Co-funded by the European Union

iRISE improving Reproducibility In SciencE

Participant Information Sheet

Title of the research project: improving Reproducibility in Science (iRISE)

Title of the study: A study protocol for an exploratory, non-randomized, prospective intervention study of the effect of EQIPD quality system implementation on the use of best practices and research climate in research units

We cordially invite you to take part in this survey to contribute to a study under the iRISE project. The decision about participating in the survey is entirely up to you. Before you decide, it is important that you to understand the purpose of the study and what it would involve for you. Please read this information sheet carefully and contact us if you have any questions (see below for contact details). Feel free to talk to others about your participation in this study if you wish.

What is the aim of the iRISE project?

The iRISE project (https://irise-project.eu) aims to deepen our knowledge of drivers of reproducibility and integrity in science. We seek to foster a research culture marked by openness, integrity and trust, to advance reproducibility and knowledge. One of our main goals is to propose solutions to strengthen scientific evidence, by evaluating the efficacy of interventions aimed at increasing research reproducibility. One such intervention is the implementation of the EQIPD quality system.

What is the purpose of the survey in the context of the project?

The survey data will provide valuable insights into researchers' perception of the use of best practices and research climate in their research units. In addition, we will explore whether a person's perception of research climate is affected by their socio-cultural identity and the sociological-cultural composition of their research unit. By collecting data about these topics, we aim to identify the benefits and challenges associated with implementing best practices the broader research landscape. This approach will also guide us in refining and adapting quality systems to better suit the needs of diverse research settings.

Who is funding this study?

iRISE receives funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101094853. The project also receives funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the Swiss State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI): Direct Funding for Collaborative Projects as part of the transitional measures.

What will I be asked to do?

This study involves filling out an online survey in English that will take approximately 8-12 minutes. The questions cover institutional responsible research conduct resources, departmental integrity norms, departmental integrity socialization, departmental integrity barriers, advisor-advisee relations, research environment, and quality system perceptions. The questions are

drawn from the Survey of Organizational Research Climate (Martinson et al., 2013) and the Diversity Minimal Item Set (Stadler et al., 2023), with some specifically developed for this survey. Participation in all questions is voluntary.

Do I have to participate?

Participation is completely voluntary. You should only participate if you want to, and choosing not to take part will not disadvantage you in any way. You may change your mind later and stop participating even if you agreed earlier.

What are the possible risks and benefits of taking part?

The potential risks and burdens are minimal. No risks, in terms of health or psychological wellbeing, can be reasonably linked to your participation in the study. The topics discussed will not be personal or sensitive ones. The survey will be performed anonymously. We have implemented various data protection measures (see below) to reduce the risk of identifying individuals and we will not publicly release any data in which individuals can be identified.

Similarly, you should not expect any personal benefits as a result of your participation. Your participation will allow us to better understand the use of the EQIPD quality system and related practices and challenges. Furthermore, your answers will help us to develop trainings and resources that can promote Good Research Practice.

iRISE project researchers will analyse the information collected during the survey, but – as stated above – your responses are anonymous.

What personal data will be collected, stored and processed?

If you agree to take part, we will ask you to accept the informed consent statement at the beginning of the survey. For the duration of the iRISE project (currently until 31/08/2026), the data obtained from the survey will be stored securely in Microsoft Teams, using password protected files. Only the iRISE researchers involved in the study will have access to them. After the end of the project, they will be stored on secure servers at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and may be made available in anonymised form to other researchers upon reasonable request. If we receive a small number (less than 5) of responses for some demographic items, we will release data either in aggregate or with those items redacted for privacy.

What will happen if I want to withdraw from the study?

Your participation is voluntary, and you are free to withdraw your consent to take part in the study at any time and for any reason, without needing to justify your decision. If you choose to withdraw from the study, the information you have given up to that point will be deleted. Please note that it will not be possible to delete data after it has been anonymised, published or presented.

What will happen to the results of the study?

This study results will be communicated using project reports, scientific publications, conference presentations and web-based outputs. If you wish so, we will share all outputs of the iRISE project drawing on the survey data with you. In addition, all outputs will be published with open access.

What are my privacy rights in relation to my personal data?

You have the right to request access to your personal data and to request rectification, erasure, restriction, and to object to the processing of your personal data under certain circumstances and in accordance with the GDPR.

If you want to invoke your rights, lodge a complaint, or if you have any questions concerning privacy about this study, please contact the Data Protection Officer Officer at the Charité, Universitätsmedizin Berlin (datenschutzbeauftragte@charite.de). The Data Protection Officer can also provide the iRISE Privacy Policy containing further information on your rights.

Whom can I contact if I have questions or concerns?

If you need any further information, or if you have questions or concerns, you can contact the lead researchers Björn Gerlach (bjoern.gerlach@go-eqipd.org) and/or Kim Wever (kim.wever@radboudumc.nl), and/or Stephanie Zellers (stephanie.zellers@helsinki.fi) as well as the Data Protection Officer at the Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin (datenschutzbeauftragte@charite.de).

Informed Consent to Participate

You must provide informed consent in order to participate. If you do not wish to participate, please decline participation by exiting the webpage; do not click agree and do not proceed with the survey. Clicking on the agree button and proceeding to the survey confirms that you:

1) Have read the above information
2) Have had any questions prior to participation addressed by the researchers
3) Voluntarily agree to participate
4) Are at least 18 years of age