

Questionnaire – Identification of Possible Influence of a Foreign Power

Target group: management of institutes, departments and any other organisational components.

Instructions for completion:

Please take enough time to complete the questionnaire and be honest in your answers. Your insights are important for the future setting up of internal rules in the fight against the negative influence of a foreign power. If you answer “yes”, please provide more detailed comments (factual and in any form). Some questions are intentionally similar.

PART 1:

1. Have you or your employees ever noticed external pressure from partner entities to remove sensitive content from syllabi or lectures, or to limit academic debate within your research in any other way (e.g., non-issue of visas, influence on project financing ...)?
2. Do you know of a case where candidates for employment at your institute were pre-selected by a foreign government entity?
3. Was your institute exposed to pressure not to invite or cancel an invitation for guest speakers on sensitive topics?
4. Has anyone ever wanted you to scientifically confirm somebody's opinion for a fee (in particular research “ordered” from abroad)?

PART 2:

5. Do you know of contracts at your institute that contain requirements of the other party for their confidentiality or the confidentiality of their parts (e.g., they don't want to publish the origin of the funding provided or the beneficial owner of the partner entity)?
6. Do you know of contracts at your institute that contain political proclamations?
7. Are the provisions of a contract concluded by your institute governed by a law other than that of the Czech Republic/EU (e.g., data protection is governed by the law of a country outside the EEA)?
8. Do you know of a contract at your institute that contains an arbitration clause (e.g., with information that any disputes will be decided by an entity or court in another country, or containing other provisions disadvantageous for the institution)?
9. When working with foreign institutions, do you have the same privileges that you provide to a foreign entity? Are the related contracts transparent for the institution and the public?

PART 3:

10. Do you know of an attempt by a foreign power to get into your institute's environment (information systems, databases, lists, contact details, names, projects, research outcomes...)?
11. Have you ever noticed that sensitive information was or is being leaked from your institute (personal or research activities) and you don't know how?
12. Do you think that there could be unauthorised access to your institute?

13. Do you know of anyone on whom unreasonable pressure is placed in connection with his/her research activities?
14. Has anyone ever tried to get information from you concerning your research outcomes and you assess such situation as quite unusual?
15. Has anyone ever threatened you or your colleagues in connection with your work?
16. Does a funding provider influence/interfere with the independent course of your research or the conclusions of your research?
17. Have you encountered a suspicious offer of a fee the amount of which did not correspond to the quantity or complexity of the work requested?

PART 4:

18. Have you faced any form of retaliation for inviting foreign colleagues or because of your work at your institute?
19. Have foreign colleagues or groups warned you or your colleagues about retaliation against scientific researchers or students who are researching sensitive topics?
20. Have you ever had the impression that research being performed damages your institute's ability to obtain visas, make foreign partnerships or interferes with contacts with foreign governments?
21. Do you have information indicating that your employees or students were monitored by a foreign power when attending political events?
22. Have nationals of a foreign power made your departure from their country conditional on your consent to collaborating with them? Did they give you their contact details?
23. When returning from abroad, did a check on the documents you submitted take significantly longer than for other passengers?
24. Did people you do not know at all have their photograph taken with you abroad during the handover of a significant gift, fee or award? Do you have the photograph available?