

# CODE OF ETHICS FOR RESEARCHERS AT GRADE

In their professional performance, researchers at GRADE are guided by the following principles:

- 1 Search for the highest standards of academic quality.
- 2 Objectivity and independence both in the analysis and when making policy recommendations.
- 3 Respect for the rights and the dignity of those individuals who participate in their research projects.
- 4 Transparency in their professional activities.
- 5 Justice in the attribution of merits and authorship to all the people involved in the scientific production process, as well as in the evaluation and use of research findings.

Consequently, researchers at GRADE commit themselves to meet the following standards of good academic conduct:

- 1 The state of knowledge about each research topic is recognized according to the standards of each discipline. The underlying theoretical and empirical assumptions are presented clearly.
- 2 Advisory—and the expert opinion in general—is provided according to professional standards, making clear distinctions between opinions, value judgments, and theories based on research and empirical findings.
- 3 Publications disclose financial and other forms of support from external sources. Likewise, researchers declare any possible conflict of interest, both in the publications and in providing their expert opinion.
- 4 GRADE researchers consider the ethical implications of their studies and ensure, whenever possible, that participants in their studies have given their informed consent.
- 5 Researchers at GRADE carry out their studies and issue opinions with absolute autonomy, maintaining their academic independence vis a vis the institutions that provide financial and other forms of support for the research.
- 6 The findings and conclusions of all research explicitly recognize the affiliation to GRADE, but researchers do not compromise the institutional opinion of the source of funding, GRADE or others, unless expressly authorized.
- 7 Researchers at GRADE base their conduct on this Code of Ethics, they demand the same behaviour from their academic colleagues and they commit to socialize this code among their collaborators.
- 8 GRADE researchers commit to following the responsibility lines and procedures that have been institutionally defined for resolving ethical conflicts and dilemmas.

## Procedures and lines of responsibility

- 1 In order to facilitate the adequate consideration of the ethical implications of the research conducted from GRADE, the institution has elaborated a Research Ethics Checklist and an Informed Consent Format for researchers use.
- 2 In those cases in which researchers face ethical dilemmas they can approach the Director of Research or the Executive Committee in order to define an institutionally coherent approach.
- 3 All cases of ethical misconduct must be derived to the Executive Committee in order to define the best resolution pathways. When judged appropriate, cases of misconduct may be discussed in the institution's Assembly, which after deliberation and following the institution's Statutes, will vote whether to sanction, suspend or separate researchers from the institution.