The evolving Code of Conduct at the National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology of Italy: a participatory process to combine law compliance and geoethics principles

Aim: why a code of conduct?

- Born on the basis of legal requirements in Italy: e.g. Law No. 165/2001; the General Code of Conduct (DPR62/2013) for public employees; Guidelines of Anti-Corruption Authority (ANAC);
- To provide employees a guide on how to work and act;
- Tailored to specific needs and activities in the Institute.

How: via a participatory process

- Interdisciplinary team with diverse expertise and backgrounds
- A thorough examination of principles and compliance with laws
- Review of code of conducts in Higher Education Institutions and Research Performing Organizations of Italy and abroad
- In-depth analysis of INGV processes and needs
- The first version provisionally approved by the Board of Administrators (CdA) and circulated for stakeholder consultation
- Stakeholder’s comments and amendments collected; all addressed, partially or completely accepted, or rejected;
- The updated version approved by the body assessing the performance, clearness, and integrity of the administrative action (OIV); then issued by the General Director.

Results:

At present state the Code (*):

- contains both ethical and legal norms, i.e. both principles underpinning appropriate behaviors, and rules, which if violated give rise to sanctions;
- embeds principles from Geoethics, European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and European Charter for Researchers;
- aims to ensure workplace well-being, quality of research and services, prevention of corruption phenomena, compliance with the constitutional duties of diligence, loyalty, impartiality, care of the public interest, and achievement of INGV institutional goals.


Future work:

- The Code will be updated according to the structure of a new General Code of Conduct to be issued by the Government, concerning the use of information technologies, social media, respect for the environment and the individuals.