Annex 2:
G7 Security and Integrity of the Global Research Ecosystem (SIGRE) Working Group

Mandate & Purpose of the Working Group

The Working Group on the Security and Integrity of the Research Ecosystem (SIGRE) was established in the 2021 G7 Research Compact.

The Working Group serves three main purposes:
1) To review existing principles of research security and integrity to understand whether they sufficiently account for security considerations, developing additional principles where they do not.
2) To identify voluntary standards of conduct and best practices by which such principles of research security and research integrity can be embedded.
3) To strengthen the exchange of best practices across the research community on research security and integrity considerations by establishing a virtual academy and a toolkit.

Outputs

G7 Common Values and Principles on Research Security and Research Integrity Paper

The Working Group completed its first objective through the online publication in summer 2022 of the "G7 Common Values and Principles on Research Security and Research Integrity."

The paper provides a common framework that can be used to guide research security efforts in domestic and international research. It also sets out definitions for research security and research integrity and the overlapping considerations which link the two concepts. It states that G7 members envision the continuation of a collaborative research system where the importance of all talent – domestic and international – is acknowledged. A critical element of the paper is that openness and security are not contradictory but mutually reinforcing.

G7 Best Practices for Secure and Open Research Paper

To support the implementation of the identified values and principles in the first paper and meet the second identified purpose, a further paper, titled "Best Practices for Secure and Open Research" will be published in Spring 2023. The paper is intended to provide high-level information on practices that support secure and open research.

The paper recognizes that all stakeholders in the research community have a role to play, and is structured to provide guidance to governments, research funders, research institutions, and researchers. A future version of the paper will also include

examples of best practices being implemented by different G7 members.

Virtual Academy and Toolkit

In order to implement objective 3, SIGRE have developed a Virtual Academy as a resource pool for G7 members and their respective research communities to share best practice. The Virtual Academy will be hosted on the European Commission's SINAPSE platform. Access will initially be restricted to G7 members and those with responsibility for developing and promulgating policy at research funders and research-performing institutions within the G7. In 2024, it is envisioned that access to the platform will be expanded to include countries outside of the G7. All G7 members will choose a G7 Validator who will be will be responsible for validating membership and upload requests from their countries.

Oversight Board

An Oversight Board has been set up to present ideas to the wider SIGRE group on how to maintain and develop the Virtual Academy and Toolkit. The Oversight Board's membership is rotational: each year it is comprised of the G7's current, incumbent, and previous president represented by a government representative and a chosen member of each of their research communities, also known as a Champion for Research Integrity and Security (CRIS). The European Commission and the UK remain on the Oversight Board each year as a permanent observer and permanent English language expert respectively. The Oversight Board will continue to meet once the platform is launched in Spring 2023. All Oversight Board members will choose an Oversight Board Administrators who will be responsible for monitoring and updating the Virtual Academy platform.

Next Steps
- The Virtual Academy with an integrated Toolkit will be released in Spring 2023.
- The "Best Practices for Secure and Open Research" paper will be published in Spring 2023 and a supplementary annex developed over Summer 2023 to include examples of best practices in use by G7 members.