Shared Principles for Research Practice at the HUN-REN Centre for Ecological Research

Based on the outcomes of the Group Leader Norming Workshop held on 28 May 2026

The outcome of the norming workshop complements the Centre's *Our Values* document and Code of Ethics at the level of scientific practice. It does not aim to summarise all values, expectations, or obligations of the Centre. Rather, it highlights those areas that group leaders identified as particularly important for our shared research culture and day-to-day scientific work.

Workshop participants jointly identified the following 12 principles.

Research Practices

Scientific Depth and Seeking the Bigger Picture

In our research, we strive to interpret our findings within their broader scientific and societal context. We value scientific curiosity, deep thinking, and research questions that extend beyond short-term publication goals.

Rigorous Research Planning, Methodological Control, Documentation, and Data Archiving

When planning research, we consider methodological, human-resource, and data-management aspects. We recognise that high-quality research can only be built on well-designed, properly documented, and quality-controlled data collection. Therefore, we strive for scientific rigour and long-term preservation of research data throughout all stages of the research process.

Commitment to Professional Development

We value continuous professional and methodological development regardless of age or career stage. We support the acquisition of new knowledge, participation in training opportunities, and various forms of learning from one another.

Publication Practices

Prioritising Scientific Quality in Publication Practices

When making publication-related decisions, we prioritise scientific quality over quantity. We avoid low-quality or predatory publication practices and seek to consider long-term scientific value alongside short-term publication pressures.

Transparent Management of Authorship Roles and Contributions

We clearly and transparently communicate authorship roles and contributions. We strive for fair recognition of contributions, encourage the use of the CRediT authorship framework, and pay particular attention to ensuring appropriate visibility for the work of junior researchers.

Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence

We use artificial intelligence tools responsibly, transparently, and under appropriate professional oversight, including proper documentation and disclosure of their use. We aim for AI to support, rather than replace, researcher responsibility, independent thinking, and scientific integrity.

Supporting Open Access, FAIR, and Open Data Principles

We support the principles of Open Science. We strive to make our publications and data as accessible, reproducible, and FAIR-compliant as possible, while taking into account professional, ethical, and legal constraints.

Peer Collaboration

Fulfilling Commitments and Respecting Deadlines

We strive to fulfil our commitments to one another and to undertake tasks in line with available time, capacity, and expertise. We value responsible planning and timely communication when commitments cannot be met.

Listening to Different Perspectives and Communicating Honestly and Respectfully

We support open scientific dialogue. We believe that all colleagues should have the opportunity to express their views and that differing perspectives should be discussed honestly and with mutual respect.

Addressing Conflicts Openly and in a Timely Manner

We seek to address collaboration-related problems openly, respectfully, and in a timely manner. We believe that conflicts should be discussed directly among those involved, so that they do not hinder collaborative work.

Knowledge Sharing and Collaboration

We view scientific achievements as the result of collective effort. We support the sharing of knowledge, experience, and methods, as well as collaboration both within and beyond the Centre. We strive for cooperation rather than competition among researchers and research groups.

Engagement of Early-Career Researchers and Inclusion

We strive to ensure that early-career researchers are active participants in the life of the Centre by providing meaningful professional roles and responsibilities. We encourage the expression of opinions, independent initiatives, and professional development, while fostering an inclusive and supportive research environment for both early-career and international researchers.