



Transparency strategy

Ethics in doing and communicating science



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Introduction

Societal expectations in relation to the accountability of, and engagement with Research and knowledge brokering organizations, like the PAPILLONS consortium, have evolved to the point that could question ability of these organizations to respond to it. Being engaged with a large number of interested parties and civil society stakeholders, the PAPILLONS consortium is committed to provide the highest level of trust and credibility through transparency and close involvement of stakeholders in the scientific process. PAPILLONS considers that a more meaningful engagement with a wider range of stakeholders will raise the quality of and impact of its work.

The PAPILLONS team strive to do and disseminate science using the highest standard of transparency, accountability, rigorousness, independence and open partnership with all stakeholders.

This document describes ethical statements inherent to the general conduct and dissemination of scientific work by the PAPILLONS consortium. PAPILLONS adopts the general ethical guidelines issued through the EU Regulation No 1291/2013 completed with the universal ethical guidelines for conducting science and reporting scientific results (for reference, please visit <https://www.forskningsetikk.no/en/about-us/our-committees-and-commission/nent/guidelines-nent/> - Norwegian National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology (NENT).

Gender equality, ethnicity, and culture aspects

PAPILLONS Partners will ensure the effective promotion of gender equality and the gender dimension in research. Particular attention will be paid to ensure gender balance in evaluation panels and in bodies such, advisory groups, expert groups, engaged stakeholder groups.

The gender dimension will be adequately integrated in any research and innovation content in strategies, programmes and projects and followed through, at all stages of the research cycle.

Human resources working in the PAPILLONS consortium includes a balanced gender proportion with a slight prevalence of women. The Executive Board of PAPILLONS includes 3 men and 3 women. The coordination team includes one men and 3 women.

Researcher leaders involved in PAPILLONS will prevent and, when necessary, act against any form of discrimination perpetrated in relation to ethnical, gender orientation or cultural aspects, to any person working with the consortium, any subject of research, or any subject at stake with PAPILLONS activities.

Scientific integrity, truthfulness, and accountability

Researchers working in PAPILLONS are responsible for conducting high-quality research characterised by scientific integrity, truthfulness, and accountability, and research institutions in the project Consortium are responsible for creating conditions that promote such practice.

PAPILLONS researchers will respect the contributions of other researchers and observe standards of authorship and cooperation (See section 2.9)

When involved in reviewing the work developed within PAPILLONS (e.g. through the processes set as part of the internal quality control), PAPILLONS researchers and members of the Scientific advisory board will evaluate their own qualifications and impartiality and act under the principles of academic freedom.

When developing research tasks, PAPILLONS researchers will comply with national and international rules and regulations established to safeguard ethical and safety interests and the provisions set in deliverables.

Uncertainty, risk, and the precautionary principle

PAPILLONS researchers will clarify and clearly communicate the degree of uncertainty in their research and evaluate the risk associated with the research findings.

PAPILLONS researchers will strive to observe the precautionary principle in conducting research tasks, and promote the precautionary principle in a rigorously pondered way when providing information or recommendation to knowledge users.

Protection of research subjects

PAPILLONS researchers will respect the requirement of freely given, informed consent and will protect the privacy of their research subjects and stakeholder contributing to knowledge creation.

Protection of animals used in research

Only experiments with invertebrate organisms will be conducted in PAPILLONS. Researchers will apply the maximum care and respect in animal welfare when preparing and conducting experiments involving animals and avoid unnecessary sacrifices, in compliance with the European Union regulation.

Openness, and conflicts of interest

PAPILLONS research institutions and researchers ensure openness and scientific quality in research, especially concerning the work performed in collaboration with stakeholders under the multi-actor approach.

PAPILLONS research declared their interests in the topic and are committed to maintain open disclosure of any potential conflict of interests.

An author's complete disclosure demonstrates a commitment to transparency and helps to maintain trust in the scientific process. Such a disclosure is made available through the PAPILLONS website. In any case, our scientific paper and technical deliverable documents will also report a declaration of competing interests.

Financial relationships (such as employment, consultancies, stock ownership or options, honoraria, patents, and paid expert testimony) are the most easily identifiable conflicts of interest requiring disclosure, the ones most often judged to represent potential conflicts of interest and thus the most likely to undermine the credibility of the authors and science itself. Other interests may also represent or be perceived as conflicts, such as personal relationships or rivalries, academic competition, and intellectual beliefs. All these aspects are considered by PAPILLONS researchers when disclosing conflict of interests. Purposeful failure to report those relationships or activities specified on the disclosure form is treated by the Consortium Agreement as a form of misconduct.

In case of publications emerging from research tasks performed under the Multi-Actor approach, PAPILLONS scientists will report relationship and activities that may represent a conflict of interest (e.g. paper reporting data provided by Industry, or different types of interest groups). Deliverables, Research articles or products emerging from the project will be associated with statements or supporting documents, (e.g. a Disclosure Form) declaring:

- Authors' relationships and activities; and
- Sources of any form of support for the work, including names along with explanations of the role of those sources if any in study design; collection, analysis, and interpretation of data; writing of the report; any restrictions regarding the submission of the report for publication;

or a statement declaring that the supporting source had no such involvement or restrictions regarding publication; and

- Whether the authors had access to the study data, with an explanation of the nature and extent of access, including whether access is ongoing.

Whistleblowing and ethical responsibility

If, in the course of their work, PAPILLONS researchers become aware of matters that they consider to be in conflict with ethical principles or their social responsibility, they will be given the possibility and freedom to act as whistle-blower, and report the case to their Principal Investigators, their institution, the Project Coordinator or directly to the European Commission.

Research institutions involved in PAPILLONS have a system of ethical principal and ethical issue management and have in place mechanisms that can support employees in whistleblowing situations. At the consortium level, whistleblowing is enabled through contacting the PC through the papillons@niva.com mail, or any other form of communication.

Dissemination of research to the general public

PAPILLONS researchers and research institutions reward dissemination that popularises research as well as research-based participation in public debates. Research institutions and researchers are both responsible for disseminating research findings.

While producing popularized scientific communications, PAPILLONS researchers guarantee a maximal effort, care and precision to preserve adherence of the popularized text to the meanings and validity domains of the scientific results. Furthermore, scientists and partner institutions should not misuse their titles to add weight to their views.

The project coordinator and WP5 leader shall be informed of any popular dissemination by partners in relation to work conducted within PAPILLONS in any language.