



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

PRESENTATION BELGIAN REPRODUCIBILITY NETWORK

Dr John Pearson

VUB Legal and Ethics Office



REPRODUCIBILITY AT VUB

WHAT WE DO

- Outreach & Information
 - Ethics Week (first week December each year)
 - 2022: Session on Ethics and Data management, jointly with other Flemish Universities
 - Issues around responsible data management, with implications for reproducibility
 - E.g. improving data literacy to go beyond quantitative data skills
 - Improving incentives and addressing dilemmas around Open Science
 - 2023: Session on Reproducibility
 - Online training guide: *Open and reproducible research. An introduction to practical measures*
 - Training document developed as part of EUTOPIA European University with 10 European partners
 - Need permission to share (sorry!)

REPRODUCIBILITY AT VUB

WHAT WE DO

- Infrastructure and Organisation – Research Information & Data Management
 - Internal Sharepoint with guidance on research data management and practices
 - Free open source electronic lab notebook eLabFTW
 - Mind the GAP – Online training w/short discussion of reproducibility
- Data Stewards per disciplinary area:
 - Natural Sciences & (Bioscience) Engineering
 - Life Sciences & Medicine
 - Social and Human Sciences
- Data stewards have worked together and taken the lead in organising sessions on reproducibility

IMPACT OF REPRODUCIBILITY

SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY DOSSIERS

- At least two dossiers evaluated by the Committee for Scientific Integrity have implications for reproducibility
 - Case 1
Researcher refused to respect proper practices for archiving data and research materials; did not use lab notebooks properly; failed to share materials properly when requested; possibly acted in a way that destroyed research materials and records
 - Case 2
Researcher fabricated data used in several publications

REPRODUCIBILITY AT VUB

WHAT WE NEED

- Training and Outreach
 - Participation in future ethics week sessions about/relevant for reproducibility
 - Provision of accessible, engaging training materials (Videos? Quizzes? Games?)
 - Possible to incorporate in Mind the GAP tool?
 - Provision of more discipline-specific guidance
 - Visibility of reproducibility contact points – Data stewards? Data officers? Ambassadors?
 - FAIR Data contact points???
- What we can offer
 - There is motivation to develop new initiatives, please contact RIDM at VUB!

WHAT WE NEED

REPRODUCIBILITY & INTEGRITY

- Possible strengthening of reproducibility provisions in ethics and integrity codes
 - Current ALLEA, Art. 2.3
 - “Researchers report their results in a way that is compatible with the standards of the discipline and, where applicable, can be verified and reproduced”.
 - (No mention of Reproducibility found in Netherlands CoC for Research Integrity)
 - Does this reflect the seriousness of the reproducibility crisis?
 - Can/should (deliberate) actions that undermine reproducibility be considered as a separate category of integrity violation/questionable research practice?
 - Possibility of VCWI statement on reproducibility/replicability?

THANK YOU!



VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL