

Criteria catalog for the evaluation of research projects Working

Document of the Research Ethics Committee of the Vorarlberg University of Applied Sciences

Table 1. Overview of ethical criteria, their definition and evaluation levels.

Evaluation criteria	Stage I	Stage II	Stage III
<u>Care / Welfare:</u> The research participants are not objects, but subjects of the research. Their individuality is guaranteed. Communication between researchers and researched takes place at eye level.			
<u>Autonomy:</u> Research participants are free to decide whether to join or leave the project. The questionnaires follow the principles of data protection and informed consent. The technical and practical design guarantee the anonymity of the research participants.			
<u>Technical safety:</u> The project implements the principle of harm prevention. The data harvested in it are technically secured in such a way that they can be accessed by the scientific community in perpetuity. Access is anonymized upon justified request and in compliance with all data protection guidelines.			
<u>Human Security:</u> The social setting of the project is designed in such a way that the research participants experience trust and appreciation in it and receive any specific support needs. The principle of harm prevention is applied.			
<u>Justice:</u> In the project, research participants experience individual justice. As a result, the project contributes to better justice in society as a whole, for example in the distribution of goods, services and resources.			
<u>Participation:</u> Participation and involvement in the project are basically barrier-free. There are no financial, social or technical reasons for exclusion. The principle of diversity is applied.			
<u>Research Integrity:</u> The principles of independence, honesty, conscientiousness, transparency and fairness are implemented in the project.			

Explanation of the evaluation levels:

Level I: ethically harmless/unobjectionable

Level II: flanking measures are required to ensure ethical harmlessness

Level III: ethically questionable/objectionable

Literature sources for the creation of the criteria catalog

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Schuchter, P., & Heller, A. (2018). The Care Dialog: The “ethics of care” approach and its importance for clinical ethics consultation. *Medicine, Health Care and Philosophy*, 21(1), 51–62. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11019-017-9784-z>