

ProTon Europe Code of Conduct

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Association is a not-for-profit entity. Its purpose is to promote innovation in Europe by a more effective knowledge transfer from universities and other research organisations funded primarily from public sources (Public Research Organisations or PRO) in order to contribute to the recognition and support of public research, economic development and public welfare in general.

In particular, the Association is pursuing the following objectives:

- Represent the profession of knowledge transfer at European level, complement existing national associations and support the creation of new ones in countries where they do not yet exist.
- Contribute to the development and recognition of the knowledge transfer function within public research organisations, by:
 - developing standards of conduct and of reporting;
 - promoting good practices;
 - measuring their contribution to economic development.
- Boost knowledge transfer by providing a comprehensive range of services and benefits to its members, including training, networking, exchange of experience and facilitating trans-European knowledge transfer.
- Provide the European Commission and other international organisations with proposals for improving knowledge transfer from public research.

CODE OF CONDUCT

The Full Members of ProTon Europe undertake to:

1. Define a clear mission statement for their office in agreement with the PROs they serve, which is consistent with the above defined purpose. They shall communicate and explain the same to all relevant stakeholders and act accordingly.
2. Conduct their operations in a responsible way and not engage in practices that would be damaging to the image and interests of the knowledge transfer profession.
3. Employ their best endeavours to maximize the benefits from public research through professional management of intellectual property, including diligence in the development of applications, licensing, partnering, new business creation and publication. They shall only file for patent protection when doing so reasonably increases the probability that subject inventions will be developed.
4. Promote and maintain ethical standards of conduct and deal fairly and honestly with all involved parties, researchers, partners, licensees and investors.

5. Respect the normal professional expectations concerning confidential information acquired in the course of their operations, over and above those agreements specifically governed by non-disclosure or confidentiality contracts.
6. Use knowledge of a confidential or commercially sensitive nature only for the purpose for which it was disclosed to them.
7. Not take any personal advantage of their position as managers of public property, except as may be explicitly provided for in approved incentive schemes.
8. When managing joint intellectual property, make full disclosure to the other joint owners of all the facts known to them which may affect the exploitation, value or ownership of such property.
9. Be accountable to the stakeholders and report fairly and regularly their performance against their mission statement and accepted standards.
10. Reasonably support the Association by sharing their practices and experience, participating in special interests groups, responding to the annual surveys and participating in the governance by attending the general assemblies of members in person or by proxy.
11. Allow the Association to use the material provided by them as examples of good practices or for training purposes, free of charge, provided that source is acknowledged.
12. Respect the integrity of the Association and of other members and neither malign, defame or unfairly criticise them.
13. Not give access to non-members nor use the information and material made available to them in the members-only section of the communication platform for purposes other than their own practice, respecting the copyrights restrictions placed on them.
14. Not use the name of ProTon Europe, except in accordance with policies approved by the Association, or issue unsolicited mail to the other members.

Each member shall require its directors, managers, employees, nominees and representatives to abide by the same rules.