Integrity education: Training virtues in institutions

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Coming up

1. **Principles and virtues in research integrity**
2. **Training virtues**
3. **Training RI trainers in Europe: the VIRT2UE project**
4. **The Embassy of Good Science**

Principles and virtues in research integrity

The European Code of Conduct for Reseach Integrity (ECoC)

- **Reliability**
- **Honesty**
- **Respect**
- **Accountability**

Principles and virtues

- The four principles in the ECoC are not only abstract viewpoints enabling moral judgment of research behaviour
- They are also virtues, which we expect researchers to embody in their everyday research practice
- Being honest not only requires following the rules, but also implies a disposition to act in an honest way, valuing openness and trust in interpersonal relations

The Aristotelian concept of virtue

Virtue is a disposition to act

Virtue requires knowledge and experience

Virtue implies the ability to see and realize the right middle between too much and too little

Courage (in combat) is the right middle between cowardice and recklessness

Honesty (in collaborative research) is the right middle between indirectness and bluntness

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Training virtues

How to train virtues?

- Raise awareness of the importance of research integrity issues: fabrication and falsification are wrong and detrimental
- Foster reflection and joint deliberation on concrete experiences: when do I encounter morally difficult situations, and how do I learn the right way to act in such situations taking into account the perspective of others (where is the line between making results interesting and presenting results too nice?)

Example: PhD training in Amsterdam UMC

- Blended learning: online course, face-to-face meetings, assignments
- Core element of the face-to-face meetings: group reflection on dilemmas in daily practice

Moral case deliberation

- Joint reflection on a concrete case of a trainee (prospective or retrospective)
- Guided by a trained facilitator, following a structured method
- Analysis of values and norms of stakeholders
- Participants make a choice and make explicit underlying values and norms
- Dialogue on differences, aiming at mutual understanding and learning

Relevance of moral case deliberation

- Awareness of ethical issues and dilemmas
- Better understanding of each other’s views
- Richer perspective on the moral issue at stake
- Insight in the right middle between extremes (taking the extremes seriously)

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Training RI trainers in Europe: the VIRT2UE project

The VIRT2UE project

H2020-SwafS start date June 2018

Virtue based ethics and **I**ntegrity of **R**esearch:

Train-the-**T**rainer program for **U**pholding the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (VIRT2UE)

Goals

Developing a sustainable train-the-trainer blended learning program enabling:

- understanding and upholding the principles and practices of the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**
- **contextualized** ERI teaching across Europe
- **training 3050 trainers in Europe** by the end of the project
- building a **community** of ERI trainers

Blended learning program

Face-to-face training

- Learning by doing

- Focus on real cases (own experience)

- Facilitate group reflection on moral dilemmas in practice

- Focus how to apply the content of the teaching material to concrete situations in daily practice

Online component

- Background information (i.e. European Code of Conduct, ERI issues, Virtues)

- Input for face-to-face training (learning goals, feedback forms, questions)

- Community of trainers (and trainees!)

What is the plan?

Training the consortium members (30 trainees)	**Sept – Nov 2019**
The consortium members provide a VIRT2UE training (305 trainees)	**Spring 2020**
The 305 trainers provide a VIRT2UE training (3050 trainees)	**Fall 2020**
	End of project: may 2021

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The Embassy of Good Science

H2020-SwafS start date May 2017

Initiative: wiki platform serving the research community

- A platform that makes information about RE+RI easily accessible
- Supports the application in research and evaluation
- **Involves all stakeholders** in a participatory way
- Achieves **sustainability**

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Content:

- Laws, Guidelines & Regulation
- Cases & Scenarios
- Themes
- Q&A
- Education (Training materials)
- Trainings

VIRT2UE and...

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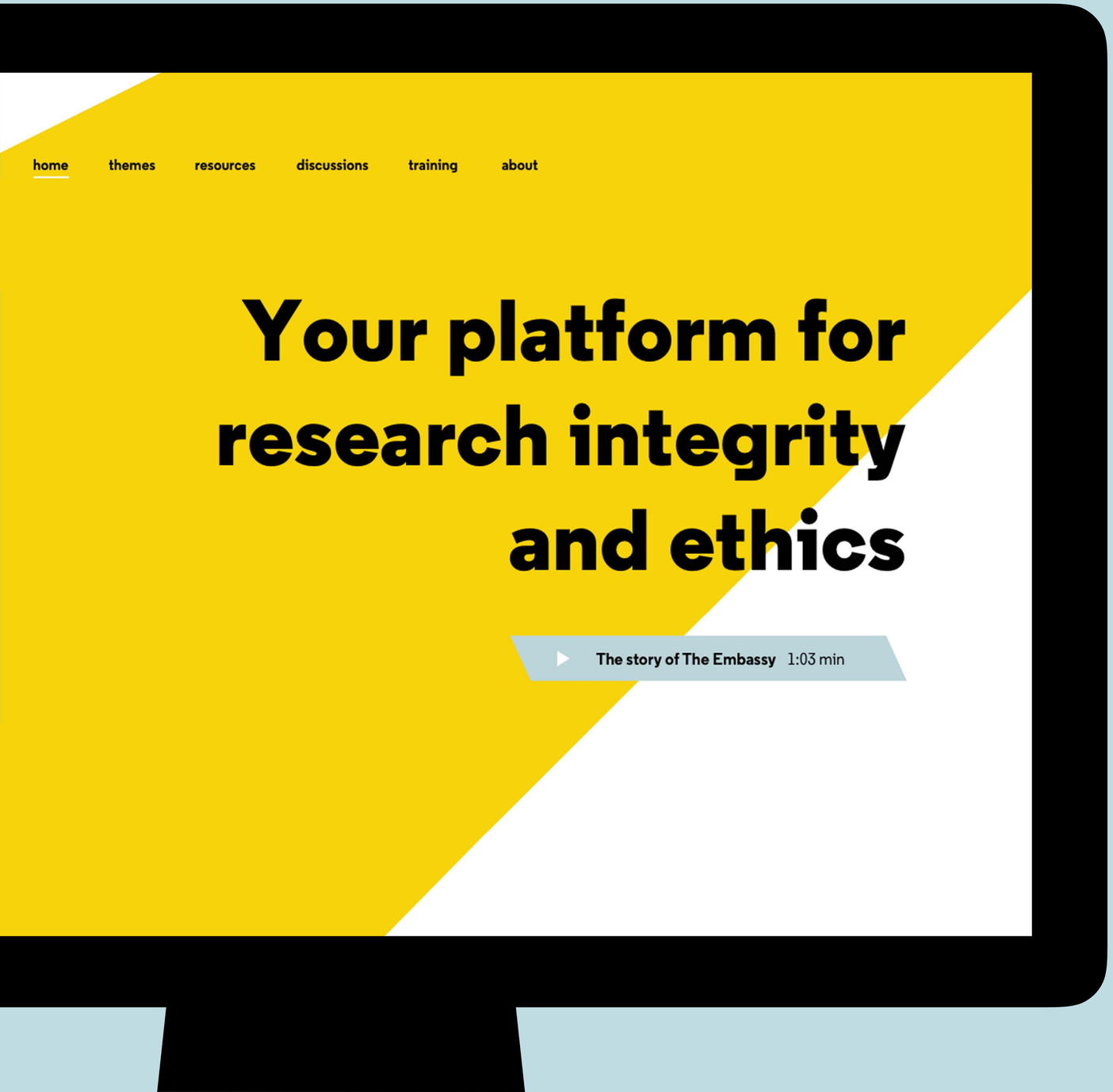
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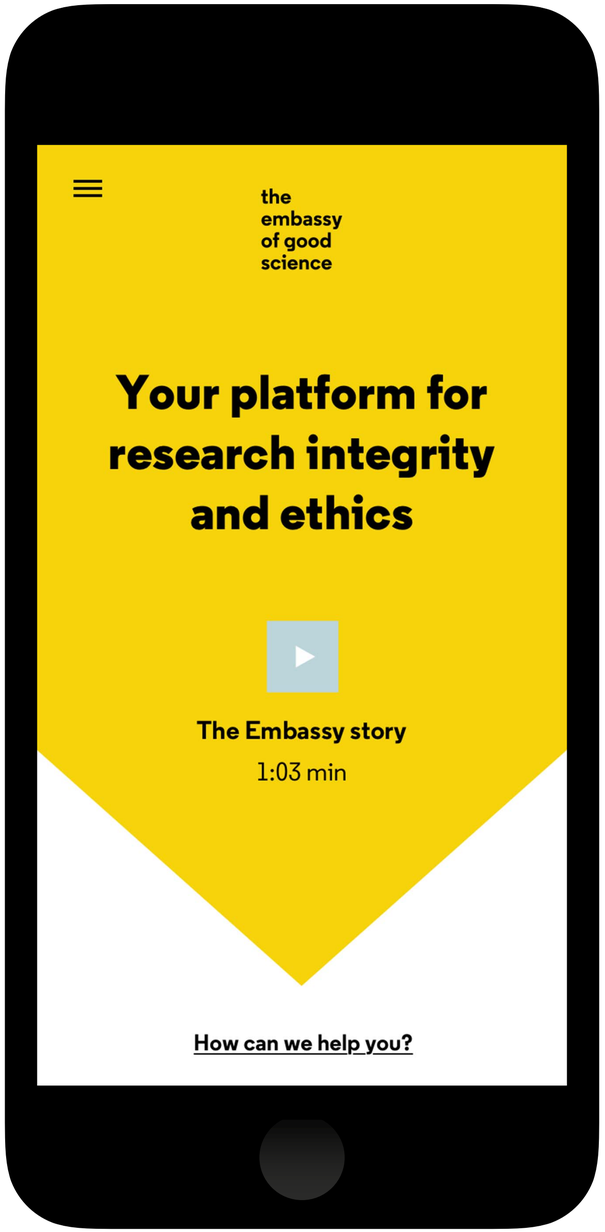
Your platform for research integrity and ethics
The story of The Embassy 1:03 min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The Embassy story
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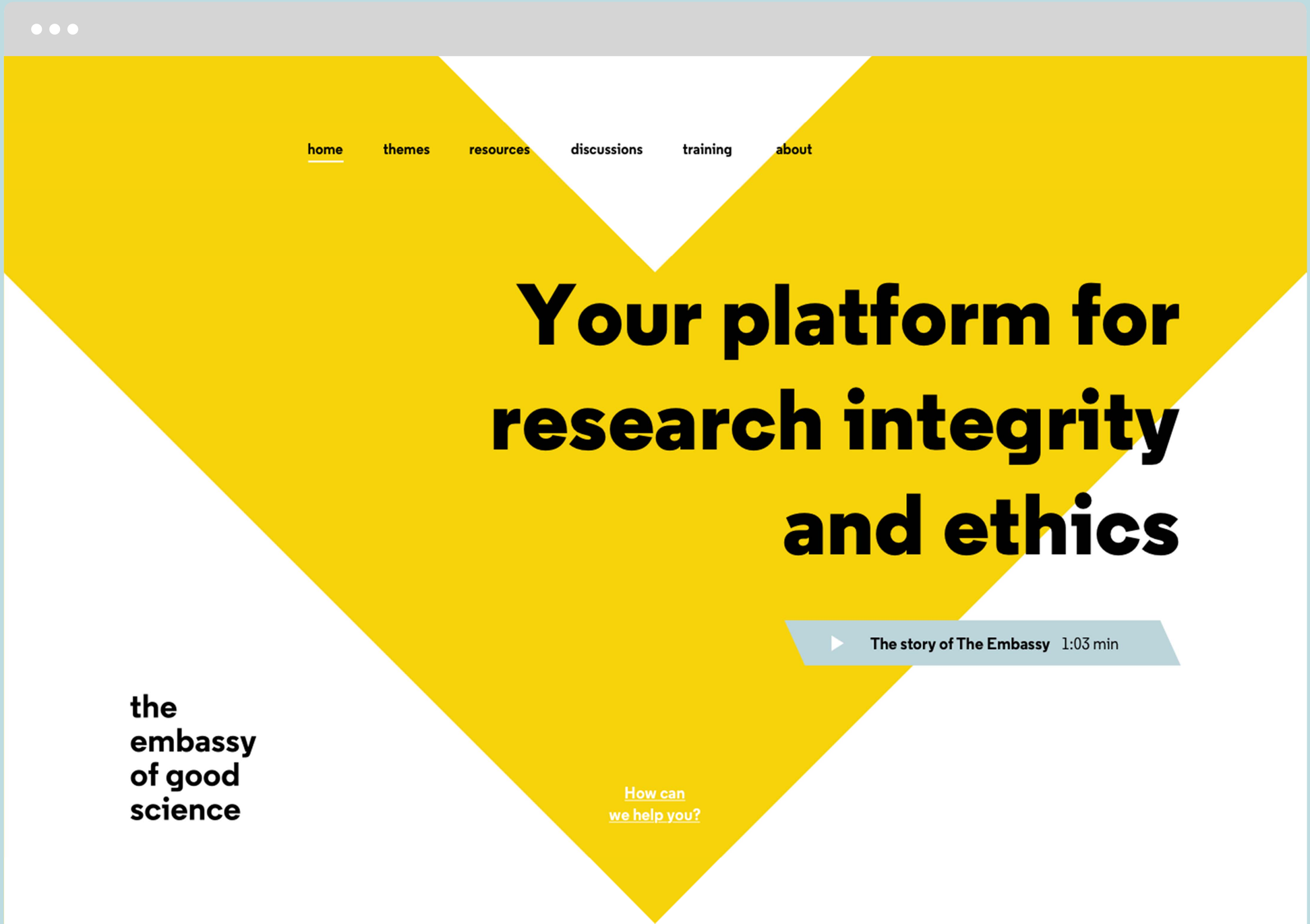
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How can we help you?

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Resources

+ Add a resource

Materials that help you in your every day research practice to do good science. Expect guidelines, video, checklists and whitepapers.

Guidelines
132 resources

Cases
58 resources

Experts and committees
93 resources

Training materials
105 resources

Cookies

Let us keep you posted

Conclusions

Conclusions

- **RI education should promote virtues**
- **Fostering virtues requires experience and reflection**
- **Blended learning offers a basis for teaching virtues**
- **VIRT2UE aims to engage a community of trainers and trainees**
- **The Embassy of Good Science provides a platform for the research community, with trainers as ambassadors**

Thank you!

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