

ETHICS POLICY

1. General Provisions and Purpose of the Policy

1.1. The Policy on Ethics and Academic Integrity (hereinafter – the Policy) has been developed as a fundamental instrument for regulating the conduct of all participants in the ERASMUS+ Jean Monnet Module “European Regulation of the Cryptocurrency Market: Implementation in Ukraine” (hereinafter – ERCM). This document is based on the requirements of Article 14 of Grant Agreement GAP-101126839, which establishes the obligation of beneficiaries to comply with the highest ethical standards and the core values of the European Union.

1.2. The main purpose of this Policy is to create a transparent, fair, and non-discriminatory academic environment free from any forms of misconduct. This Policy applies to the project working group, teaching staff, invited European experts, participants of the certificate program, attendees of international conferences, as well as representatives of public authorities and businesses involved in open dialogue.

1.3. This Policy is an integral element of the ERCM project quality assurance system and must be reviewed by all participants prior to the commencement of their work or studies within the project.

2. Ethical Principles

2.1. In accordance with Article 14.2 of the Grant Agreement, activities within the project are carried out on the basis of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights. These values form the foundation of ethical conduct for all project participants and must be observed at all stages of implementation.

2.2. Academic freedom is recognized as a key prerequisite for conducting research and educational activities in the field of cryptocurrency regulation. Project participants have the right to freely formulate scientific hypotheses, conduct critical analysis of current and prospective legislation, including the Law of Ukraine “On Virtual Assets” and other relevant legal acts, and participate in open academic discussions without interference, censorship, or administrative pressure. At the same time, the exercise of academic freedom is inseparably linked to the obligation to ensure academic integrity, which includes the reliability, validity, and verifiability of research results, as well as the prevention of the dissemination of manipulative information or disinformation.

2.3. The principles of collegiality and respect for human dignity define the nature of interaction among project participants. Relationships must be based on partnership, mutual respect, and fair academic competition. Any forms of discrimination or intolerance based on age, gender, ethnic origin, worldview, social status, or other characteristics, as well as any actions that undermine personal dignity during educational activities, academic discussions, or public communications, are unacceptable.

2.4. Project participants are obliged to consider the societal implications of their research results, particularly with regard to ensuring an adequate level of protection of financial services consumers and preventing the use of crypto-assets in unlawful activities.

3. Standards of Academic Integrity

3.1. Academic integrity forms the foundation of educational and analytical activities within the ERCM project. All materials produced, including curricula, presentations, manuals, analytical reports, and conference abstracts, are subject to thorough verification for originality and compliance with copyright law.

3.2. Members of the project working group acting as researchers and trainers must rely exclusively on verified sources of information, including but not limited to official EU directives (such as MiCA), standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and relevant case law. Teaching staff are

required to ensure objective, transparent, and unbiased assessment of certificate program participants based on predefined criteria. When developing materials, researchers must comply with copyright legislation, properly citing any borrowed concepts, graphs, or statistical data.

3.3. A zero-tolerance policy toward academic misconduct is established for program participants and conference attendees. This includes a strict prohibition of plagiarism, fabrication of empirical data, falsification of research results, and dishonest conduct during final assessments.

3.4. The use of generative artificial intelligence systems for the preparation of essays or reports is permitted solely as an auxiliary (instrumental) tool (in particular for data collection or structuring of materials), provided that the use of such technologies is properly disclosed.

3.5. To ensure compliance with these standards, Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University applies specialized software tools for detecting textual similarities. A baseline originality threshold of at least 85% unique text is established for publication in project collections, unless otherwise justified by the specific nature of the material. Texts that do not meet these criteria are rejected without the right to resubmit within the current event.

4. Conflict of Interest Management

4.1. In accordance with Article 12 of the Grant Agreement, all beneficiaries and involved persons must take all necessary measures to prevent situations in which the impartial and objective implementation of the project may be compromised by family, emotional, political, national, or economic interests.

4.2. Members of the project working group, experts, and invited lecturers may not use their participation in the EU-funded project to lobby for narrow corporate interests of specific cryptocurrency exchanges, financial institutions, or political parties. Personal business or other private interests must not influence the proper performance of project-related duties.

4.3. In the event of a potential or actual conflict of interest, the individual must immediately notify the project coordinator in writing. The coordinator shall take appropriate measures to resolve the conflict and, if necessary, inform the grant provider to agree on further actions. Failure to disclose a conflict of interest is considered a serious breach of professional ethics and may result in termination of participation in the project.

5. Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Environmental Awareness

5.1. Within the ERCM project, an environment is ensured that guarantees equal opportunities for all representatives of target groups.

5.2. When forming participant lists for summer schools, certificate programs, and academic conferences, the working group applies an equal opportunities policy, ensuring gender balance and preventing any forms of discrimination. Particular attention is paid to the inclusion of vulnerable groups, including internally displaced persons, youth from territories affected by hostilities, and individuals with special educational needs. Educational activities are planned in accordance with accessibility requirements, including adaptation of digital platforms and provision of flexible learning schedules.

5.3. In line with the priority “Environment and fight against climate change” (Green Erasmus), the project promotes responsible use of natural resources. Members of the university community are required to minimize environmental impact by transitioning to paperless document management, using digital learning materials instead of printed ones, and prioritizing online communication to reduce the carbon footprint associated with transportation.

6. Mechanisms for Responding to Ethical Violations

6.1. In the event of indications of violations of academic integrity, conflicts of interest, or discriminatory behavior, any project participant has the right to initiate a review by contacting the project coordinator or the Academic Integrity Commission of Yaroslav Mudryi National Law University.

6.2. The complaint review procedure is based on the principles of objectivity, confidentiality, and presumption of innocence. The person concerned is guaranteed the right to provide explanations and defend their position.

6.3. Depending on the nature and severity of the confirmed violation, the following measures may be applied:

- Verbal or written warning with a requirement to remedy the violation.
- Annulment of assessment results with the possibility of reassignment.
- Rejection of abstracts or scientific articles without the right to revise within the current event.
- Termination of a participant's involvement in the certificate program.
- In cases of serious violations by working group members or experts – removal from project duties, initiation of disciplinary proceedings at the University level, and, in accordance with Article 28 of the Grant Agreement, notification of the grant provider, which may result in financial penalties or a reduction of the grant amount.