



LUXEMBOURG AGENCY
FOR RESEARCH
INTEGRITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2020/2022 EDITION

MAISON DES ARTS ET DES SCIENCES

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SPEAKING WITH THE INTERIM GENERAL SECRETARY

Appointed as interim secretary general on 16 November 2020, my main objective was to ensure the continuity of LARI's operations for the promotion of research integrity. The actions undertaken were aimed at consolidating the presence of the Agency within the Luxembourg research ecosystem. This involved, in particular, the financial consolidation of the A.S.B.L. and the development of a strategy.

Part of this new roadmap consisted in establishing monthly meetings with the Commission for Research Integrity (CRI).

Finally, we took part in numerous events in Europe and around the world to promote and share good research integrity practices. By participating in Virtu2UE, organised by the Embassy of Good Science, and by submitting an abstract, which was selected for the World Conference on Research Integrity's poster session, we contributed to Luxembourg's success in advocating for research integrity on the international scene.

Asael Rouby, interim general secretary



"I am deeply convinced of the importance of promoting sound research practices. In this respect, Luxembourg can play an important role by participating in international efforts."

WHO WE ARE

The Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI) is an independent body, established to handle specific cases of alleged research misconduct.

Established in 2016, LARI is the national organisation in charge of the promotion and investigation of research integrity in Luxembourg.

LARI intersects with a variety of research disciplines including medicine, behavioural and social sciences, physical sciences and mathematics, engineering and materials sciences, law, and computing.

OUR FIVE FOUNDING MEMBERS





WHAT WE DO

The Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity (LARI) has a dual objective: to promote responsible conduct of research; and to ensure an independent inquiry and investigation in cases of alleged scientific misconduct.

LARI is responsible for dealing with reported breaches of research integrity, promoting good practice, and participating in relevant national and international initiatives.

The Agency strengthens responsibility in research and ensures the observance of the respective guidelines. Its activities focus on investigating allegations of misconduct in research, including corrective actions.

LARI makes its knowledge available for the sake of preventing research misconduct and raising awareness. As such, LARI provides established and early stage researchers with applied ethics training sessions using a creative approach called CAPRI. It also offers bioethics and research ethics consultation from a professional bioethicist.

A MEMBER OF ENRIO

LARI is strongly connected at the international level with similar organisations. In total, more than 20 European countries have their national research integrity officers represented in the European Network of Research Integrity Offices (ENRIO).



OUR OBJECTIVES

LARI's activities focus on investigating suspicion or allegations of misconduct in research, including corrective actions.

All of its interventions take place in strict compliance with the principles of confidentiality and the presumption of good faith.

LARI COMMISSION FOR RESEARCH INTEGRITY (CRI)

The Commission for Research Integrity (CRI) consists of five members — all of whom are unbiased international experts with regards to Research Integrity and doing investigations. CRI applies a neutral and impartial approach to any case they investigate. The Commission is strictly independent from all the LARI members.

In late 2022, Torkild Vinther informed the Board that he has decided to retire and step down as Chair. As a result, the Board appointed Mylène Deschenes, currently serving as Vice-Chair, to succeed Torkild Vinther as Interim Chair of CRI.



Torkild Vinther
Chair
Retired



Mylène Deschênes
Vice-Chair
Interim Chair



Bernice Elger



Daniele Fanelli



Vedran Katavić



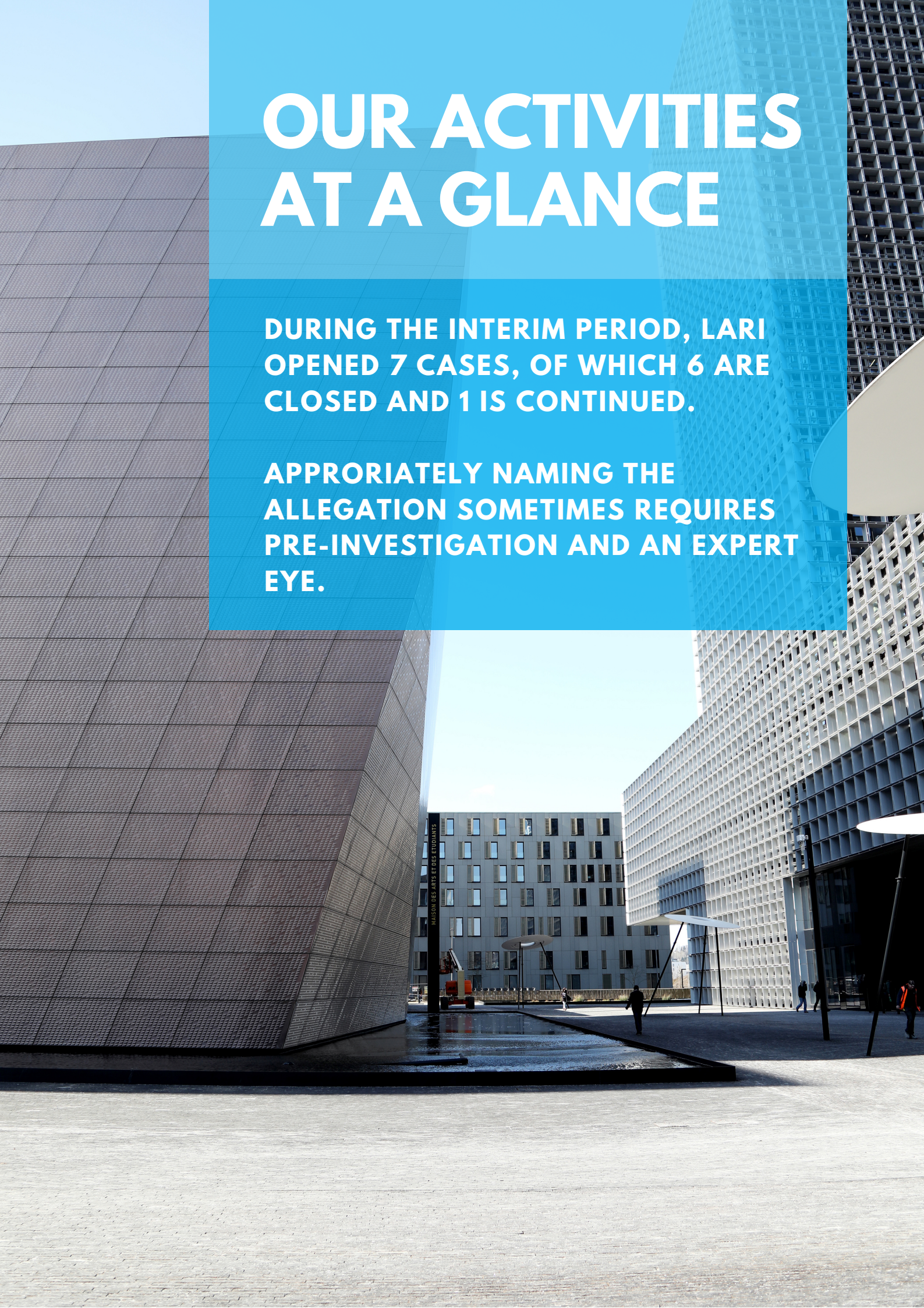
"BEING INVOLVED IN AN INVESTIGATION – WHETHER AS AN ALLEGED PERSON OR AS A COMPLAINANT - IS MOST OFTEN VERY STRESSFUL. FOR THIS REASON, ALONE, IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE CRI TO CONDUCT AND CONCLUDE ANY INVESTIGATION IN A FAIR AND THOROUGH MANNER. THERE ARE NO “HAPPY” CASES SO TO SPEAK. STILL, IT IS POSSIBLE AND FEASIBLE TO UTILISE LESSONS LEARNED FROM EACH CASE TO TRY TO PREVENT SIMILAR CASES TO OCCUR AND TO IMPROVE THE RESEARCH INTEGRITY SYSTEM AND TRAINING AT THE RESPONSIBLE INSTITUTION AND ENHANCE RESPONSIBLE CONDUCT OF RESEARCH IN LUXEMBOURG AS A WHOLE."

TORKILD VINTHER

OUR ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

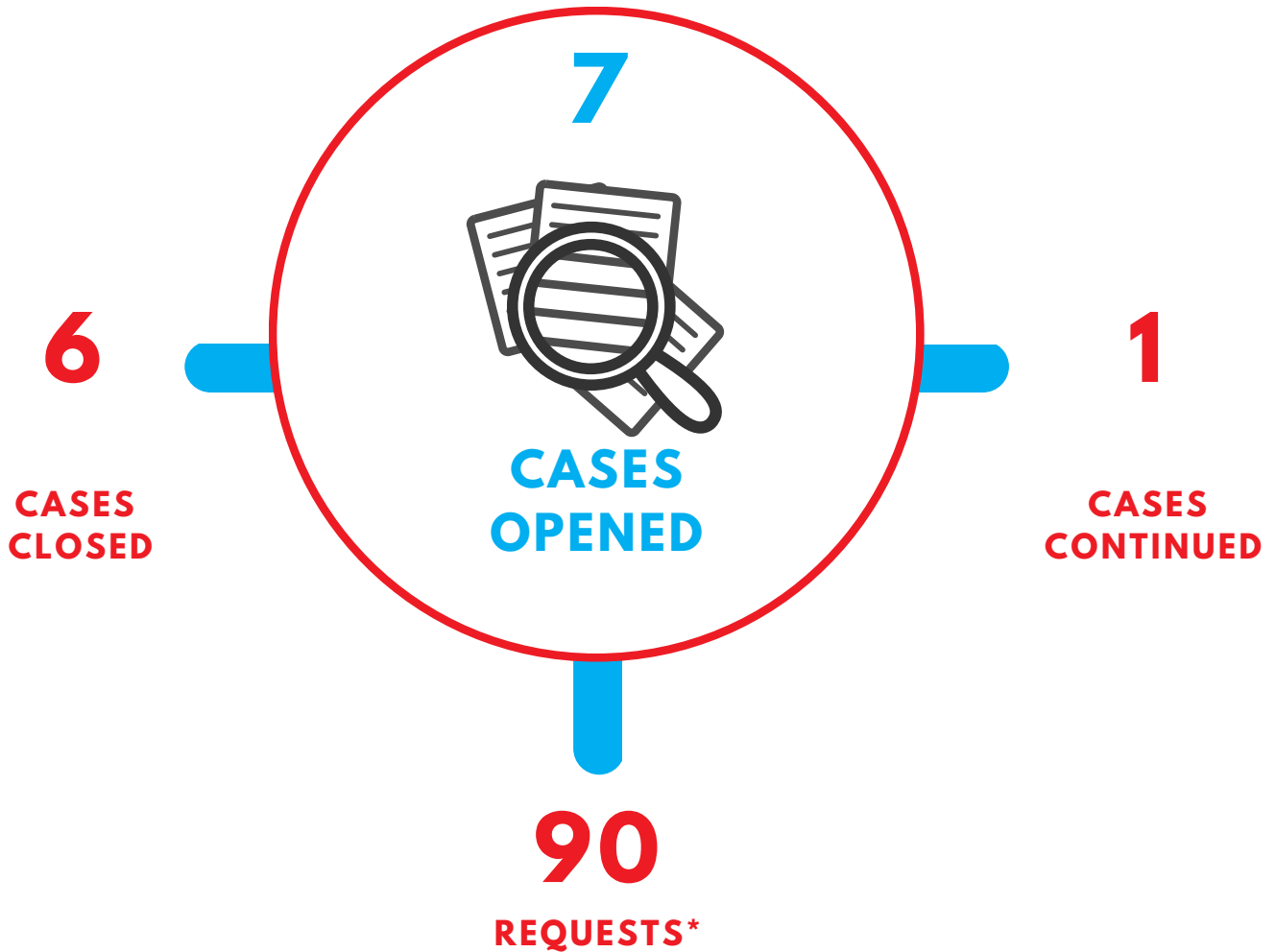
**DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD, LARI
OPENED 7 CASES, OF WHICH 6 ARE
CLOSED AND 1 IS CONTINUED.**

**APPROPRIATELY NAMING THE
ALLEGATION SOMETIMES REQUIRES
PRE-INVESTIGATION AND AN EXPERT
EYE.**



OUR INVESTIGATIVE ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Here is an overview of our investigative activities during the period.



*REQUESTS CAN TAKE VARIOUS FORMS INCLUDING CALLS, EMAILS LEADING TO ANSWERS OR ADVICE.

MOST CASES CONCERN UNDESIRABLE OR QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH PRACTICES (WHICH SHOULD BE PREVENTED THROUGH MENTORSHIP AND TRAINING)

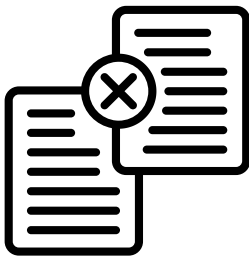
KEY ALLEGATIONS INVESTIGATED



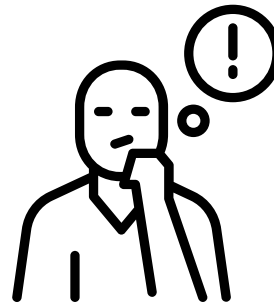
FABRICATION



FALSIFICATION



PLAGIARISM



QUESTIONABLE RESEARCH PRACTICES

THE SIZE OF LUXEMBOURG MAKES IT POSSIBLE TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO MISCONDUCT CASES. ADDITIONALLY, THE THREE LUXEMBOURG RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF LUXEMBOURG HAVE INTRODUCED A NUMBER OF SOLID INITIATIVES AND ACTIONS TO PREVENT MISCONDUCT.

OUR COMMUNICATIONS ACTIVITIES AT A GLANCE

Here is an overview of our communications activities during the interim period.

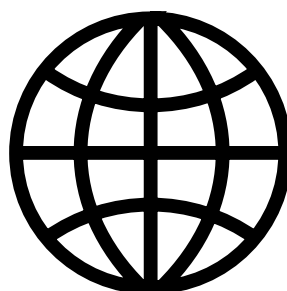


434
FOLLOWERS



260
FOLLOWERS

+50% OF OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS ARE ACTIVE IN RESEARCH OR HIGHER EDUCATION.



WEBSITE

6

BLOGS

5,000

VISITORS



WHAT LARI DID

THE INTERIM PERIOD WAS MARKED BY THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC. IN RESPONSE, WE DEVELOPED OUR ONLINE PRESENCE AND CONTRIBUTED TO AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES USING DIGITAL TOOLS WHILE FURTHER DEVELOPING CONNECTION WITH THE LUXEMBOURG RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND ABROAD.



STRENGTHENING REPORTING MISCONDUCT TOOLS

LARI continued to use the SIGNAL App to make anonymous reporting, including sending evidence files, on top of emails and a direct phone line.

The majority of messages were about raising awareness and finding resources.

When LARI receives a research misconduct allegation, it enters case into its registry and notifies the Commission's chair and vice-chair. The CRI assesses whether the allegation partly or falls within its scope. Evidence, including publications, copies of laboratory notebooks, patents, agreements and contracts, activity reports, correspondence, minutes of meetings, is collected to a secure cloud platform.





PARTICIPATING IN WEBINARS

In May 2021, we attended the **VIRT²UE Train the Trainer programme** which aims to promote reflection on personal attitudes and behaviours. More specifically, some of LARI coaches learnt more about how to foster reflection on the virtues needed to make a good researcher. Additionally, they were given the tools to promote understanding of the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**.

In October 2021, the Secretary General ad interim gave a presentation on how LARI promotes responsible conduct of research at the European RI platform for the global research community. The final session was devoted to addressing **how the Embassy of Good Science contributes to responsible research.**



The VIRT²UE training - fostering reflection attended in May 2021



The VIRT²UE training - fostering reflection attended in May 2021



7th WORLD CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY



CONTRIBUTING TO THE 7TH WORLD CONFERENCE ON RESEARCH INTEGRITY

At the 7th World Conference on Research Integrity held in Cape Town from 29 May to 1 June 2022, LARI was selected to have a poster session.

This opportunity allowed us to further our joint efforts to gain recognition for Luxembourg as an actor committed to research integrity on the international scene.

LARI seeks to promote a culture of integrity of research in Luxembourg

OBJECTIVES

Luxembourg Agency on Research Integrity (LARI) aims to

- promote responsible conduct of research;
- ensure an independent inquiry and investigation in cases of alleged scientific misconduct.

WHO IS LARI?

LARI emerged from a serious research integrity case which generated turmoil in 2015 in Luxembourg.

Established in 2016, LARI is the national organisation in charge of the promotion and investigation of research integrity in Luxembourg.

The Agency is a joint venture between its five founding members: Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR), University of Luxembourg (UL), Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology (LIST), Luxembourg Institute of Health (LIH), and the Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER).



SCOPE OF INTERVENTION

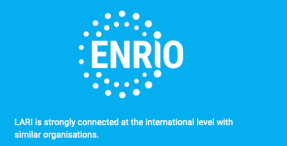
Strengthening integrity and responsibility in research
LARI's activities focus on investigating allegations of misconduct in research, including corrective actions. All of its interventions take place within an adversarial framework, in strict compliance with the principles of confidentiality and the presumption of good faith.

Promoting good practice

LARI makes its knowledge available for the sake of preventing research misconduct and raising awareness. As such, LARI provides established and early stage researchers with applied ethics training sessions using a creative approach called CAPRI.



A STRONG CONNECTION TO INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS



LARI is strongly connected to the international level with similar organisations.

DISCOVER MORE

 <https://lari.lu/>

LARI poster, entitled “LARI seeks to promote a culture of integrity of research in Luxembourg”, was presented during the poster session at the WCRI.

HIRING A SUPPORT MANAGER

LARI increased its internal operations by hiring an administrative support manager.

Enza Petrone is in charge of

- **facilitating the proper operation of the Commission for Research Integrity;**
- **supporting the operation of the LARI Coaching service;**
- **assisting LARI Board and its Secretary General;**
- **maintaining LARI social media platforms and acting as LARI webmaster.**



Enza Petrone is administrative support manager at LARI

"I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE JOINED LARI AS FOR ME, WITHOUT A COMMITMENT TO INTEGRITY, THE PURSUIT OF RESEARCH COULD BE PUT INTO QUESTION."

The background of the image shows a modern building facade with vertical white panels and a glass section on the right. In the foreground, there is a water feature with a black triangular structure and some green plants. A large red overlay covers the top half of the image, containing white text.

THE WORK OF THE CRI

**THE COMMISSION FOR RESEARCH
INTEGRITY (CRI) PROVIDES A
NEUTRAL AND FACTUAL PLATFORM
FOR INVESTIGATING CASES OF
RESEARCH MISCONDUCT
THOROUGHLY AND OBJECTIVELY.**

TYPES OF RECOMMENDATION BY THE CRI

Deciding whether a case fall within the CRI's purview takes time.

The types of recommendation based on investigated cases included:

- **Retraction of articles/correction of public records (list of authors, contributors, results or scientific achievements);**
- **Research training or other research-related topics;**
- **Implement/revise institutional policy or internal tools (system to increase citation impact);**
- **Reinstate access to data / right to publish;**
- **Suggest the involvement of an ombudsman in certain situation;**
- **Clarify rules of scientific authorship (not based on title or seniority but on actual contribution).**

THE CRI IS REPORTING THE FACTS AS THEY BEST UNDERSTAND THEM. THEN THEY DECIDE IF IT CONSTITUTES RESEARCH MISCONDUCT.



HOW CASES ARE ASSIGNED

Once a case is "taken", it is assigned to two CRI members. The members report on their progress at each monthly CRI meeting. In the early cases, the CRI also developed tools such as template letters and, more recently, a template report.

All investigative team members are independent; they are obliged to report any real or perceived conflicts of interest to the CRI Chair for analysis and potential recusal. Investigative team members do not work for any of the member institutions or the organisation(s) associated with the misconduct investigation.

Further, no orders or directives shall be given to the CRI by the LARI Board, its member institutions, or the organisation(s) associated with the misconduct investigation.



GOVERNANCE

**IN OCTOBER 2022, THE FIVE
MEMBER INSTITUTIONS ELECTED A
NEW BOARD COMPOSED OF THREE
RECOGNISED PERSONALITIES IN
THEIR PERSONAL CAPACITIES.**



GOVERNANCE

The Board of Directors is the body responsible for all matters related to the administration and management of the Agency.

In October 2022, the five member institutions, i.e. the University of Luxembourg, the Luxembourg Institute of Health, the Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology, the Luxembourg Institute for Socio-Economic Research and the Luxembourg National Research Fund, elected a new Board of Directors composed of three highly qualified individuals appointed *intuitu personae* for a three-year term of office.

INTRODUCING THE NEW BOARD



**JEAN-CLAUDE WIWINIUS
CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Jean-Claude Wiwinius serves as Chair of the Board. He studied at the Faculty of Law of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne and spent three years at the Luxembourg Bar. In 1980, he entered the Luxembourg judiciary, where he had the opportunity to deal with virtually all branches of law during a career spanning more than forty years, rising to the supreme offices of President of the Superior Court of Justice and President of the Constitutional Court in 2016.

"In the course of my career as a Luxembourg judge, I have had the opportunity to dedicate myself to ethics and conduct issues on several occasions, in particular through teaching these topics to young judges. Taking up the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors of LARI, whose primary mission is to safeguard the integrity of research, naturally falls within the scope of this continuity."



**PROF. DR. BABETTE SIMON
VICE CHAIR OF THE BOARD**

Prof. Dr. Babette Simon acts as Vice Chair of the Board. She is a former Regional Vice President of Medtronic Germany. She was also Chief Medical Director and Chairwoman of the Board of the University Medical Center Mainz and was President of the University of Oldenburg. She is an associate professor at the Faculty of Health of the Université Paris Cité, specialising in global health.

"I am pleased to be able to contribute to the continuation of LARI's mission and, together with my colleagues of the Board, to foster a culture of research integrity."



**PROF JOHN SCHEID
MEMBER OF THE BOARD**

Prof. Dr. John Scheid serves as a member of the Board. After his studies in Luxembourg, Strasbourg and Paris, he became assistant professor in Roman history at the University of Lille III, before being elected in 1983 Director of studies at the Ecole pratique des hautes études. In 2000, he was elected to the Collège de France (Paris) to hold the chair of Religion, Institutions and Society in Ancient Rome. He is also a member of the Académie des inscriptions et belles-lettres.

As a professor, I have become aware of the growing practice of plagiarism among students. It seems to me useful not only to ensure the honesty of professional work, but also to make students sensitive to the notion of intellectual property."

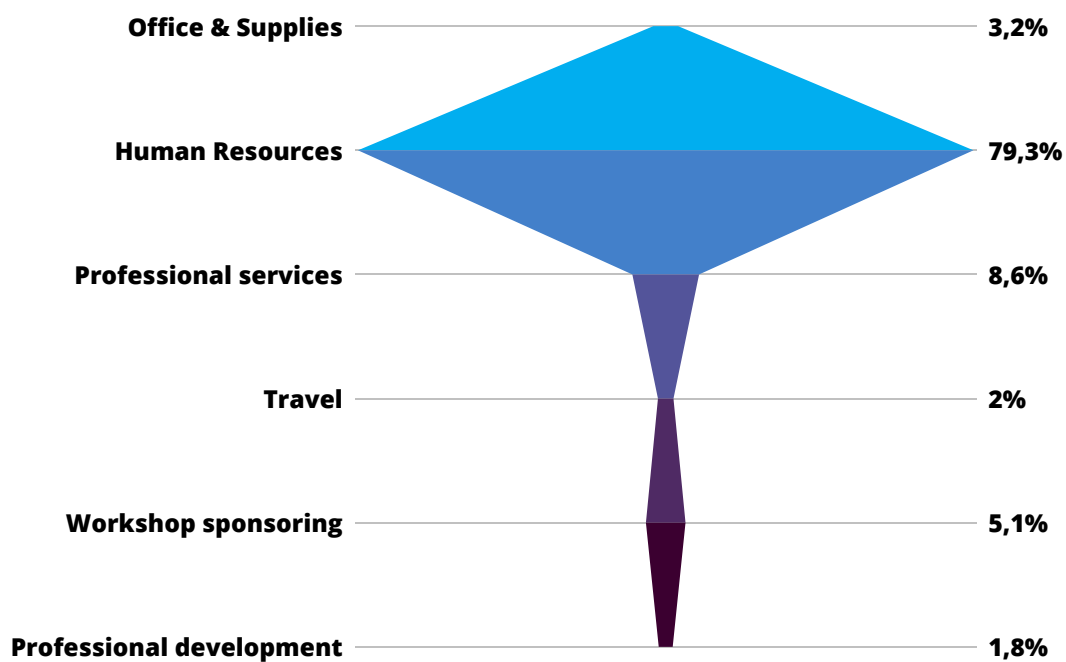
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

**AS FROM 2021, ACCOUNTS WERE
AUDITED BY LUXEMBOURG
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FIRMS.**

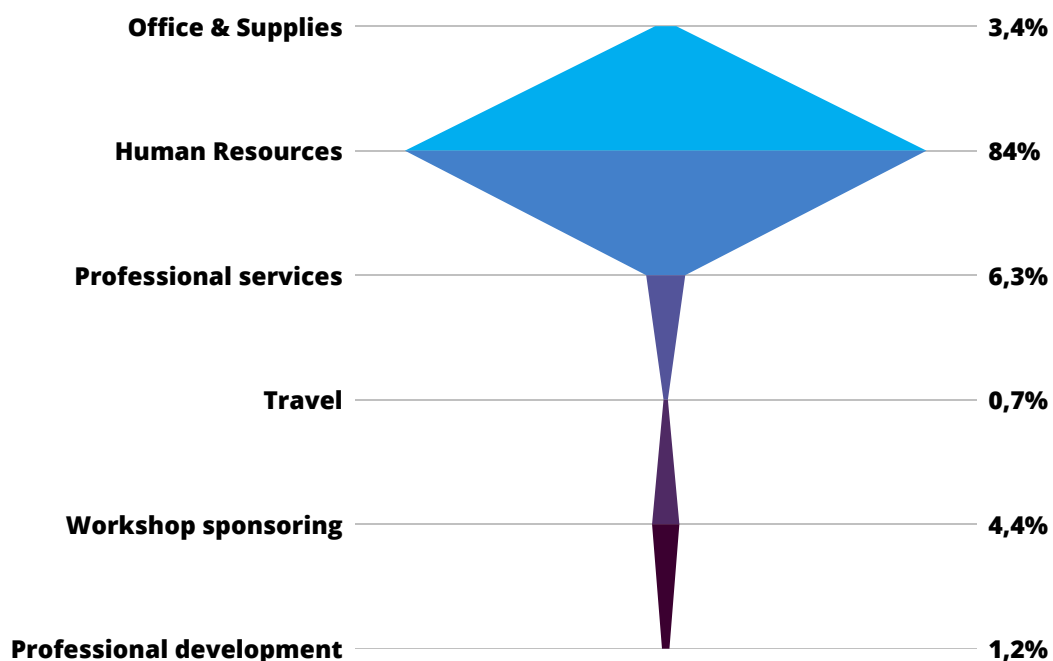


FINANCIAL STATEMENT

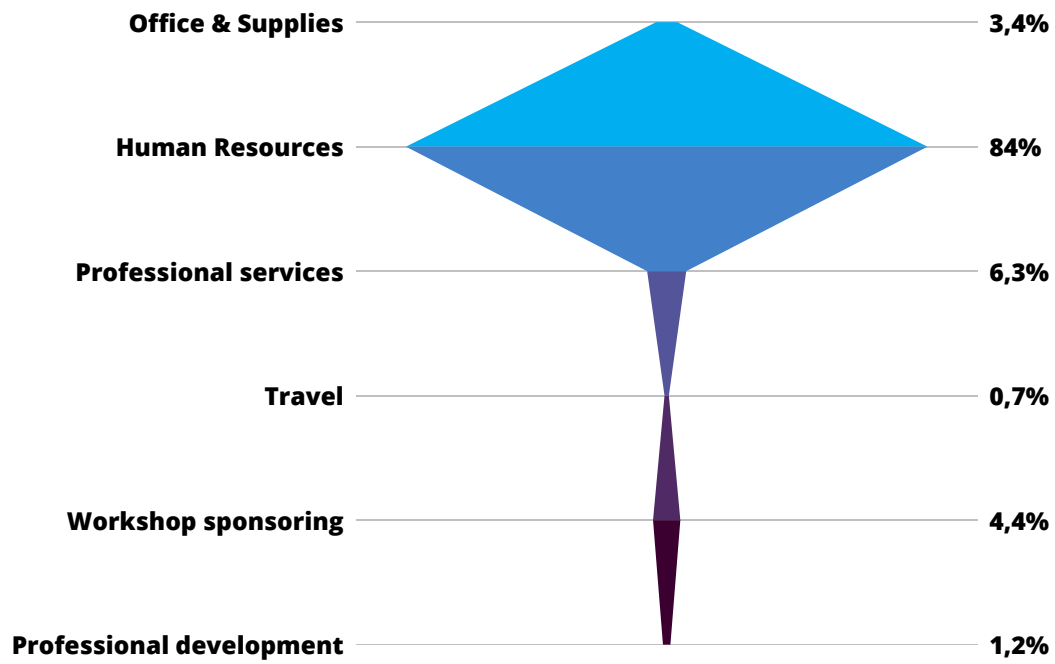
2020 BUDGET: 217,803 EUROS



2021 BUDGET: 291,523 EUROS



2022 BUDGET: 291,523 EUROS



CREDITS

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