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European Network for Academic Integrity

Support for victims of academic misconduct: an interactive portal and support network

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Academic Integrity Webinar

9th December 2022

Agenda for today

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- ✓ Introduction
- ✓ Do victims of academic misconduct feel supported?
- ✓ The Victim Support Portal - an interactive portal and supporting network
- ✓ Supporting Victims – Lessons learned from the Portal
- ✓ Questions & Answers
- ✓ Future of the Erasmus+ FAITH Project and the Victim Support Portal

Who am I?

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- ✓ PhD in Physical Geography (University of Hull, UK);
- ✓ Junior Researcher at the H2020 INTEGRITY project (https://h2020integrity.eu/);
- ✓ ENAI Executive Director, Senior Researcher & Project Manager;
- ✓ Coordinator of the Victim Support Portal & Victim Support WG (https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/).

The Good and the Bad!

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The Good and the Bad!

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- 2% of researchers admitted having manipulated data and 34% admitted other questionable practices (Fanelli, 2009)…
- …About the behavior of colleagues, admission rates were 14.12% for falsification, and up to 72% for other QRPs (Fanelli, 2009).
- >4% researchers admitted having engaged in data manipulation. >50% admitted having done at least one QRP (Gopalakrishna et al. 2022)
- 2022 Nature Postgraduate survey results: High stress levels, poor work–life balance and struggles with anxiety or depression

The Good and the Bad!

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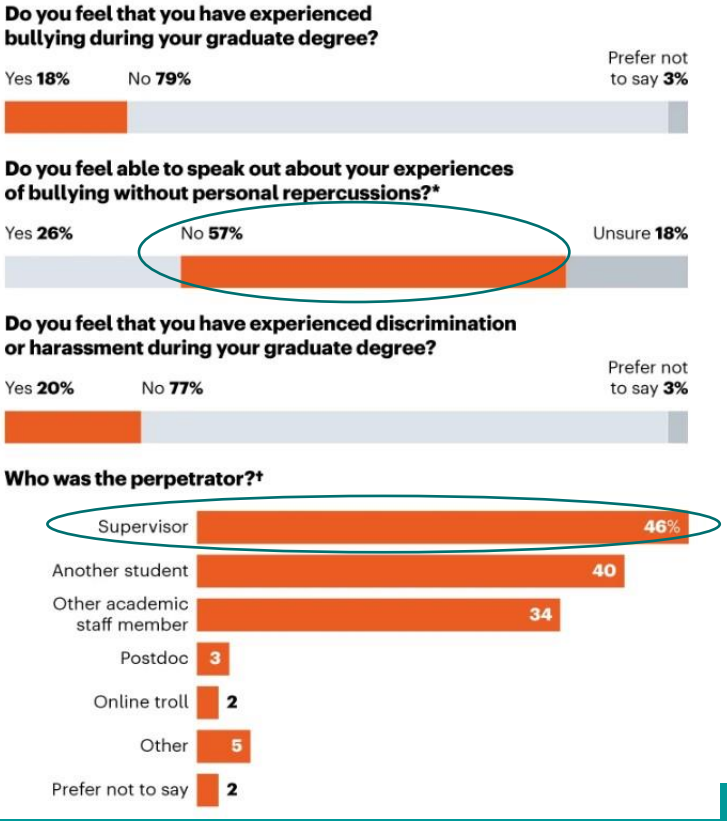

2022 Nature Postgraduate (PhD & MsC) survey results

3,253 respondents

35% Europe; 28% North America; 24% Asia; 13% split ~equally between South America, Africa and Australasia

The Good and the Bad!

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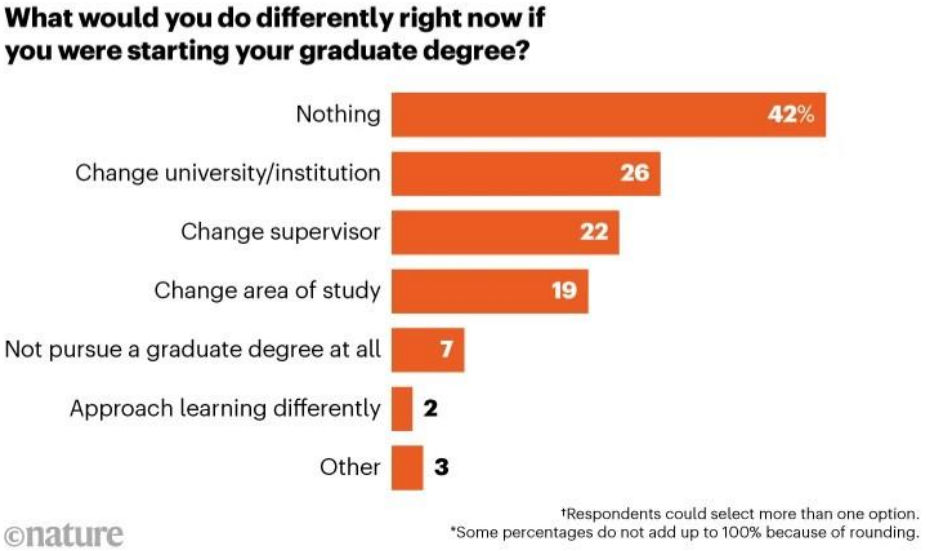

- ✓ What actions are needed to improve the experience of postgraduate students?
- ✓ What is the supervisor's role?
- ✓ How often students and supervisors report unethical actions without the fear of repercussions?

Who is a victim?

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"My PhD advisor stole my research data!"

"One of my co-authors manipulated data and now I'm being accused!"

"My teaching materials are being used elsewhere without my consent!"

"I've reported a bad action and now I'm being persecuted!"

"My supervisor threatned me, if I ever report that he harrassed me!"

"I'm not a co-author of a paper I did most of the work!"

"My paper was plagiarised!"

Who is a victim?

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Check the ENAI Glossary for the definitions: https://www.academicintegrity.eu/wp/glossary/

Do victims of academic misconduct feel supported?

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- ✓ Few research on reporting academic/research misconduct and the impacts on both the victims and the respondents;
- ✓ Filling charges of scientific misconduct can be a risky and dangerous endevour – whistleblowers often pay a high price!
- ✓ Reporting suspected academic/research misconduct is a shared and serious responsability of all scientific community!
- ✓ The two sides of the coin: misconduct or misunderstanding?

How to blow the whistle and still have a career afterwards (Gunsalus, 1998)

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The Rules for Responsible Whistleblowing (Gunsalus, 1998)	Rule 1 – Consider Alternative explanations (consider that you may be wrong!)
	Rule 2 – Ask Questions, do not make charges
	Rule 3 – What documentation supports your concerns? Do you have access to it?

How to blow the whistle and still have a career afterwards (Gunsalus, 1998)

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The Rules for Responsible Whistleblowing (Gunsalus, 1998)	Rule 4 – Separate your personal and professional concerns
	Rule 5 – Assess your goals: what are you seeking from this situation?
	Rule 6 – Seek advice and listen to it

Do victims of academic misconduct feel supported?

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If you are sure about your allegations
- Initiate formal proceedings

Be prepared for a long process
- Personal and professional challenges

Learn from the process and support others
- Contribute to changes in procedures in your Institution, support others experiencing problems, avoid continue blaming the wrongdoing person

Both Whistleblowers and the Scientists They Accuse Are Vulnerable and Deserve Protection (Bouter & Hendrix, 2017)

Request for support made to ENAI

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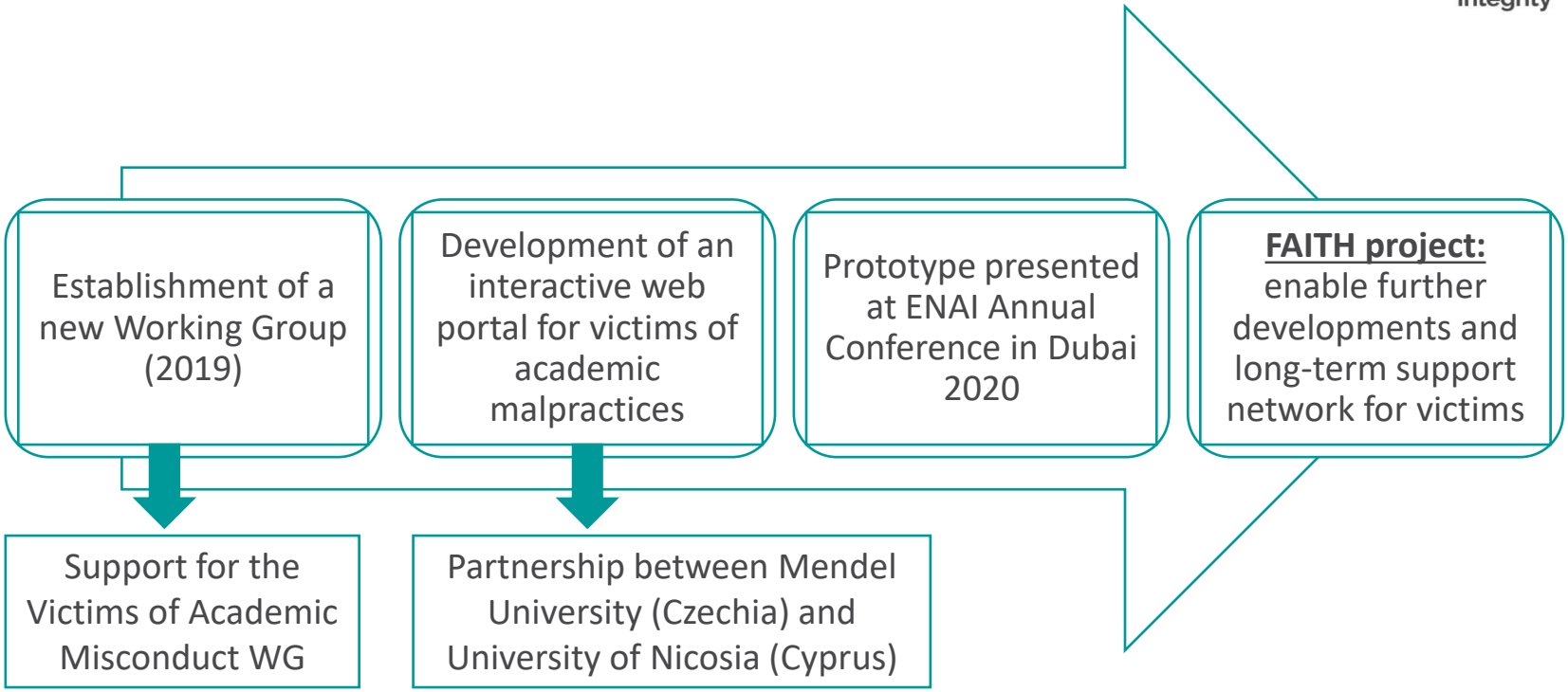

Erasmus+ FAITH project

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- ✓ FAITH – Facing Academic Integrity Threats
- ✓ Cooperation partnerships in higher education (2021-1-TR01-KA220-HED-000027559)
- ✓ Timeline: 28th Feb 2022 – 27th Feb 2025 (36 months)
- ✓ Budget: 274,709.00 EUR

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Facing Academic Integrity Threats

ÇANAKKALE ONSEKİZ MART ÜNİVERSİTESİ • 1992 •

ENAI

University of Konstanz

University of Maribor

U.PORTO
UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

Erasmus+ FAITH project

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PR1 – Policy for good practice

- Establish a benchmark for minimum standards for Academic Integrity policies in Europe and beyond based on good practice internationally

PR2 - Proactive approach to deter academic misconduct

- Design evidence-based guidance and training materials on how to prevent, detect and deter academic misconduct

PR3 – Support for victims of academic misconduct

- Establish an interactive portal and support network for victims of academic misconduct

Erasmus+ FAITH project PR3

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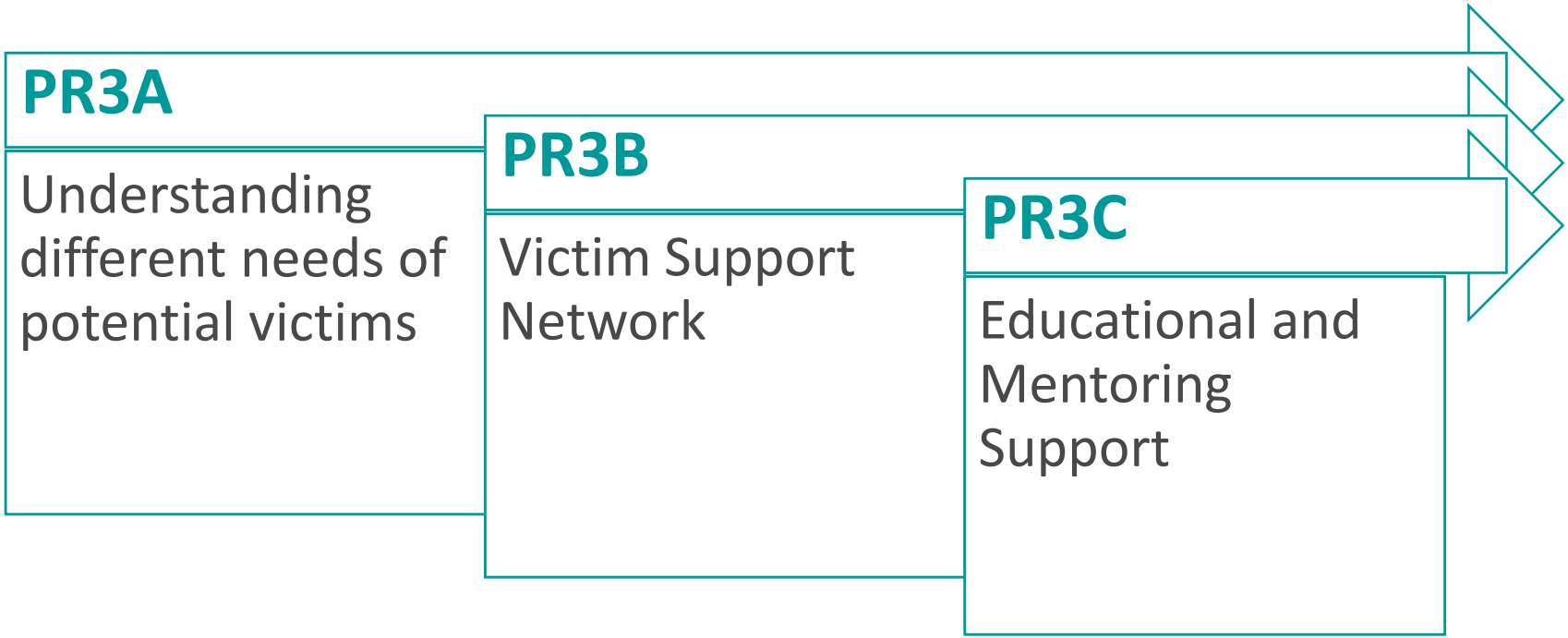


The Victim Support Portal

European Network for Academic Integrity

https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/

The Victim Support Portal

European Network for Academic Integrity

Aims

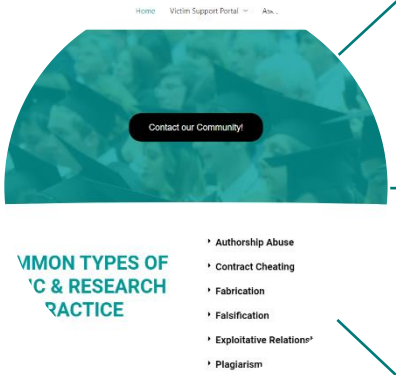
To establish a confidential **support network** for victims of academic and research malpractice

To provide an **advisory service** for people affected by unethical academic conduct

To **raise awareness** of the need to implement effective supporting mechanisms for victims of academic and research malpractice

The Victim Support Portal

European Network for Academic Integrity



Why?

- Support network
- Raise awareness of effective mechanisms to support victims

To whom?

- Anyone seeking advice!
- Students, researchers, academic staff, jornal editors, etc.

How?

- Describe your problem
- Private posts
- Advice from mentors

The Victim Support Portal

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- Description of an issue of academic or research malpractice
- Private post!

Ask for support

Mentors

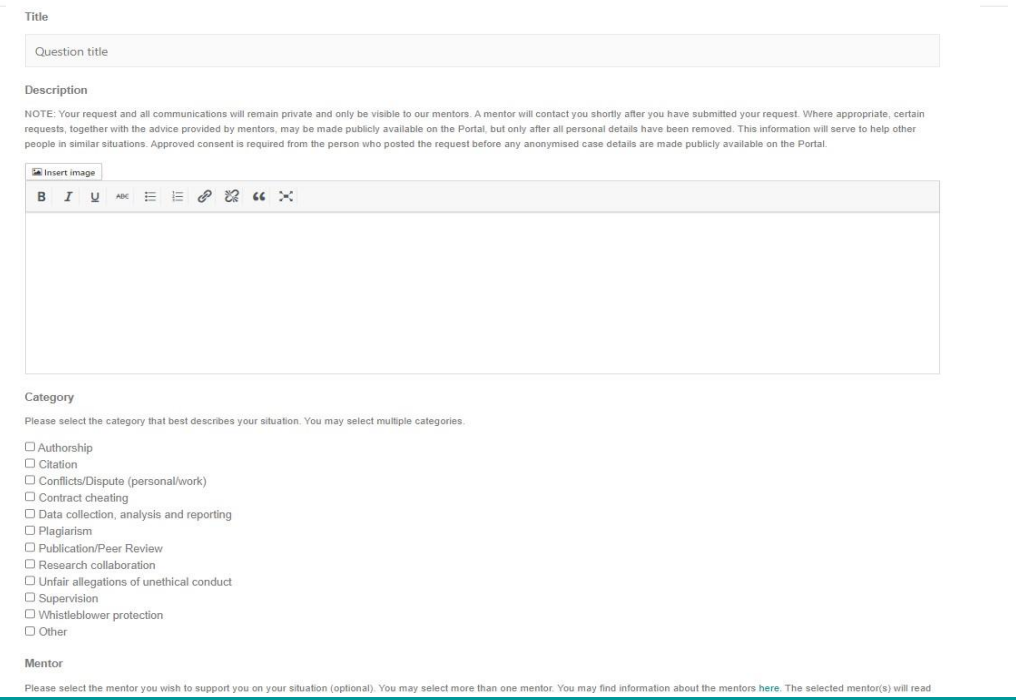
- Experts in academic & research integrity
- Assess the case

- Advice based on the nature of the case
- 1 or > mentors
- All communications made in the Portal

Support

How can I ask for support?

- ✓Ask a Question section
- ✓ Private posts (only visible to our mentors)
- ✓ Select the category
- ✓ Select the mentor (optional)



How can I ask for support?

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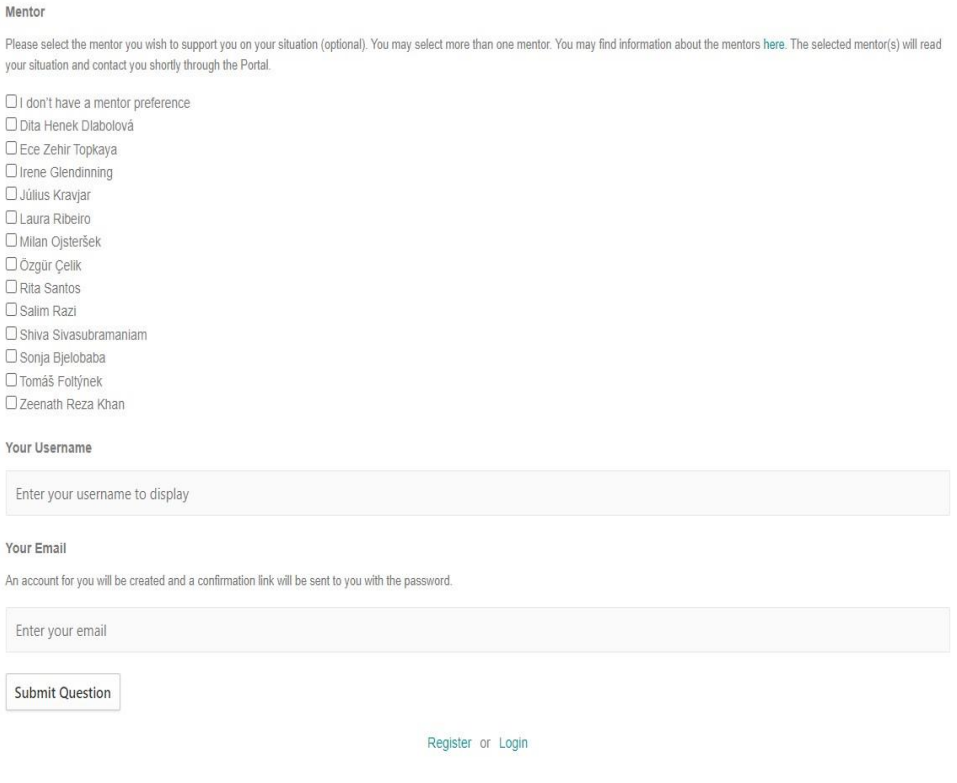
- ✓ Choose your username (no need of real name!)
- ✓ Your email will only be used to send you automatic notification when a mentor provides you with advice
- ✓ Submit your question – only visible to the administrators & mentors of the Portal



Mentor

Please select the mentor you wish to support you on your situation (optional). You may select more than one mentor. You may find information about the mentors here. The selected mentor(s) will read your situation and contact you shortly through the Portal.

- ☐ I don't have a mentor preference
- ☐ Dita Henek Dlabolová
- ☐ Ece Zehir Topkaya
- ☐ Irene Glendinning
- ☐ Július Kravjar
- ☐ Laura Ribeiro
- ☐ Milan Ojsteršek
- ☐ Özgür Çelik
- ☐ Rita Santos
- ☐ Salim Razi
- ☐ Shiva Sivasubramaniam
- ☐ Sonja Bjelobaba
- ☐ Tomáš Foltýnek
- ☐ Zeenath Reza Khan

Your Username

Enter your username to display

Your Email

An account for you will be created and a confirmation link will be sent to you with the password.

Enter your email

Submit Question

Register or Login

Meet our mentors!

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- ✓ Academics and researchers from the FAITH project and ENAI;
- ✓ Experts in academic and research integrity issues (e.g. plagiarism, authorship, publication ethics; AI policies; etc.)
- ✓ Mentors will be assigned to a case, based on the expertise of the mentor and nature of the case;
- ✓ Victims may choose the mentor (optional).

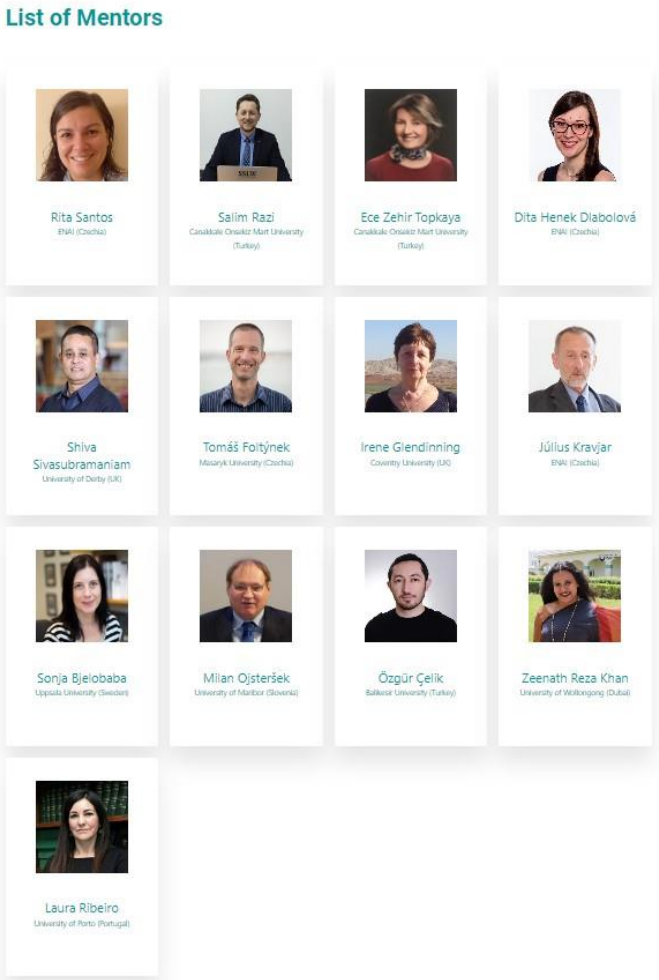
Meet our mentors!

Click on individual mentors to learn more about their expertise!

Facebook

Twitter

https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/list-of-mentors/



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Victim Support Portal

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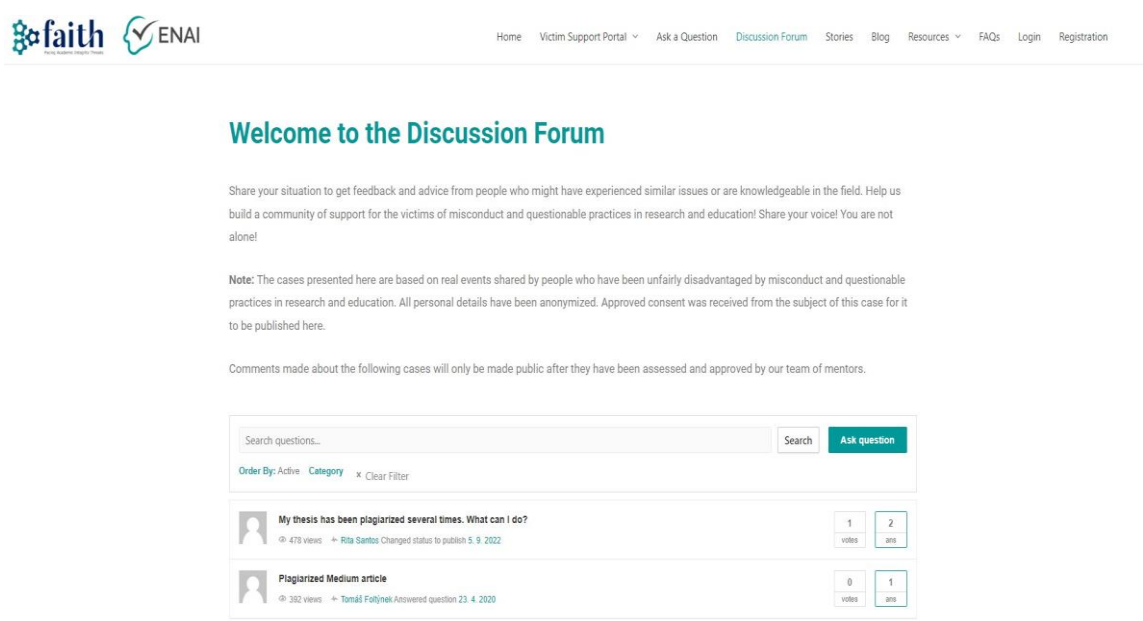
- ✓ Cases made public after receiving informed consent from the victim
- ✓ Raise awareness and support people facing similar problems
- ✓ Interact with others!



The Victim Support Portal

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- ✓ Learn about the aims and guidelines;
- ✓ Information about the Erasmus+ FAITH project
- ✓ Information about ENAI

About the FAITH project

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Facing Academic Integrity Threats

The FAITH (Facing Academic Integrity Threats) project is an Erasmus+ project under the Cooperation partnerships in higher education (Project Number 2021-1-TR01-KA220-HED-000027559). The project started on 28th February 2022 and will end on 27th February 2025 (36 months).

Project partners:

Victim Support Portal

European Network for Academic Integrity

Stories

- Real cases of academic and research misconduct
- Open discussions

Blog

- Personal reflections from mentors & other researchers on academic & research malpractice
- Open discussions

Resources

- Relevant bibliography
- Guideline documents
- Webinar & other educational materials

You are welcome to contribute with stories, blog posts and resources!

Victim Support Portal

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faith ENAI

Home | Victim Support Portal | Ask a Question | Discussion Forum | Stories | Blog | Resources | FAQs | Login | Registration

- Plagiarism
- Data manipulation
- Authorship issues
- Contract cheating
- Bullying
- …

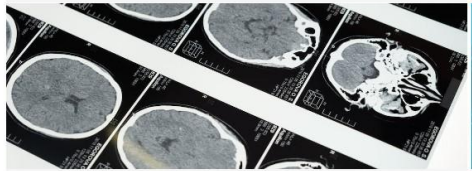
Stories

Fired postdoc faked recommendation letters from supervisor

Following the filing of a complaint and affidavit in July 2022, Georgios Laliotis, a postdoctoral researcher from Ohio State University (OSU), was found guilty of creating and sending fake recommendation letters, supposed to be from his supervisor, Dr Philip Tsichlis. It all started when Laliotis' contract at OSU was terminated …

Plagiarism: the two sides of the coin

"The narrative around plagiarism is often extremely simplified: There is a plagiarist and there is a victim. It's a simple and compelling narrative. There is a bad person that has stolen or lifted from a good person by using their work without the decency of at least giving them proper …



"You can't cheat to cure a disease" (by: Matthew Schrag)

You cannot hide from misconduct, not even underwater!

Feel free to leave your comments!

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Blog

In our blog you will find personal reflections and experiences from our mentors and extended network on issues related to academic and research malpractice, and the importance of fostering academic integrity and responsible conduct in research.

My pathway to Research Integrity and prevention of Scientific Misconduct

To this day I vividly remember my fascinating but very complicated work related to my PhD thesis. My research...

Read More

Agniezska Raubo (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland)
18. 11. 2022

The good old days? What has my career taught me about respect in the workplace

Everyone within an academic community deserves to be treated with respect and dignity by other members of that community....

Read More

Irene Glendinning (Coventry University, UK)
7. 9. 2022

New blog texts will be posted every 2 months!

Feel free to leave your comments!

You are welcome to contribute with your personal experiences/reflections!

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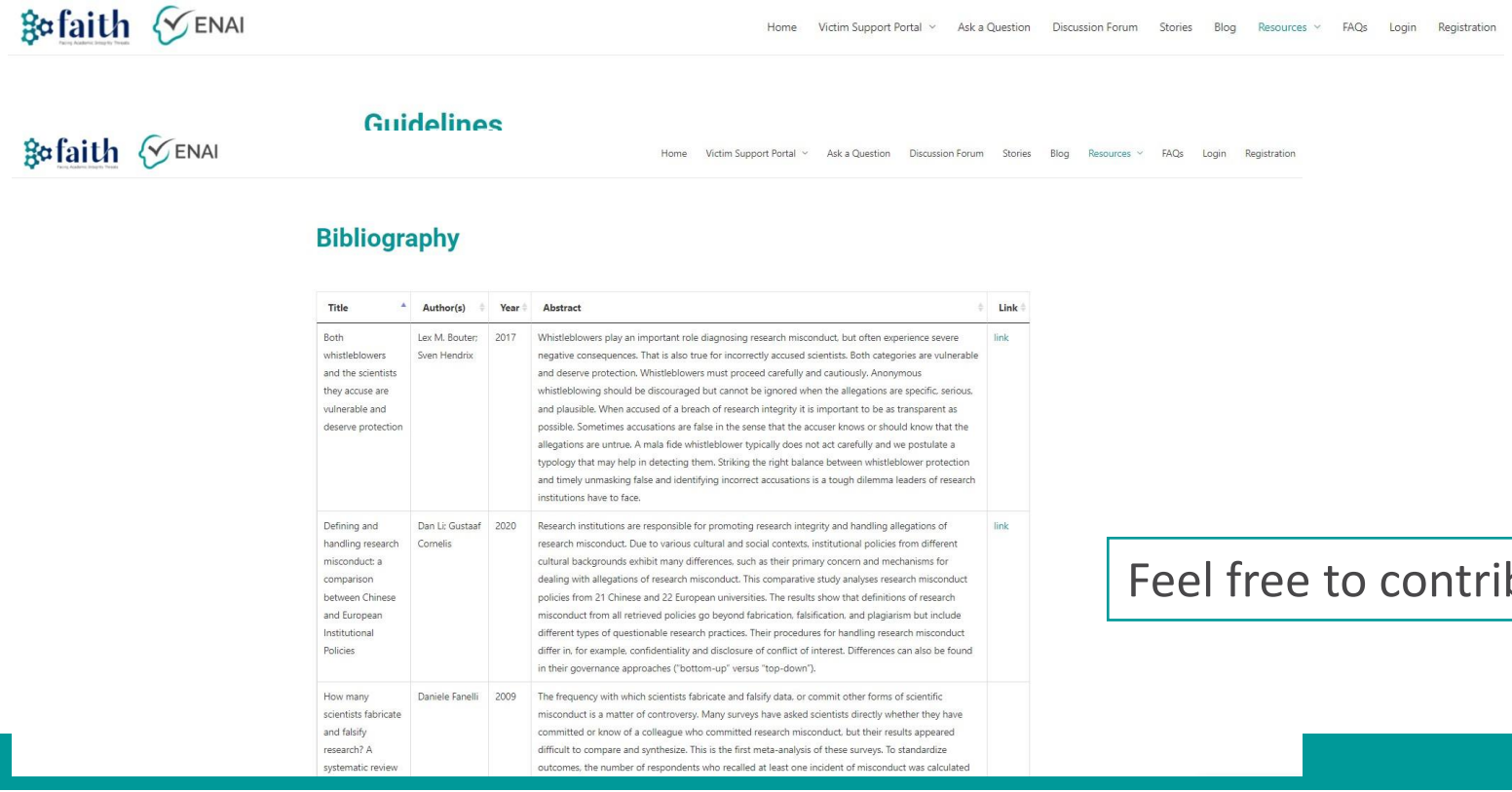

Feel free to contribute!

Victim Support Portal

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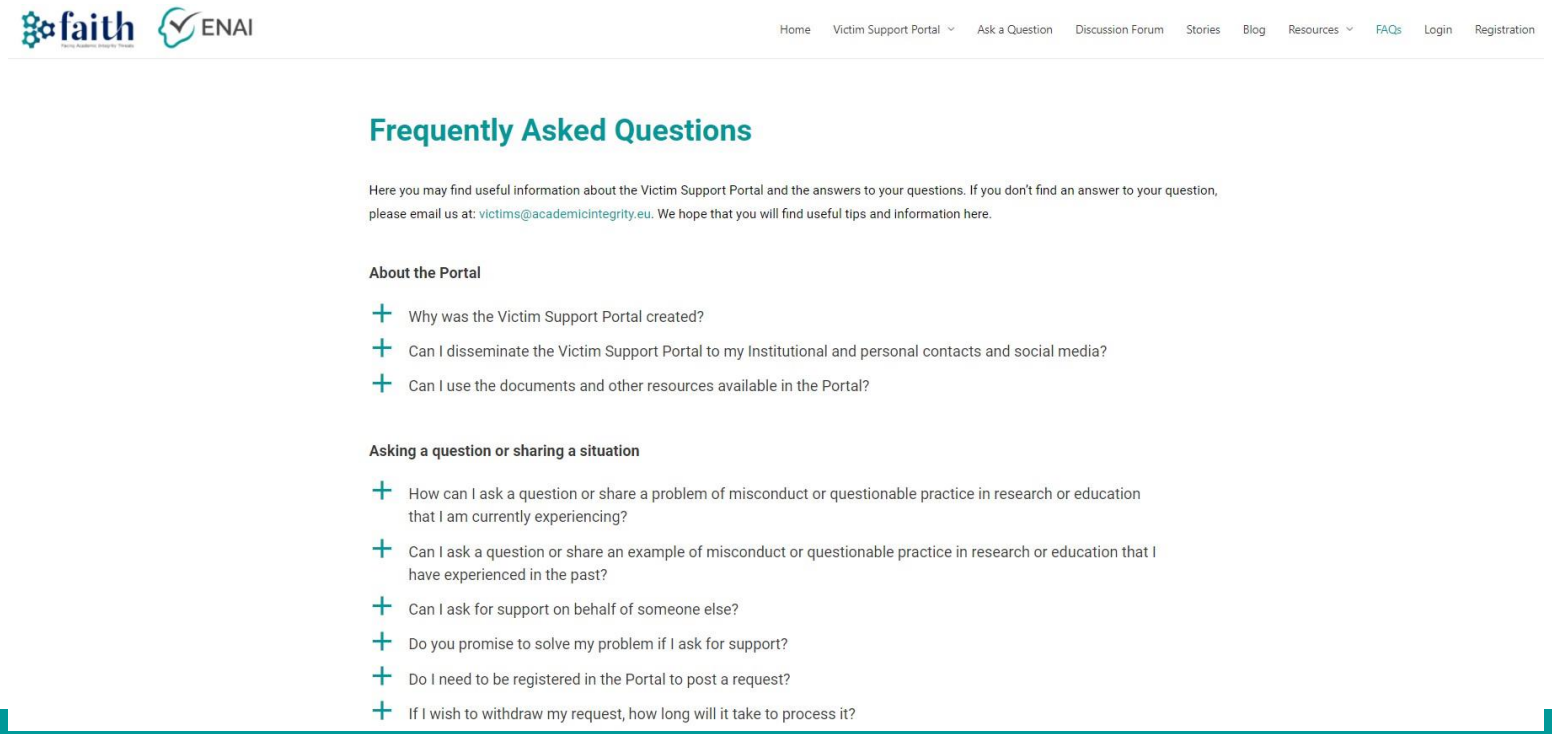

Victim Support Portal

Privacy and Confidentiality

+ When submitting a request, will the information be public or private?
+ What personal information will be displayed when I submit my request?
− Why do I need to introduce my email when I submit a request? (only for non-registered users)

If you have not registered in the Portal, you will be asked to introduce your email when you submit your request. Your email will only be used to send an automatic registration link to the Portal. We ask you to register in our Portal to see the reply from our mentors and for all communications between you and them.

Supporting Network

+ Can I reply/comment on someone's else case?

Who do we support?

+ Who can obtain support?
+ I'm not sure if I'm a victim of misconduct or questionable practices in research or education. Can I still ask for support?
+ What should I do if I happen to be a victim of a case of misconduct or questionable practice in research or education?
− Will you contact the abuser/institution on my behalf and report him/her?

No. Our mentors will only be able to support and advise you on the actions you should take, according to the nature of your situation. Our mentors will not provide legal advice, nor do they have the power to contact or influence the abusers, institutions or other stakeholders related to your issue.

Victim Support Portal - Impact

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Conference presentations

- 2 Oral communications – ECAIP 22 & QQI 10th Anniversary Conference
- 1 Leaflet - WCRI

Local disseminations

- ENAI PhD Summer School
- Presentations made by project partners
- Interview – Universitas.cz (ENG & CZ)

Victim Support Portal - Impact

European Network for Academic Integrity

- ✓Cases supported privately;
- ✓1 case made public (after anonymisation);
- ✓Cases: Plagiarism; working dispute; peer-review process, research data issues
- ✓> 5,700 page views (25.05 – 05.12.22)
- ✓510 users from 60 countries

COUNTRY	USERS
United Kingdom	90
Portugal	61
United States	60
Czechia	29
Turkey	28
Slovakia	25
Slovenia	24

Spread the word about the Portal! Help others get support!

Supporting Victims – Lessons learned from the Portal

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- Emotional context
- Details matter

- Set of advice/guidance
- No interaction with third parties

- Reporting & transparent procedures for investigations
- Support victims

- Some cases require multiple actions…
- …or the victim has done all possible actions!

Supporting Victims – Lessons learned from the Portal so far

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Positivity/Learn from the process

Example from the Blog text (https://academicintegrity.eu/victims/blog-2/

Negativity/revenge, resentment, etc.

Thank you for your attention!

European Network for Academic Integrity

Contact us anytime!

- European Network for Academic Integrity – info@academicintegrity.eu
- Rita Santos – Executive Director, Senior Researcher & Project Manager – rita.santos@academicintegrity.eu
  victims@academicintegrity.eu

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