European Commission

COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION ON
RESEARCH SECURITY

24 January, 2024

Factsheet

Economic Security package

This initiative supports Member States and the research and innovation sector to enhance research security across Europe. It aims at managing risks such as **undesirable transfer of critical technology, malign influence, and ethical or integrity violations by third countries.**

At the same time, it underscores the importance of international cooperation and openness following the principle **'as open as possible, as closed as necessary'.**

In its proposal for a Council recommendation on research security, the Commission sets out several guidance and support actions to raise awareness and enhance resilience across Europe.

THE RECOMMENDATION LAYS OUT CORE PRINCIPLES TO UPHOLD WHEN IMPLEMENTING RESEARCH PROTECTION MEASURES INTERNATIONALLY:

- Academic freedom
- Self-governance by the sector
- Policies should be risk-based and proportionate
- Country-agnostic approach
- Avoiding all forms of discrimination and stigmatisation

HOW PUBLIC AUTHORITIES CAN SUPPORT

- Engaging in a dialogue with the sector on a coherent set of policy actions outlined in an action plan.
- Taking a whole-of-government approach to ensure that policymakers in the areas of research and innovation, security and foreign affairs work closely together.
- Creating advisory hubs that provide researchers with advice and information, so that they can take informed decisions when engaging in international cooperation.
- Security and intelligence agencies providing threat analysis specific for the research and innovation sector.

THE ROLE OF RESEARCH FUNDING ORGANISATIONS

- ▸ Include risk appraisal into their funding application processes.
- ▸ Encourage beneficiaries to identify and <u>assess risks</u> up front.
- ▸ For projects that are considered high risk, encourage beneficiaries to agree on risk mitigation measures and seek assurances in the partnership agreement with the prospective foreign partner.

WHAT RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS CAN DO

- ▸ Introduce internal <u>risk appraisal</u> and due diligence procedures for engaging in international cooperation.
- ▸ Assign responsibility for research security within the organisation, develop awareness raising activities and training.
- ▸ Take research security into account when recruiting new research staff.
- ▸ To protect sensitive knowledge and research facilities, take physical and virtual safeguards, such as compartmentalisation and robust cybersecurity measures.

HOW DOES THE EU CONTRIBUTE TO RESEARCH SECURITY?

- ▸ A European centre of expertise on research security will be created to further the development of the evidence-base for policymaking and create a community of practice.
- ▸ The Commission will develop tools to help research organisation to perform due diligence into prospective partners and provide, where needed, interpretative guidance on applicable EU legislation.
- ▸ The Commission will follow up on the uptake of the recommendations, facilitate peer learning and consistency of approach across Europe and report on the progress made on a biennial basis.

More information:
[research security webpage]