

Public Health Institutes of the World



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IANPHI Europe regional meeting

Oslo 9 October 2025

Implementing the Code of Practice

With focus on
scientific independence

19:14 17 September

Ousted CDC boss says she was fired by RFK Jr for refusing to rubber stamp vaccine policy



Susan Monarez

Fired CDC boss details why she believes she was sacked

Definition and purpose

Code of Practice

Definition

- A Code of Practice is a **written guideline** that is agreed upon by a professional association. It outlines the legal framework, ethical standards, best practices, and recommended behaviours within a specific field or profession.
- It serves as a **set of standards and best practices** to guide the establishment and maintenance of high-quality operational standards for NPHIs.

Purpose

- The *Code of Practice for NPHIs* is the **cornerstone of the quality framework** for NPHIs. It aims to serve as a reference for countries in establishing and improving the institutional framework of NPHIs, the technical work and generation of knowledge, the implementation of health and public health services and interaction with society. Furthermore, it aims at **communicating the core values of NPHIs** to the scientific community, government, and the public.

NPHI

Definition

- A national public health institute (NPHI) is a public institution, or closely networked group of public institutions that operate as part of the government or with its agreement, and that provides science-based leadership, knowledge-based evidence, expertise, and coordination for a country's public health activities.

7 principles and 27 attributes

Institutional framework of NPHIs

1. Principle: Clearly defined structure and mandate
2. Principle: Adequacy of resources
3. Principle: Scientific independence
4. Principle: Working environment

Technical work and generation of knowledge

5. Principle: Prioritisation of work
6. Principle: Commitment to quality

Interaction with society

7. Principle: Open and transparent communication

1. Principle: Clearly defined structure and mandate

- A clearly defined organization with specific missions, a legal framework, organizational structure, professional leadership, and ethical values enabling scientific excellence and independence.

Attributes

- 1.1 Legal framework
- 1.2 Organizational structure and functions
- 1.3 Dynamic adaptability
- 1.4 Professional ethical values
- 1.5 Legitimacy and trust

3. Principle: Scientific independence

- Scientific independence from policy, regulatory or administrative departments and bodies, as well as from private sector operators and civil interest groups, ensures the best public health impact of NPHIs deliveries and their public and social credibility. Maintaining positive collaborative relationships with all relevant stakeholders, including the Ministry of Health, should enhance and uphold scientific independence.

Attributes

3.1 NPHIs' scientific independence should be protected from political influence

- The procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the heads of NPHIs should be transparent and merit based

3.2 NPHIs should be protected from commercial or lobbying influence

3.3 NPHIs are science-based organisations that generate evidence to inform policy and programmes

Benefits

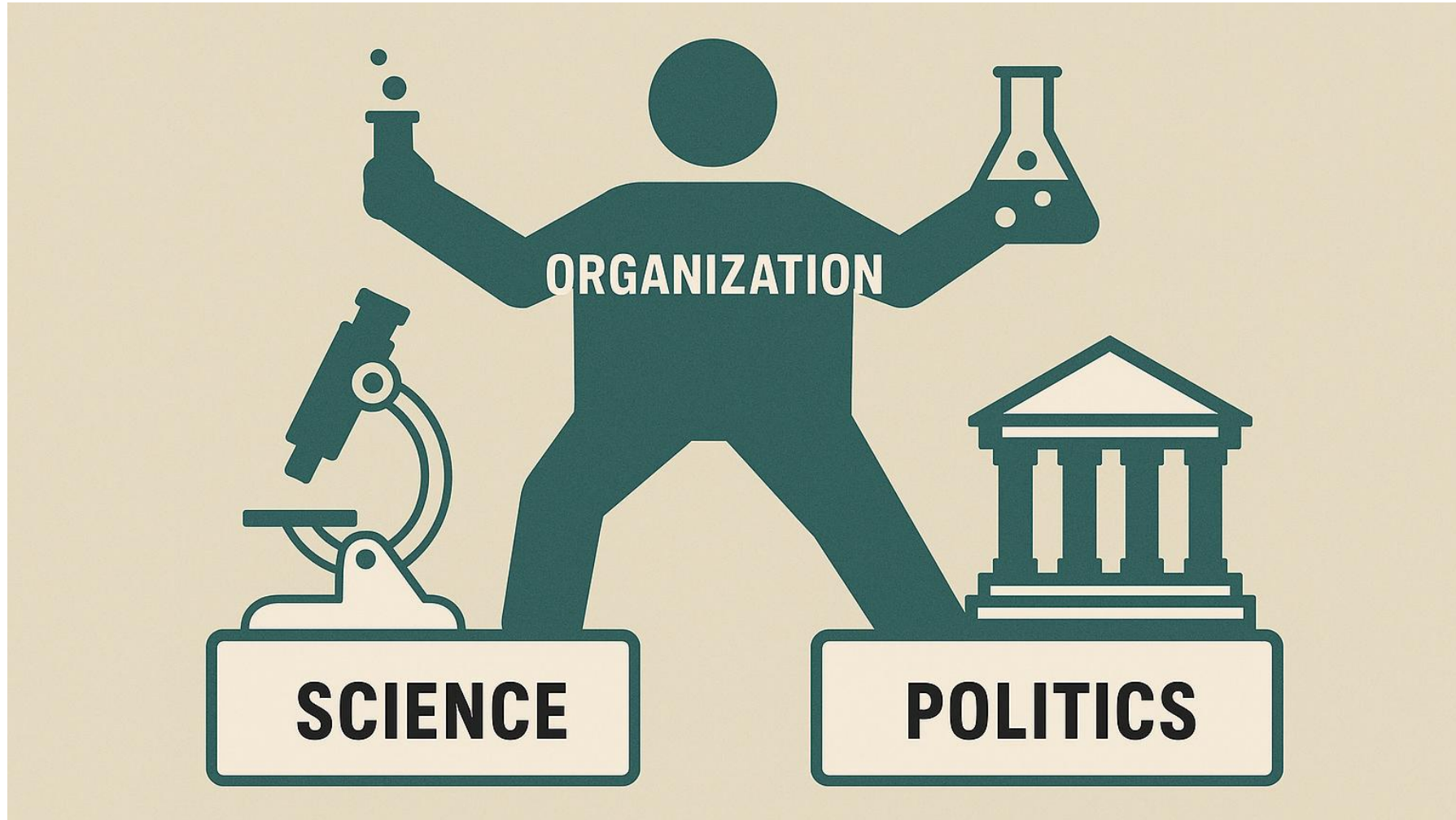


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Challenges

- Task alterations or cuts
- Budget or personnel cuts
- Influence on recruitments, including top director (political and not merit based)
- Infringements on free speech
 - Participation in public discourse
 - Ability to freely publish scientific knowledge
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How can NPHIs operationalise the CoP?

1	Principle	Attributes	Description	Assessment FHI
2	1. Principle: Clearly defined structure and mandate	Legal framework	Having a legal framework, clearly describing roles, tasks, responsibilities, and authorities with public health functions, ensuring a predictable mandate and financial conditions, and enabling scientific excellence and independence.	Oppfylt og ikke i motstrid med andre styrende dokumenter for FHI
3		Organisational structure and functions	* NPHIs are public institutions that operate as part of the government or with its agreement. The relationship with the ministries should be clearly described. * NPHIs are organised with a clear and distinct missions and mandate to enrich the technical capabilities in the country's public health system and build collaboration with other actors and entities, nationally and internationally. * The work of NPHIs is evidence- and science-based and should not be subjected to commercial or undue political influence	Oppfylt og ikke i motstrid med andre styrende dokumenter for FHI
4		Dynamic adaptability	NPHIs shall maintain a commitment to dynamic adaptability in recognition of the constantly evolving landscape of public health threats and challenges. This entails horizon scanning and a proactive approach to reviewing programs and activities, adjusting resource allocation, and enhancing organisational flexibility to effectively respond to new and emerging threats, technological advancements, and shifting societal needs. Embracing agility and innovation, these institutions shall continuously assess and refine their strategies, policies, and practices to ensure relevance, efficacy, and resilience in safeguarding public health.	Usikker på hvordan dette er oppfylt
5		Professional ethical values	NPHIs incorporate and adhere to professional ethical values of public health research and provision of scientific advice, scientific integrity, equity, gender, and human rights.	Oppfylt og ikke i motstrid med andre styrende dokumenter for FHI
6		Legitimacy and trust	Through timely and reliable science-based and actionable deliverables, professional and organisational behaviour, ethical values and staying within the mandate of the NPHI, legitimacy and trust of NPHIs are earned.	Oppfylt og ikke i motstrid med andre styrende dokumenter for FHI
7	2. Principle: Adequacy of resources	Human resources, including staff recruitment	Human resources, adequate both in magnitude and competence are available to meet the current and emerging needs. The recruitment process should be open and transparent. A skilled, multidisciplinary workforce is maintained. Systems are in place to evaluate the performance of staff and provides staff with training and continuing education, and career pathways.	Usikker på om "Systems are in place to evaluate the performance of staff" er oppfylt
8		Sustainable financial resources and financial security	Financial resources are available and largely predictable over time to meet the needs of the NPHIs. They need to be sufficient to uphold the knowledge base and to identify and implement innovative insights and techniques.	Usikker på om dette er et relevant prinsipp for oss virksomhet. Jeg tenker at dette i større grad er rettet mot eiere av folkehelseinstitutt, og dermed HOD. Det er de som er ansvarlige for å gi oss en tilstrekkelig og stabil tildeling.
9		Technical resources, including access to data	Access to necessary and secure digital and technical equipment, infrastructure, and capacity, such as computers and software, phones, e-mail, Internet and communication equipment, scientific literature, databases and health registries, and laboratories where relevant.	Oppfylt og ikke i motstrid med andre styrende dokumenter for FHI
10	3. Principle: Scientific independence	NPHIs' scientific independence should be protected from political influence	* The scientific independence of NPHIs from political and other external interference in developing, producing, and disseminating scientific knowledge should be promoted through appropriate legislation, regulations, best practices, and professional guidelines. * NPHIs have the responsibility for ensuring that scientific knowledge is developed, produced, and disseminated independently * NPHIs should have full autonomy in deciding on scientific methods, standards, and procedures for its scientific work. * Rules and procedures should be pre-established and agreed upon with competent authorities regarding the timing of scientific releases, including for topics relating to emergencies. * Scientific publications from NPHIs should be issued separately from political statements to ensure their recognition as independent evidence. * NPHIs should be able to comment publicly on all public health issues without fear or favour. * The procedures for the recruitment and appointment of the heads of NPHIs should be transparent and merit based. Criteria for both employment and termination of contracts should be specified in the NPHI legal framework and designed to protect the independent professional and scientific voice of the NPHI leader. * NPHIs should have adequate autonomy to make decisions on administrative and internal financial management of the Institute in alignment with accepted rules and regulation of the country.	Behov for å gjennomgå punktene i møtet
		NPHIs should be protected from commercial or lobbying influence	* NPHIs should be protected from commercial or undue civil society lobbying influence through appropriate guidelines. * NPHIs should have a clear Conflict of Interest policy to ensure transparency over funding sources for the institutions and demonstrate measures taken to remove any risk to the institutions' scientific independence. * NPHIs should have a Code of ethical conduct for their interaction or collaboration with private companies and commercial activities or entities. This Code should clearly outline the limitations on acceptable funding sources and the measures in place to ensure that funding sources are independent from the planning and execution of scientific and public health work. * NPHIs should have clear strategies for partnerships and engagements. These strategies should define the guidelines for collaborating with civil society organisations and lobbying groups, including citizen and patient groups, minority communities, religious organisations, and advocacy groups to minimise the risk of undue influence. It is crucial to safeguard the impartiality of NPHIs and maintain the perception of their	Behov for å gjennomgå punktene i møtet