

## OsEAN CODE OF ETHICS

**OsEAN, as an international network of educational institutions,** shall build an open international community of trusted professionals who consider professional ethics as the basis of relationships between people, who are willing to contribute to a professional development nationwide and worldwide and who are ready to represent OsEAN with honour, both locally and globally.

All members of the educational network shall adhere to the following ethical principles:

- Honesty - There is a positive relationship between honesty and the quality of education provided. It includes truthfulness which is based on critical analysis and respect for reasonable opinion and respect for the free exchange of ideas
- Decency - A behaviour that conforms to accepted standards of morality and thus allows an honest interaction of all participants, including teachers, assistants, interpreters and other staff within the educational process, in order to avoid any forms of fraud, corruption, lies, deception, theft, extortion, and other types of dishonest behaviour.
- Transparency as a characteristic of the work of a school or organization.
- Respect for other participants. A basic ethical concept which emphasizes respect for personal space, physical and psychological integrity of every person within an organization or network.
- Trust. All participants in the field of education should have strong confidence in each other's reliability, honesty, truthfulness and good faith. Thus, all members should not only trust each other but also expect the same confidence from others. Trust also includes a non-disclosure of information EP's (educational providers) obtained during OsEAN meeting that exceeds the scope of sharing information for educational purposes.

- Justice. This principle includes an attitude, which is honest, fair and free from discrimination.
- Quality education. This is about the unconditional commitment to ensure quality, optimal standards of education and innovation.
- International cooperation. This underlines the importance of positive international cooperation in the field of education.

Adherence to these principles can help avoid the problem of corruption in the field of education, which is now highly relevant throughout the world.

**OsEAN is an international network of business organizations.** Accordingly, its members have to adhere to international business ethics, meaning that:

- They must be honest and transparent and must be held accountable to the promises and principles of reliability and efficiency, as well as focus on long-term and sustainable cooperation and the ability to work effectively in the international market, observing the law and acting within the established rules and customs.
- The reputation of the company should be based on the examples of best behaviour of its employees in:
  - relations with partners and competitors;
  - relations within the company;
  - situations of conflict of various interests;
  - establishing international business relations;
  - sensitive situations, namely when one member of the organization needs to make a decision, for instance, whether to publicise or to keep secret a violation of corporate norms and rules of the organization by another member.

**OsEAN is an international network of professionals.** Thus, its members have to adhere to professional ethics. The main functions of the code of professional ethics are:

- reputation
- management

- corporate culture development

All members shall be aware of the OsEAN mission <https://www.osean.com/home/about-osean>

By the Code of Professional Conduct, all members of the organization shall prevent:

- use of OsEAN membership for personal benefits not related to professional role
- using the membership or the prospective membership of OsEAN for promotional reasons and advertising about it before being accepted as a member
- false promotion on website
- simultaneous work in competing organizations
- using professional political affiliations to gain personal benefit or benefit for own school
- use of confidential school information discussed at OsEAN meetings for personal purposes other than general purposes

Members of the organization shall not represent the interests of competing or conflicting parties at the same time. Each member shall make every possible effort to defend and promote a good image of the organization.

## **IN CASE OF NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF ETHICS**

Compliance with professional ethics is essential for all members of OsEAN. If a member has a complaint about another member or potential member, this member can file a complaint to the OsEAN secretariat.

The full members vote on the complaint and determine a consequence. The potential consequences can vary from exclusion of OsEAN for a limited time (eg. until the reason of the complaint is solved) to a life long ban. This may apply to either a person or an educational provider. In this way it is possible that an individual is asked to leave OsEAN but the EP can stay. In case of non-compliance with the ethical code an educational provider can also be changed from full to associate member.