

Institutional oversight

I. Learning objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify and recognise research that needs to pass an institutional oversight process To recognise and understand whether a given research design requires institutional oversight
II. Target group(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> x Master's students x Doctoral students x Supervisors
III. Determining a story
<p>Albert, a professor in biology, found out that in Europe, due to climate change, the summer temperature has changed. According to Climate ADAPT, European land temperatures have increased over the 2010–2019 period by 1.7–1.9°C. Since he has explored rare plant species for several decades, he is concerned about how this change could affect the habitat of the species studied. He is especially interested to learn whether the population of the species has started declining due to habitat loss. To identify the locations of the plant in different European countries, he has come up with the idea of inviting citizen scientists to contribute by providing visual geo-information. This could be accomplished only with the involvement of many citizen scientists from five European countries.</p> <p>Does Albert need to request ethical approval for this kind of research?</p>
Answer options
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> There is no need for ethical review since the research does not concern human subjects. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university. Albert should determine whether the university grants an exemption from ethical review for such research. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university and by the five involved European countries. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university. He must get ethical approval in all five European countries in any case.
IV. Game design elements

Instructions	
Option A1 Topic-by-topic, individually	Option A2 Topic-by-topic with a facilitator (in team)
<p>For learners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> familiarise yourself with the topic in the <i>Guidelines</i> (10 min), then read the corresponding vignette (5 min), and choose one answer option (5 min), access the score and the feedback (1 min). <p>Total duration: 25 min</p>	<p>For facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inform learners of the time allocated to read about the topic in the <i>Guidelines</i> (10 min), then introduce the corresponding vignette (e.g., by reading) and the answer options (5 min), explain how the answer options should be understood and emphasize that only one option may be chosen (2 min), once the chosen answer options are reported, summarize the results and announce the right answer (5 min), present scores for all answer options and discuss the options using feedback (5 min), and actively moderate the discussion. <p>Total duration: 30 min</p>
Answer scores	
1. There is no need for ethical review since the research does not concern human subjects.	0
2. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university.	5
3. Albert should determine whether the university grants an exemption from ethical review for such research.	5
4. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university and by the five involved European countries.	10
5. Albert needs to find out whether ethical approval is required by his university. He must get ethical approval in all five European countries in any case.	5
Feedback	
<p>Human subjects are involved in the research as contributors of visual geo-information. This requires informed consent and relevant data management because personal data, including geo-information, will be collected. As not all European countries have established an ethical review procedure, Albert may need ethical approval in only some of them.</p>	

Developed by Eglė Ozolinčiūtė and Julija Umbrasaitė