

# Data and Ethics in TAMNEAC

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# Outline of the presentation

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- Objective: ethical conduct
  - Informed consent
  - Confidentiality and security in the field
  - Research assistants
  - Ethical Scrutiny Committee
  - Research Outline Document
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# Ethical conduct

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- Set of guiding principles and regulations
  - Is not self-evident, demands particular effort
  - Role of one's professor!
  - Tension between research interests and ethical conduct
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# The informed consent procedure

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- An explanation of the purpose of the research
  - A description of what you will be asked to do and how long it will take should you participate and whether or not you will be compensated for your time
  - A description of any risks involved in participating. These risks could be physical, psychological, social or criminal. The steps taken to minimize these risks should also be described
  - description of any benefits to you or to society as a whole
  - The degree to which the information will be kept confidential
  - Who to contact should you have questions about the research or about your rights as a participant
  - A statement that you are free not to participate and can stop participating at any time
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# Safeguards in the field

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- Protection of respondents and interviewers
  - Donor support, make yourself known
  - Coding of data and use of separate files
  - Removing of identifiers during data entry
  - Sensitive questions? Are they really necessary? Termination obligation
  - Securing data files
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# Ethical Scrutiny Committee

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- Monitors the compliance of TAMNEAC's ethical guidelines
  - Every researchers who is going to undertake field work needs to submit a detailed plan
  - Members are senior researchers with a lot of field experience
  - Decisions are made with 2/3 majority
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# Required Document

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- The specific purpose of the research project being carried out, including a set of specific research aims and questions;
  - Type of data being collected, suitability of methods that will be used and implementation plan
  - Identification of research subjects and outline of how the research sample will be devised;
  - Plan for how the anonymity of respondents and confidentiality of personal information will be protected;
  - Risk assessment of potential physical and/or psychological distress the research project may entail for those participating in it and how that risk will be managed;
  - Plan for recruitment and training of local interviewers;
  - Evidence that all the necessary preparatory work has been done to maximise the safety of local interviewers and research assistants;
  - Evidence that local requirements for research clearance have been obtained,
  - Evidence that the research project will comply with both local and EU legislation concerning data protection and socio-economic research ethics.
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