



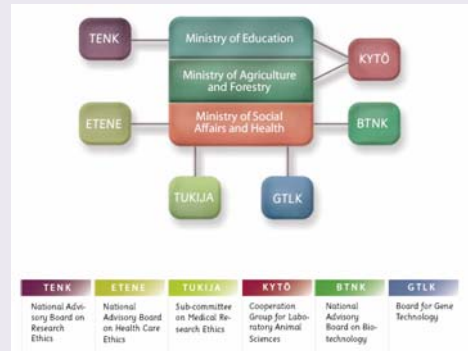
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Importance of Research Ethical Education

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National Advisory Board on Research Ethics and
University of Turku

Research Ethics in Finland

(www.research.fi)



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Ethical Evaluation of Research in Finland



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Ethical evaluation of Research in Finland – legal framework

- Research on human beings
 - Medical Research Act (2004)
- Research using experimental animals
 - Act on Animal Experimentation (2006)
- Gene technology
 - Act on Gene Technology
- Research ethics
 - Decree (1991)



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Ethical evaluation of Research in Finland

Research on human beings

- Medical Research Act and Decree
- Convention of Human Rights and Biomedicine (CETS 164)
- Directive 2001/20/EC (Good Clinical Practice and Clinical Trials)

- National Advisory Board on Health Care Ethics (ETENE)
- Ethics Committees of Hospital Districts
- (Sub)committee on Medical Research Ethics (TUKIJA)
- Institutional Ethics Committees



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National Advisory Board on Research Ethics (TENK)

The National Advisory Board on Research Ethics was founded in 1991 to address ethical questions relating to research and to the advancement of research ethics in Finland (Decree 1347 of 15 November 1991). The Advisory Board, which is appointed by the Ministry of Education for a term of three years at a time, meets 7-8 times a year.



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Composition

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Prof. Ari Salminen, Univ. Vasa
Prof. Terttu Vartiainen, NPHI



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National Advisory Board on Research Ethics (TENK)

1. Makes proposals and issues statements to governmental authorities on legislative and other matters concerning research ethics *in all fields of science*;
2. Acts as an expert body working towards the resolution of ethical issues relating to research;
3. Takes initiative in advancing research ethics and promotes discussion concerning research ethics;
4. Monitors international developments in the field and takes actively part in international cooperation; and
5. Informs the public about research ethics.



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National Advisory Board on Research Ethics (TENK)

The Board issues **guidelines for good scientific practice and procedures for handling misconduct and fraud in science** (3rd, revised version 2002). All Universities, most Research Institutes, many Polytechnics and Hospitals as well as some funding organisations follow the guidelines.

The Board has an advisory role and does not issue legally binding decisions.



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Good scientific practice

1. Integrity, meticulousness and accuracy
 - research, recording and presenting results , evaluating
2. Ethically sustainable data-collection, research and evaluation methods and openness in publishing
3. Taking due account of other researchers
4. Planning, conducting and reporting according to standards set for scientific knowledge



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Good scientific practice

5. Status, rights, co-authorship, liabilities and obligations of the research team are determined and recorded in an acceptable way
 - ownership of data, storage, updates
6. Sources of funding and other associations are made known to those participating in research and to public
7. Good administrative practice and personnel and financial management are observed.



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Responsibility for maintaining GSP

- First and foremost it is the responsibility of the researcher him/herself to maintain GSP, but also
 - research team
 - supervisor
 - head of unit/research organisation
 - learned societies and editors of scientific publications
 - financing organisations.



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Professional competence

1. Command of professional knowledge and methodology in the relevant field
2. Professional ethics
 - area of specific focus in the Finnish guidelines
 - lack of knowledge, inexperience or (minor) carelessness does not necessarily amount to a violation of good scientific practice
 - requires gross negligence or intentional action



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NEUVOSTO TELLUSKOLMIA

Violations of GSP

- Misconduct in science (gross negligence)
- Fraud in science (intentional)
 - fabrication
 - misrepresentation (falsification)
 - plagiarism
 - misappropriation



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Misconduct in science

- Examples:
 - Understatement of other researchers
 - Negligence in referring to earlier findings
 - Careless and misleading reporting
 - Publishing same results as new
 - Misleading the public and the research community



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Fabrication

- Presentation of fabricated data or results to the research community
 - Fabricated data have not been obtained in the manner or by the methods described in the report
 - Fabricated results are not based on the data



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Misrepresentation/Falsification

- Intentional alteration or presentation of original findings in a distorting way
 - Scientifically unjustified alteration or selection of data or results
 - Omission to present results pertinent to conclusions



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Plagiarism

- Presentation of someone else's research plan, manuscript, article or text, or parts thereof, as one's own.



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Misappropriation

- Illicit presentation or use of an original research idea, plan or finding disclosed to him/her in confidence, under his/her own name
 - Eg. manuscript in peer review or research plan in evaluation for funding



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Procedures

- Handled at the first instance at the research organisation itself:
 - written notification to the rector/director
 - inquiry
 - investigation
 - final report
- National Advisory Board on Research Ethics can be requested for an opinion on the matter
 - based on written material



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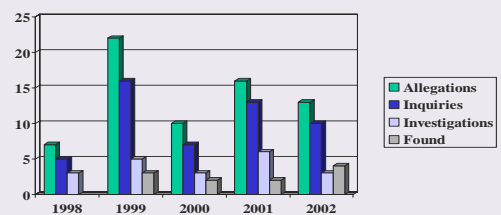
Procedures

- Principles for the handling
 - fairness and impartiality
 - hearing of all parties
 - swift process



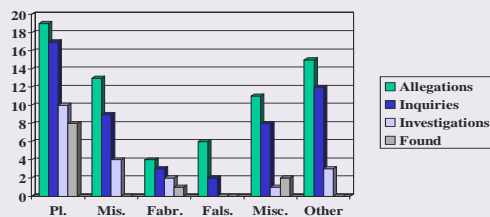
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The number of allegations, inquiries, investigations and found violations of good scientific practice annually



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The number of allegations, inquiries, investigations and found violations of good scientific practice in years 1998-2002 according to the nature of violation



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Current projects and unresolved issues in Finland

- Ethical evaluation of (non-medical) research on humans not covered by the Medical Research Act (e.g. in humanities and social sciences).
- Law on biobanks. How to regulate linking of data from biobanked material with the health and lifestyle data in an ethically acceptable way?



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Current projects and unresolved issues in Finland

- Advancing teaching in research ethics, special focus on graduate schools.
 - authorship
 - how to write a curriculum vitae
- Nordic and international co-operation



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