ANNEX IX

of the Guide for Funding and Management of the Special Account for Research Funding (SARF) of the University of the Aegean

CODE OF ETHICS AND CONDUCT OF RESEARCH

CONTENTS

GENERAL PROVISIONS

ARTICLE 1: Scope – Definitions

1. The Code applies to all research and development activities conducted under the responsibility or with the participation of the scientific staff of the University of the Aegean, within or outside the premises of the University of the Aegean, with or without funding. The rules of the present Code also apply to the activities of providing specialized services, educational programmes or other scientific applications conducted at the University of the Aegean.

2. Researchers are considered to be the members of the faculty, that is Teaching and Research Staff (TRS), Specialized Teaching Staff (STS) and Specialized Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS), members of staff with appropriate qualifications and skills, Emeritus and retired Professors, PhD students and PhD candidates, holders of postgraduate degrees or students of Postgraduate Studies Programmes, holders of a university degree or other equivalent title from a national or foreign institution, as well as anyone else officially employed in the research being conducted.

For the faithful application of the legislation and the Code of Ethics and Conduct of Research, particularly with regard to respect for the value of human beings, the autonomy of the persons involved, their privacy and personal data, as well as respect for the natural and cultural environment, the Research Ethics and Conduct Committee (RECC) has been established and operates at the University of the Aegean. The Committee monitors compliance with the generally accepted principles of research integrity and the criteria of good scientific practice.

In particular, according to Law No 4521/2018, the competence of the RECC is to determine whether a specific research project to be carried out at the University does not contravene the legislation in force and whether it complies with generally accepted rules of research ethics and conduct in terms of its content and the way it is conducted. The RECC evaluates the research proposal and (a) approves it or (b) makes recommendations with appropriate suggestions for its revision, if ethical and moral

impediments arise. Recommendations and proposals must be specifically justified. The RECCR may, whenever it considers it appropriate, request further information and clarification from the Scientific Director and monitor the progress of the research projects it has approved. The examination of funded research projects which, according to the statement of the scientific director, involve research on human beings, on material derived from human beings, such as genetic material, cells, tissues and personal data, as well as on animals or on the environment, both natural and cultural, is compulsory to be submitted for approval to the RECC. The project cannot begin to be implemented at the University of the Aegean unless it has received prior the relevant approval by the Committee. In addition to the research projects mentioned above, the RECC may examine a research project, at the request of an interested party or on complaint and give an opinion on ethical and conduct issues concerning an article for publication in a scientific journal or a thesis or dissertation in progress.

3. The RECC recommends to the Research and Management Committee of the SARF (Special Account for Research Funding) of the University of the Aegean the suspension of a research project, if there is a violation of the legislation and the Code of Ethics and Conduct of Research of the University of the Aegean

4. The RECC may provide scientific opinion – recommendation to the Research and Management Committee of the University of the Aegean’s SARF, if requested.

5. If the legislation provides for approval or licensing of a research project by another competent public service, administrative body or independent administrative authority, the relevant decision of the RECC shall not replace such approval or licensing.

6. The RECC seeks to inform and raise awareness among the scientific staff, administrative staff and students of the University of the Aegean on issues of ethics and conduct in research through lectures, workshops and any other appropriate means, as well as the publication of information material on the respective website of the RECC.

7. The decisions of the RECC are binding for the University of the Aegean.

ARTICLE 2: The value of research activity, independence and responsibility of researchers

1. Research conducted at the University of the Aegean aims to promote scientific knowledge which, through its utilization, contributes to the well-being of society as a whole. For the University of the Aegean, scientific research is both a social good and a fundamental right of the person conducting it. As a social good, it promotes human knowledge and innovation and thus contributes to improving the quality of individual and collective life. This dimension is inextricably linked to the freedom of researchers, without which research cannot be conducted. Research activity is an integral part of the researcher's freedom and is reflected in the institutional framework by its establishment as an individual right (Greek Constitution, UNESCO Declarations). These two dimensions of the value of research are inextricably and organically linked.

In the field of research there is a similar institutional principle to that of academic freedom, which governs higher education. Researchers enjoy constitutionally guaranteed academic freedom within the framework of the University of the Aegean. Freedom of research is guaranteed by the independence of the University from political and economic dependencies.

2. Guarantees of the independence of research are, on the one hand, the control of ethics and conduct by the research community itself, within the framework of self-regulation procedures, as they arise within the relevant scientific discipline, since researchers have a primary interest in ensuring the integrity and credibility of their activities, and on the other hand, the responsibility of the state to ensure a framework for the unhindered development of research initiatives, which guarantees the independence of research from ad hoc constraints, including independence from short-term economic priorities, which may work to the detriment rather than to the benefit of basic research and scientific innovation.

3. Researchers must make known to the public the sources of funding for their research activity. When entering into a funding agreement, they should check and reject any conditions that stake their freedom to design, conduct or publish their research.

ARTICLE 3: Basic principles of integrity of research activity

1. Research, both basic and applied, individual and collective, promotes scientific knowledge, supports the educational process, and is linked to the exploitation of scientific results for the benefit of society as a whole.

2. Research must be conducted with a commitment to scientific truth, respect for human dignity, personal autonomy, the biological and intellectual integrity of persons, intellectual property and personal data, as well as concern for life, nature and the environment.

3. Good research activities are based on the fundamental principles of research integrity, including the following:

a. Reliability: All scientific research must be conducted in a manner that guarantees its credibility, which is reflected in its design, methodology, analysis and use of resources and communication of its results, thus ensuring its quality.

b. Impartiality / Honesty: All members of the research community of the University of the Aegean are bound by the principle of fair treatment of all persons with whom they cooperate, as well as the observance of the principles of justice, meritocracy, and impartiality. They must refrain from any activities or actions that might constitute or suggest, favor or prejudice or negative predisposition to cooperating persons. The development, conduct, control, reporting and provision of information on an investigation must be promoted in a transparent, fair, full, and impartial manner.

c. Equal treatment: All members of the research community of the University of the Aegean enjoy the right to equal treatment, but are also obliged to respect the corresponding right of other researchers and their associates, without any form of direct or indirect discrimination, based on racial, ethnic and cultural characteristics, language, gender and sexual orientation, religious, political and philosophical beliefs, private life, health and physical capacity, and the economic and/or social situation of individuals.

d. Respect: In the course of any research activity, all the Members concerned behave with due respect for the rights and freedoms of the persons with whom they cooperate, rejecting any form of deception, coercion, or harassment. The conduct of researchers

shall be subject to respect for the biological and spiritual integrity of the human being and concern for nature and the environment. In addition, all research activities shall be subject to due respect for the intellectual property rights of the Members of the Institution and the associated bodies at an international and national level.

e. Accountability and Transparency: Each researcher, or group in which he or she is involved, has an obligation to allow access to the full results obtained from a specific research program. The methodology of the research should be or be made apparent. The research protocols, in the cognitive areas where they exist, should be adhered to in any appropriate and demonstrable way, so that the results of the research are verifiable. The commitments in favor of accountability and transparency relate to research from conception to publication, management and organization, training, supervision and guidance, and its wider implications.

ARTICLE 4: General principles of research ethics and bioethics

Each researcher shall at all stages of their research activities respect and observe scrupulously, in combination and in so far as the following fundamental principles of research ethics and bioethics arise, as enshrined in international declarations, conventions and other official texts, including the Constitution of Greece, the European Convention on Human Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro Convention), the Nagoya Protocol (Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources), the Protocol on Biosafety (the Cartagena Protocol), the Convention of the Council of Europe on Biomedicine (Oviedo Convention), with its Protocols on Biomedical Research and Cloning in Humans, Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of 27th April 2016 on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive of 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), the UNESCO Declarations on Bioethics, the Human Genome and Genetic Data, the Helsinki Declaration on biomedical experimentation, the Council of Europe Convention and Council Directive 86/609/EEC of 24th November 1986 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection

of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes, Laws No 3418/2005 on medical ethics, No 3089/2002 and No 3305/2005 on medically assisted reproduction, The Principles of Ethics for Biomedical Research of the Council of International Health Sciences (CIOMS), and any declarations and official texts relating to ethics and conduct of research:

1. The search for truth according to the appropriate and widely recognized scientific methodology and ethics.

2. The benefit of the subjects, animals, the environmental elements, biodiversity, and any other morally relevant object affected by the research or to be affected in the future, or, if this is not possible, the avoidance of serious, irreversible and non-countervailable damage to them.

3. Respect for the autonomy, dignity, equality, well-being, diversity, privacy and the established rights of all subjects affected by or to be affected by the research. In addition, when subjects are minors or belong to other sensitive groups, researchers/women should recognize and respect their specific characteristics. The effort to achieve beneficial collective objectives does not remove the obligation to respect these principles.

4. The respect of existing legislation as well as all procedures (granting of licenses, etc.) for the conduct of research provided by the University of the Aegean, the state, the EU. and any other relevant body. In particular, the provisions of the European Charter of Researchers and the European Commission Code of Conduct for the Evaluation and Recruitment of Researchers (European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers) should be respected.

ARTICLE 5: Security and investigation procedures

1. Researchers of the University of the Aegean who run research programs must apply all the safety and health rules recognized in the field of science, as well as those specified in the provisions below, in order to protect the health of all involved, from

accidents, diseases and other negative consequences. If compliance with safety rules depends on infrastructure issues (e.g. work areas, electrical installations, etc.) or work equipment (e.g. instruments, devices, machinery, etc.), they inform the competent bodies in writing so that the necessary measures can be taken immediately. Special care must be taken to inform all parties involved about the use of chemicals and the handling of biological materials preserved with formalin or other preservative, which must be incinerated in special furnaces. In particular, the use or movement of radioactive sources and materials requires compliance with the applicable provisions (L.D. 854/1971, Law No 1733/1987, Law No 2480/1997, and P. D. 22/1997). Also, for the use ionizing or non-ionizing radiation, the special protection measures for researchers and for the general population must be taken in accordance with the provisions in force (Law No .854/1971, Law No.181/1974, Law No.1181/1981, Law No 1568/1985, Law No 1733/1987, Min. D. 908/1004, 13.9.1996 and Min.D.1014/94, 6.3.2001).

2. Research facilities in institutionalized laboratories must meet appropriate safety standards and be certified as necessary where appropriate. Research staff must have appropriate scientific expertise with appropriate scientific expertise and have completed any necessary training where appropriate and/or be certified accordingly.

3. Investigators are required to keep a complete record of the results of a program, in order to allow for the verification, while guaranteeing intellectual property rights. In the case of clinical studies, investigators are required to follow the guidelines of the Greek Medicines Agency (HMA) on the appropriate supervision, monitoring and control of data and incidents concerning the safety of participants (e.g., Serious side effects reported).

4. The basic principles of system security that all secure systems should incorporate are confidentiality, integrity, and availability:

a. Confidentiality: Data should be kept confidential and not leaked. It is necessary to control access to data, so that it is only by authorized persons, and to operate mechanisms that control the creation of copies and record all access to data.

b. Integrity: The system must guarantee the integrity of the data, i.e., it should be ensured that the data has not been changed by unauthorized intervention. If a change has been made, it should be possible to detect it (e.g., by creating logs, which record all access to the data, by encryption, which can guarantee their privacy and integrity, etc.).
c. Availability: The system must be available to users when they need it. If a system ceases to be available (e.g., due to a failure or malicious energy), it should be able to return to normal operation within a reasonable time, or be replaced as necessary (e.g., through an alternative system available to take over, according to the principle of the restoration of availability).

ARTICLE 6: Responsibilities and obligations of researchers - Regulation of relations between them

1. All researchers of the University of the Aegean are considered in relation to their research activities are personally responsible for acts or omissions related to this Code, applicable legislation and international declarations and conventions.
In particular, researchers are required to:

a. Obtain written consent from all participants in the investigation or their legal representatives, after being fully informed of the content and the purposes of the investigation, as set out in Article 17 of this Regulation. The obligation to provide information shall include, where appropriate, subjects who are not directly involved in the investigation but are affected by the conduct of the investigation.
b. Ensure that the personal data of the participants in the investigation are protected in accordance with applicable law.
c. To keep complete records on the development and results of their research activities, so that they can be controlled by the RECC. or any other competent body.
d. Ensure that survey participants are selected in a manner consistent with the principles of equivalence and impartiality.
e. Not to be affected in the course of their research by social, political, or economic factors unrelated to it.

f. Not to conceal or alter the results of their research.

g. To participate and cooperate in any quality control and assurance process conducted by the University of the Aegean or by other competent bodies.

h. To abide by the general and specific safety rules in all areas of the University of the Aegean

i. Respect the principles of sound, transparent and efficient fiscal management.

j. Not to accept, when concluding financing agreements, conditions that jeopardize their freedom and integrity, as well as the prestige and interests of the University of the Aegean with regard to the design, conduct and publication of their research.

k. Respect individual ethical principles related to various aspects of scientific research, as specified and set out below.

l. Be kept constantly informed of developments concerning the individual ethical principles and rules of ethics governing the scientific field in which they are specified.

m. Scientific officers must be fully consistent with their obligations to the Committee on Research and Management of the University of the Aegean's SARF and other bodies involved, and check that the members of their research team comply with this Code.

2. In relation to the relationships between researchers/three, the following shall apply:

a. Researchers are obliged to respect each other and the contribution of each to the final result should be recognized.

b. The younger must respect and recognize the experience of the older.

c. Experienced researchers should, accurately assess the abilities of younger people, introduce them to the methodology of research and respect their personality, with a view to the proper functioning and progress of the research team.

d. Scientific research project officers may replace researchers involved in the project in case they violate this Code of conduct their work improperly.

ARTICLE 7: Respect for third party rights

Researchers of the University of the Aegean, in conducting their research, must show due respect for the dignity and individual rights of third persons involved in the research activity. In particular, they must respect their private and family life, while they must observe absolute confidentiality regarding the material and conclusions of the research that concern them. They must avoid any discrimination against citizens on the basis of their origin, language, gender, race, religion, privacy, physical capacity, socio-economic status and political beliefs.

ARTICLE 8: Respect for intellectual property

1. Researchers shall, in the conduct of their research activities, take into account and not in any way affect the intellectual property rights of third parties, in accordance with the requirements of existing legislation on the protection of intellectual property, industrial property and related rights.

2. Any person who becomes officially or informally aware of the progress or outcome of the investigations before the final results are completed and made public shall be bound by confidentiality and shall refrain from any private or relevant act of exploiting the knowledge or product of the investigation.

3. The researchers of the University of the Aegean acquire intellectual property on the the subject matter of the research they conduct and its products, according to their contribution, without prejudice to the project management framework set up by the funding bodies and the contractual conditions governing the agreements with them. In any case, if an invention is involved, the researcher shall have the moral right to be recognized and indicated as an inventor.

4. Plagiarism, the use of documents, evidence, and data without the proper authorization, the appropriation of foreign achievement, and the manipulation of results are prohibited and subject to penalties, as defined by law and by law.

ARTICLE 9: Written declaration

Researchers, when submitting requests for approval of their research by the RECC, declare in writing that they are aware of this Code and undertake to comply with its provisions as well as with the decisions of this Committee related to their research.

ARTICLE 10: Linking research activity with the functions of the University of the Aegean

1. In the conduct of the research, other than members of the University of the Aegean and other categories of staff as defined in Article 1(2) of this Regulation, staff seconded to the University's departments, as well as external collaborators, may take part in the research.

2. The conduct of research on the premises of the University should not hinder the other educational processes and functions.

3. Conducting the research activity requires written information to the Director of the Sector and the Director of the relevant laboratory (if available) or the Research Institute, from the scientific research officer. In any case, the procedures of the internal rules of the relevant laboratory shall be followed, if available.

ARTICLE 11: Use of facilities and equipment of the University of the Aegean

1. The use of facilities and equipment of the University may be necessary for the conduct of externally funded research. In such case, (a) a certificate from the Scientific Officer is required that he is aware of this Code, which he undertakes to observe, and (b) a relevant approval and attestation from the relevant administrative body of the University of the Aegean where the Scientific Officer serves (Laboratory, Division, Department, Center, etc.), that the use of facilities and equipment of the

institutionalized structure does not hinder the educational processes and other research activities of its members.

2. The use of facilities or equipment of the University of the Aegean for research or provision of services implies the financial management of research and its financial results (as long as it is financed outside the regular budget of the University of the Aegean) from the Special Account of Research Fund of the University of the Aegean (SARF- University of the Aegean). In any case, regardless of the existence of financial results, the ethics and conduct rules of research must be respected.

3. Under no circumstances may such use serve purposes other than research.

ARTICLE 12: Employment of members of the faculty, Teaching and Research Staff (TRS), Specialized Teaching Staff (STS) and Specialized Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) in research work outside the University of the Aegean

Members of the faculty, that is Teaching and Research Staff (TRS), Specialized Teaching Staff (STS) and Specialized Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) who are employed in research activities outside the University of the Aegean should comply with the principles of this Code and the applicable legislation, in conjunction with any relevant regulations of the funding body or the host entity of the research activity.

ARTICLE 13: Promotion of research

1. Signs, websites, announcements and general means of promotion of the research programmes shall be designed and used in a way that serves to inform the scientific community and all interested parties. The mention of potential sponsors in activities, websites or publications of research teams must be made with care, so as not to create confusion as to the research organisation, not to give the impression of advertising specific products and not to give the impression of a permanent link between the sponsor and the University of the Aegean.

2. Signs, websites and general promotional material for the programmes must mention all the research contributors.

3. Any publication of the results of the research, presentation of the research at conferences or in any way publicizing the research should mention the link of the researchers with the University of the Aegean.

4. For special categories of members of the Teaching and Research Staff (TRS), Specialized Teaching Staff (STS) and Specialized Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) the additional commitments relating to their disciplines apply.

ARTICLE 14: Obligations of partners

1. Research partners must:
a. pursue their research activity with the main aim of promoting scientific knowledge and the benefit of society as a whole.
b. comply with the provisions of the legislation relating to research subjects, ethics principles, good practice in research and conduct rules of their profession and this Code.

2. In conducting their research, they shall enjoy freedom of expression and of opinion. They shall at the same time respect the guidelines required for the organization and direction of the research activity by the person responsible for the research.

3. Failure by investigators to comply with the provisions of this Article or failure to comply with the ethical principles and rules of conduct may lead to their replacement.

ARTICLE 15: Obligations of Scientific Officers

1. The Scientific Officers of the research shall, at the time of the investigation:
a. comply with the provisions of the legislation in force, the fundamental ethical principles, the rules of professional conduct, and this Code; and

b. monitor compliance with the rules laid down in the previous article of this Regulation by their partners in the conduct of the investigation.

2. Collective research officers should not divulge research findings for their own individual projection or present research findings as their own work.

3. In collective research, the team leader must ensure that all members of the team respect basic ethical principles and ethical rules. Respect for and recognition of the individual contributions of each researcher and respect for the principle of transparency and mutual information are the responsibility of all participants in the research. Honesty in the publication and reporting of scientific findings, integrity in the observance of promises and undertakings, confidentiality of the data revealed during individual meetings, or in the examination of proposals or work for publication, social responsibility, protection of volunteers and respect for their personality, especially when they are vulnerable groups, are major principles of good research practice and must be adhered to by all researchers.

4. Any assignment to third persons of part of the research or assisting research work shall be under the responsibility and supervision of the Scientific Officer of the research. In the case of more than one person responsible, compliance with the obligations set out in this Regulation shall be equally incumbent upon all.

5. Invocation of the title of an administrative post held by the Scientific Officer in a collective body, for the purpose of seeking external funding, concerning the academic unit to which he/she belongs, is made with the consent of the collective body of the academic unit prior to the submission of the proposal to the funding body.

6. The infringement of the provisions of this article by the investigators may constitute grounds for the termination of the research project in question. The termination shall be decided by the Research and Management Committee of the University of the Aegean's SARF, on the recommendation of the Research of Ethics and Conduct Committee, which shall be issued upon written and signed complaint. Before any

suggestion of the RECC, both the complainant and/or the Scientific Officer shall be invited to appear before it to develop their views on the complaint orally and in writing.

II. SPECIAL REGULATIONS OF THE RESEARCH

ARTICLE 16: Risks and benefits as a result of the research

1. Investigators shall follow appropriate research design to ensure that all research participants are not exposed to undue risks and that risks to the individuals involved are kept to a minimum and, as far as possible, to zero. Investigators are recommended, where possible, to ensure that these procedures are already part of the participants' diagnosis or treatment.

2. In all cases, the lives of participants should not be endangered, or their health irreversibly compromised. The risks should be outweighed by the potential benefits to the participants and the importance of the knowledge expected to be gained, in accordance with the principle of proportionality. In general, researchers shall ensure, whenever possible, that participants and/or society as a whole will benefit from the knowledge to be gained from the research.

3. In all cases, researchers and participants should be made aware of all potential risks of the proposed research, including ways to protect them, and should ensure that they are aware of them.

ARTICLE 17: Information and Consent of the Participants

1. Researchers shall ensure that the decision of persons to participate in the research has been taken after they have been fully informed of the content, the methodology to be used, the purposes of the research, the potential risks and any burden or discomfort.

2. No coercive methods are used in the selection of research participants; no promises are made that will not be kept and the personal data of participants are protected.

3. The information documents for the survey being conducted do not include any of the following:

α) They do not imply that there is a certain positive outcome by participating in the research.
b) They do not advertise the intervention or product being researched as safe, effective or better than other existing products or interventions.
(c) They do not use terminology such as "new drug" or "new treatment" without explaining that these are being researched for their application.
d) They do not promise free treatment when in fact this means that participants will not pay to take part in the research.

4. Written consent is required from the research participants or their legal representatives. It must be freely given, not coerced or induced, and may be withdrawn at any stage of the research. Those who are legally incapable of legal capacity and minors may participate in an investigation with the written consent of their legal representatives, based on the Oviedo Convention and the General Data Protection Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the GDPR) regarding their own consent and the free withdrawal of consent at any time. The consent of the legal representatives of persons lacking legal capacity and minors does not exempt the researcher from the obligation to obtain consent from minors and persons lacking legal capacity.

5. Obtaining consent is a procedure rather than simply signing a form and requires special attention to all the information given to the prospective participants. Candidates should have sufficient time to consider whether they want to take part in the survey so that they do not feel compelled to take part. The content of the consent form should:

- ✓ be presented in a way that is comprehensible to the prospective participants.
- ✓ be given in the language understood by the candidate participants.
- ✓ define any medical terminology used

The key elements to be included in the consent form are the following:

- ✓ Declaration that this is a research
- ✓ Purpose of the investigation
- ✓ Expected duration of the person's participation in the survey
- ✓ Description of the procedure to be followed
- ✓ Identification of procedures under study and experimental phase
- ✓ Description of possible risks, if any
- ✓ Description of the expected benefit for the person or others
- ✓ Report on the protection of the individual's personal data, confidentiality, who will have access to the data or possible disclosure
- ✓ If the risk is more than minimal, explain the side effects, possible harm, and an indication of the likelihood of compensation and treatment in the event of such damage occurring
- ✓ Details of the project/program implementation team members with whom the person can contact if they want information about the survey
- ✓ Confirmation that participation is voluntary, that the refusal of participation does not entail any consequence for the individual and that the individual may withdraw from the survey at any time he or she wishes, without any consequence.
- ✓ Consent for retrospective or statistical surveys shall not be required where anonymity and provisions on personal data are maintained and there is an authorized relationship of the members of the project implementation team and relevant permissions from the authority holding the relevant data.

If an inquiry is conducted using anonymous questionnaires, an information form will be provided instead of the consent form.

ARTICLE 18: Specific privacy issues

1.Researchers complying with Regulation EU/679/2016 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data and repealing Directive 95/46/EC

(General Data Protection Regulation), are required to fully ensure the protection of the personal data of the participants in the procedures of selection of participants, obtaining informed consent, as well as the collection and analysis of data. Researchers are required to take into account in the design of the research protocol the extent to which the publication of personal data may damage the social or family status of the participants, their ability to seek work, their coverage by insurance companies or even their legal status. Before giving their consent, participants should be informed about any use of their data, the purpose of processing such data, the recipients of personal data, any transfers of such data to third countries and the period of storage of personal data. They should also be informed about whether there is automated decision-making or profiling. In any case, participants should be aware of the contact details of the project scientifically responsible (or in case of unfunded research by the principal researcher) and the University of the Aegean personal data protection officer and how their intended rights are exercised.

2. Researchers are required to follow detailed and rigorous procedures for the protection and security of the data of participants (e.g., coding, secure storage of data, control of persons having access to data, removal of data which may be used for identification of the participants during the analysis or publication of the results of the study).

3. Researchers using existing personal data (e.g., from a previous project) without consent (secondary use), explain how the data were obtained, the protection of personal data in the analysis procedures and details related to the initial collection of data, the consent procedures followed and their compatibility with data protection principles. The aforementioned obligations of researchers on compatibility with data protection principles apply also in case personal data were not collected primarily directly by individuals (e.g., following a request for access to service files).

ARTICLE 19: Human research in the biological and social sciences

1. Research in human beings has the main objective of preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases, preserving and promoting health and generally improving life first

and, by extension, society. The specificity and the importance of research in human beings require the development of a number of specific regulatory guidelines.

2. No research, biological, medical, psychological, social or pedagogical on a human being may be conducted without prior detailed information and consent of the subject person or his legal representative as provided for in Article 17 of this Regulation.

3. All persons involved in an investigation shall have the right to have their data forgotten or deleted.

4. Informed consent of the participants does not always guarantee, even exclusively, the protection of the persons concerned. A significant part of the responsibility for their protection remains with those responsible for the design and conduct of the specific research or clinical study, in particular when they are going to decide from which premises and environments they will seek volunteers and conduct the research. In certain environments and situations there are circumstances that may materially affect the will of the person and therefore restrict his freedom and self-determination, such as detention in prisons, hospitalization in psychiatric institutions or even in intensive and emergency treatment units, living in nursing homes or in accommodation and refugees, in domestic situations social or political violence, emergencies caused by natural or other disasters, etc. In such cases, researchers have increased responsibilities and must substantiated and substantiated that they ensure the conditions for the participants in the survey not to fall into mere "means" of experimentation and research.

5. In the course of an investigation or on the pretext of an investigation, economic or other exploitation of the human body, from organs to the genome of the cell, as well as any economic or other exploitation of the persons involved, by the researchers.

6. The financing of research by a pharmaceutical company, or a company producing or marketing mechanical or other equipment or products and applications, is permitted provided there is written acceptance by the company of this code, which governs the research activity of the University of the Aegean.

7. It shall not be allowed to cause disease, pain or physical and mental discomfort, or to prolong or exacerbate existing disease, pain or physical and mental discomfort, for research purposes.

8. Laboratories conducting research into micro-organisms, including genetically modified organisms, which may cause any contamination, allergy or toxicity, or may reproduce or transport genetic material, shall comply with the provisions of the legislation. Micro-organisms shall, on a risk basis, be classified in 4 groups and research into them shall be carried out in specially designed laboratories.

9. The RECC evaluates research proposals that, as stated by the scientific officer, include studies or tests on humans (L. 4521/2018, Art. 23, paragraph 2(a)), without replacing the competent Scientific Council of the Hospital where the study will be conducted. The RECC takes into account any previous substantiated assessment of the latter for a particular clinical trial and check that the proposal submitted is covered by the authorization of the Scientific Council.

10. Research on human embryos is governed by the rules of law. Research uses surplus human gametes, zygotes and fertilized eggs that have been allocated for this purpose, in accordance with Article 1459 of the Civil Code. Research in this field shall be carried out in order to broaden knowledge of human reproduction, improve methods of diagnosis and treatment of infertility, as well as of fertility control (contraception), identify the causes of abortions and develop ways of dealing with them, develop techniques for the control and treatment of genetic diseases and congenital abnormalities, study the biology of embryonic stem cells and their potential therapeutic uses. The research shall be carried out with the authorization of the Ethics and Conduct Committee, written consent of the donors, previous corresponding research in animal models, unless this is not scientifically feasible, and authorization of the National Authority for Medically Assisted Reproduction (MAR). Researchers shall be bound by the principles of consent by informing the donors of the gametes, as well as the protection of personal data collected and processed.

11. In social research, including social research in the context of research projects, researchers should respect the cultural and individual differences in roles and positions, including those due to age, gender, race, minority, ethnic origin, religion, sexual orientation, disability, language and socioeconomic level. They are sensitive to actual or perceived hierarchies and inequalities of relationships between researchers and research participants and ensure the necessary theoretical, methodological and research conditions for the promotion of the original speech and perspective of research participants. They do not exploit persons with whom they have an advisory or other similar relationship that creates a relationship of inequality (e.g. patients, customers, etc.). Create, maintain, distribute, store, maintain and make available files and data related to their research, in accordance with the law and with this Code of Ethics and Conduct of Research.

12. Research in sport should be governed by the Olympic ideals. The use of methods that contradict the current regulations to increase athletic performance is not allowed.

13. Conducting research in schools in the Greek Territory requires the opinion of the Department of Research, Documentation and Educational Technology of the Pedagogical Institute.

14. Research on a body may take place only with the written consent of the persons concerned or if there has been written consent of the person during his lifetime and without the express objection of the person. In the case of an unclaimed body, the search may not commence before at least 10 days have elapsed since the death.

15. In the case of potential investigations into detainees, researchers must comply with the specific provisions applicable to them (Penitentiary Code), while taking into account the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Criminology. Experiments aimed at the search for methods of interrogation or other means, which may cause risks to their physical and mental health or reduce their moral standing and affect their human status, are not allowed.

16. Research into children, minors and other vulnerable groups must be specifically justified and its results cannot be produced otherwise or with the participation of other groups. In such cases, special attention is required from researchers to protect the rights of children, minors and vulnerable groups when it is necessary to participate in research programs.

17. Especially with regard to research on children, they should be carried out in accordance with the guidelines summarizing key points of the Code of Conduct for Research on Children issued by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD), https://www.srcd.org/about- us/ethical- standards-research). Among others:

a. Researchers may not use any research procedure which may be harmful to the child either physically or psychologically. Regardless of the age of the children, these rights take precedence over the rights of the researcher.

b. Prior to the initiation of the research, and in accordance with Article 17 of this Regulation, researchers shall obtain the written consent of the participants and their legal representatives, i.e. in the case of a minor, both of the parents or carers of the parents or of the child himself, and of the child himself, if he is 7 years old or older, after being informed. They shall inform the child and his legal representatives of all the features of the research which could affect the decision to participate and answer the child's questions under conditions which correspond to his or her level of understanding. The researcher should respect the child's freedom to choose whether or not to participate in the research and should respect the child's freedom to participate to terminate his participation at any time.

c. In the case of research with infants, researchers should provide all necessary explanations to parents and be particularly sensitive to infant discomfort indicators in order to obtain the informed consent of parents.

d. The participation of children and minors in research requires, in addition to their own opinion, the consent of parents or carers. The consent of parents or persons exercising parental authority, or those acting in the place of parents (e.g. directors of institutions, etc.), after informing them, should preferably be obtained in writing or under the conditions set out in Article 17.4 herein.

e. Informed consent must also be obtained after informing any person whose dealings with the child are the subject of the study (e.g., teachers).
f. Personal information given by participants during the research must remain confidential. The anonymity of participants should be maintained, and no information should be used for which consent has not been obtained.

ARTICLE 20: Use of animals for scientific research

1. Laboratory animal research should be conducted only in the absence of an alternative way of investigation, in the absolutely necessary number of animals and with special care of researchers to avoid unnecessary suffering and pain.

2. In accordance with animal welfare principles, research should be based on ethical treatment of animals, with regard to respect for their genetic identity, the choice of the animal species suitable for experimental purposes, the number of animals to be used and their living conditions.

3. Knowledge of the morphological and physiological characteristics of animals and of their "zootechnical" requirements is essential for the proper treatment of animals for experimental purposes. Housing, feeding and care should therefore be proportionate to the needs and desires of the animals. The estimated welfare losses suffered by the animals should be balanced by the expected scientific benefits of research.

4. In particular, where laboratory animals/test animals are used (such as mice) should follow the rules laid down in Directive 2010/63/EU. "on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes" and the P.C. 56/2013 adapting the Greek legislation to that directive, in particular as regards the keeping and use of such animals in establishments approved by the competent authorities and the approval of the applicable experimental protocols by the Committee for the Evaluation of Experimental Protocols (EEPC).

ARTICLE 21: Genetic modification, CRISPR/Cas

Research in Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) is conducted in specially designed laboratories that meet the appropriate specifications. The research should provide specific information on possible environmental and human damage as well as on measures taken to address or mitigate potential risks. The use of CRISPR/Cas9 technology should be given special attention and treated as GMs, in particular as regards traceability and its use in organisms living in natural ecosystems. Research into genetically modified organisms is carried out in accordance with the applicable rules and provisions of national and Community legislation. In particular, it must be compatible with the following parts (for illustrative purposes):

(a) Min.D. 38639/2017 (G.G. B.1334/21.9.2005) Definition of measures and conditions for the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2001/18 on the deliberate release into the environment of genetically modified organisms and repealing Council Directive 90/220/EEC of 12 March 2001 of the European Communities", as amended by Min.D. 2775/128098 (G.G. B’ 4287/08.12.2017) in compliance with Directive (EU) 2015/412 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 March 2015 amending Directive 2001/18/EC as regards the possibility for Member States to restrict or prohibit the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in their territory (EE L 68, 1 3.3.2015, p. 1), and Min.D./116428/1943 (GG B) 831/02.07.2002) Definition of measures and conditions for the contained use of genetically modified micro-organisms (GMMs).

(b) Regulation (EC) No 1946/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 July 2003 on transboundary movements of genetically modified organisms Regulation (EC) No 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 September 2003 on genetically modified food and feed and Regulation (EC) No 1830/2003 on the traceability and labeling of genetically modified organisms and the traceability of food and feed produced from genetically modified organisms and amending Directive 2001/18/EC.

ARTICLE 22: Environmental health and safety, environmental protection and Biodiversity

The conduct of research must consider and minimize possible risks to the environment. In particular, compliance with the laws adopted to protect the environment, including waste management (indicatively L.D. 86/1969, Law No 743/1977, Law No. 998/1979, Law No 1650/1986, Law No 1892/1990, Law No 2612/1998 and P. D. 55/1998). Compliance with the laws adopted to protect biodiversity and endangered species (UN Convention on Biological Diversity, Biosafety Protocol (EUROPA)) must also be ensured. Researchers should provide information on potential risks to the environment and ensure that they are minimized.

ARTICLE 23: Protection of cultural heritage

No research justifies infringement of the cultural heritage in breach of the provisions of the current legislation. The conduct of technical projects in the context of the preservation of cultural heritage must comply with the rules of conduct of the Professional Code of Engineers, issued on the basis of Articles 24 and 26 of the Law of 27-11/14-12-1926 P.D. "On the codification of the provisions relating to the establishment of a Technical Chamber".

ARTICLE 24: Research in third countries (especially in non-EU countries)

When conducting the investigation, it must be ensured that the use of resources (e.g. animal tissues, genetic material, animals, historical and cultural material, protected species, etc.), are carried out in accordance with the principles and laws of the third country and the EU. Adequate information must be provided on the import, export, transport and movement of materials and data between (EU) and third countries. Finally, possible risks related to the safety of researchers when conducting research in third countries should be considered.

ARTICLE 25: Dual-use research (civil, military)

Where proposals are made for research programs with a potential dual use, political or military (dual use), or for proposals to military organizations, clear reference should be made to civilian uses and the need for such research to be conducted and the specific treatment for the publication of possible sensitive research results should be adequately documented.

ARTICLE 26: Possibility of malicious use of research results by third parties

Researchers should take into account the effects that may result from the malicious use of the results of their research by third parties. This should be minimized by risk analysis and appropriate action taken when carrying out the research. Researchers have a moral obligation not to allow third parties to perform harmful acts that would be impossible to achieve without the results of their research.

ARTICLE 27: Responsibility and obligations of the University of the Aegean

The University of the Aegean through its competent bodies is obliged:
1. To promote, within the limits of its powers, scientific research, making full use of available resources in a fair and transparent manner.
2. To ensure, in the context of the general principle of academic freedom and this Code, the smooth conduct of research and ensure the protection of researchers' rights.
3. To ensure, within the framework of its responsibilities, that the results of scientific research are communicated, recognized and disseminated.
4. To ensure that the principles governing the ethics of research and bioethics are firmly established by the academic community as a whole and that its members are kept informed.