



M E M O

18 OCTOBER 2016

Re: Code for public-sector services

In April 2009, Universities Denmark issued a *White Paper on research-based public-sector services*. The white paper is based on the following principles for research-based public-sector services:

- Quality and integrity
- Openness
- Freedom of speech and freedom of research

The principles are supplemented by the following statements of opinion:

Universities Denmark's policy is that

- *research-based public-sector services must be carried out with the same integrity as a university's other tasks;*
- *sector-related research results must be assessed according to the same quality criteria as all other research;*
- *the results of public-sector consultancy, etc. must be publicly available and subject to peer reviews;*
- *the universities should establish quality-assurance systems for research-based public-sector consultancy;*
- *researchers' freedom of speech and freedom of research are basic principles, which the universities safeguard, including in connection with providing research-based public-sector services;*
- *in special cases, it may be necessary for the public sector and the university to coordinate the timing of publication of consultancy results.*

On the basis of Universities Denmark's White Paper, the University of Copenhagen has set out a number of principles for public-sector services.

The principles were approved by the rectorate and the deans on 5 October 2016 and discussed by the General Collaboration Committee on 12 October 2016.

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Research - the arm's length principle

The same ethical guidelines apply for sector-related research as for all other research.

Particularly in cases where there might be a specific desire from the commissioning party regarding the outcome of the research, it must be agreed in detail what the research assignment involves, also with regard to the researchers' independence and right and duty to publish the results regardless of the outcome.

All research, including strategic and sector-related research, must be documented openly, publicly and as soon as possible. Authorship follows the usual guidelines (e.g. the [Vancouver rules](#)). The documentation must be attributed to the academic staff members responsible for the results.

Consultancy

Public-sector consultancy, including reports, knowledge syntheses, monitoring and other reporting based on performed or known research, must, unless subject to exceptional circumstances, be publicly available, and thus exposed to criticism from other researchers and the public.

In some cases, it may be necessary for the public sector and the university to coordinate the timing of publication of consultancy results. In such cases, this must be agreed in connection with the start of the consultancy work. Under normal circumstances, postponement of the publication of consultancy should not exceed three weeks.