ALLEAs Code of Conduct
- Lessons from Sweden (?)

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ALLEAs Code of Conduct

• Identifies principles, norms and values that researchers ought to respect
• Lists things researchers must not do (misconduct)
• Outlines how allegations of scientific misconduct should be handled
• Addresses what constitutes a good research environment

Recently…

“The Inquiry was instructed to investigate the need for new procedures for cases concerning the investigation of research misconduct, and make proposals to ensure clear and legally certain handling of alleged misconduct.”
Today: The Swedish system

- Certain forms of scientific misconduct shall according to law be handled by The National Board for Assessment of Research Misconduct

- Other forms of scientific misconduct are to be handled by the research institutions

- Ethical review is conducted by The Swedish Ethical Review Authority. Oversight is conducted by The Ethics Review Appeals Board
“Research misconduct”
(oredlighet i forskning)

“Serious breaches of good scientific practice in the form of fabrication, falsification or plagiarism that are committed intentionally or with gross negligence in the planning, performance or reporting of research”

“[…] a narrow definition of this kind will also allow a clear and reasonable line to be drawn between cases of breaches of good scientific practice that should be investigated at national level and cases that should continue to be handled internally by RPOs”

SOU 2017:10
Beyond “research misconduct”

The Association of Swedish Higher Education Institutions (SUHF) has published a recommendation that addresses the handling of other deviations than research misconduct (FFP)

- ALLEAs code was considered the best available standard
- The list of unacceptable practicies builds on ALLEAs code
A problematic but unavoidable tension...

- ALLEAs code is very short and not every kind of misconduct is listed
- Some principles, rules and examples are open to interpretation
- Predictability
- Legal certainty
Issues that need to be addressed (again)

• What constitutes seriousness in the context of scientific misconduct?
• What constitutes gross negligence?
• How to understand accountability in big projects?
• …