



OPINION n°2010-22

**« ETHICAL ASPECTS OF THE PUBLIC
SUPPORT TO PROJECT BASED RESEARCH »**

Approved at the plenary session of 28 june 2010



I. SUMMARY

In the last twenty years, at a national as well as at an international level, public operators have changed their modus operandi vis-à-vis the research community. Now project-based support, that had remained marginal for a long time for a number of scientific communities, plays a central role. This way of financing research has consequences, that had not been anticipated, in view of the goals set initially, namely to optimize the investments, and to focus efforts on specific themes. This evolution induces a change in practices, that can affect both the content and the potential of creativity of research. Project-based financing substantially modifies interpersonal relations in laboratories, in particular through the considerable increase in the number of temporary positions. Moreover, this mode of financing creates new responsibilities for researchers, who often end up not having the control of the final use of their work.

The statement issued by the COMETS on « *Ethical aspects of the public support to project based research* » present what is at stakes in this evolution and makes recommendations to researchers and their milieu, as well as to people in charge of issue and manage the calls, to overcome the bias identified.

