

## Integrity in research at DNB

DNB has integrity rules that apply to all DNB employees. This document outlines our policies concerning integrity in research.

DNB takes the Netherlands Code of Conduct for Scientific Practice of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (Vereniging van Universiteiten, VSNU) as the basis for conduct regarding scientific integrity.<sup>1</sup>

This code of conduct identifies the following principles:

- ❖ Scientific activities are performed scrupulously, unaffected by mounting pressure to achieve.
- ❖ A scientific practitioner is reliable in the performance of his research and in the reporting, and equally in the transfer of knowledge through teaching and publication.
- ❖ Presented information is verifiable. Whenever research results are publicized, it is made clear what the data and the conclusions are based on, where they were derived from and how they can be verified.
- ❖ In his scientific activities, the scientific practitioner heeds no other interest than the scientific interest. In this respect, he is always prepared to account for his actions.
- ❖ Scientific practitioners operate in a context of academic liberty and independence. Insofar as restrictions of that liberty are inevitable, these are clearly stated.

These general principles are implemented at DNB in the following ways:

The DNB research program is mainly the result of a ‘bottom-up’ process in which researchers propose research projects to be included in the program. These projects have to be in the realm of DNB responsibilities as delineated by the themes of DNB’s research program, but apart from this constraint researchers are free to come up with research projects. Only if the scientific quality of a proposed project is insufficient, the Head of Research may decide not to include the proposed project in the DNB research program. Management can request particular topics that are absent in the proposed projects (the ‘top-down’ dimension), but the researchers subsequently decide on the content of these requested projects.

Research at DNB is not aimed at reaching conclusions that are by definition in line with DNB policies. DNB’s Head of Research decides on the publication of research in the

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<sup>1</sup> Available at:  
[http://www.vsnu.nl/files/documenten/Domeinen/Onderzoek/Code\\_wetenschapsbeoefening\\_2004\\_\(2014\).pdf](http://www.vsnu.nl/files/documenten/Domeinen/Onderzoek/Code_wetenschapsbeoefening_2004_(2014).pdf).

DNB Working Papers. In taking this decision, only the scientific quality of the research matters. All papers have a disclaimer that the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of DNB.

Research projects with researchers outside DNB (universities, other central banks or international organizations) are encouraged. For these projects the DNB principles regarding scientific integrity apply.

All researchers at DNB follow standard ethical practices in doing research. This means that their research findings should be original, and sources used in doing research or writing the research report are clearly identified. If a publication draws on previous research, this is clearly indicated. Only researchers who made a substantial contribution to the research report are identified as author of the work.

Confidential data that have been collected for supervisory or oversight purposes, can only be used for research if the research project concerned is aimed at improving supervision/oversight.

If DNB researchers use data about individuals (e.g. data collected by Center Data via DHS) they will strictly adhere to the Wet bescherming persoonsgegevens.

As a rule, data used in research will be made available to others if so requested or will be made available via internet so that research outcomes can be verified. However, there are two limitations in place. First, information about individuals or institutions collected for research purposes will only be made available to others in an anonymous format. Second, confidential data can only under very strict conditions be shared with external researchers. These conditions are that: data can only be assessed at the premises of DNB, that only outcomes of the analysis can be reported such that information cannot be traced to individual institutions, and that a confidentiality agreement has been signed.

DNB aims for an open atmosphere in which researchers can bring up issues related to these principles and stimulate each other to adhere to these principles.

In case of an alleged breach of these principles, the Head of Research should be informed. The Head of Research will investigate the matter, in cooperation with the Head of Compliance and Integrity. If necessary, external advice may be used. As long as the investigation is ongoing, staff of DNB will refrain from public activities concerning the allegations. The Head of Research and the Head of Compliance will report their findings to the director of the Division Economic Policy and Research who will decide on the next steps to be taken. In case there is sufficient evidence of a breach of the principles outlined in this document, the Board of DNB will be informed.

Each year, the Head of Research will report to the Board of DNB about the implementation of the principles outlined in this document.