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"ETHICS AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY", BOOK REVIEW

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Preamble

The book "Ethics and Academic Integrity" was published at the Publishing House of „România de Măine” Foundation in 2019 and was launched at the Bookfest International Book Fair in Bucharest.

The book "Ethics and Academic Integrity" was written by a team of authors coordinated by Professor Zenovic Gherasim, made up of university professors. The team had the following composition: Mihălcioiu Constantin, Avram Laurenția Georgeta, Ghiorghita Eugen, Iatagan Mariana, Ionescu Luminița, Cioponea Cristina Mariana, Andronie Mihai, Gurgu Elena.

The importance of the problem

One of the issues that have drawn the attention of the public lately in the European Union is the compliance with the rules of academic ethics. In Romania, the issues of academic ethics have benefited from extensive debates completed with several initiatives of the public authorities. One of the solutions adopted was to include some disciplines in the study programmes, that would deepen the ethical issues in the scientific creation act. Thus ethics and academic integrity will be part of the undergraduate education. These moral and deontological notions necessary for students and master students represents precisely the essence of the book "Ethics and Academic Integrity".

The contents of the book

The first chapter has the title "Ethics and morals". This chapter addresses ethics as the philosophical discipline of morality. Ethical systems (cultural relativism, utilitarianism, situational ethics and absolutist ethical systems) are presented with a comparative analysis of them. In Chapter 1 we also find the definition of ethical and moral concepts. A special section is devoted to the history of ethical and moral concepts and to other ethical functions.

The second chapter is titled "Current Approaches to Fundamental Concepts and Notions of Ethics and Academic Integrity" and includes fundamental notions of ethics and academic integrity developed with the help of examples of university reference. Here are some basic principles of academic ethics and integrity, such as academic freedom, loyalty, transparency, tolerance. The main actions that are not in line with academic ethics are enumerated.

The third chapter, "Intellectual Property and Copyright", contains theoretical elements and case studies on intellectual property and copyright. Concepts such as intangible assets, intellectual capital, human capital, structural capital, intellectual property are presented. The reader is sensitized to apply the rules of academic ethics by providing the key elements of copyright.

The fourth chapter is titled "Ethics and Social Responsibility. The Social and Economic Effects of Violating the Principles of Ethics and Academic Integrity". In this chapter, we can find connections between ethics and social responsibility, but also economic and social implications of non-compliance with the rules of academic ethics and integrity.

Chapter five is titled "Elements of Ethics Management in the Academic World." Among the issues addressed in this chapter, we can find the management of ethics in the academic world, including a brief history of it, the implementation of ethics management in the academic world, the most important tools of ethics management in the academic world, including academic leadership based on ethical norms.

Chapter Six, "Implementation of the Procedures and Norms on Academic Ethics and Integrity in the Academic World," contains information and case studies on the implementation in universities of the procedures and rules on academic ethics and integrity. The development of ideas is based on the University Code of Ethics and Deontology approved by Spiru Haret University, with case studies emerging in its actual application in recent years. Reference is also made to the Spiru Haret University's quality management system and its actual applications.

The seventh chapter of the book is titled "Ethics in Academic Debates". In this chapter, we find the implications of ethics in academic debates, including case studies relevant to the addressed theoretical issues. The fundamental problem of ethics, the definition of "good", the concepts of "human action", "truth" and "principle" are treated in an original way, including by reference to established doctrines of consecrated thinking in different branches of science (Austrian School of Economics, Arthur Schopenhauer, etc.)

Chapter eight, with the title "Writing a Scientific Work in accordance with the Principles of Ethics and Academic Integrity", has an important role in the content of the book, being of utmost utility to all those involved in scientific creation. The chapter is a true guide for the writing of a scientific work in accordance with the principles of ethics and academic integrity. Chapter 8 also includes an example, relevant to the theoretical problems presented.

Chapter nine of the book is titled "Selection of Participants in Scientific Research. Involving Economics Students in Scientific Research Activities". This chapter deals with the way in which the selection of the participants in the scientific research activity is carried out, as well as the manner in which the economics students' involvement in the scientific research activities takes place. We find out in Chapter 9 a brief plea for teamwork and an interdisciplinary presentation of the issues raised by scientific research.

Chapter ten of the book is titled "Models of Teachers, Specialist Economists and Researchers with Professional Activity and Behaviour in the Spirit of Principles and Norms of Ethics and Academic Integrity." Without shaping the profile of positive examples in education and research that respects the academic ethics, it is hard to believe that young readers can move from the knowledge phase to the application one

in the field of academic ethics. The models help to form some objectives for readers, especially young people, to behave according to ethical and academic integrity norms. The examples of ethics and integrity in the lives of the personalities presented are edifying for the theme of this book.

Chapter eleven has the title "Plagiarism and Self-Plagiarism in the Academic Field. Prevention of Plagiarism in Disciplines Involving Text-based Documents and Disciplines with Non-textual Environment". This chapter is a true "error corrector" in the field of ethics and academic integrity. It is practically useful the list of reasons that generated the proliferation of plagiarism and self-plagiarism.

The last chapter, the twelfth, has the title "Online Detection Services for Similarity. Computer Applications for Similitude Detection ". It can be understood as a set of tools

specific to the current technological stage to ease the compliance with ethics norms and academic integrity. In this chapter, we can find the description of how similarity applications work and a brief overview of the most commonly used applications in the policies of respecting the academic ethics.

New items

The book "*Ethics and Academic Integrity*" had, as reference, the practices at European standards in the field of ethics and integrity of Spiru Haret University, where the coordinator and most authors are academically assigned. Evolutions towards opening the universities through intellectual partnership and cooperation with the society in which they operate, are not possible without the knowledge and application of norms of ethics and academic integrity.

Being a book written by professors, it is natural to find the university as a central institution to promote goals such as the development and professional affirmation based on knowledge and research developments. In the spirit of recent EU legislation, the issues of ethics and academic integrity are presented in the context of respect for the rule of law and human rights. By respecting the ethics and academic integrity, we will also respect human dignity.

The book will be easy to use in the learning process because it rigorously complies with modern teaching rules. Each chapter contains a brief summary, keywords, the content itself, control questions, grid-response worksheets, themes for case studies and projects, bibliography.

Rich bibliographic references will help to deepen some of the issues addressed in the book and will allow the expansion of research into ethics and academic integrity.

The elaboration of the book had several favourable premises: the authors' participation in a project funded by the European Social Fund to bring the quality of university education in Romania to the European level (including through the elaboration of norms of ethics and academic integrity), the organization of debates and scientific events on ethics and academic integrity, the exchange of international experience.