethics.



## Initiatives

Projects that support research ethics and integrity



## News

The latest news from the community



## Events

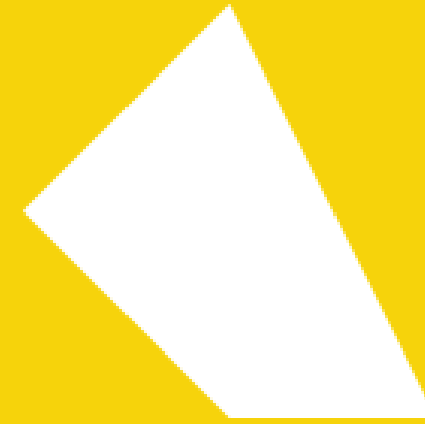
Participate or join online



## Q&A

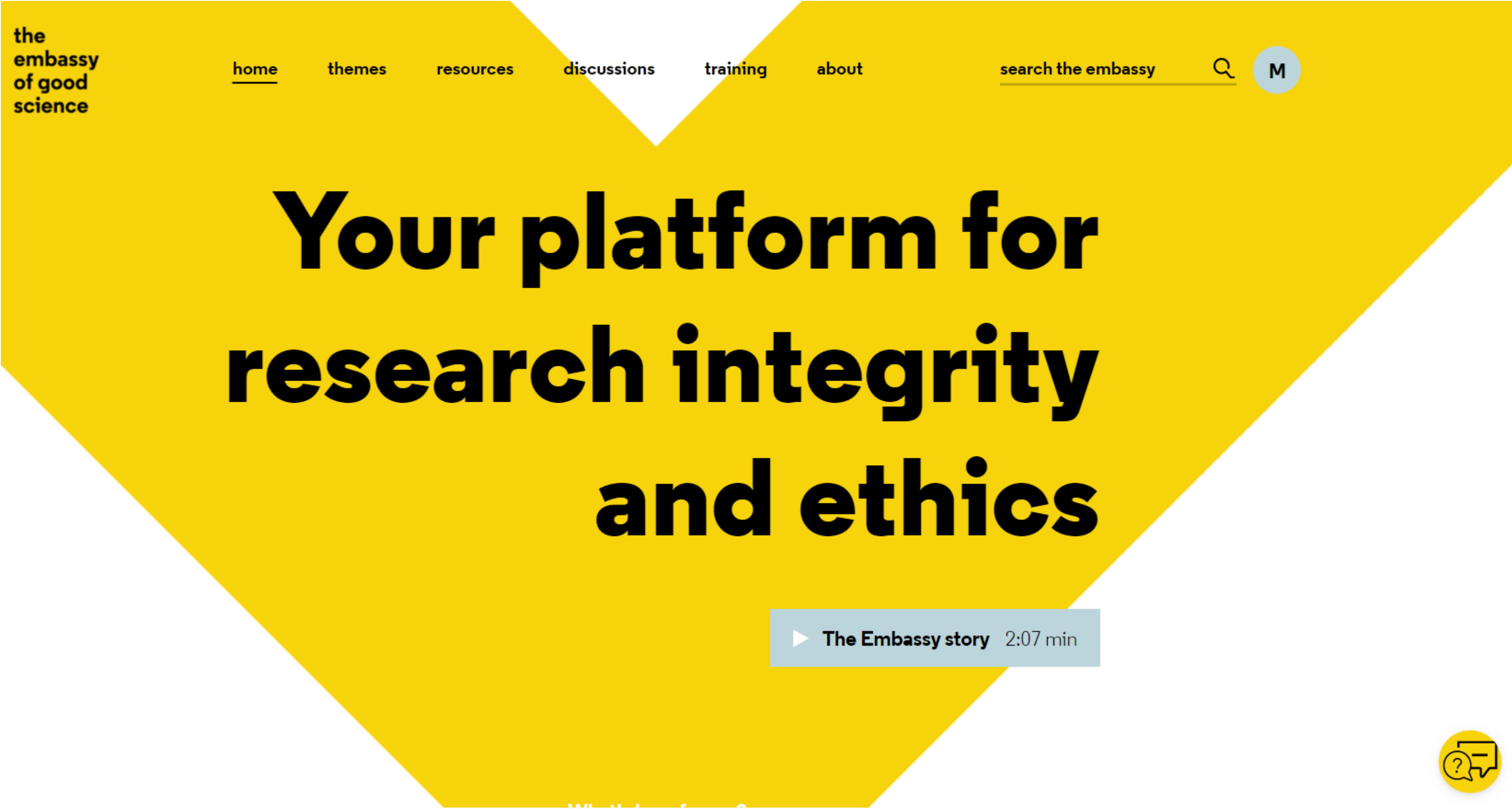
Consult experts & your peers





**Evaluation**

# What's new - Evaluation



# What's new - Evaluation

The screenshot displays the homepage of 'the embassy of good science'. The website has a bright yellow header with a navigation menu including 'home', 'themes', 'resources', 'discussions', 'training', and 'about'. A search bar and a user profile icon labeled 'M' are also present. The main content area features large, bold text: 'Your platform for research integrity and ethics'. A video player thumbnail for 'The Embassy story' (2:07 min) is visible. A white survey modal is open on the right, containing the organization's logo, a request for user feedback, and a 'Start' button. A yellow close button is located at the bottom right of the modal.

the embassy of good science

[home](#) [themes](#) [resources](#) [discussions](#) [training](#) [about](#) [search the embassy](#) M

# Your platform for research integrity and ethics

▶ The Embassy story 2:07 min

the embassy of good science

Share your opinion by answering a few short questions, so we can improve. Instructions and more about how we treat your privacy [here](#).

Start

×

# What's new - Evaluation

The screenshot shows the homepage of 'the embassy of good science'. The header includes a navigation menu with links: home, themes, resources, discussions, training, and about. A search bar labeled 'search the embassy' and a user profile icon 'M' are also present. The main content area features a large yellow background with the text 'Your platform for research integrity and ethics'. A video player at the bottom right shows 'The Embassy story' with a duration of 2:07 min. A survey modal is open on the right side, titled 'the embassy of good science', with the text 'Share your opinion by answering a few short questions, so we can improve. Instructions and more about how we treat your privacy [here](#).' and a 'Start' button. A yellow close button with an 'X' is located at the bottom right of the modal.

the embassy of good science

home themes resources discussions training about search the embassy M

## Your platform for research integrity and ethics

▶ The Embassy story 2:07 min

the embassy of good science

Share your opinion by answering a few short questions, so we can improve. Instructions and more about how we treat your privacy [here](#).

Start

×

Leave your opinion!

# the embassy of good science



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# the embassy of good science



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