BEYOND

Designing an interoperable framework for qualitatively rich case study reporting and monitoring

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The Need for Qualitatively Rich Case Study Monitoring

- The BEYOND project aims to look at **how the relationship between individual and systemic factors contribute to research misconduct (RM),** rather than solely focusing on individual 'bad apples'
- Identifying structural and systemic factors in the research environment through real-life case studies requires more qualitative depth to address the **complex interaction between the social, political, economic and individual factors** that contribute to RM
- Increased qualitative depth in case study monitoring is necessary to **extract the interlinking and often 'murky' entanglements of factors** contributing to RM, as well as to **identify emerging themes and trends** pertaining to RM

An Interoperable Case Study Reporting Framework

- An **interoperable qualitative reporting framework** is proposed here to enable a more **'thick description'[1] of RM case studies** for monitoring, reporting and analysis

- A prototype of this framework was developed for conducting analysis for a BEYOND research task evaluating recent cases of RM from the last 5 years across four project partner countries (Estonia, Latvia, Netherlands, UK)[1]

- Main **target users** for this framework are national Research Integrity Offices (RIOs) and other Research Ethics and Integrity (REI) monitoring bodies

- Findings from analysis of cases collated using the framework can be used by researchers, RIOs, REI monitoring organisations and for teaching students about the causes and impacts of RM

- **Interoperability** here means standard reporting format as a basis for qualitative analysis. Interoperability allows for **ease of implementation** by organisations, and

comparative analysis across organisations

- Incorporating greater qualitative depth in reporting and monitoring **enhances transparency** to facilate greater trust in science

- This framework has some **limitations**:

✓ The framework balances broad applicability with the need for specificity; therefore it will not be as comprehensive as some analyses might require, and will likely miss out data required for some specific research questions

✓ However, the framework does provides a base of relevant information that is more context-rich than most existing reporting regimes, and enables comparative analysis between cases

✓ Cases can be investigated further, and specific details extracted, from sources provided through framework (see 'Sources' category below)

Prototype of Framework Categories

- **Date/Year**
- **Brief summary of case (250 words or less)**
- **Type of RM/QRP[3] (typology to be created and refined during co-design process)**
- **Misconduct context (grant, journal, lab etc.)**
- **Discipline/commercial field**
- **Researcher level (Student, ECR, Professor etc.)**
- **How discovered and reported**
- **How investigated or adjudicated**
- **Outcome/consequences (250 words or less)**
- **Relevant sources (links where available)**
- **Additional notes or comments**

Applying the Framework to REI Policy and Practice

- Findings can be used by researchers and policy analysts **to identify systemic and structural factors**, and as a basis for Research Providing Organisations (RPOs) and Research Funding Organisations (RFOs) **to change institutional practices and policies**
- Can be used to identify levers for national and EU level **policy interventions to enhance trust in science**

- Provides **evidence for transparent public communication** on how oversight occurs in the research community to ensure credibility, transparency and trust in research practitioners and institutions

Next Steps Required

1. To conduct a **co-design cycle of piloting, revision and validation** to bring the framework from an initial conceptual prototype to a developed and useable tool
2. Once fully developed, to disseminate the framework to **facilitate integration** and use by relevant stakeholders esp. European RIOs
3. A potential long-term outcome of this interoperable framework is a European or international **centralized database of RM cases** that can be accessed by researchers and other engaged stakeholders for analysis

References

[1] Younas, A., Fàbregues, S., Durante, A., Escalante, E. L., Inayat, S., & Ali, P. (2023). Proposing the "MIRACLE" Narrative Framework for Providing Thick Description in Qualitative Research. International Journal of Qualitative Methods, 22 https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069221147162

[2] Slesinger, I., Dilger, J., Kumar, R., Vinders, J., Rodrigues, R., Simm, K., Zameska, J., Lang, H., van den Hooff, S., Fanelli, D., Coman, A., Husum, T. L., Tammeleht, A., Löfström, E., Mežinska, S., & Lasmane, E. (2023). Insights from the literature review on behavioural ethics, moral psychology & case-based methodologies and review of real-life case studies of research misconduct. Zenodo. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.10617602

[3] Themes. (2024, May 3). The Embassy of Good Science. https://embassy.science:443/wiki/Special:BrowseData/Theme

Acknowledgements

Beyond partners

FIND OUT MORE!

BEYOND Project Website

D1.1: Insights from the literature review on behavioural ethics, moral psychology & case-base methodologies and review of real-life case studies of research misconduct

BEYOND Online Policy Event
September 30th, 2024
14:00-15:30 CET

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