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Research Ethics in the Romanian Universities - About the Implementation of the University of Ştefan cel Mare From Suceava in the Program on Academic Ethics and Integrity in Research and Education

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Abstract: This article presents a series of scientific events carried out during 2018 within the program "Exceptional ethics and academic integrity in scientific research and didactic act", implemented by: Stefan cel Mare University in Suceava, with financial support from FDI2018, Domain 5, Improving the quality of didactic activity, including respecting academic deontology and ethics, project code: CNFIS-FDI-2018-0545. We refer at the event organized by Ştefan cel Mare University of Suceava (USV), Romania, in partnership with Lumen Conference Center, Lumen Publishing House, Lumen Research Center in Social and Humanistic Sciences, Lumen Consultancy and Training Center in Iasi, Romania, the International Scientific Conference "Ethical Values in Education, Research and Innovation", Suceava, Romania, 19-20 October 2018, and the publication of the collective volume entitled "Ethics and Integrity in Education and Research ", coordinated by prof. PhD Antonio Sandu and associate prof. PhD Bogdan Popoveniuc.

Keywords: *ethics in universities; research integrity; ethics education.*

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The Program "Exceptional Ethics and Academic Integrity in Scientific Research and Didactic act" has, as a general objective, the promotion of the ethics of research and academic integrity through the development of specific institutional bodies and the improvement of the quality of didactic activity through the continuous improvement of the didactic staff and development of practices and mechanisms for the application of ethical and professional conduct norms within the USV "(USV, n.d.). Under the detailed objective A3, entitled" Promoting the values of academic ethics through conferences, workshops, seminars, counselling activities on regulations and rules regarding designing and writing a scientific paper "(USV, n.d.b), the USV has, among other activities, proposed the organization of an international scientific conference on research ethics, as well as the publication of a dedicated volume on the same topic.

The first goal was achieved between October 19-20, 2018, when the International Scientific Conference "Ethical Values in Education, Research and Innovation" was organized, a two-day demonstration including two plenary sessions, four oral sessions, a poster session, seven workshops, an essay contest on ethics and academic integrity (student's workshop) and a book release. The conference was attended by more than 50 participants registered with papers from Romania, the UK, Ukraine, republic of Moldova, France, Switzerland, etc., and during session and workshop presentations, hundreds of people attended, whether they were students, teachers, or simply people who were interested in the topics debated.

During the two plenary sessions, participants had the pleasure of listening to some of the most well-rated specialists from Romania and abroad (USV, n.d.c): Prof. Emeritus Jean Pierre Clero (Université de Rouen, France), who presented a paper about whether ethics can be taught or not, a philosophical approach that somehow marked the whole atmosphere of the conference; Associate Prof. PhD Artem Artiukov (Sumy State University, Ukraine), with a vivid speech on the integrity of the dissemination system and the prevention of violation of integrity principles; Prof. PhD Beatrice Ioan, Assistant Prof. Bianca Hanganu and Assistant Prof. Veronica Mocanu (all from the University of Medicine and Pharmacy Grigore T. Popa, Iaşi, Romania), who gave speeches on protecting the participants in biomedical research and confidentiality in research, an ethical requirement that is always up to date and necessary, which touched a lot of participants through the strength of the examples that were given to emphasize the importance of bioethical principles in medical research; Prof. PhD. Mircea Leabu (National Institute of Pathology "Victor Babeş", Center for Research in Applied

Ethics), with a paper on the ethical meaning of education at the dawn of the third millennium; Associate Prof. PhD Camelia Ignătescu, with a speech on the role of whistleblover in research ethics and lecturer PhD Ştefan Alexa (Higher Education Quality Leader at Newham College University Centre), with a presentation through Skype on a transformative "educational resistance" as an alternative quality cycle in higher education.

The conference organizers have identified seven sub-themes of interest: ethical values in educational discourse; ethical expertise in education, research and innovation; ethical principles in research; research on human subjects, ethical limits and risks; ethics of research in the natural and life sciences; ethics of research and innovation in the use of mass communication technologies; ethics of science publishing and communication (USV, n.d.d). The workshops approached the most diverse themes, supported by experts recognized in the field, including the ethics matrix of research policy from the perspective of beneficiaries, informed consent in research involving human subjects, ethical guidelines in research, development and innovation, institutional analysis of law enforcement in the disclosure and sanctioning of academic misbehavior, ethical values promoted through physical education and sport, comparative analysis of the Codes of Ethics in top universities in Romania, ethics of education and training.

What was remarkable about in this conference was the participation of a large number of young people (students and not only) who showed a particular interest in the topics presented by the speakers, the atmosphere in the rooms being marked by intense discussions, in which non-specialist from the audience were more actively involved than usually in such events. Many times the presentation times have been exceeded at the request of the public, who insisted on receiving details from the speakers, more elaborate points of view, reading suggestions, etc., which not only denotes the quality of the guests and the specialists who registered for this conference, but also the topicality and degree of interest that the conference themes raise for the general public.

Some of the papers presented at the international conference were subject of chapters that were included in the collective volume entitled "Ethics and integrity in education and research", coordinated by PhD Prof. Antonio Sandu and PhD Associate Prof. Bogdan Popoveniuc, both with Ştefan cel Mare University in Suceava, a volume published in 2018 at Tritonic Publishing House, Bucharest, Romania. We refer to the papers presented at the plenary sessions or in the workshops by Prof. Emeritus Jean Pierre Clero, PhD Prof. Mircea Leabu, PhD Prof. Antonio Sandu, Associate

Prof. PhD Daniela Jeder ("Stefan cel Mare" University of Suceava), PhD. Mitica Drăguşin (National Institute for Research Development for Physics and Nuclear Engineering "Horia Hulubei", Bucharest), PhD. Laura Boriaud, PhD Vasile Pătraşcu - the last two being members of the National Council of Ethics for Scientific Research, Technological Development and Innovation -, Associate Prof. PhD Tomiţă Ciulei (University of Valahia, Târgovişte, Romania), PhD student Alexandra Huidu (Doctoral School of Sociology, University of Oradea).

Within the volume, a number of themes that have also been the subject of conference debates have been resumed and extended, such as: professional ethics, ethics in the publication of clinical research on human subjects, the application of ethics to research in the vision of researchers involved in doctoral programs, ethical intelligence and the education for the governance of technology, ethics in science, technology and engineering research, good practices and ethics of online communication.

These scientific activities have proved that in Romania there is a need for ethics in research, the need to extend ethical practices beyond the limits of some notions such as plagiarism or ghostwriting, and program implementers have succeeded, due to these aspects, in bringing together the interested researchers from several universities and research centers in the country and beyond, thus achieving one of the goals they have proposed in the program: to promote the values of academic ethics and research and to increase the degree of academic awareness of these issues.

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