



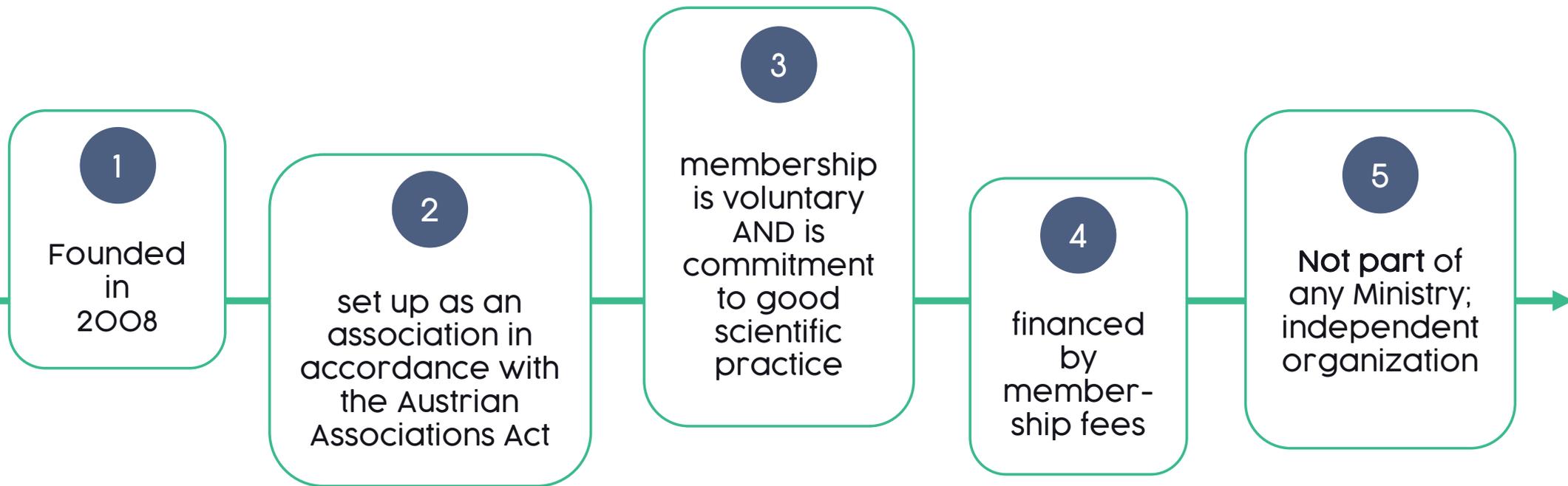
ÖSTERREICHISCHE
AGENTUR FÜR
WISSENSCHAFTLICHE
INTEGRITÄT

The Austrian Agency for Research Integrity: Structure, Functions, and Processes

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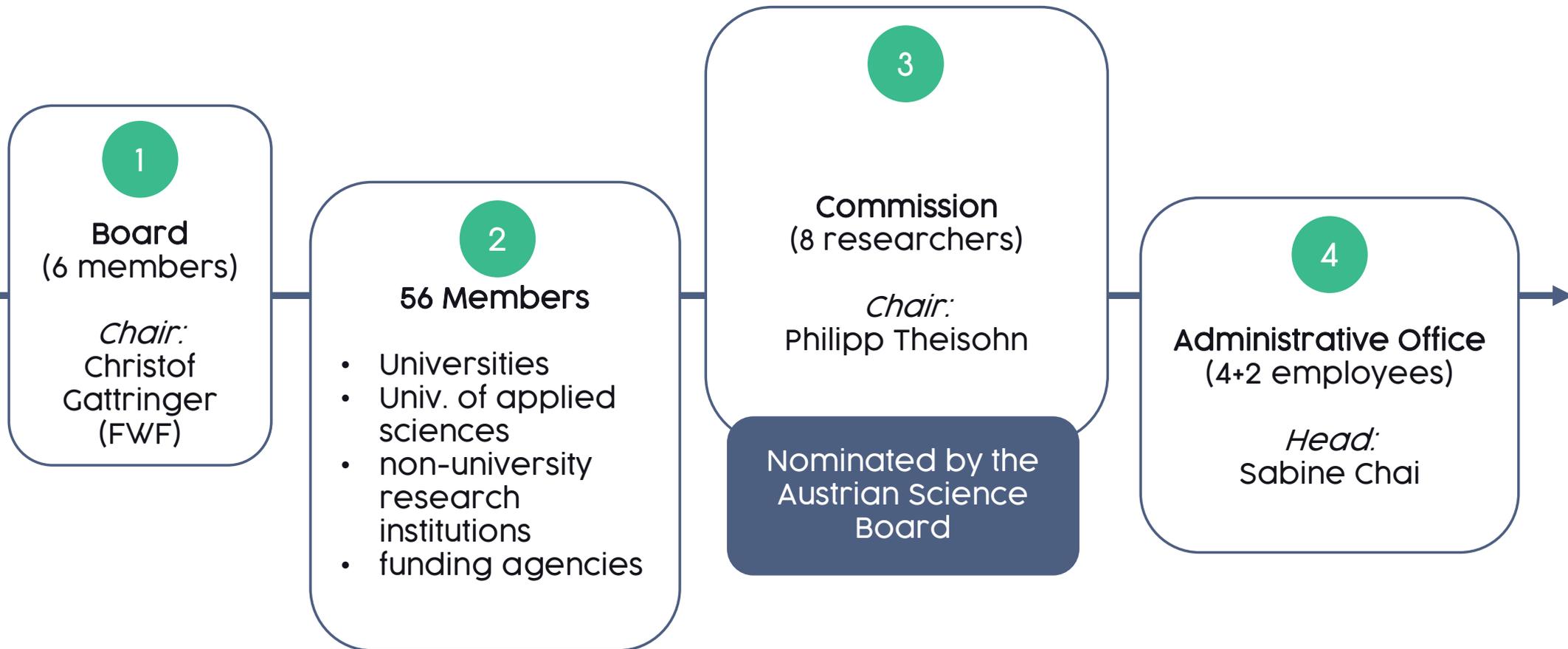
Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

OeAWI



Austrian Agency for Research Integrity

OeAWI



Purpose of the OEAWI (according to the Statutes)

- support the scientific community by ensuring good scientific practice
- research and document methods of ensuring good scientific practice
- serve as source of service and information for persons and organizations interested in ensuring good scientific practice
- serve as point of contact for persons or institutions who perceive the rules of good scientific practice to have been broken and for those accused of having broken the rules
- ensure independent investigations through the Commission for Research Integrity
- establish a network and cooperation with relevant national and international institutions

What we do

- **National & International Cooperation & Networking**
 - Development of international standards
 - EU-level policy development
- **Prevention & Raising Awareness**
 - Development of National Guidelines
 - Network of Research Integrity Officers (et al.)
 - Training
- **Advising**
- **Investigation**

Prevention

Awareness for the Standards of Good Scientific Practice

Training

Facilitation of Good Scientific Practice

Investigation

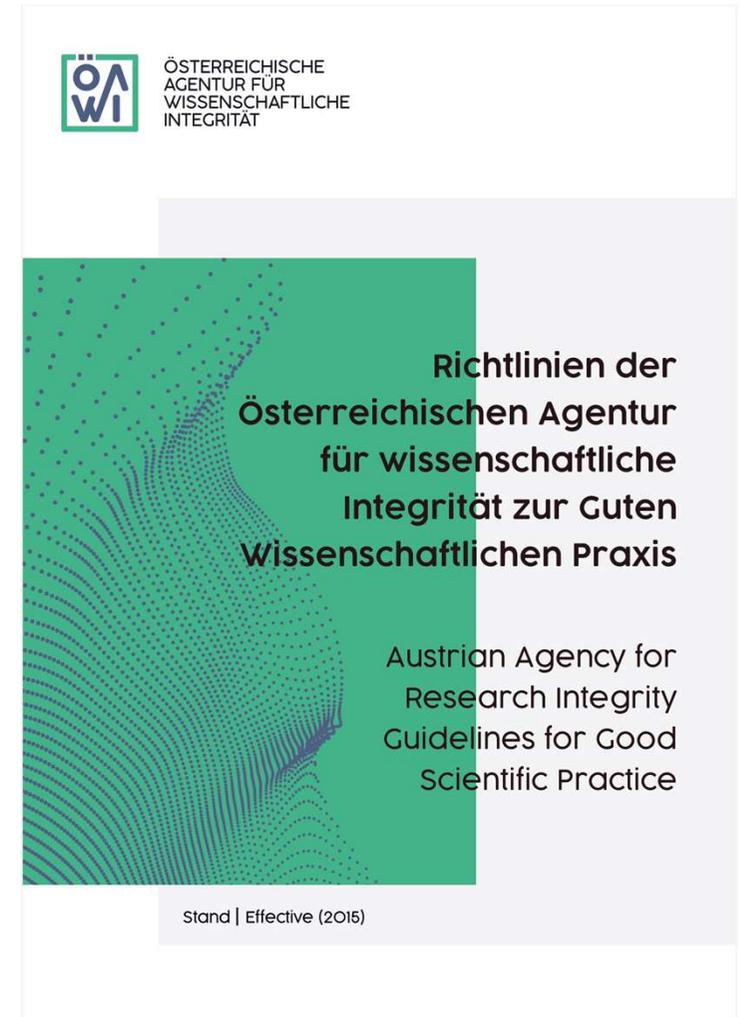
Investigation of alleged cases of research misconduct

Common guidelines

JOINT PROCESS (2014/2015):

Discussed with and approved by
(then) 37 member organisations

- ✓ **Definition of RM**
- ✓ **Level of intent addressed**
- **Types of sanctions not addressed**



Investigation

The background of the slide features a light blue, wavy, dotted pattern that resembles a stylized landscape or a textured surface. The pattern is composed of numerous small, light blue dots arranged in a grid-like fashion, with the dots being more densely packed in some areas and more sparse in others, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a soft, modern, and abstract aesthetic.

Investigation of Cases of Alleged Research Misconduct in Austria

All members can decide on internal or external investigation (via OeAWI)

Public universities:

Ministry – performance agreements

- have to have a system to address cases of research misconduct
- have to be a member of the OeAWI

All others:

- Voluntary membership
- If members of the OeAWI: often an ombudsperson, but not all own commission

Requests to the national Commission for Research Integrity

Administrative office:

- **First point of contact** in cases of alleged research misconduct
- **Communication with all persons involved**
- **Support and Advising of the Commission** (e.g. international context)

The Commission for Research Integrity

- 8 Members
- International experts
- From different fields (Natural and Technical Science, Life Sciences, Medicine, Law, Social Sciences, Economics, Humanities, Austrian Law)

Investigation

Workflow I

1

Inquiry initiated by
a complainant
(any individual/
Institution)

2

Determining the
responsibility by
the Commission
(factually/
geographically)

3

Assignment to the
member of the
Commission from the
most closely related
field of research

4

Investigation by the
Commission:
Obtaining of expert
opinions,
statements, and
other documents

Investigation

Workflow II

5

Final Statement

= Recommendation (!) for further steps

It is up to the institution involved to take measures and apply sanctions

The commission is not a court and has no legal mandate!

✓ **Annual reports with case summaries in anonymized form**

Principle of confidentiality

1

To protect
whistleblowers

2

To protect
defendants
(!suspicion!)

3

Towards third
party

Benefits

- Independent organisation, independent commission (often more trusted, no organizational bias) – **an alternative to the local boards**
- Non-Austrians in the commission – less bias
- Sometimes the only place to go for young researchers and others with dependancies

Possible Drawbacks

- No national overview of „RI status“ (cases)
- Non-Bindingness of recommendations
- Not always informed about „what happened after our investigation“
- Only 4 meetings per year, sometimes process takes too long

The background features a dark blue gradient with intricate, glowing green and cyan patterns. These patterns consist of numerous thin, wavy lines and clusters of small dots, creating a sense of depth and movement, reminiscent of a digital or data visualization. The patterns are most prominent on the right side and bottom of the frame.

Thank you!

Any questions?