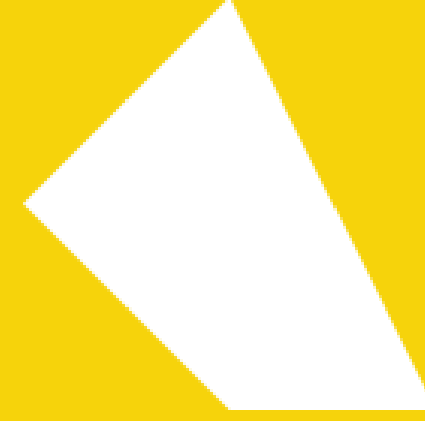


the embassy of good science



The VIRT2UE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreement N 787580.



VIRT²UE

Dr Natalie Evans, AmsterdamUMC
UKRIO Annual Conference, May 19th 2021



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Coming up

- 1. What is VIRT²UE?**
- 2. Description of the VIRT²UE programme**
- 3. Roll-out across Europe**
- 4. First evaluations**



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

1

What is VIRT²UE?



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

The VIRT²UE training – fostering reflection



Trainers are taught:

- how to foster **reflection on the virtues** needed to make a good researcher
- how to promote understanding of the **European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity**

The train-the-trainer program has an aspirational approach, and focuses on what it means to be a good and virtuous researcher. The core of the training is to promote reflection on personal attitudes and behaviours.



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Theoretical background

A virtue ethics approach – trainees are taught to understand the importance of virtues and how to develop them in practice.

Learning by doing – trainees experience the programme as a participant, then practice the role of trainer and reflect on the skills needed to use the materials in teaching.

Learner centred teaching – trainees select which materials and exercises to use based on the needs and backgrounds of their students.



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

2

Why a virtue ethics approach?



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

A virtue ethics approach

- Virtue ethics is appropriate for **professional ethics** because it relates virtuous behaviour to good professional functioning.
- Focusing on compliance but neglecting researchers' moral and value development fails to equip researchers for the **complexities and dilemmas of real-life research**.
- Virtue ethics training develops researchers' moral sensitivity, and **provides them with tools** to reflect on the principles and virtues of a 'good' researcher.



3

Description of the VIRT²UE programme

Program and structure



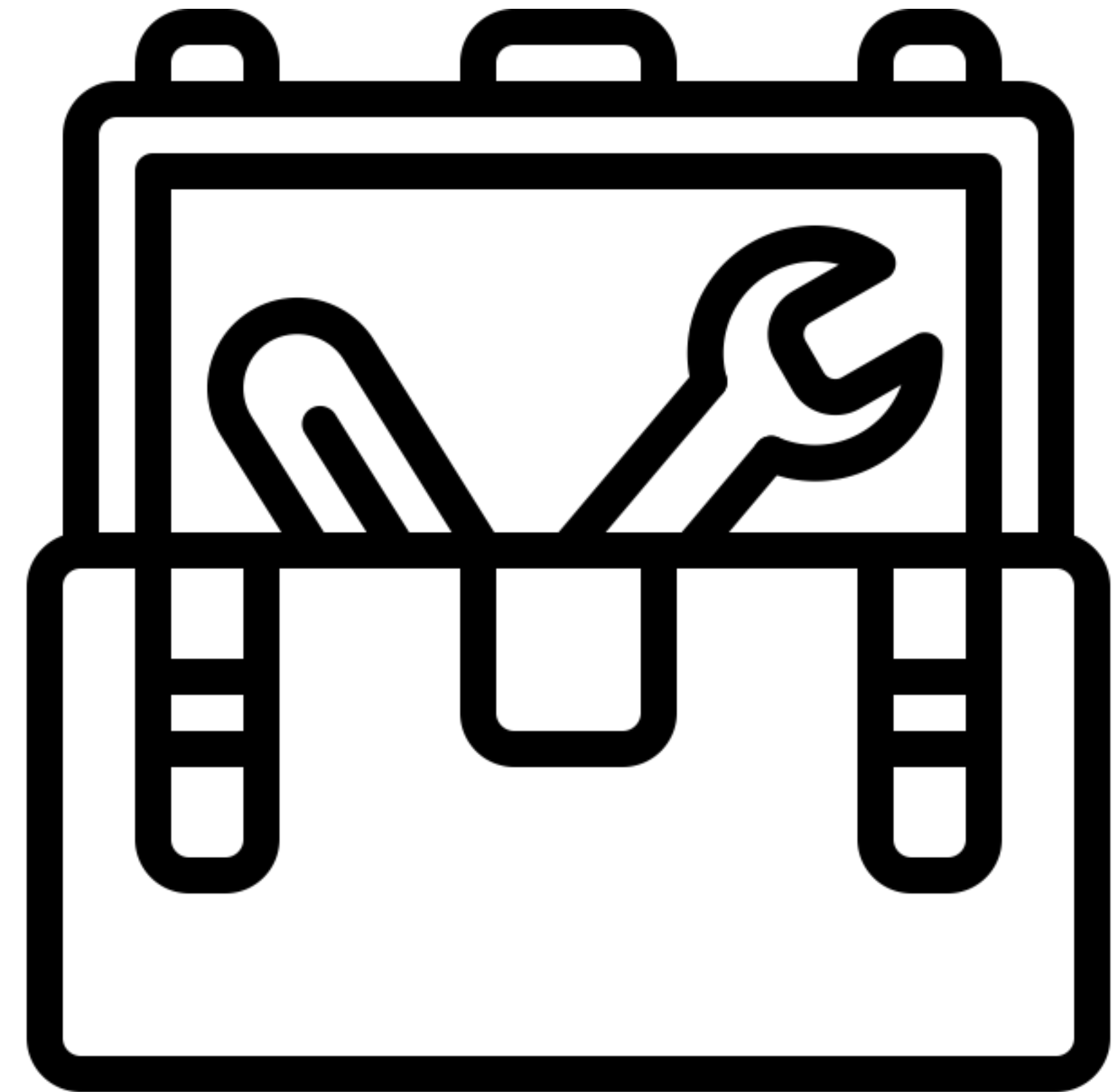
Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Blended learning

Tool box for trainers

Online eLearning modules and (offline) participatory exercises targeting different learning goals:

- ✓ Adaptable to context
- ✓ Easy to use and train
- ✓ Modular

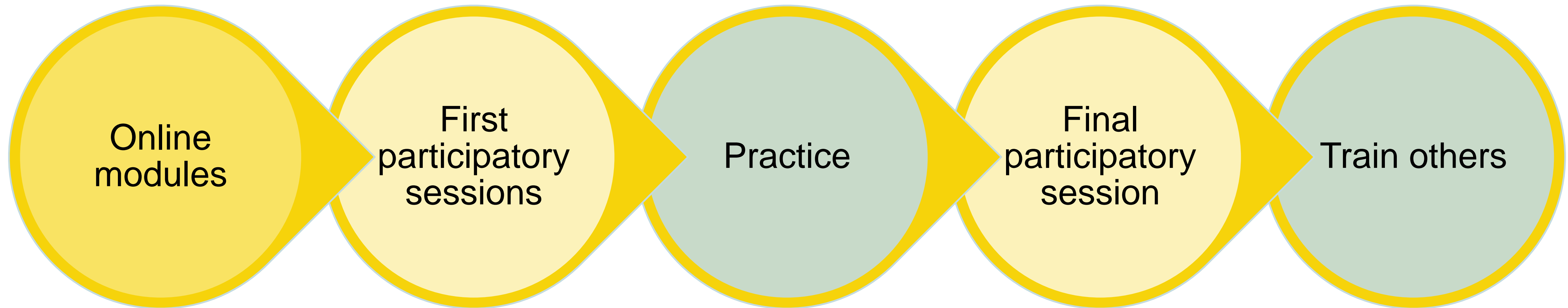


Created by Creaticca Creative Agency
from Noun Project

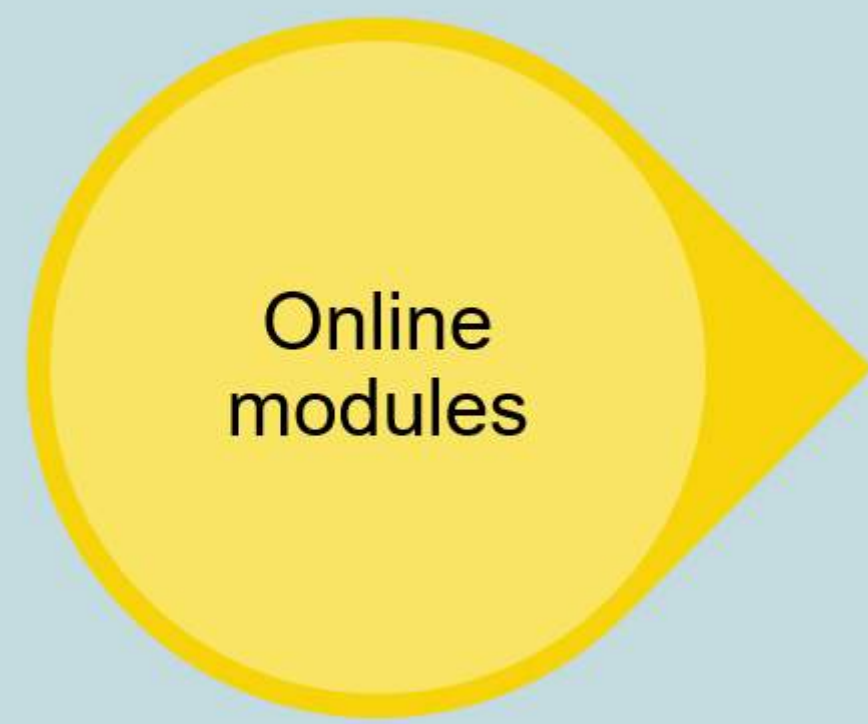


Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Training schedule



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



1. Online modules + preparatory work

Online modules

- 12 eLearning modules
- Individual learning and reflection
- Introduction to main concepts and principles
- Introduction to The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity
- Interactive

Preparation

- Theme pages
- Instructions and videos

All available on www.embassy.science



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

**the
embassy
of good
science**



Introduction to Research Integrity

What is Research Integrity?

Three levels of Research Integrity

Scope of Research Integrity

Research Integrity in your context



Introduction to Research Integrity



for
the
embassy
of good
science





Introduction of Virtue Ethics to Research Integrity

What is Virtue Ethics?

Virtue Ethics & Research Integrity

Virtues in Research

How virtues are taught



Introduction of Virtue Ethics to Research Integrity



**Virtue Ethics
under current
research conditions**

**Performative Culture
in Research**

**Cognitive Dissonance &
Moral Distress**

**Why we justify
unethical behaviour**

**To make a virtue
of necessity**



**Virtue Ethics
under current
research conditions**



2. First participatory sessions

Five exercises

Five participatory exercises - to encourage group reflection on practice

1. Debate and Dialogue
2. The Modified Rotterdam Dilemma Game
3. Self-Declaration Approach
4. The Middle Position
5. Virtues and Norms



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Debate and Dialogue

Aim and relevance to the programme

Aim

To identify the features of debate and dialogue

Relevance

- Sets the tone for the other exercises
- Important for group learning processes
- Important for moral reasoning and ethics education



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

The Modified Rotterdam Dilemma Game

Aim and relevance to the programme

Aim

To reflect on alternative courses of action and identify the principles and practice at stake

Relevance

- To create a space to talk about research integrity issues without having to talk about personal cases
- Ice breaker

The screenshot displays a digital interface for a dilemma game. It is divided into two main sections: 'DILEMMA' on the left and 'OPTION' on the right. Both sections feature a dark teal header with the number '41' in a white circle. The 'DILEMMA' section contains a paragraph of text describing a situation where a friend asks for a review of a paper with similarities to published work. The 'OPTION' section lists four possible actions, labeled A through D. At the bottom of each section, there are three circular icons: a red location pin, a blue chess knight, and a yellow book.

41 DILEMMA

Similar but not the same

A close friend asks me to comment on his paper. While reading the paper I detect a great number of similarities with some recently published papers. The similarities do not constitute plagiarism in a literal sense, but are noticeable. When confronting my friend with my findings he seems unimpressed and submits his paper to an international journal without any profound changes. A couple of weeks later I receive the request from the journal to act as a referee on this particular paper. What do I do?

41 OPTION

A I decline the invitation.

B I accept the invitation but in my review do not mention the similarities I noticed before.

C I accept the invitation and report the similarities.

D I ask my friend what he wants me to do.



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

<https://www.eur.nl/en/about-eur/strategy-and-policy/integrity/scientific-integrity/dilemma-game>

The Self-Declaration Approach

Aim and relevance to the programme

Aim

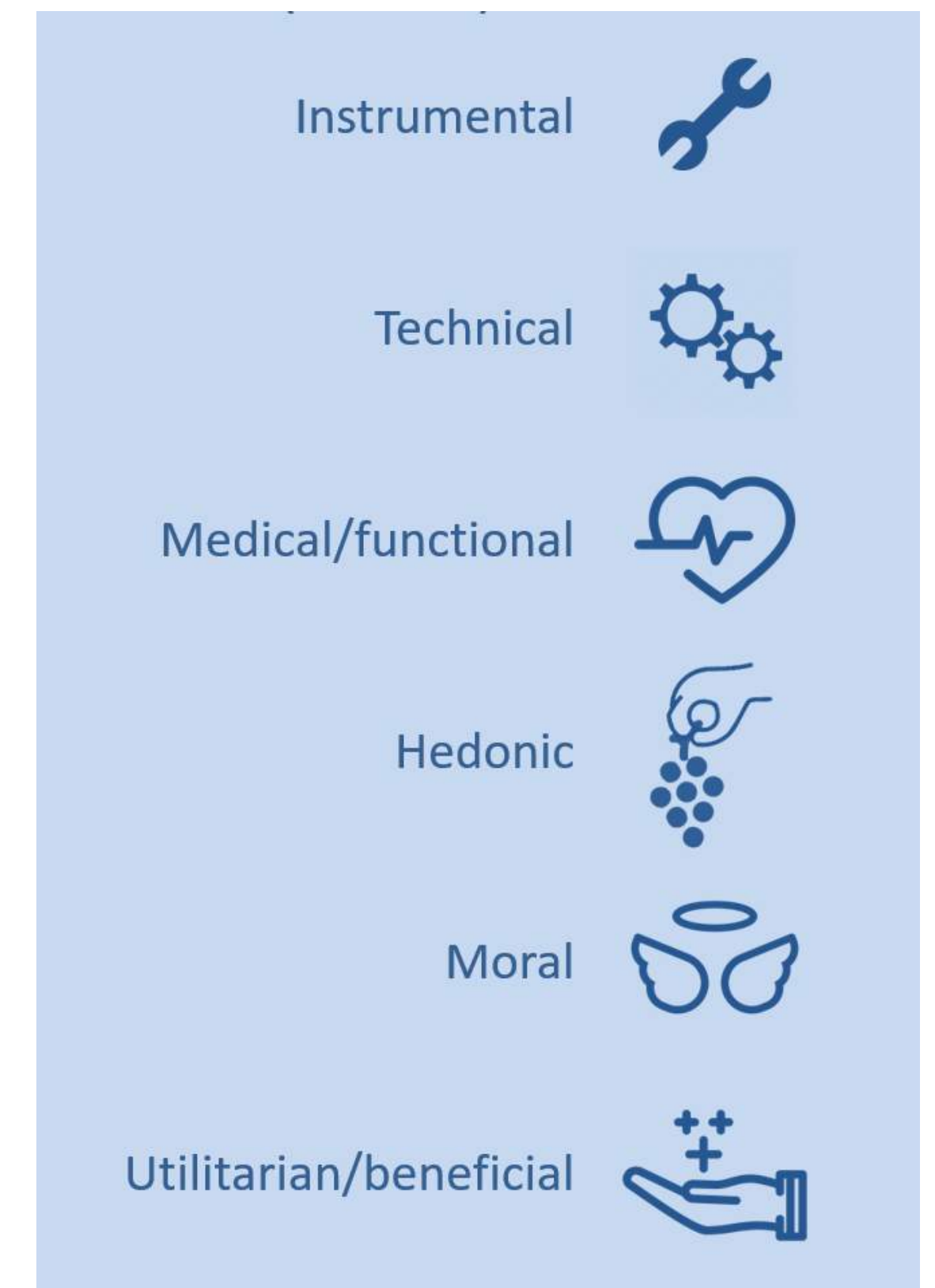
To understand the multidimensional nature of goodness and to reflect on understandings of 'goodness' in research.

Relevance

- Virtuous behaviour linked to 'good' professional functioning
- Sensitizes participants about what it means to do 'good' research and to be a 'good' researcher



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



The Middle Position

Aim and relevance to the programme

Aim

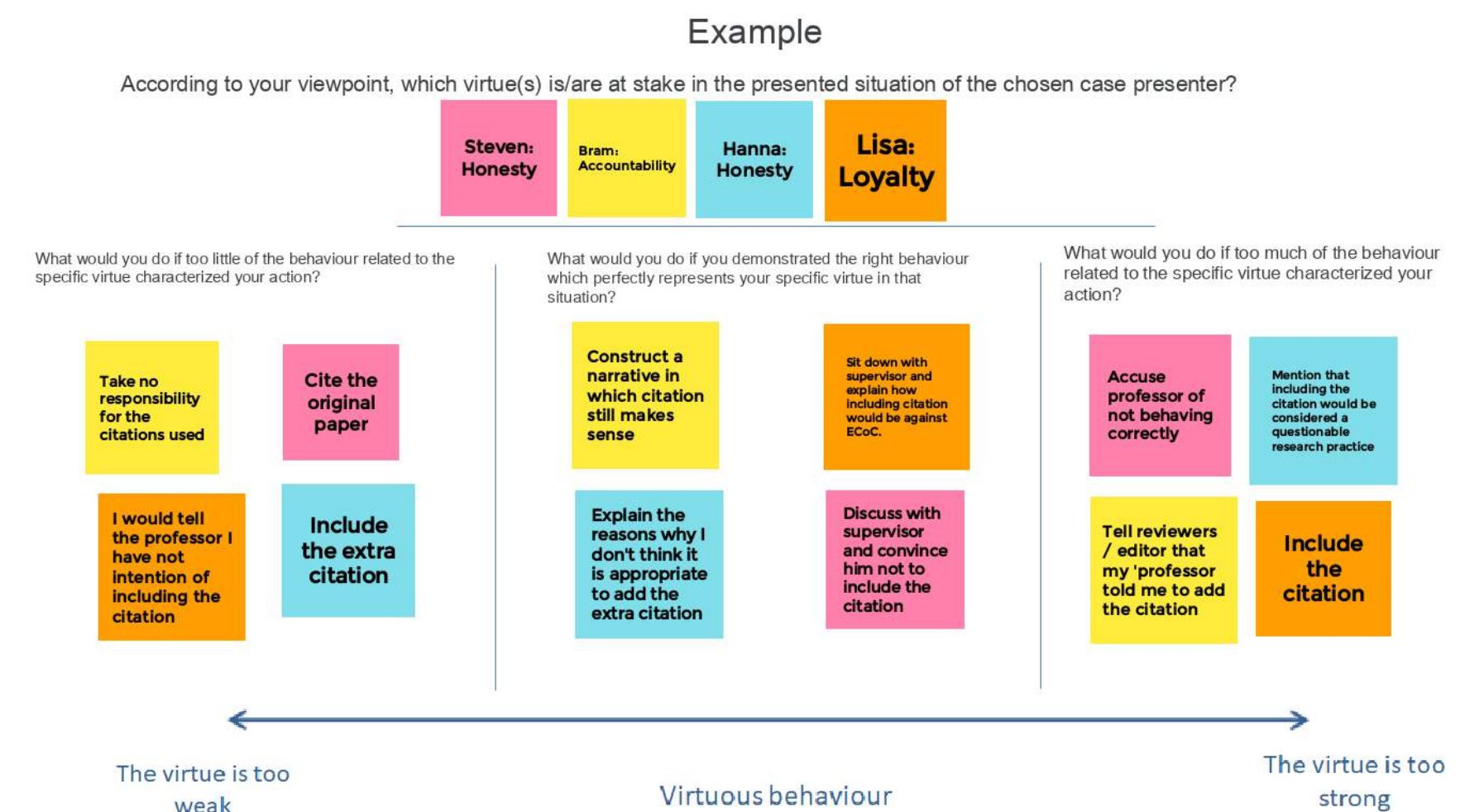
To foster sensitivity for scientific virtues and acknowledge the ambiguity of virtues for guiding action

Relevance

- To foster reflection on acting on virtues in specific situations
- To understand the practical meaning of abstract virtues
- To reflect on moral ambiguities and grey areas



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



Virtues and Norms

Aim and relevance to the programme

Aim

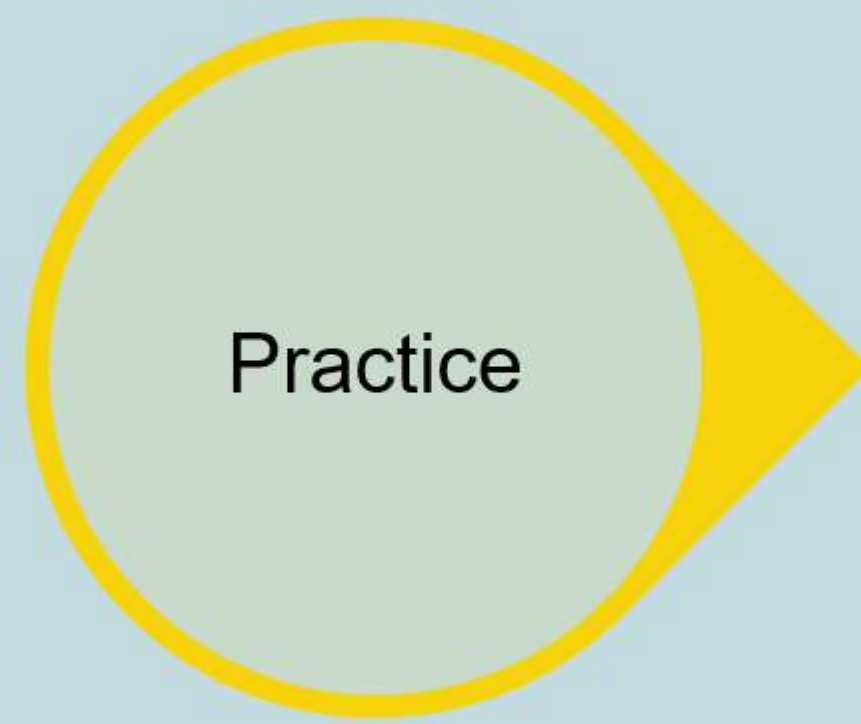
To identify virtues that would guide actions in real research integrity dilemmas and to describe the course of action that would follow.

Relevance

- To facilitate reflection on personal cases
- To learn through dialogue by sharing personal perspectives



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



3. Practice

- Experience the exercises (try out with colleagues or students)
- Reflect on own teaching practice and knowledge (self-reflection forms)
- Reflect on the experience with the exercises (both process and content)





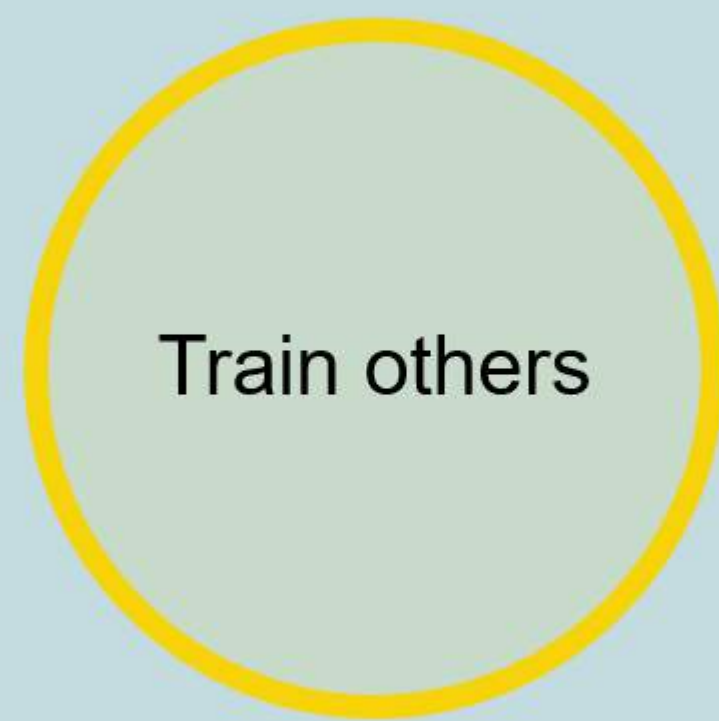
Final
participatory
session

4. Final participatory session

- Reflection on the experience with the exercises
- Feedback and more support on exercises
- Deepening reflection on theoretical issues (answering questions)



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



5. Train others

- Each trainer (ideally) trains 10 researchers in their own country
- Use The Embassy of Good Science to interact with the community of trainers
- Contribute to the materials on the basis of own training context
- Certificate from the consortium



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAM

3

Roll-out across Europe



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

Become a certified trainer on research integrity and ethics

your email address



Over 300
participants...



... in 30
countries

...participated in the VIRT²UE
Train the Trainer program



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

4

First evaluations



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

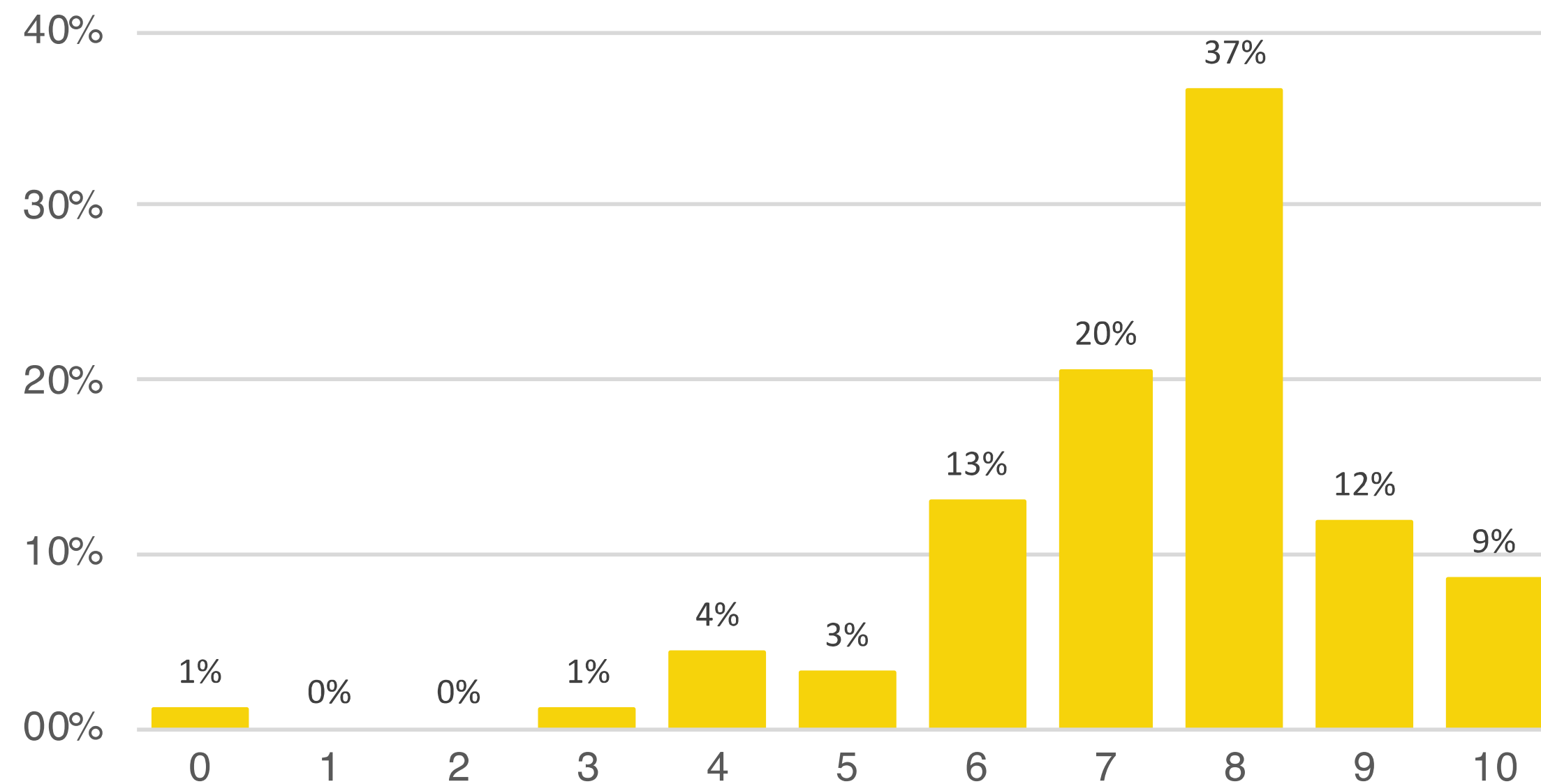
Questionnaire

Typeform

Online modules

- So far $n = 93$

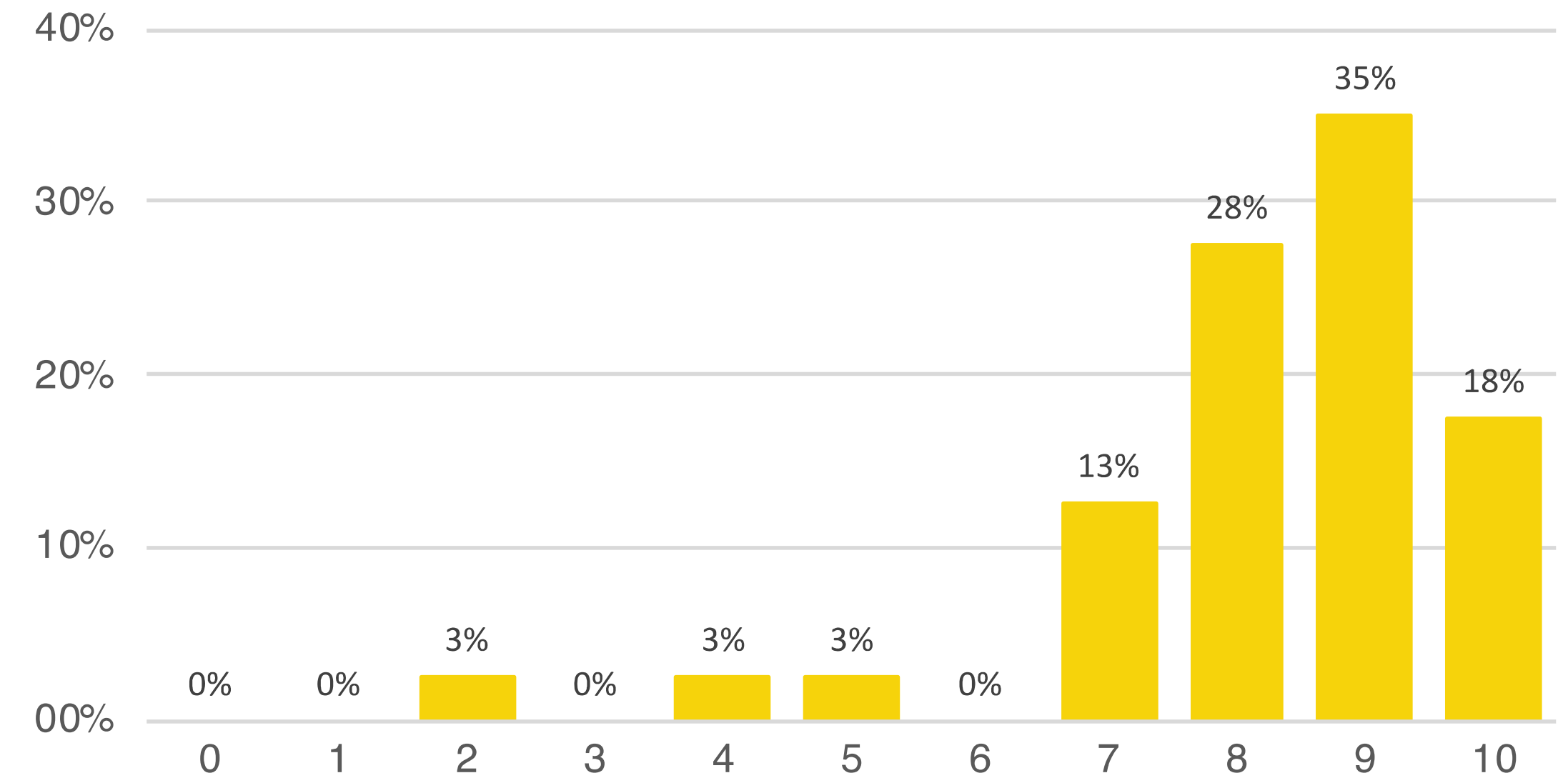
What grade between 0-10 would you give the online courses based on a general impression?
0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent)



Participatory exercises

- So far $n = 40$

What grade between 0-10 would you give the training based on a general impression?
0 (very bad) to 10 (excellent)



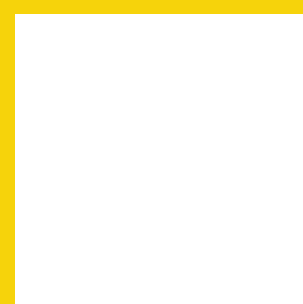
What are the main take home messages you acquired from the online courses?

“ So far the 'morality' aspect of research integrity was very fuzzy for me. Now I have a more structured view of what that actually means. That is helpful for analyzing one's own decisions and feelings in certain situations.

Unethical behaviors in science are not inevitably part of the system and can be reversed/combated ”



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.



Thank you



UiO : Universitetet i Oslo



National Technical
University of Athens



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
HELSINGFORS UNIVERSITET
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



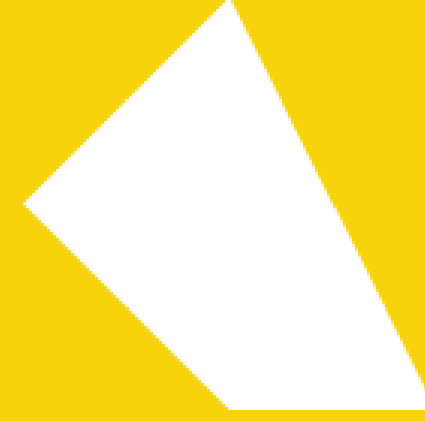
UNIVERSIDADE
CATÓLICA
PORTUGUESA



ANKARA UNIVERSITY
The First University of The Republic of Turkey



The VIRT2UE project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreement N 787580.

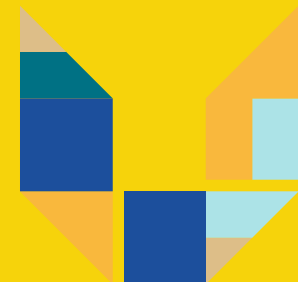


Questions?



Funded by the European Union's
Horizon 2020 research programme.

**the
embassy
of good
science**



The VIRT2UE project has received funding from
the European Union's Horizon 2020 research
programme under grant agreement N 787580.