

FRAMEWORK FOR GOOD SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE

CONCISE VERSION

Space Physics Department
Space Research and Technology Institute
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

Purpose and Principles

This document establishes the standards of good scientific practice governing the activities of the Space Physics Department, in alignment with the principles of the European Research Area (ERA). Scientific activity and institutional governance are grounded in the principles of academic autonomy, academic integrity, independent scientific expertise, and transparency of procedures.

1. Scientific Expertise and Quality of Research

Scientific quality is ensured through expert evaluation (peer review) conducted by specialists with relevant expertise. Evaluation encompasses scientific novelty and scientific contributions, methodological soundness, and compliance with contemporary scientific standards. Scientific expertise constitutes the primary criterion in evaluation, priority setting, and career development. Where appropriate, external independent experts are engaged.

2. Thematic Scientific Expertise

Relevant scientific expertise is determined by the subject and objectives of the research, rather than by the methods employed. Methods constitute instruments of investigation and do not define scientific domains. A clear distinction between the subject of the research and the methods employed ensures valid scientific evaluation.

3. Responsible Conduct of Research

Scientific activity is conducted in accordance with the principles of responsible research, including risk assessment, a clear distinction between research and its potential applications, and compliance with applicable European ethical frameworks and regulations governing dual-use technologies.

4. Transparency, Accountability and Conflict of Interest

Evaluation and decision-making are conducted on the basis of clear, publicly defined criteria. A strict distinction is maintained between scientific evaluation and administrative decision-making. Conflicts of interest shall be declared, assessed, and managed in accordance with established procedures and applicable regulations.

5. European and International Framework

Scientific activity is aligned with the principles of the European Research Area (ERA) and with international scientific standards. Fundamental research constitutes a core component of scientific development. Integration into the international scientific community constitutes a strategic priority of the Department.

Conclusion

This document establishes the standards governing the scientific activity of the Space Physics Department and affirms scientific expertise as the leading principle of its development. The maintenance of scientific expertise, academic integrity, transparent procedures, and the balanced development of fundamental and applied research constitutes an essential condition for sustainable development and international scientific competitiveness. Scientific institutions also bear responsibility towards society through the advancement of knowledge, the promotion of scientific culture, and the sustainable development of scientific and technological fields.

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