

ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH POLICY

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION "UKRAINIAN MODERN DIGITAL SCIENCE"

1. General Provisions

This Policy establishes the core ethical principles, integrity standards and rules for the responsible conduct of scientific, research, analytical, educational and expert activities of the Community Organization "Ukrainian Modern Digital Science" (hereinafter referred to as **UMDS** or the **Organization**).

The Policy applies to members of the Organization, members of its governing bodies, researchers, experts, administrative staff, project team members and other persons acting on behalf of UMDS or within the framework of the Organization's projects.

The Policy applies to UMDS activities in Ukraine, international research and grant-funded projects, and cooperation with universities, research institutions, public authorities, international organizations, civil society organizations and other partners.

2. Core Ethical Principles of UMDS

UMDS conducts its activities in accordance with the principles of:

- the rule of law;
- respect for human dignity and human rights;
- academic and research integrity;
- honesty and objectivity;
- independence of professional judgement;
- transparency;
- accountability;
- equality and non-discrimination;
- openness to professional dialogue;
- partnership and mutual respect;
- responsibility for the societal implications of research;
- appropriate protection of personal and confidential data.

UMDS does not tolerate discrimination, harassment, humiliation, intimidation, exploitation or any other conduct that violates human dignity.

3. Research Integrity

UMDS research must be conducted honestly, diligently and transparently, using methods appropriate to the purpose of the research.

UMDS researchers and experts are expected to:

- properly document methodology and sources;
- ensure the accuracy of reported results;
- clearly distinguish facts, research findings, professional judgements and assumptions;
- disclose significant limitations of the research;
- not conceal data that would materially affect the interpretation of results;
- properly acknowledge and cite sources used.

UMDS does not tolerate **fabrication, falsification, plagiarism** or any other intentional distortion of the research process or its results.

4. Authorship and Contribution to Research

Authorship of scientific, analytical and other materials must reflect an individual's actual intellectual contribution.

Persons who have made a substantial contribution to the conception, methodology, analysis, preparation or interpretation of results should be appropriately acknowledged as authors or contributors, depending on the nature of their contribution.

The following practices are not permitted:

- attributing authorship to a person who has not made an appropriate contribution;
- unjustified exclusion of an author;
- use of another person's material without proper attribution;
- concealment of a substantial contribution made by another individual or organization.

Funding, partnership, technical assistance or other material support should be acknowledged where appropriate.

5. Conflicts of Interest

UMDS members, researchers and experts must disclose actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest that may affect, or may reasonably appear to affect, the independence of their professional judgement.

Conflicts of interest may arise, in particular, from:

- financial interests;
- professional or contractual relationships;
- membership of governing bodies of other organizations;
- personal relationships;
- prior involvement in the matter being assessed;
- other circumstances capable of calling impartiality into question.

The existence of a conflict of interest does not necessarily preclude participation in an activity; however, the conflict must be appropriately disclosed and managed.

6. Research Involving Human Participants

Research involving human participants must be conducted with respect for their dignity, autonomy, privacy and rights.

Depending on the nature of the research, UMDS ensures:

- voluntary participation;
- appropriate information for participants;
- obtaining informed consent where required;
- the possibility of refusing or withdrawing from participation;
- minimisation of physical, psychological, social, professional and other risks;
- protection of personal data and confidentiality;
- additional safeguards for vulnerable participants.

Detailed requirements for research involving vulnerable individuals are set out in the separate **UMDS Policy on Research Involving Vulnerable Participants**.

7. Assessment of Ethical Risks

Before commencing research activities, UMDS assesses whether they may give rise to significant ethical risks.

The assessment may consider:

- the nature and purpose of the research;
- characteristics of participants;
- potential risks and burdens;
- use of personal data or special categories of personal data;
- recruitment methods;
- possible conflicts of interest;
- the safety of researchers and participants;
- potential misuse of research results.

Projects presenting an increased level of ethical risk may be subject to additional internal or independent ethics review.

8. Confidentiality and Personal Data

All research and other personal data are processed in accordance with the **UMDS Data Protection and Privacy Policy**, the GDPR where applicable, and Ukrainian legislation.

Access to confidential information is granted only to persons who require it in order to perform their functions.

Where possible, research findings are published in a form that does not unjustifiably enable the identification of individual participants.

9. Research Independence

Funding or partnership support must not improperly influence the methodology, results or conclusions of research.

UMDS seeks to safeguard the ability of researchers to:

- use professionally justified methodologies;
- report findings appropriately;
- disclose significant limitations;
- refuse to intentionally distort research conclusions.

Sources of funding and material partnership interests are disclosed where necessary to ensure transparency.

10. Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

UMDS supports the responsible use of artificial intelligence tools in research, analytical and administrative activities.

The use of AI does not relieve an author or researcher of responsibility for:

- accuracy of results;
- verification of facts and sources;
- compliance with copyright and intellectual property requirements;
- protection of confidential information and personal data;
- prevention of discrimination and unjustified bias;
- reliability of scientific conclusions.

AI systems must not be credited as authors of scientific or analytical materials.

Material use of generative AI in research or in the preparation of research outputs should be disclosed where required by project rules, publisher requirements or standards of research integrity.

11. Responsible Research and Innovation

UMDS seeks to assess not only the immediate outcomes of research but also the potential societal consequences of their use.

Particular attention is given to research relating to:

- financial crime;
- fraud;
- AML/CFT;
- sanctions;
- cybercrime;
- digital assets;
- artificial intelligence technologies;
- personal and financial data;
- other technologies or methods whose results could be misused.

Where there is a material risk of **misuse**, UMDS may restrict the level of detail, access to or dissemination of certain information.

12. Relations with Partners and Society

UMDS builds its relationships with partners, public authorities, professional associations, the research community and the public on the principles of openness, partnership, mutual respect, honesty, objectivity and integrity.

Public statements made on behalf of UMDS must:

- be accurate;
- not be misleading;
- not distort research findings;
- appropriately acknowledge authorship;
- respect confidentiality and the rights of third parties.

13. Reporting Possible Misconduct

Any person who has reasonable grounds to believe that this Policy may have been breached may report the matter to UMDS.

Reports are considered confidentially and impartially.

A person who reports a possible breach in good faith must not be subjected to retaliation or unjustified adverse consequences because of such reporting.

Knowingly false allegations may themselves be considered a breach of ethical standards.

Reports or concerns may be submitted to:

hello@umdigital.science

14. Response to Breaches

Depending on the nature and seriousness of a breach, UMDS may:

- request an explanation;
- require correction of a material;
- issue or require a correction or retraction;
- restrict a person's participation in a particular activity;
- refer the matter to the appropriate governing body or project partner;
- notify a funder, publisher or other competent institution where necessary.

Any response must be proportionate to the nature and seriousness of the breach.

15. Responsibility

Overall responsibility for implementation of this Policy rests with the **Chair of UMDS**.

Project leaders and research team leaders are responsible for ensuring that relevant ethical requirements are taken into account within their activities.

Each team member has individual responsibility for complying with the principles of ethics and research integrity.

16. Review of the Policy

UMDS reviews this Policy in light of changes in legislation, research integrity standards, requirements of international programmes and technological developments.

The current version is published on the official UMDS website.

17. Contact Information

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