



Training
the Trainer

Deliverable 4.4

Toolbox for trainers



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the Trainer

Project Details		
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1. Introduction

The aim of the VIRT²UE programme is to develop a sustainable train-the-trainer blended learning programme enabling contextualized research integrity teaching across Europe focusing on understanding and upholding the principles and practices of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

The VIRT²UE Train the Trainer program provides participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct a research integrity course. Trainers are taught how to foster reflection on scientific virtues in researchers, and how to promote understanding of the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity.

The programme takes a blended learning approach combining online and face-to-face components. Online materials are designed for individual learning and reflection and provide an introduction to the main research issues and philosophical concepts in research integrity. The face-to-face training develops participants' teaching skills and provides opportunities for interactive, reflective and case-based group activities. The online and face-to-face courses are complementary. Online preparation is required for the face-to-face exercises, and the online exercises need to be supported by experiences provided in the face-to-face meetings.

VIRT²UE provides the resources from this blended learning programme in a toolbox of educational resources. The Toolbox is an output of WP4. The main aim of WP4 is to introduce educational materials for online learning by researchers and trainers. WP4's five objectives are:

Objective 1 Update and adapt educational materials for online learning

Objective 2 Develop and record ten You Tube videos

Objective 3 Develop an innovative online course (MOOC)

Objective 4 Develop an online toolbox for trainers

Objective 5 Constantly update and improve training materials according to the needs of trainers and researchers

This deliverable describes and demonstrates the output of objective 4 – the online toolbox for trainers – which is hosted on [The Embassy of Good Science](#)¹, an online platform for research ethics and research integrity.

The online toolbox for trainers aims to assemble the materials collected by WP2, and developed by WP3 and WP4 in such a way that they may be accessible and easy to use for trainers. Consequently, the Toolbox is a joint product that resulted from the cooperation between WP2, WP3, WP4, WP5, and WP6. Since the toolbox was to be integrated on The Embassy of Good Science, technical aspects were taken into account in the development of the toolbox. Correspondingly, the joint endeavour was coordinated and lead by WP6.

¹ This is an initiative developed by the EnTIRE project and funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research programme under grant agreement N 741782. The website is available at [embassy.science](#).

2. The Toolbox

2.1 Concept

The VIRT²UE Train-the-Trainer programme is developed for use across Europe and for different disciplines. By necessity, the training materials and resources must allow for contextual specification. As such, the VIRT²UE ‘toolbox’ provides a collection of materials that can be used together as standalone course, or individually for integration into existing research integrity courses.

The VIRT²UE toolbox is completely open source and available on The Embassy of Good Science, an online wiki-platform which serves as a hub for all of those committed to ‘good science’.

The modularity and accessibility of the VIRT²UE toolbox allows trainers to build their own courses tailored to the needs of their students. Thanks to the wiki functionalities, which are provided by The Embassy of Good Science, trainers are encouraged to adapt the materials and modules, as long as the underlying virtue ethics approach and learner-centeredness are maintained. Changes can be easily made directly on The Embassy of Good Science. This ensures clear versioning and allows trainers to exchange knowledge and to engage with the community of trainers. In regard to quality assurance of the VIRT²UE materials in the toolbox, all changes are tracked and checked by the material developers, if changes made on the wiki platform are not constructive additions, old versions will be restored.

2.2 Characteristics and potential of wiki (collaboration, versatility, sustainability)

Collaboration

One of the main challenges of the project is to develop and deliver a collection of materials which can be used across different disciplines and countries. The structure and wiki functionalities of the toolbox are reflective of this challenge and allow for unique collaborative ownership and development of the Toolbox. The wiki functionalities allow for extra flexibility because trainers can access the training material directly online, suggest changes, build new modules and share them with a community of trainers. By allowing users to adapt the materials directly on the platform, the suggested changes are directly made available to the community which can directly engage with them and provide feedback and peer review. Moreover, the format, user-friendliness, and structure of the manuals are designed to be preserved also when trainers and users make changes on the platform.

Sustainability

The wiki approach also allows the Toolbox of materials and resources to be updated and added to after the end of the project, contributing to the sustainability of the virtue approach in Europe (and indeed beyond Europe). The community of trainers (305 trainers trained personally by the consortium, 3050 researchers trained by the trained trainers) using the resources should ensure that the quality of the resources remains high.

3. Structure of the toolbox

3.1 The training section of The Embassy

The VIRT2UE toolbox is located in the training section of [The Embassy of Good Science](#). The dissemination of the toolbox on The Embassy of Good Science, the wiki-based platform developed by the EC funded [EnTIRE project](#), was promised in the VIRT2UE grant proposal. The use of EnTIRE's online platform and community engagement, made possible by EU funding, enables VIRT2UE to:

- Benefit from the platform's community of users
- Keep software development costs low
- Allow more budget to be spent on innovative training methods
- Avoid replication of efforts in community and platform building
- Avoid fragmentation of stakeholders' attention by delivering the training under the same brand

Furthermore, delivering the materials through The Embassy wiki-platform enables the ERI community to adapt and update materials. The sustainability of the online content is supported by its open access nature, enabling regular updates by research integrity training community members and consortium partners on The Embassy.

All of the training materials across The Embassy platform are brought together at [Training - The Embassy of Good Science](#) (Figure 1.). The training page is the portal to the VIRT2UE training guide (the name for the toolbox) as well as the central access point for all other training materials such as the selection of excellent training materials developed by other parties, and the training community (in the form of the discussion pages).

Furthermore, materials on training in research ethics and research integrity actually run across The Embassy platform. VIRT2UE pages can be found in the section on [Themes - The Embassy of Good Science](#) (e.g. [Virtues in research integrity \(embassy.science\)](#)); the section on [Resources - The Embassy of Good Science](#) e.g. ([Browse data: Resource - The Embassy of Good Science](#)); and Discussion (e.g. [Latest Training topics - The Embassy of Good Science](#)). This is a design feature of The Embassy and an indication of the importance of education for all research ethics and research integrity materials.

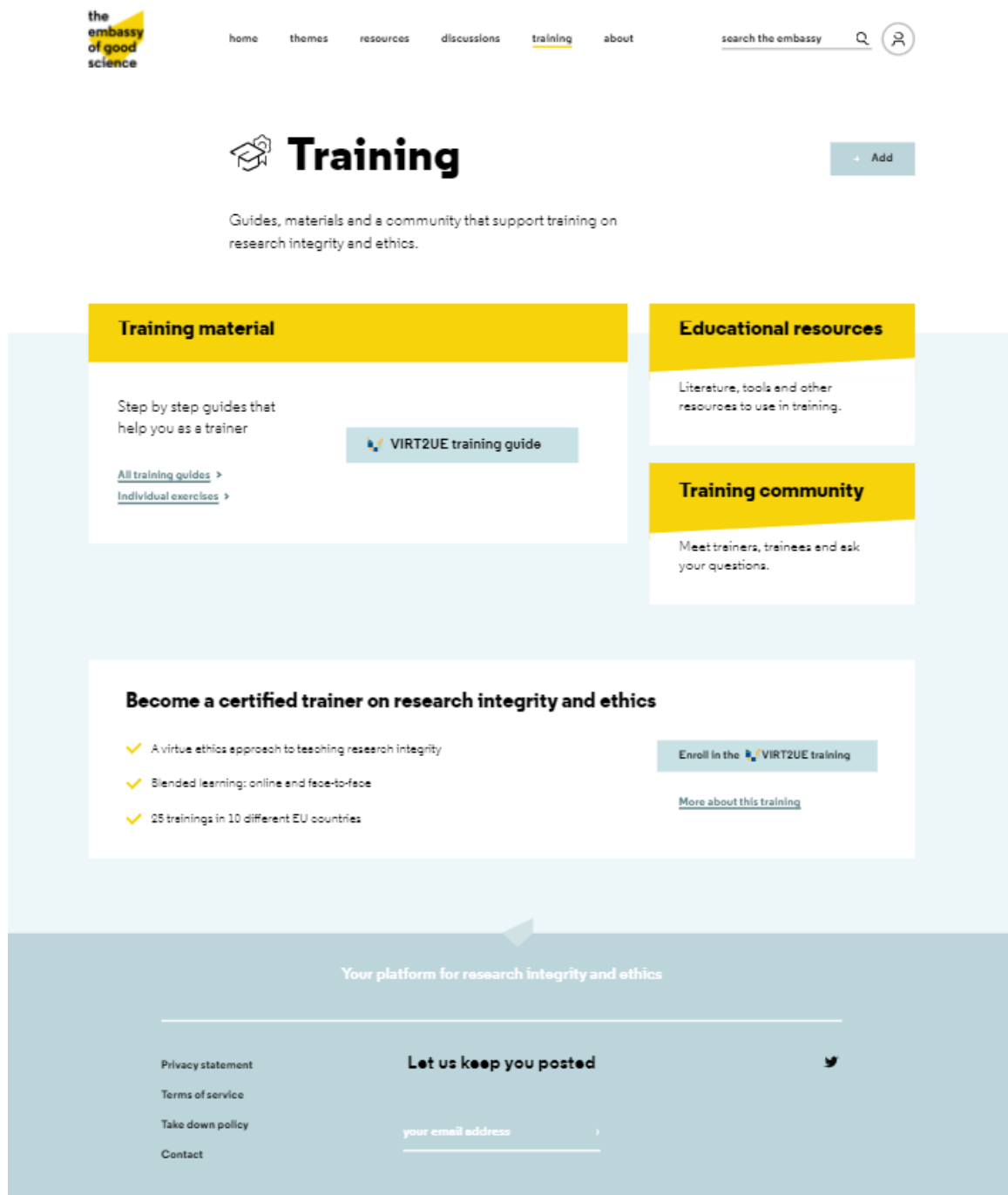
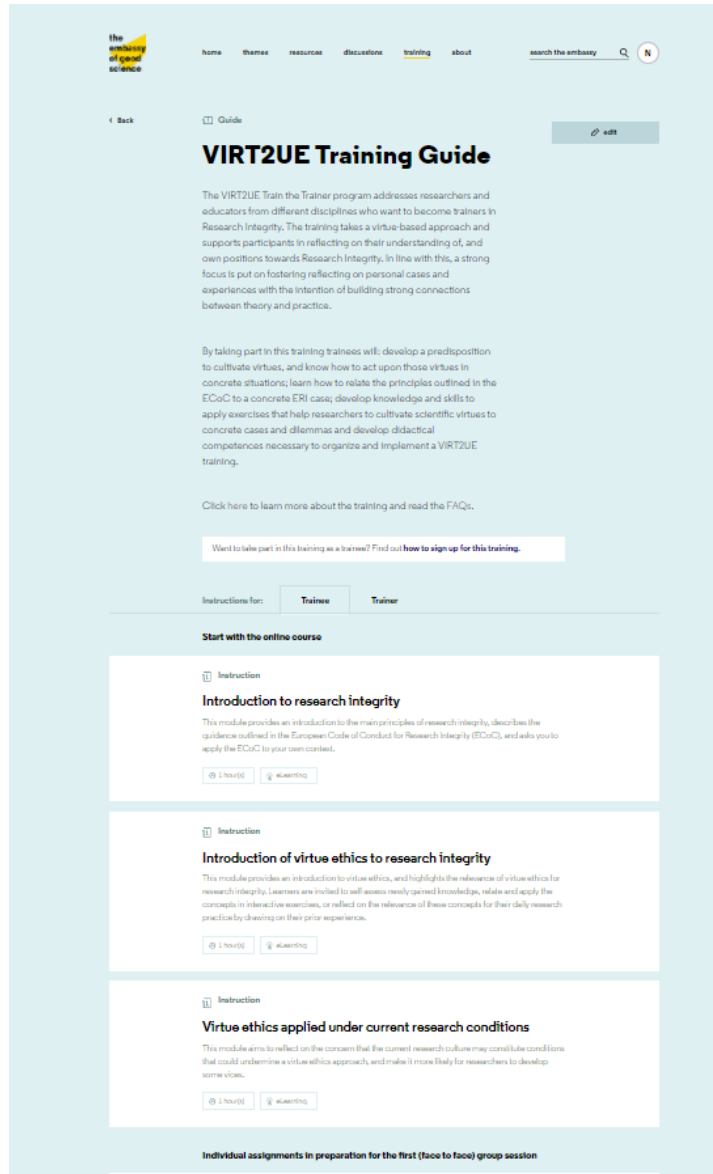


Figure 1. Training page - The Embassy of Good Science.

3.2 The Toolbox (VIRT2UE Training Guide)

From the training page, the user can access to VIRT2UE ‘toolbox’: [VIRT2UE Training Guide \(embassy.science\)](#) (Figure 2.).



The screenshot displays the VIRT2UE Training Guide website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for 'home', 'themes', 'resources', 'discussions', 'training', and 'about'. A search bar labeled 'search the embassy' is located on the right. The main content area features a 'VIRT2UE Training Guide' title and a brief description of the program. Below this, there are sections for 'Instructions for: Trainee' and 'Trainer'. The 'Trainee' section lists three modules: 'Introduction to research integrity', 'Introduction of virtue ethics to research integrity', and 'Virtue ethics applied under current research conditions'. Each module includes a brief description, a duration of 1 hour, and a 'start' button. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Individual assignments in preparation for the first (face to face) group session'.

Figure 2. VIRT2UE Training Guide (The Toolbox).

The Toolbox, referred to on the platform as the ‘VIRT2UE training guide’ contains all of the components of the blended learning course (i.e. the individual online modules and instructions for the participatory exercises composing the face to face training). It also contains practical step by step instructions for both trainers and trainees on how to organize and participate in the training (e.g. about preparatory work and receiving certification for the programme).

3.3 Individual elements within the Toolbox

In essence, the VIRT2UE programme is comprised of 1) online modules 2) the face to face participatory exercises 3) concrete and practical instructions on how to organize and participate in the training. The toolbox contains the following individual instruction pages making up the programme but which can also be largely used alone. Materials have been developed specifically for trainers (people conducting a VIRT2UE training) and for trainees (people participating in a VIRT2UE training). Users can toggle between the trainee and trainer perspective in the guide and at the top of each instruction page (Figure 3.). This ability to switch between perspectives avoids repetition of information relevant for both trainers and trainees and simplifies the presentation of the VIRT2UE materials.

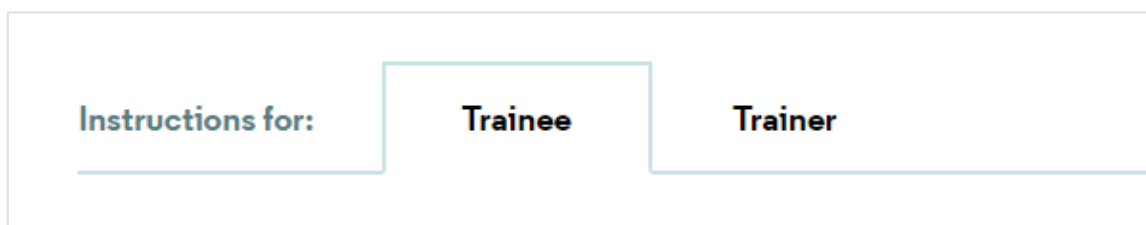
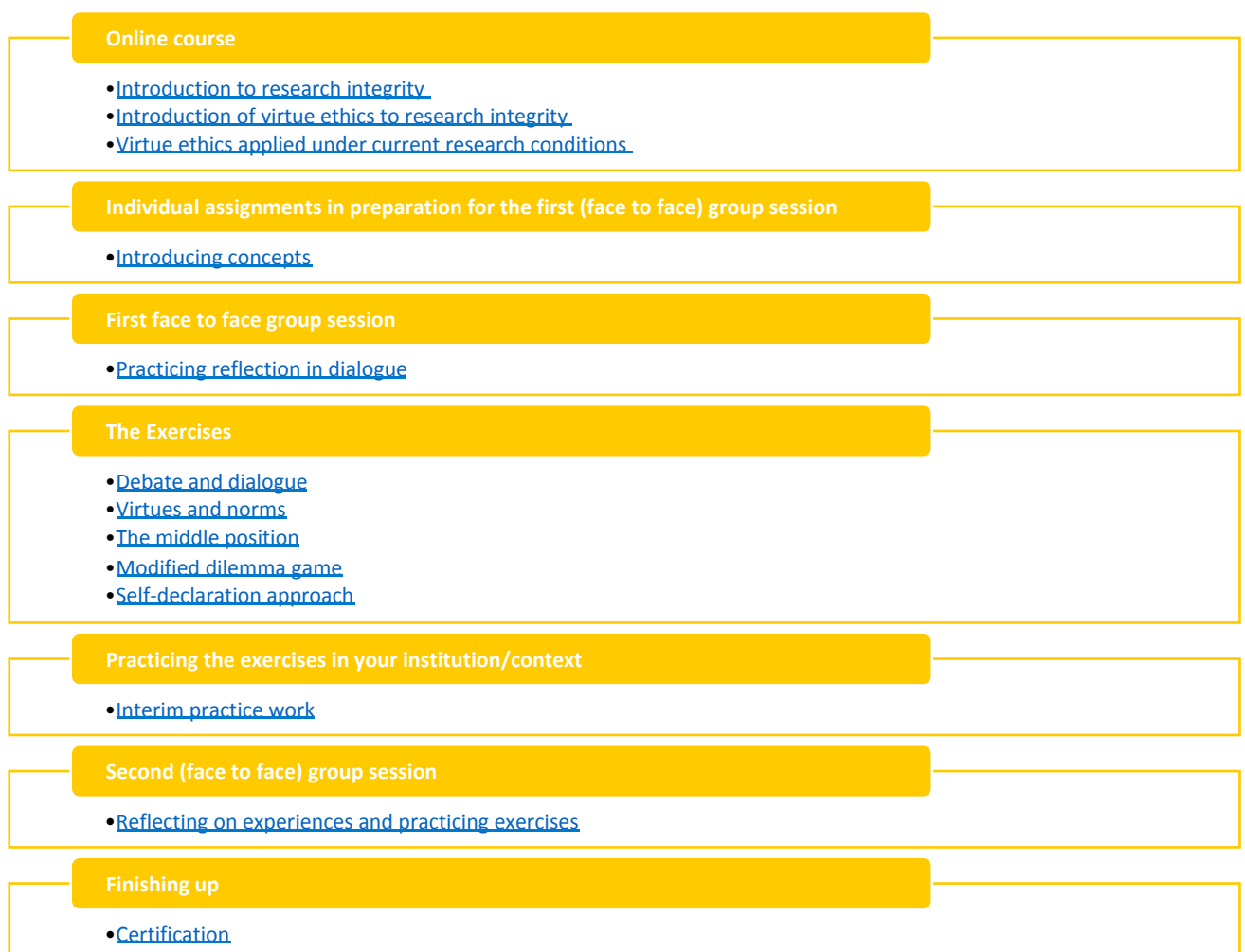


Figure 3. Tabs for the trainee and trainer perspective.

The individual elements of the training included in the Toolbox are demonstrated below:

Trainees toolbox: available at <https://embassy.science/wiki/Guide:Bbe860a3-56a9-45f7-b787-031689729e52>



Trainers toolbox: available at <https://embassy.science/wiki/Guide:Bbe860a3-56a9-45f7-b787-031689729e52>

Before the training

- [Organizing the training](#)

First face to face group session

- [Practicing reflection in dialogue](#) (trainer tab)

The Exercises

- [Debate and dialogue](#) (trainer tab)
- [Virtues and norms](#) (trainer tab)
- [The middle position](#) (trainer tab)
- [Modified dilemma game](#) (trainer tab)
- [Self-declaration approach](#) (trainer tab)

Preparing for the second face-to-face group session

- [Interim practice work](#) (trainer tab)

Second (face to face) group session

- [Reflecting on experiences and practicing exercises](#) (trainer tab)

Finishing up

- [Certification](#) (trainer tab)