

Regulation of the Principles & Operation of the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Peloponnese

1. General Provisions

Article 1 - Scope of Application

These Regulations apply to all research and development activities carried out under the auspices or with the participation of the scientific staff of the University of Peloponnese, on its premises or outside of them, with or without funding. The rules of ethics for research shall also apply to activities of providing specialised research services, training programmes or other research and training activities or scientific applications managed by the Special Research Funds Account (SRFA) and the Centre for Training and Lifelong Learning Centre (CTLLC) of the University of Peloponnese.

Article 2 - Obligations of the University of Peloponnese

The University of Peloponnese should protect the independence of researchers and ensure that ethically sound research practices are followed in accordance with the applicable legislation, the international rules resulting from international agreements or decisions of international organisations to which our country participates, as well as the specifications referred to herein. It shall also provide support for and means to provide continuous support for its employees, including training in its ethical principles.

Article 3 - Rules of Conduct for Research

3.1 Research must be conducted with respect for scientific truth, academic freedom, life, liberty, and the environment, the biological and spiritual integrity of man, human dignity, intellectual property and personal data. During the implementation of the research, clear, specific, written and unambiguous informed consent from all study participants, free from any defects in the declaration of intent, and who retain the right to withdraw their consent freely must be obtained by all appropriate and adequate means.

Specific issues relating to the processing of personal data for scientific research shall be regulated by the regulatory framework in force, as well as the Personal Data Protection Policy of the European Commission.

During the implementation of the research, any discrimination, within the meaning of the legislation in force, on the grounds of nationality, race, colour, sex, religion or belief, national or ethnic origin, genealogical background, language, language, gender identity or gender characteristics, gender identity or gender reassignment, religion, privacy, sexual orientation, disability or chronic illness must be avoided.

3.2. Researchers must comply with applicable legislation and research guidelines. They should also be committed to adhering to the general principles concerning the protection of human rights, equality, protection of public health, protection of the

child and vulnerable social groups, and the protection of biodiversity. The researchers have an obligation of mutual respect, confidentiality and the right to equal treatment. They also have a right to personal privacy for their acts or omissions in accordance with applicable legislation, international declarations on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and international declarations on bioethics and human rights.

3.3 Researchers must, when conducting research, comply with the general and specific rules and safety in the premises of the University of Peloponnese, the principles of good, transparent and financial management and the professional ethics of the sector in which they belong. At the same time, they enjoy the constitutionally guaranteed freedom of research. At the same time, they must take all necessary measures to ensure/protect the freedom of investigation from any external political, ideological or other pressures and interference. Researchers must also take all necessary and legally required measures to protect health workers in the projects from accidents or adverse reactions that may occur under the particular conditions of the research. In the event that inadequate compliance with safety rules results from inadequate infrastructure or equipment, the person responsible for the research project must inform the competent authorities of the University in order to take appropriate measures immediately.

3.4. For the use of artificial intelligence technologies in the context of the preparation of tasks, deliverables or in general research results, it is stressed that if part of the result, in particular the report/publication that accompanies the research results, has been produced using artificial intelligence systems or applications, this should be clearly indicated, highlighting the passages that have been produced using artificial intelligence and, for each passage, the technologies used to produce it and the questions that have been asked entered into the AI system to produce the passage. In general, concerning the use of artificial intelligence for writing all or part of a paper, it is clear that the research conducted on the one hand, must be original, on the other hand, it must reflect the views of the researchers who carried it out. Therefore, the extracted and accompanying texts should be in line with this direction.

3.5. When undertaking, conducting and publishing research results, researchers must ensure that: a) the necessary and required permits of a specific investigation have been obtained by the relevant agencies for its implementation, b) any conflict of interest which would prohibit, hinder or bias to the detriment of the objectivity and integrity of the research process does not exist, nor will it arise, c) any special legislative regulations applicable to the specific type of investigation are observed, d) provisions of the national legislation that are mentioned and concern the protection of personal data are not violated in any case and e) intellectual property protection is not violated.

3.6. Researchers, to address any of the above five (5) issues, are required to address the Research Ethics Committee of the University of Peloponnese (REC), so that they receive the appropriate handling instructions for each of the above issues.

3.7 Researchers are required to disclose the source or sources of funding for their research. It is not permitted to include in the agreement the funding of a research project conditions which clearly compromise their freedom in designing, conducting or publishing their research publication of their research. Furthermore, when concluding a funding agreement, researchers must clearly ensure their freedom, the prestige and the interests of the University in the design, conduct and publication of their research.

3.8. Researchers are required to indicate in each publication the institution they serve with the full name of the researcher. All publications must include the full Greek and foreign-language title of the University of Peloponnese.

3.9 When designing and conducting a research project, it is essential that the rules of scientific documentation are followed. It is strictly forbidden to manufacture, falsify and silence research results. Researchers must keep complete records of the development and results of the research project in order to enable monitoring, with simultaneous safeguarding of intellectual property rights in all cases.

3.10. The persons responsible for the research projects must briefly, honestly and adequately inform those who are to take part in the project about the project's objectives. Where, in the course of the research, the consent of the participant is required, the information must be complete and a record of signed consent forms must be kept concerning participation. It is also necessary to inform those directly affected by the conduct of the investigation, even if they do not participate in the investigation.

3.11. The collaboration of professors and other categories of teaching staff and staff in research projects must not interfere with the exercise of their basic teaching, research and administrative duties at the University, nor with the formulation of objective scientific judgements in collective bodies, evaluations and promotion decisions.

3.12. A prerequisite for the use of the University of Peloponnese facilities by the scientific coordinator is his/her membership in the academic community of the University of Peloponnese in accordance with the relevant legal regulations. This category includes emeritus professors and retired faculty members if they participate in the educational process according to the programme of the Faculty or Department. However, the conduct of research must not interfere with the educational, research and other processes taking place on the University premises. If the research is conducted on premises outside the University of Peloponnese by faculty members, the facilities must be appropriate and, if possible, certified. When carrying out projects that require the collaboration of other Universities or Institutions, researchers must respect the established ethical and bioethical principles of all collaborating institutions.

3.13. When part and/or all of the results of a research project carried out at the University are published, the name of the University is obligatory, since the research project was carried out on its premises.

3.14. Serious offences of violation of the provisions of the Code of Conduct by research collaborators or their failure to comply with the relevant suggestions of the scientific coordinators shall result in their replacement. Therefore, the management of the Institution is obliged, on the recommendation of the assistant coordinator, to replace them.

3.15. Collaborative research coordinators are not allowed to appropriate research data, techniques and/or findings for their promotion, and the contribution of each individual to the results of the research must be clearly defined and acknowledged.

3.16. In collaborative research, the coordinator must ensure that ethical principles are observed by all members of the research team. Respect for the individual contribution of each researcher and respect for transparency and mutual information are obligations of all research participants.

3.17. Serious offences of violation of the regulations of the Code of Conduct by the researcher(s) may be grounds for the termination of the research project - by decision of the administration of the University of Peloponnese - following a decision of collective bodies.

Article 4 - Copyright

4.1 The reproduction of all or part of the intellectual works of third parties, as well as their translation, adaptation, alteration or imitation, without the author's permission, is prohibited. This prohibition applies irrespective of the form in which such reproduction is made and constitutes a disciplinary offence. Exceptions to this prohibition are:

(a) the reproduction of articles or works published in a newspaper or magazine, short extracts from a work or a work of visual arts lawfully published, provided that it is made solely for teaching or examinations, provided that it is justified by the purpose intended, is in accordance with morality and does not hinder normal exploitation and is accompanied by an indication of the source and the names of the author and the publisher (provided that these names appear in the source).

(b) the reproduction by the Institution's Library of an additional copy of documents in its collection in order to preserve that copy or to transfer it to another non-profit library or archive, if it is impossible to obtain such a copy from the market in a short time and on reasonable terms.

c) the reproduction of a work, when it is made in special forms and exclusively for the benefit of persons with disabilities, for uses directly related to the disability and not of a commercial nature, to the extent required by the specific disability and in accordance with the applicable legislation.

4.2 Any author or co-creator of any intellectual work is clearly entitled to be identified and recognized as such and to enjoy any property rights arising from that intellectual work. Failure to acknowledge the intellectual contribution of third parties in any published work or, conversely, the inclusion of a person as an author or co-author of a work to which he or she did not actually contribute shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

4.3 In the case of an intellectual work which is a collective work to which more than one person has actually contributed, all such persons must necessarily be identified as co-authors of that intellectual work and, where appropriate, in the order of the importance of their contribution to the creation of that intellectual work.

4.4 If the intellectual creation is the final product of a funded research project, commissioned through a contract, either by a public or wider public sector body or by a private body, special care should be taken to ensure that the contractual obligations undertaken through the terms of the contract, which may limit, or potentially limit, the property and moral rights of the authors of the intellectual work in question, are respected.

4.5 "Plagiarism" means the incorporation in a work of ideas, extracts and/or individual phrases of a third person's work, without reference to the source from which they come. Plagiarism constitutes a serious disciplinary offence for members of the academic community (see the Regulations against Plagiarism of the University of Peloponnese).

4.6 It goes without saying that both the Master's dissertation and the doctoral degree are original works of the candidate, who submits them for evaluation by the competent evaluation committees of the University, stating their authenticity in writing. Postgraduate dissertations and doctoral theses are deposited in the University Library in accordance with its Regulations. The University reserves the right to post theses and dissertations on an appropriate website.

4.7 If a graduate of the University publishes his/her postgraduate thesis or doctoral dissertation in any form, he/she is obliged to mention the name of the University, the Faculty and the Department in which the thesis was written.

4.8 In the case of research publications, all persons who have made substantial contributions to their development must be listed as co-authors.

4.9 In the case of the implementation of research projects by the University, and for the regulation of intellectual property issues from the outset, the University is obliged to require the signing of contracts and agreements between the University and the funder of the project, the project leader and all members of the research team upon the commencement of the research projects. These contracts shall ensure the agreement that defines the intellectual property issues from the outset and ensure the smooth implementation of the research project in question.

In order to enable the immediate registration and protection of the research results and to optimise the possibility of their economic exploitation, the researcher must inform the competent bodies of the University of Peloponnese immediately and in writing and provide them with all necessary assistance for the protection and management of the intellectual property rights to the project and the drawing up of exploitation contracts with third parties. For this purpose, it must comply with the current Regulation of the Institution for the "Protection and Management of Intellectual Property". No contract for the exploitation of a protected work or program to which the University of Peloponnese may claim rights may be concluded, in any form, without the prior approval of the competent bodies of the University.

4.10. Scientists of the University of Peloponnese acquire intellectual property rights on the subject matter of the research they conduct and its products according to the degree of their contribution. They must keep complete records of the development and results of a project so that it is possible to check the identification of the work and the registration of intellectual property rights while taking all reasonable measures to ensure confidentiality. When the person responsible for the research project produces a printed or electronic version of part and/or all of the results of the research project, he/she shall be obliged to indicate the name of the University in all cases where the research project was carried out on its premises. He/she is also obliged to indicate the names of the members of the research team. Any person who obtains formal or informal knowledge of the progress or the product of the research before the completion and publication of the results of the research must observe complete confidentiality and refrain from any action aimed at exploiting the knowledge or the product of the research for his or her benefit or for the benefit of others. Researchers of the University of Peloponnese must comply with the conditions and procedures set by the funding body.

2. Research Ethics Committee of the University of Peloponnese

Article 5- Purpose of the Committee

The Research Ethics Committee of the University of Peloponnese is established and operates in accordance with the provisions of articles 277 to 282 of Law 4957/2022 (Government Gazette A' 141/21.7.2022). Its purpose is to provide an ethical and moral guarantee of the quality of the research projects conducted.

Article 6- Work of the Committee

The REC shall verify that a research project is carried out with respect for the dignity of human beings, the autonomy of the persons involved, their privacy and personal data, and the natural and cultural environment. The REC also checks that the generally accepted principles of research integrity and the criteria of good scientific practice are respected.

The REC is distinct from the Ethics Committee of the University of Peloponnese. It is not the responsibility of the Research Ethics Committee to examine ethical issues among faculty members and/or students of the University of Peloponnese.

Article 7 - Composition of the Committee

7.1 The REC of the University of Peloponnese consists of five (5) regular members and five (5) substitute members. The members must be scientists, with expertise in research, ethics/bioethics and research ethics. At least one (1) member must have a specialisation in ethics/bioethics. At least two (2) members must be external, i.e. not serving in any way at the University of Peloponnese. The disciplines of the members of the REC should ensure, as far as possible, the representation of the disciplines of the University of Peloponnese. The qualifications of the members of the REC should be in accordance with the scientific fields treated by the Faculties and Departments of the University of Peloponnese and are as follows:

- Social Sciences and Humanities.
- Management and Economics - Information Technology.
- Health and Sport Sciences.
- Agricultural and Food Science.
- Engineering Sciences.

7.2 The members of the REC are selected as follows: a. The Research Committee prepares and publishes on the website of the University of Peloponnese a call for expressions of interest to fill the positions, no later than three (3) months before the expiration of the term of each member. The call specifies the exact number of members of the REC of the institution and specifies the qualifications that the members of the REC must have, depending on the scientific fields of the University of Peloponnese. The nominations and the necessary supporting documents are submitted electronically by the interested parties.

b. The Research Committee evaluates the nominations and decides on the persons who constitute the regular and substitute members of the REC.

7.3. The REC is constituted by a decision of the Rector. In the decision to form the REC, the President and the Vice President of the Committee as well as the Administrative Employee from the Financial and Administrative Support Unit (FASU) of the Special Research Funds Account (SRFA), who provides secretarial support, are appointed.

7.4 The term of office of the members of the REC is three years and may be renewed only once (1).

7.5 If a member of the REC resigns, expires or otherwise terminates his/her term of office prematurely, he/she shall be replaced for the remainder of his/her term of office by his/her substitute member.

7.6 Membership of the REC is incompatible with the positions of the Rector, Vice Rector and Dean, as well as with the positions of member of the Research Committee or Department Chair of the University of Peloponnese.

7.7 A member of the REC is barred from attending meetings of the Committee in cases where a conflict of interest may arise. A conflict of interest arises when a member of the REC has an interest which may affect or appear to affect the impartial and objective performance of his/her duties. This shall be understood to mean any potential advantage in favour of the member or his/her spouse or partner or first-degree relative. Where such an impediment is declared concerning a specific proposal under evaluation, the member who declares such an impediment shall be replaced by his/her substitute.

7.8 The members of the REC, the rapporteurs and any member involved in a supporting role have a duty of confidentiality concerning research proposals under evaluation.

Article 8 - Responsibilities of the Committee

8.1 The competence of the REC is to ascertain that a specific research project to be carried out at the University of Peloponnese does not contravene the legislation in force and complies with generally accepted rules of ethics and ethics of research in terms of its content and the way it is carried out. The REC evaluates the research proposal and:

- a. approves it; or
- b. makes recommendations and suggestions for its revision if ethical and moral obstacles arise.

Recommendations and proposals must be specifically justified. The REC may, whenever it considers it appropriate, request further information or clarification from the scientific coordinator of the research project and monitor the progress of the research projects it has approved.

8.2. a. Funded research projects that, according to the statement of the scientific coordinator, involve research on humans, on human-derived material such as genetic material, cells, tissues and personal data, on animals or the environment, both natural and cultural, must be submitted for approval to the REC and the project cannot start to be implemented at the University of Peloponnese unless it has received prior approval.

b. In addition to the research projects referred to in para. 8.2.a', the REC may, at the request of an interested person or a complaint, examine other research work and

give an opinion on ethical and moral issues concerning an article for publication in a scientific journal or a thesis or dissertation in preparation.

c. The decisions of the REC are binding for the University of Peloponnese.

8.3 If the legislation provides for the approval or licensing of the project by another competent public authority, administrative body or independent administrative authority, the relevant decision of the REC does not replace such approval or licensing. By way of exception, interventional and non-interventional clinical studies do not fall within the scope of the REC's competence and their implementation requires only the approval of their execution by the relevant competent public service, administrative body or independent administrative authority, in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force on the implementation of clinical studies.

8.4 The REC decides within reasonable time, which may not exceed fifteen (15) days from the submission of the application and the collection of all necessary supporting documents. If, within this period, the REC does not issue a decision, the application shall be deemed approved.

8.5 In the event of a complaint, the REC shall issue a decision no later than fifteen (15) days from the date of submission of the complaint. If no decision is issued within this period, the complaint is deemed to have been rejected.

8.6 Any interested party may submit, before the REC, within ten (10) days of the decision, a request for appeal against the recommendations of the Commission by submitting new evidence. In order to examine the request for appeal, the REC shall request the opinion of the National Bioethics and Technology Ethics Committee, which must give its opinion within fifteen (15) days. If the National Bioethics and Technology Ethics Committee does not give its opinion within the above time limit, the REC proceeds with the examination of the request for treatment without the opinion of the National Bioethics and Technology Ethics Committee.

8.7. The REC may provide a scientific opinion - recommendation to the Research Committee if requested.

8.8 The REC is responsible for informing the scientific staff and the administrative staff of the University of Peloponnese on ethical and moral issues of research through lectures, workshops and publication of information material.

8.9 The REC may give its opinion on proposals for educational programs or participation in research programs on matters within its scope, at the request of the Research Committee.

Article 9 - Submission of proposals

9.1 The research project proposal submitted for approval by the REC must necessarily include a questionnaire and a summary report on the appropriateness and compatibility of the research project with the applicable legislation. In this report,

the scientific director shall determine whether the purpose and methodology of the research project are compatible with ethical principles and legislation.

9.2 Applications and accompanying documents shall be submitted by the scientific director of the project to the Research Committee for electronic transmission to the REC.

9.3 The Chair or the Chair of the ERC shall appoint a rapporteur for each application submitted, in priority to a member of the ERC, depending on the scientific subject of the research project. If the scientific subject of the project cannot be covered by the members of the REC, an external expert or external experts shall be appointed to give an opinion. Meetings of the REC may be held remotely by electronic means.

9.4 All the required supporting documents as well as the standard documents are posted on the website of the SRFA of the University of Peloponnese.

Article 10 - Operation of the Committee

1. The REC meets regularly once (1) a month and whenever requested by its President or the President of the Research Committee of the University of Peloponnese.

2. The Chairperson of the REC is responsible for the proper functioning of the Committee, convenes and conducts its meetings and represents the Committee before the bodies of the University of Peloponnese and wherever else required.

3. The quorum of the REC shall consist of at least three (3) members, including the Chairperson and one of the members not belonging to the University of Peloponnese, and shall be decided by a majority of those present.

4. Decisions are preferably taken unanimously. If unanimity cannot be reached, decisions shall be taken by a majority of the members present. Dissent must be adequately justified in writing. In the event of a tie, the President shall have the casting vote.

5. The vote is open.

6. The members of the REC are not entitled to any remuneration or other compensation for their participation in its meetings.

7. In order to facilitate its work, the REC may cooperate through its Chairperson with the National Bioethics Committee, as well as any other competent authority, on matters relating to its responsibilities.

Article 11 - Communication of decisions

11.1 The person concerned is informed in writing via the FASU of the SRFA of the decision within reasonable time and the extract of the decision is sent to him/her.

11.2 The decision includes:

- a) the name and title of the scientific coordinator(s),
- (b) the exact title of the research proposal/research protocol that has been examined,
- (c) the exact version of the research proposal/research protocol or possible modification thereof on which the decision was based,
- (d) the supporting documents that were examined (e.g. information material, consent form)
- (e) the date on which the decision was taken,
- (f) in the case of a conditional decision, all requested modifications and the procedure for re-examination of the research proposal/research protocol,
- (g) in the case of a positive/approval decision, a list of any obligations of the scientific investigator(s), e.g. submission of periodic or one-off reports, need to inform the Commission of possible future necessary amendments to the protocol, need to report serious or adverse or accidental events during the conduct of the research, etc,
- (h) in the case of a response to a review or amendment, the recommendations should be fully justified
- (i) date and signature of the Chairperson.

Article 12 -Keeping records- Secretariat

The FASU of the SRFA is required to keep an electronic record of the following documents:

- a) a protocol of incoming and outgoing correspondence.
- b) The curricula vitae of the members of the Committee.
- c) Minutes of meetings and agendas under the responsibility of the secretary of the EHRC.
- (d) The applications submitted for approval and the corresponding reasoned decisions.
- (e) The approved research protocols and accompanying documents.
- f) Copies of correspondence between the REC and the investigators in charge, including possible recommendations to the investigator and all information concerning the possible suspension of approved research.

The collection, processing and record keeping of personal data is carried out in accordance with the applicable legislation on the protection of individuals

concerning the processing of their personal data, with emphasis on the security principles of the processing systems and the storage of personal data.

The Secretariat maintains an electronic protocol and the ERC archive, which is secured in accordance with the provisions for the security of the electronic archive of the University of Peloponnese. The storage conditions shall guarantee the protection of confidentiality.

Members of the Secretariat must keep and treat as confidential all information and documents related to the requests referred to it, and not disclose the information or documents to third parties.

The REC shall be provided by the University of Peloponnese with suitable premises and modern and appropriate IT equipment for the management of all information generated by the Commission. The relevant costs shall be borne by the budget of the University of Peloponnese.

Article 13 - Destruction of files

The destruction of a file shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the legislation in force.

3. Scientific Coordinators and Collaborators

Article 14 - Obligations of Scientific Coordinators

According to Law no. 4957/ 2022, the following may be appointed as scientific coordinators of projects/programmes: a) members of the Teaching and Research Staff (T.R.S.) of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), b) members of the Special Educational Staff (S.E.P.) of HEIs, c) members of the Laboratory Teaching Staff (L.T.S.) of HEIs, d) members of Specialised Technical Laboratory Staff (STLS) of the HEI who have at least a postgraduate degree, e) Visiting Professors and Visiting Researchers of Article 171, f) Associate Professors of Article 169, g) Contract Researchers of Article 172, h) Emeritus Professors and retired members of the teaching staff, i) post-doctoral researchers and (j) external collaborators holding a doctoral degree.

The persons responsible for the research must:

- a. comply with the provisions of the applicable legislation, fundamental ethical principles, the rules of professional ethics and these Regulations when conducting the investigation,
- b. monitor compliance with the aforementioned rules by their collaborators in the conduct of the investigation, as defined in the preceding articles.
- c. to fully ensure the protection of the personal data of participants during the procedures of selection of participants, obtaining informed consent, collection and analysis of data. They are required to assess, when designing the research protocol,

the extent to which the disclosure of personal data may harm the social or family status of participants, their ability to seek employment, their coverage by insurance companies or even their legal status. Participants should be able to decide if, how and when their personal data will be used and/or made public. In any case, the collection of personal data is governed by the relevant legislation. Researchers are required to follow a design according to which participants' data will be kept confidential (e.g. coding, secure storage of data, control of persons having access to the data, removal of data that can be used to identify participants in the analysis or publication of study results).

Article 15 - Obligations of partners and associates

1.

Research collaborators shall:

- a. carry out their research activity.
- b. comply with the provisions of the legislation relating to the research subjects, the principles of good practice in research and the ethical rules of their profession and these Rules of Procedure.

2.

In the conduct of research, collaborators shall enjoy the freedom of thought and expression of opinion but shall respect the guidelines imposed on the organisation and guidance of the research activity by the research coordinator.

4. Special Rules for Research

Article 16 - Research involving human subjects

Research involving human subjects shall be carried out with the utmost respect for the bioethical, physical and mental integrity of human beings. Researchers shall be bound not only by law but also by generally recognised principles:

- human dignity and the protection of fundamental rights,
- freedom and equality,
- the protection of public health,
- the protection of the child and vulnerable groups,
- personal data

The research ethics policy of the University of Peloponnese is based on the widely accepted principles and practices that govern research involving human participants. The key elements are:

- Minimal risk of negative consequences for participants and researchers.
- Potential for the benefit of society.
- Respect for the dignity of the participants.
- Minimal risk of negative consequences for the environment.

- Free consent of participants or special safeguards where this is not possible.
- Transparency in the declaration of funding sources.
- Confidentiality of information provided by the research participants and anonymity of respondents.
- Respect for the privacy and protection of personal data (in accordance with the law and the Institution's policy) of research participants.
- Acknowledgement of assistance and support.
- Proper publication and dissemination of research results.
- Independence and impartiality of researchers.

Article 17 - Research in the field of health and social sciences

17.1 Research on human beings has as its main objective the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, the preservation and promotion of health and, in general, the improvement of life, first of all for the individual and, by extension, for society as a whole. The specificity and importance of research on human beings require the development of certain specific regulatory guidelines.

17.2 No research, whether biological, medical, psychological, social or educational, on human beings, may be carried out without the prior and thorough information and consent of the person taking part (or of the person having custody of the person taking part in the research if the person is a minor or cannot judge) as to the purpose, scope and possible risks.

17.3 Consent is required from the individuals involved in a research project, who must be fully informed of the methodology to be used, the purposes of the research and the potential risks, burden or discomfort. Those who are legally incapable of legal capacity and minors are allowed to participate in research with the written consent of their legal representatives, based on the Oviedo Convention and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regarding their 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 relieve the researcher from the obligation to obtain consent from the minor(s) and persons lacking legal capacity. All persons participating in research shall have the right to have their data forgotten or erased.

17.4 Informed consent does not always, nor exclusively, guarantee the protection of the persons concerned. An important part of the responsibility for their protection remains with those responsible for the design and conduct of the specific research or clinical study, particularly when it comes to deciding from which sites and settings to seek volunteers and conduct the research. In certain settings and situations, there are circumstances that by their very nature can have a decisive influence on the will of the person and thus limit their freedom and self-determination, such as detention in prisons, hospitalisation in psychiatric institutions or even in intensive care and emergency units, living in nursing homes or shelters for refugees and migrants, in

situations of domestic, social or political violence, and in situations of emergency, due to natural or other disasters. In such cases, researchers have increased responsibilities and must document, in a reasoned and thorough manner, that they ensure that the conditions are met to ensure that research participants are not reduced to mere 'instruments' for experimentation and research.

17.5 During the research or under the pretext of research, the financial or other exploitation of the human body (from organs to the genome of the cell), as well as any financial or other exploitation of the persons participating in the research by the researchers is not allowed.

17.6 The infliction of disease, pain or physical and mental discomfort, or the prolongation or aggravation of existing disease, pain or physical and mental discomfort, for research purposes is not permitted.

17.7 Researchers must strictly observe before, during and after the research, the principles of protection and integrity of personal data collected and processed, as well as the applicable legislation for their protection. Each investigation shall be conducted in accordance with the principles and rules of the General Data Protection Regulation and Greek law.

17.8 The REC evaluates research proposals that, according to the statement of the scientific coordinator, include medical studies or human trials (Law 4521/2018, article 23, paragraph 2a), without substituting the competent Scientific Council of the hospital or the institution where the study will be conducted. The REC is obliged to take into account any previously documented assessment of the latter for a specific clinical trial and check whether the submitted proposal is covered by the authorisation of the Scientific Council.

17.9 In social research, including social research in the context of a broader interdisciplinary research project, researchers must respect cultural and individual differences in roles and positions, including those based on age, gender, race, minority, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual preference, disability, language and socio-economic level. They are sensitive to real or perceived hierarchies and inequalities of relationships between researchers and research participants and ensure the necessary theoretical, methodological and research conditions to bring out the genuine discourse and perspective of research participants. They do not exploit persons with whom they have a consultancy or other similar relationship that inherently creates a relationship of inequality (e.g. patients, clients, etc.) and avoid in any way causing harm or exposure of research participants to danger. They create, maintain, maintain, distribute, store, preserve and dispose of records and data related to their research following the law and this Regulation of Research Ethics and Conduct.

17.10. Research in sport should be guided by the Olympic ideals. The use of methods that are contrary to the regulations in force to enhance athletic performance is not permitted.

17.11. Conducting research in schools in the Greek Territory requires the opinion of the Ministry of Education, Religion and Sport.

17.12. In any research on prisoners, researchers must comply with the special provisions applicable to them (Penitentiary Code), while taking into account the requirements of the Code of Ethics of Criminology. Under no circumstances are experiments aimed at seeking methods of interrogation or other means that may cause risks to their physical and mental health, or reduce their moral standing and offend their human dignity, permitted.

17.13. Research on children, minors and other vulnerable groups must be specifically justified and its results must not be capable of being produced by other means or with the participation of other groups. In such cases, special care is required of researchers to protect the rights of children, minors and vulnerable groups when their participation in research projects is deemed necessary.

17.14. In particular, research with children should be conducted in accordance with the guidelines summarising key points of the Code of Conduct for Research with Children published by the Society for Research in Child Development (SRCD) (<https://www.srkd.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. No matter how young the children are, their rights take precedence over the rights of the researcher.

Before starting the research, the researchers must obtain informed consent from the participants. They should inform the child of all features of the research that could affect his/her willingness to participate, and answer the child's questions in terms appropriate to his/her level of understanding.

c. When conducting research with infants, researchers should provide all necessary explanations to parents, and be particularly sensitive to infants' indicators of discomfort in order to obtain informed consent.

d. Personal information given by participants during the survey should be kept confidential. The anonymity of participants should be maintained and no information should be used for which consent has not been obtained.

17.15. Those researchers who process personal data of subjects participating in research, and who are not bound by legal confidentiality nor are they in a dependent relationship with the University of Peloponnese, i.e. those who are not officials or employees of the University, nor are they connected to the University for the purpose of conducting the specific research with an employment relationship (not a project or independent service provider, etc.), conclude an additional Terms and Conditions Agreement with the University of Peloponnese for the processing of personal data.

Article 18 - Special investigations

Special investigations, which must be carried out in accordance with Greek and European legislation and in compliance with international and European treaties, are in particular those listed below:

A. Environmental health and safety, environmental protection and biodiversity protection

- The conduct of research must take into account and minimise potential risks to the environment. In particular, based on the constitutionally enshrined principle of sustainability, compliance with the laws established and in force for the protection of the environment, including waste management, must be ensured. It must also ensure compliance with the laws that have been enacted to protect biodiversity and endangered species. Researchers shall include in the research protocol information on potential risks to the environment and a plan to minimise them.
- Research on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Genetically Modified Products (GMPs) is carried out in specially designed laboratories/facilities that meet the appropriate specifications. The research protocol shall contain information on the potential harm to the environment and humans and on the measures taken to address or mitigate such risks.
- Research on genetically modified organisms and microorganisms must be conducted in accordance with the applicable legislation [indicatively and not restrictively, the provisions of Community Directive 2001/18, as incorporated into Greek legislation by Ministerial Decision 38639/2017 and those of Community Directive 1998/81, on the restricted use of genetically modified microorganisms, as incorporated into Greek legislation by Ministerial Decision HP/11648/1943/2002].
- For the use, handling, collection and movement of radioactive substances, a special permit is required from the Hellenic Atomic Energy Commission, in accordance with the applicable provisions (indicatively and not restrictively mentioned. 1733/1987, 2480/1997, Decree 854/1971, Decree 22/1997).
- In the case of the use of ionising or non-ionising radiation, special protection measures must be taken for both researchers and the general population in accordance with the legislation in force.
- No research shall justify damage to the environment in violation of the laws established for its protection and for the management of waste.

B. Protection of intangible and tangible cultural heritage

- No research activity shall justify any infringement of the intangible and tangible cultural heritage in violation of the provisions of the legislation in force.

C. Dual-use research (civilian, military)

- In the case of proposals for research projects with potential dual use, civil or military, or proposals to military organisations, a clear reference to non-civilian uses must be made. The need to conduct such research must be adequately documented, including the appropriate special handling of the disclosure of any sensitive research results or the need for their complete concealment.