

**UCILeR UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL RESEARCH  
THE UCILeR ETHICS AND GOOD PRACTICES PLAN**

**1) Main Ethical Principles**

- 1.1. Freedom
- 1.2. Responsibility
- 1.3. Equality

**2) Main Guidelines**

**2.1) General Recommendations**

- 2.1.1. Innovation
- 2.1.2. Objectivity
- 2.1.3. Integrity and Transparency
- 2.1.4. Privacy and Data Protection Regulation
- 2.1.5. Human Rights Protection

**2.2.) Specific References**

- 2.2.1. Research
- 2.2.2. Researchers
  - 2.2.2.1. Researchers' rights
  - 2.2.2.2. Researchers' duties
- 2.2.3. Participants
  - 2.2.3.1. Informed Consent
  - 2.2.3.2. Privacy and data protection
- 2.2.4. Publications Policy
  - 2.2.4.1. Originality
  - 2.2.4.2. Open access
- 2.2.5. Dissemination/Knowledge Transfer
- 2.2.6. Science Communication
- 2.2.7. Services to the Community

**1) MAIN ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**

UCILeR's research is guided by the following main ethical principles:

**1.1. Freedom**

UCILeR's activity is organised under its Statutes (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/EstatutosIJ2020.pdf/>) and Regulation (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/regulamento/>).

The research work developed at UCILeR is scientifically accurate and free, providing to the researchers who participate in its research support and main guidelines and ensuring scientific freedom in their expertise areas, within UCILeR's strategic project and purposes.

### **1.2. Responsibility**

Every UCILeR activity abides to with Portuguese, European and International Law and with other regulations in force, both nationally and internationally, and assures that researchers conform to them.

Every UCILeR's initiatives will accomplish Portuguese, European and international juridical, ethical, cultural and social standards, and aim at their enforcement and development in the national and international scientific and non-scientific communities.

### **1.3. Equality**

UCILeR follows the PIEDUC – Plan for equality, equity and diversity at the University of Coimbra (<https://www.uc.pt/en/sustainability/equality/PIEDUC20192023>), and establishes the conditions for equal and fair integration and participation of all its members in national and international research, promoting the change of knowledge among its researchers and with external researchers, and their effective participation in research, with full respect to the scientific freedom, the specific expertises, the concrete professional experiences, the freedom of expression, the gender equilibrium and the number of participations, in the constitution of each research team and in the distribution of tasks within it.

## **2) MAIN GUIDELINES**

### **2.1) General Recommendations**

#### **2.1.1. Objectivity**

Research at UCILeR shall provide objectively supported scientific knowledge and contents in the selected thematic areas.

#### **2.1.2. Innovation**

Research at UCILeR shall comply with the thematic, scientific and operational guidelines internationally recommended, and continuously updated, providing innovative knowledge and contents in the selected thematic areas.

#### **2.1.3. Integrity and Transparency**

UCILeR fosters the interest and participation of all its members, promoting and developing its activities with integrity and transparency, globally and individually required to all its members in every field, in its organisation and functioning, in the research work, in the dissemination and in the communication, and providing internal information about its organisation policy and functioning and about the research work developed and its results and external information about its initiatives.

#### **2.1.4. Privacy and Data Protection Regulation**

Considering Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons 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), and Law n. 58/2019, of 8<sup>th</sup>. August, UCILeR strictly maintains

the referenced personal contact data provided by internal and external participants for communication with the data subject relating to the research and for the absolutely necessary time, not sharing any personal data with any third parties, and preserving, rectifying, altering and eliminating the aforementioned data in the terms specifically intended by the data subjects. The UCILeR has approved its own protection and management of data plan, in order to comply with such standards.

### **2.1.5. Human Rights Protection**

UCILeR complies with the International Declarations on Human Rights and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and intends to promote and improve the construction and projection of scientific knowledge that may contribute to the protection and development of the rights of peoples, both protecting the persons participating in the research, whether researchers or not, and disseminating and replicating the knowledge produced to the benefit of the populations. The strategic project of the UCILeR focuses on “societal challenges” and therefore is in line with the SDG and Human Rights instruments.

## **2.2.) Specific References**

### **2.2.1. Research**

Research work at UCILeR implies individual and group work, in the pursuit of UCILeR’s scientific and projects and aims. Interdisciplinarity between areas of law is promoted as well as transdisciplinarity between law and other fields of knowledge, both with Humanities and Social Sciences and life sciences.

### **2.2.2. Researchers**

The status of researcher at UCILeR is considered in accordance with its Statutes (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/EstatutosIJ2020.pdf/>) and Regulation (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/regulamento/>), attending to the rights and duties there established and to the following main ethical guidelines:

- a) The free development of the research work and communication within the UCILeR’s object.
- b) The integration in the UCILeR research teams and projects, considering the subject of the concrete research work and the correspondingly required expertise.
- c) The presentation as UCILeR’s researcher in research work, communications, and publications within the UCILeR’s object.
- d) The participation in the UCILeR’s activities and organisation, as stated in the UCILeR’s Statutes (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/EstatutosIJ2020.pdf/>) and Regulation (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/regulamento/>).
- e) The development of the research work and communication with honesty and transparency, under the UCILeR’s guidelines.
- f) The declarations of affiliations, sources of funding, and any possible conflicts of interests within the research work.
- g) The provision of a rigorous reference to the sources used in the research work, the identification of the presentation of past work in subsequent research – including projects and publications, referring the sources – and the insertion of the names of the authors and co-authors and other collaborators involved in any research work, including projects and publications, with full respect to intellectual property rights.
- h) The participation in the UCILeR’s activities, organisation and infrastructures, as stated in the UCILeR’s Statutes (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/EstatutosIJ2020.pdf/>) and Regulation (<https://www.uc.pt/fduc/ij/sobreij/regulamento/>).

### **2.2.3. Participants**

#### **2.2.3.1. Privacy and data protection**

The internal and external participants in UCILeR's research are under anonymity and data protection, according to the pertinent Portuguese, European and/or International Law.

#### **2.2.3.2. Informed Consent**

Any research whose subject involves persons and persons' data shall imply the written informed consent of the participants, specifically organised by the concrete research team, in which each person involved shall declare to voluntarily agree to participate in the research study, to understand and accept the concrete terms of the research and the object of the participation accepted, and to be aware of the possibility of withdraw at any time or refuse to answer any question or to practice any activity.

The concretely written informed consent is prepared by the research team in each project and considering the object of the research and submitted to the UCILeR Ethical Committee before being presented to the participants in the research.

### **2.2.4. Publications Policy**

UCILeR publications policy considers the editorial policy of the Coimbra University Press ([https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa\\_uc/generalinformations/editorialpolicy](https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa_uc/generalinformations/editorialpolicy)) and Regulation ([https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa\\_uc/generalinformations/regulation](https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa_uc/generalinformations/regulation)), the University of Coimbra Code of Ethics, Best Practice Guidelines for Book Publishers ([http://www.uc.pt/imprensa\\_uc/imprensa/images/codigo\\_de\\_etica\\_en](http://www.uc.pt/imprensa_uc/imprensa/images/codigo_de_etica_en)), and the University of Coimbra Code of Ethics, Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors ([https://www.uc.pt/fluc/nicif/riscos/Territorium/UC\\_Digitalis\\_Code\\_of\\_Ethics.pdf](https://www.uc.pt/fluc/nicif/riscos/Territorium/UC_Digitalis_Code_of_Ethics.pdf); <https://impactum-journals.uc.pt/codeofethics>).

#### **2.2.4.1. Originality**

The UCILeR ensures the rigorous reference to the sources used in the research work, the identification of the presentation of past work in subsequent research – including projects and publications, referring the sources – and the insertion of the names of the authors and co-authors and other collaborators involved in any research work, including projects and publications, with full respect to intellectual property rights.

#### **2.2.4.2. Open access**

UCILeR's publications policy is conform the international open access requirements, specifically according to the editorial policy of the Coimbra University Press ([https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa\\_uc/generalinformations/editorialpolicy](https://www.uc.pt/en/imprensa_uc/generalinformations/editorialpolicy))

### **2.2.5. Dissemination/Knowledge Transfer**

Science dissemination at UCILeR is provided mostly through open conferences, workshops and publications, in order to confer to scientists, other experts, public administration, public and private institutions, and citizens in general, new information, knowledge and solution for the societal challenges posed to law under the themes of research defined.

### **2.2.6. Science Communication**

Science communication at UCILeR is provided mostly through the proper websites, newsletters, blogs, social networks, videos and written deliverables, in order to offer public notice on the research and dissemination initiatives, and to improve the public information and formation.

### **2.2.7. Services to the Community**

UCILeR's research results intend to offer juridical answers to practical problems, in order to provide to the community with scientific knowledge, open to the construction of reflective and regulating mechanisms for diverse spheres of social relationships.

### **2.2.8. Openness to the Community**

UCILeR's research and other activities regard the communication and the application of scientific knowledge within the community, allowing for the establishment of partnerships, with public and private entities.

#### **Sources:**

PIEDUC (Plan for equality, equity and diversity at the University of Coimbra – <https://www.uc.pt/en/sustainability/equality/PIEDUC20192023>)

Resnick, D. B. (2015) What is Ethics in Research and Why is it Important? List adapted from Shamoo A and Resnik D. 2015. Responsible Conduct of Research, 3rd ed. (New York: Oxford University Press).

<https://www.equator-network.org/library/research-ethics-publication-ethics-and-good-practice-guidelines/#etguid>

<https://publicationethics.org/>