

Code of Ethics

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OÑATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW

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OÑATIKO LEGE-SOZIOLOGIAKO
NAZIOARTEKO ERAKUNDEA

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INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL
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The IISL Code of Ethics

Statement of purpose

The 'Oñati International Institute for the Sociology of Law' Foundation is a private, non-profit educational foundation dedicated to international scientific and technical research in the field of Sociology of Law, which will mainly carry out its functions in the Basque Country (Art. 1 Founding Statutes).

The main purpose of the Foundation is to advance, through discussion, analysis and comparison of the research being carried out at any given time in the different fields in which the Sociology of Law works, maintaining relations with the University of the Basque Country and with other Institutions of the Autonomous Community, in order to promote its integration and link with the psycho-social substratum of the Basque people, with its culture and system of social relations (Art. 5 Founding Statutes).

All activities of the IISL and its community will be aimed at fostering research, innovation, cooperation, service to society, transparency and quality.

This Code of Ethics is inspired by the first UPV/EHU Code of Ethics, adapting it to the singularity of our institution, and is born with the following objectives:

- Promote the highest principles of conduct in all the actions of the people who make up the community.
- Promote transparency and protection of common interests.
- To be instrumental in facilitating freedom and coexistence and to make known the values and philosophy of the institution.
- Promote attitudes and behaviour based on ethics and integrity, both at the institutional level and at the individual level of each member of the community.
- By complying with this Code, we, the members of the IISL community, express our commitment to the good name, prestige and image of the institution.



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Paragraph 1: General considerations

1. Character

We present the IISL Code of Ethics, drawn up by the Publications and Quality Department. This document is intended to be permanent in the long term and is open to proposals for modification based on a critical and reasoned reflection on its contents.

2. Scope of application

This Code, although it has no legal value, is ethically binding for all the bodies and people who make up the community and users of the IISL and may, therefore, be invoked as a guarantor precept by any member and user.

This Code of Ethics will serve as a reference for our entire community, assisting in decision-making and inspiring our daily work and coexistence. We are committed to maintaining high standards of integrity and transparency. To this end, we uphold the following ethical principles:

Paragraph 2: Values and commitments of the IISL

The IISL's code of ethics takes into account its Mission, Vision and Values, reflecting the spirit in which this Institution was founded by the Basque Government (EJ/GV) and the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (RCSL) of the International Sociological Association (ISA).

The community and all activities of the IISL and its organs shall act on the basis of the following values and commitments. These values guide us in inspiring behaviour and transmitting ethical principles. We seek to foster an environment where peace, justice and coexistence prevail, promoting the development of our local and international community and to be a living example of the values enshrined in universal law.

1. Equality

We believe in equal rights, obligations and opportunities for people, without distinction as to race, sex, religion, opinion or any other personal or social condition or circumstance.

Communication with the governing bodies, or those assigned by them, shall be promoted and facilitated, in particular for all matters concerning this code of ethics, allowing for the resolution of any type of conflict, requests, etc.



Procedures will be activate to guarantee access to discussion forums to all those who request it.

2. Freedom

We will foster an environment of freedom of thought, opinion and expression, ensuring that all voices are heard. We will work to ensure that members and users and anyone who comes into contact with the IISL feel free to conduct themselves in accordance with the law, to express themselves and to be part of the community without fear of any action or reaction that would curtail that freedom.

3. Truth, integrity and transparency

The principle of truth and transparency of actions shall apply to all personal, work, administrative and regulatory actions carried out within the IISL.

In our actions and decisions, the people who make up the IISL community and the governing bodies must be truthful, avoiding falsehood, deception and the omission of relevant information. This implies promoting integrity and transparency in all areas and activities of the IISL.

Transparency will be a pillar in all our actions, guaranteeing access to non-confidential documentation produced by the IISL to all internal staff. This includes information on the normal functioning of the IISL, official documents from and to the governing bodies, minutes of business meetings, programmes and reports. This documentation should be made available to any member of the IISL team upon request.

As far as public information is concerned, it must be easily accessible and accessible, and the channels for this shall be provided.

4. Respect

In our decisions and actions, those of us who make up the IISL community and government must always act with respect and consideration.

Our mission is to be a beacon of the Sociology of Law and, as such, the IISL will not allow any type of action or behaviour that violates existing legal norms and the norms of good behaviour in our society.

Behaviours and actions that do not comply with the minimum ethical standards will not be allowed, neither by the people who suffer them, nor by those who witness them or have knowledge of them, activating mechanisms to denounce and minimise this type of behaviour that affects the members of the community, as well as the image of our institution.



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5. Public Service and Social Commitment

The IISL and its community will develop its work seeking to respond to the needs of social transformation, thus contributing to the construction of a more just and cohesive society both in its immediate environment and internationally. We will seek to strengthen ties with the community, promote dialogue and collaboration on issues of common interest.

6. Sustainability and Heritage Promotion

The IISL and its community will promote and protect sustainability and social, economic and environmental well-being to avoid or minimise any harm in these areas.

Sustainable development objectives, heritage preservation, efficient and rationalised resource management, and any other objectives that may have an impact in the medium and long term will be promoted.

Paragraph 3: Behavior criteria

1. In the IISL community

1.1. Continuous Training and Personal Improvement

The IISL shall promote conciliation and attention to the individual needs of the IISL's working and service staff, guaranteeing their continuous training and attending to their needs and demands.

A response will be given in due time and form to staff requests or petitions, promoting conciliation and personal attention.

Non-response to official requests will not be accepted and a response will be given by the same means by which they were received. If this is not the case, after the corresponding period has elapsed, the silence shall be considered as positive silence (see p. 4. Communication).

1.2. Coexistence and Work Environment

We will ensure that coexistence within the IISL is governed by peace, justice, respect and equal opportunities for all people (see p. 4. Communication).



2. In governance and representation

All activities of the governing and representative bodies shall be governed by the principles of this Code of Ethics, transparency and accountability in accordance with the applicable regulations in each case.

They shall ensure that they perform their duties with integrity and transparency, acting correctly and fairly, and assuming responsibility for their actions and for the bodies they represent.

The duty of confidentiality, when required, shall be maintained during and after the exercise of their office.

3. In relations with society

The members of the IISL community will ensure the prestige and good name of the institution and contribute to its greater and better recognition by society.

We are committed to maintaining respectful and polite behaviour, avoiding situations of harassment or personal intimidation in any of its manifestations, and enabling channels to report any situation of conflict. (See point 5: Compliance assurance system).

4. Communication

We will promote internal and external communication based on respect and integrity.

Communication between members of the IISL and between them and any external person will be governed by the basic principles of human treatment, both in verbal and non-verbal language, observing the minimum standards of good treatment and good manners: greeting, acknowledging the presence of others when sharing spaces and respecting the members assigned to the same working group.

Internal communication shall be transparent and effective, responding appropriately to requests and queries without distinction of rank or hierarchy.

Internal communication shall be effective and respectful of other people's time and effort, and shall be directed to the appropriate person, team or body.



Paragraph 4: Compliance Assurance System

The promotion and monitoring of compliance with this Code shall be the responsibility of all members of the IISL community, and of its governing bodies, as the ultimate responsible parties.

The necessary channels will be set up to provide full protection to the persons concerned. Among others, a direct channel of communication will be set up between any person, whether or not they belong to the IISL, and the IISL, such as a web form for suggestions and complaints, or any other channel that is deemed appropriate and that meets the conditions of ease of use, confidentiality and constitutes a direct channel between the interested party and the IISL. In particular, users of the IISL will be informed of the existence of this and other channels of communication for requests, comments, suggestions, complaints and denunciations.

The IISL will provide the necessary information and channels for any type of complaint through the governing bodies or through professionals specialised in this field or competent staff; the ultimate responsibility will be referred to the governing bodies of the IISL. All complaints will always receive a response from the IISL.

The IISL and its community shall:

- To facilitate the wider dissemination and understanding of this Code to all persons affected by its contents and to the governing and representative bodies of the IISL.
- To develop and promote a permanent reflection on the ethical principles that should govern the conduct of an institution such as the IISL, and to strive for the continuous improvement of this Code.
- Clarifying any doubts that may arise from the interpretation of the principles and precepts included in the Code, as well as making any suggestions that may be considered appropriate for better compliance with its provisions.
- Identify possible deficiencies in procedures, systems and structures that could adversely affect compliance with this Code.
- Analysing and, where appropriate, recommending action on conduct contrary to the precepts of this Code that is detected.

We are committed to upholding and enforcing the values, principles and guidelines of this Code of Ethics, extending these principles to everyone in the IISL, creating a safe, collaborative and ethical environment.

Oñati, 20 November 2024.