



Rimisp Institutional Ethical Principles

Rimisp- Latin American Center for Rural Development, as well as its country-based offices and the legal figures these adopt as officially registered organizations subscribe to the following ethical principles and implementation procedures.

1. Commitment to human rights

Rimisp subscribes to international conventions and agreements on human rights. Rimisp will take all available measures to ensure that each of its projects and research activities respect the dignity and rights of all human beings, in accordance with the above mentioned conventions and international agreements.

In particular, Rimisp and its counterparts shall not discriminate, either by act or omission against any person or group, for reasons of gender, age, ethnicity, culture, religion, beliefs or political activities, physical or intellectual capacity or sexual orientation. Rimisp is committed to respecting diversity and promoting equality among all people.

2. Development and democracy

Rimisp, its projects and activities always have as the ultimate goal the promotion of people and territories development in a democratic framework.

Rimisp understands human development as the strengthening of diverse and broad social groups capacities, and as an expansion of people's freedoms and opportunities.

Democracy constitutes the referential basic political regime for every society and the one that allows the aforementioned development process. This refers to regular elections, division of powers, basic political freedoms such as the right to association, freedom of speech and information and full respect for human rights.

3. Respect for the biocultural heritage and the environment.

Rimisp endorses the 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity Goals, particularly the one promoting the exchange of information and of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources, species and ecosystems - always with the due respect of every country legal framework. Every project that include animals will treat them with dignity.

The 2005 Convention on the Diversity of Cultural Expressions Goals are also supported, because it is a Rimisp principle to protect and promote respect for societies and communities cultures as well as creating the conditions needed in order that cultures can flourish and interact freely in a mutually beneficial way.

In addition, Rimisp supports ILO Convention 169.

Every research project and/or action Rimisp execute should be in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals declared in 2015, with special emphasis on the ones related to the reduction of inequalities, gender equality, responsible production and consumption, sustainable cities and communities, as well as alliances that achieve the objectives.

4. Transparency and integrity.

In no case shall Rimisp make payments, donations, services or favors to third parties -individuals or legal entities, including their employees, managers or consultants- other than those legally and legitimately authorized in the relevant agreements or contracts.

Rimisp will not work, collaborate or accept the financing of counterparts (individuals or legal entities) that do not endorse and comply with ethical principles and standards compatible with those of Rimisp.

5. Respect for the dignity, well-being and privacy of every person participating in Rimisp's research and projects.

Rimisp recognizes human beings intrinsic value and the consequent respect and consideration they are due. Rimisp will take all available measures so that the dignity, welfare and privacy of its research participants will be respected. In particular,

- (a) Their autonomy will be respected at all times. By autonomy we understand the ability to make a decision and act based on that decision. This includes the right of all participants to abstain from participating in the investigation and their right to cease participation at any time.

- (b) All participants will be treated with equal respect and care and no participant will be exposed to predictable risks that could damage their physical, mental, or emotional health; or their physical, economic or social conditions.

- (c) The identity of the persons from whom information is obtained in the course of research shall be kept in absolute reserve, unless the person in question has consented in advance and in a written statement, to make public his identity in relation to the information or opinions provided. This principle also applies to images and videos, which can only be used with express agreement from those who appear in them.

Implementation issues related to this policy are available at [Rimisp web site](#).

- *Responsibility for the application of the Ethical Principles*

Rimisp's International Council is responsible for appointing the Ethics Committee of Rimisp. The Committee is composed of three principal researchers, two from Universities in the region and one from a recognized non-governmental organization operating in the region. The coordinator of each new project, within three months of its start, will present to the Committee a plan detailing the actions the project will take to ensure compliance with Rimisp's Ethical Principles. The Committee is responsible for the gender-sensitive assessment and written approval of the plan, requesting modifications and additional information where necessary; and for regularly overseeing its implementation. Rimisp's International Council renovates the Committee every two years, ensuring its gender diversity.



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