

Resilience in openness

What can export controls and research security (not) do?

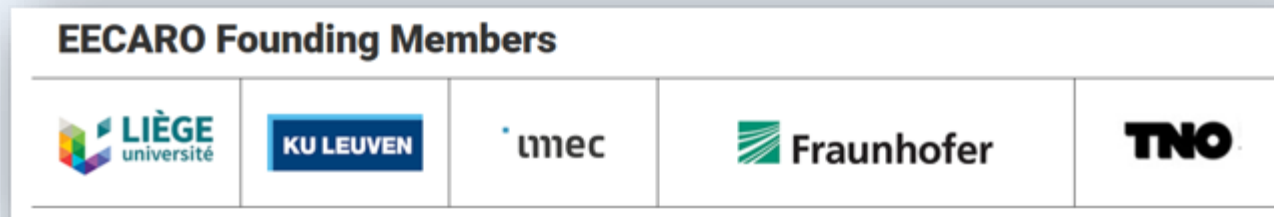
INESC Brussels HUB Summer Meeting 2025

25 June 2025

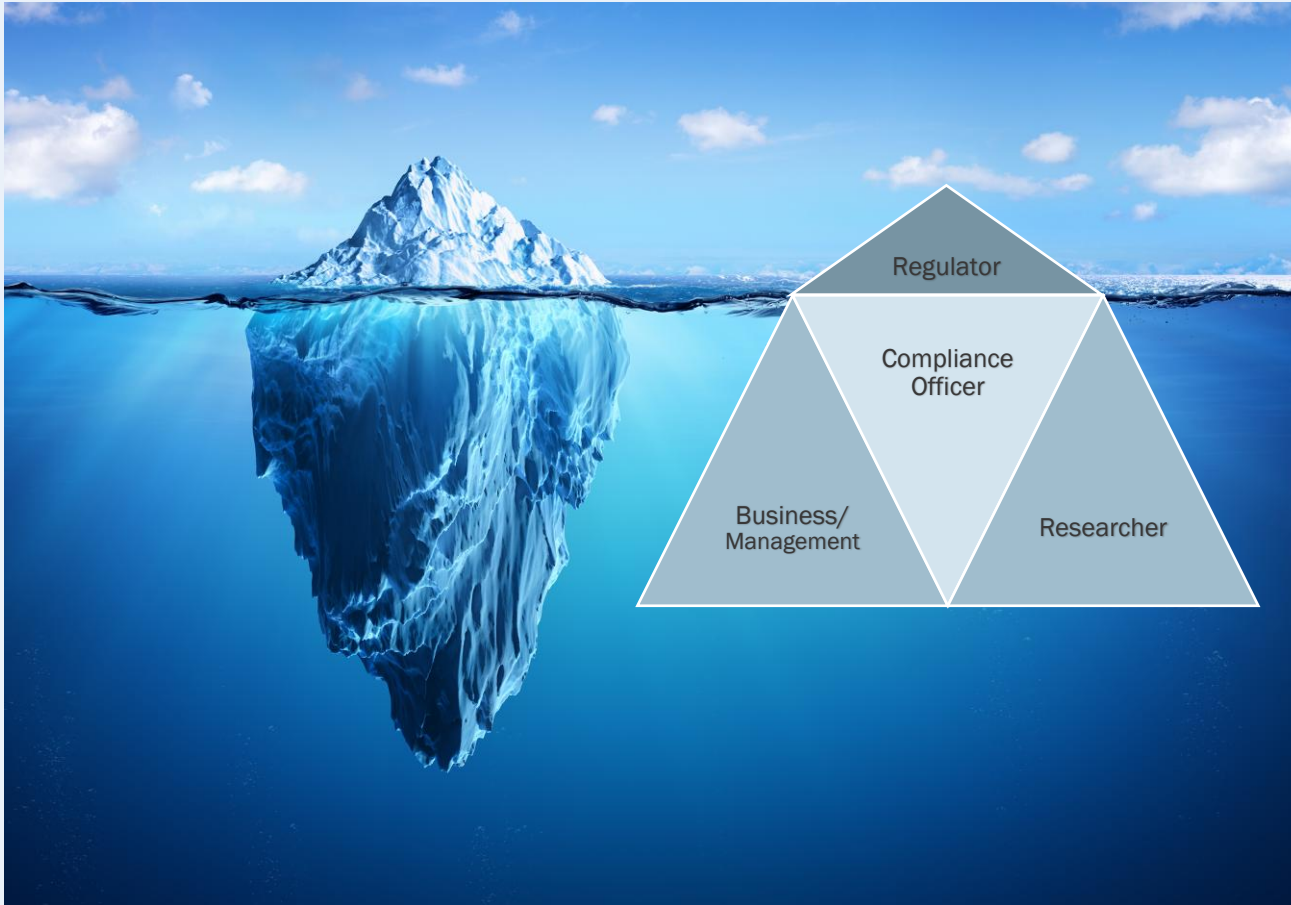
Dr. Johan Evers

About EECARO

- Founded in 2022
- Open for not-for-profit research organisations in European Union, Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Liechtenstein
- Currently members from 15 countries
- Close collaboration with U.S. Association of University Export Control Officers (AUECO) and UK Higher Education Export Control Association (HEECA)



EECARO supports the role of compliance officers



- Mediating between expectations and frustrations of researchers / business / management / regulators
- Highlighting the benefits of export control awareness
- Understanding the control text and control modalities – asking the right questions to researchers
- Sharing challenges and best practices with peer practitioners
- Reaching out to regulators about outstanding issues for export controls in a research context

Export
Controls



29 April 2024

Feedback on the White Paper on Export Controls



24 October 2024

**EECARO non-paper on the improvement of
Intangible Technology Transfer controls**

Research
Security



22 December 2023

Feedback on the Call for Evidence on enhancing research security in Europe



25 October 2024

**Feedback on the Factsheet Research Security: Building blocks for risk
appraisal**

Dual-use Funding



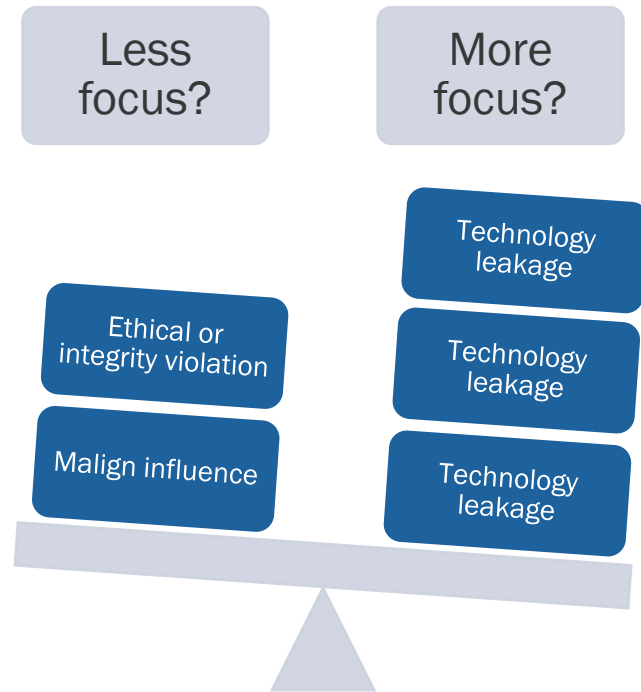
29 April 2024

**Feedback on the White Paper on options for enhancing support for research and
development involving technologies with dual-use potential**

<https://eecaro.eu/position-papers/>



Research security scope



- Manage risks, not behave risk-averse
- Avoid direct and indirect discrimination and stigmatization
- Country-agnostic versus country-specific guidance
- Raising awareness and boosting resilience
- Balancing the commitment to research security and the commitment to academic freedom, openness and collaboration in research

Intersection between export controls and research security



Dual-use technologies

Dual-use research of concern

Dual-use dilemma between academic security and freedom

Research involving dual-use items

Misuse

Misconduct

Research security risk appraisal – feedback EECARO

Recommendation

1. Research security risks linked to collaborations with entities
2. Onboarding risk assessment
3. Research security in academia
4. Project collaboration focus
5. Research security risk appraisal closely linked to dual-use export control risk appraisal
6. Scientific leadership
7. Financial dependencies
8. Country-agnostic policies and country-agnostic/-country specific tools and resources

EECARO feedback

1. Research security risks linked to mobility of researchers and R&D staff
2. Risk assessment and risk mitigation during collaborations
3. Research security in industry context
4. Research collaborations are diverse
5. Stop-Go-Stop impact research security appraisal and export control risk appraisal
6. Metrics indicators
7. Collaborations with EU-based entities owned or controlled by entities or governments from non-EU high-risk countries (without triggering export controls)
8. Level-playing field for tackling similar technology security and leakage risks

Research security in practice - the funding approach?

1 Research Security Appraisal

- Research Foundation - Flanders
<https://www.fwo.be/en/about-fwo/research-policy/research-security/>
- Self appraisal of risks by applicants / research security approval by host research organisation
- Estimation of risks to promote risk awareness
- Research security risk assessment does not impact scientific evaluation

1 Risk indicators

- Attractiveness to the knowledge economy
- Critical technology
- Military
- Dual-use
- Misuse
- Interference
- Country
- Institution
- Reciprocity
- Agreement frame

2 EU funding

- Limited export control awareness and follow-up in current set-up Horizon Europe / EDF
- Practical impact of dual-use or military export controls with increase funding opportunities/synergies for multi-purpose technology for defense use cases will increase
- New publication on 'Unlocking the potential of dual-use research and innovation'



Firestart statements and questions

We tell research organisations to watch for security risks already — but we give them no binoculars, no map, and no compass (yet).

What can research security learn from the export controls, knowing that export control rules struggle with knowledge flows in open academic systems?

What does ‘resilient openness’ look like in practice?

- How much risk is acceptable — and who decides?
- Can the EU create an innovation security model that preserves trust and excellence while protecting strategic assets?
- How can we enable a proportionate, risk-based approach to research security without burdening or over-securitizing the research community?

Thank you

<https://eecaro.eu/>