

# Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity

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# SOPs4RI



- Standard Operating Procedures for Research Integrity
- Four-year (2019-2022), H2020/SwafS, CSA, € 4m
- Consortium:



# The mission



- Promote a strong Research Integrity culture and research practices that align with the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- Prevent, detect, handle misconduct, reduce waste, counter diminishing trust in science
- Catalyse change within European Research Performing Organisations (RPOs) and Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) to achieve these goals
- Develop a toolbox of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) & guidelines that RPOs and RFOs can apply selectively when tailoring their individual Research Integrity Promotion Plans (RIPPs)



# Approach

- Extensive, mixed-methods empirical research programme
- Co-creation with end-users
- Sensitivity towards variation across epistemic cultures and organisational levels
- Iterative design process
- Outreach and development of user-friendly web-based version of Toolbox 5.0

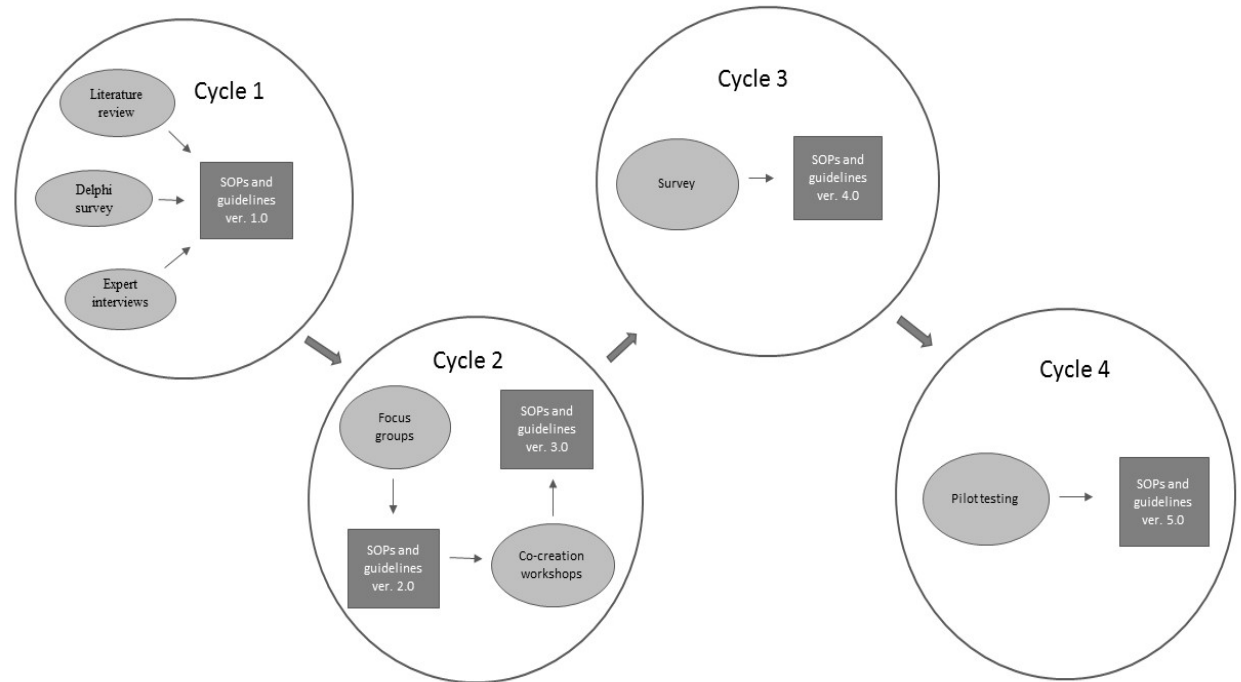


Figure 1: The four development cycles

# The toolbox – the end product of SOPs4RI



- Core tools are SOPs and Guidelines.
- The tools will primarily target the organisational level
- Existing SOPs and Guidelines identified by the project + new ones developed by the project
- Contain ‘other resources’ or ‘secondary tools’, e.g. ‘best practice’ examples
- Not randomly tossed tools but an organised structure that allows users to easily find the relevant tools.
- Online, accessible for all.

# Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and Guidelines



## *How do we understand Guidelines?*

A statement of principles or issues to consider when performing a task, aimed to guide courses of action. Guidelines give direction and help users make decisions. They are often created based on the consensus of experts after detailed evaluation and assessment of available scientific evidence. They may include checklists.

## *How do we understand SOPs?*

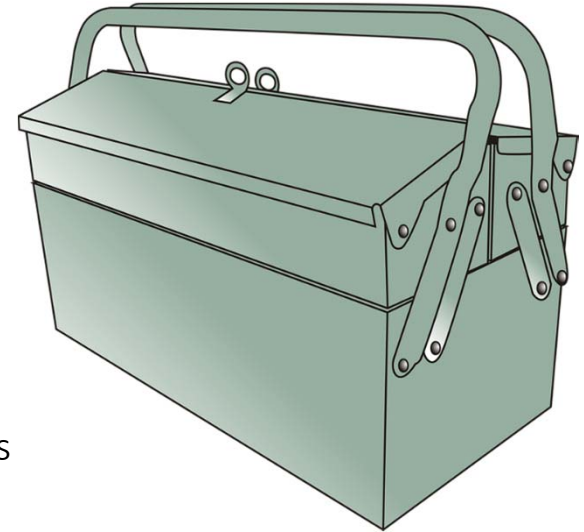
A detailed, written instruction, aimed to achieve uniform action step-by-step. SOPs prescribe specific actions; they liberate users from decision-making by ensuring that procedures are followed. They may come in the shape of a 'decision'-tree or flow-diagram, similar to what is referred to as an algorithm in clinical contexts.



# Examples of topical areas that might be included in the toolbox



- Procedures for research integrity training across disciplinary fields
- SOPs for setting up research integrity offices
- Procedures for detecting misconduct
- Sanctions and rehabilitation procedures in relation to misconduct
- Guidelines for the protection of whistleblowers
- Guidelines and SOPs for data management
- Guidelines for Open Science and open data
- Procedures for handling allegations
- Procedures for deliberation and collegial supervision related to QRPs
- Guidelines for responsible reward systems





# Organisations that will help pilot test the toolbox

## *Private RFOs:*

- La Caixa Foundation
- Novo Nordic Foundation

## *Public RFOs:*

- Austrian Science Fund
- The Research Council of Norway

## *European associations / umbrella organisations:*

- ENRIO
- EARMA (partner in SOPs4RI)
- The Guild





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Thank you for your attention

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