

# Globethics Principles of Research Partnership

## Background

The present proposal builds on the document “Globethics.net Principles of Research Partnership (GPRP),” (DOC GE\_BF\_19\_02\_12a) elaborated by the Globethics Steering Committee in March 2005 for the working period 2005-2008. The Board of Foundation at its Meeting in Abuja 2018, articulated the necessity for a revised foundational document for the work period 2019 to 2022 and beyond, which addresses the needs of Globethics in grounding its institutional research relationships in commonly agreed-upon principles.

## Rationale

The Globethics principles for research partnership are based on the understanding that ethics constitutes not only the content of research Globethics seeks to promote, but that ethical standards inform the way in which the institution is conducting research with individuals and institutions on theoretical, practical and methodological levels. The GPRP document of 2005 described it accurately as the ethics of knowledge-sharing, which relates to building communities of practice based on sharing of knowledge. It addresses the practical level of Globethics’ activities by promoting joint projects, intellectual thriving, critical thinking and the pursuit of truth. These principles are intended to apply to formal, as well as to such collaborations arising from the life of the Globethics network, for instance in relation to cooperation in research among Globethics Consortium members. The principles for research partnership that Globethics applies are transversal in nature, i.e. they are relevant for activities carried out by all three departments for the whole of Globethics: Academic Department, Community and Policy Department, Development and Support Department.

## Globethics Principles of Research Partnership

### 1. Research and Trust-Building

Trust-building and mutual recognition, based on moral and intellectual virtues, in research is both a condition and an aim of any research initiative. Globethics places high emphasis on the participatory character of its research liaisons. It engages in research partnerships with the intention to focus on the pursuit of truth, and qualities of the character that are favourable to the development of knowledge. Furthermore, to contribute to the sharing of knowledge at local, regional and global levels, in mutual respect of the partners, their contributions to the research and for the commonly agreed-upon research methods, dissemination and transfer mechanisms.

### 2. Research Design Planning

Globethics engages in research partnerships by creating and maintaining transparency on the outline of research projects, its objectives and expected outcomes. It is crucial for all research partnerships to plan the research design together and to exchange from the outset on the terms of the research collaboration.

### 3. Research Responsibilities

Globethics commits itself to publicise research, to communicate and disseminate research results within the scope of its mandate, to assist researchers engaged in research on subjects of applied ethics to publish, and to encounter research partners in full respect of their specific research contexts. Globethics sees itself also in the role of inviting research partners of its own network to practice sharing of responsibilities in planning, funding, conducting, evaluating and disseminating research according to available resources and in respect of different, but equally valued, contributions.

## **4. Research Shared Ownership and Networking**

Globethics abides by the principle of shared ownership in research partnerships and joint research projects and takes on the responsibility to foster networking among its consortium members in view of deepening an understanding of shared ownership for research collaboratively conducted.

## **5. Research Transparency**

Globethics is keen on strengthening the principle of transparency in designing, conducting, evaluating and disseminating research. Globethics considers the exchange of information, the engagement in a regular flow of communication and mutual consultation as relevant and indispensable elements of transparency in research partnerships, and commits itself to apply them.

## **6. Research Evaluation**

Globethics deems research evaluation as a crucial means of quality assurance and engages itself to build evaluation into the regular planning and monitoring cycles of its research partnership projects. Brief intermediary evaluations, or at least mutual consultations with the aim of monitoring and early remedy to any occurring challenges in the process, are strongly encouraged. Research evaluation shall be made accessible to the partners, so that lessons can be learnt for subsequent projects.

## **7. Research Application and Transfer**

Globethics understands its contribution to research in partnership with other institutions as a proposal to read, analyse and draw transformation-oriented conclusions, especially in the area of its mandate, and here more specifically in applied ethics. Globethics engages itself in facilitating dialogues on application and transfer of research outcomes, however, it cannot impose and directly influence them.

## **8. Research Dissemination and Sharing of Outcomes**

Globethics through its own channels of communication and dissemination pledges to contribute to levelling out disparities in access to research outcomes. E-library, publications and online course constitute excellent repositories and vehicles for the dissemination and sharing of research, and Globethics will intensify these assets for the development of its strategic partnerships. Globethics normally implements the Creative Commons Copyright (CCC) standard in its own publications and encourages the partners to implement the same. Specific copyright solutions for publications or courses can be agreed with partners, as long as they do not contradict shared ownership (item 4 above).

## **9. Research Capacity Development**

Globethics places high value in building long-term research relationships in cross-cultural and interreligious perspectives on ethics. Encouraging, supporting and contributing to develop the capacities of emerging researchers from across the world in participating in research projects of the Globethics network is one of the future-oriented responsibilities Globethics takes seriously and seeks to develop.

## **10. Research Cycle**

Globethics is committed to contribute to making research results accessible for all and to ensure that, for instance by means of trainings, research outcomes benefit the community among which the research was conducted.

*24 October 2019  
Internal Review: 18 July 2023*