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Professional Ethics and Sociology in Ukraine (On Adoption of the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist by the Sociological Association of Ukraine)*

Abstract

This article presents the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist adopted at the 5th Congress of the Sociological Association of Ukraine in May 2004.

In modern society, there is rising attention to the ethical aspects of research and application of its results in the social practice. It happens because of more and more manifested dependence between the human civilization development and those moral standards and principles, which are used by scientists in their professional activity. Ethical rules for modern research activity are the subject matter of a special branch of science, that is bio-ethics, developing a basis of moral rules that regulate the interrelations between science and society. Having passed solution of moral problems in their professional activity to experts on bio-ethics, scientists working in natural and technical spheres do not need to develop special disciplinary codes of professional ethics; they use the moral standards and principles that are common for all representatives of these sciences. But the situation is different in the case of sciences studying the human being as a subject of social relations.

* Translated from the Ukrainian text "Profesiina etyka i sotsiologhiia v Ukraini (*do pryiniattia Kodeksu profesiinoi etyky sotsiolooha SAU*)", Sotsiologhiia: teoriia, metody, marketynh, 2004, № 3, pp. 5–21.

In social research, professional ethics needs special regulation. In the whole world, activity of sociological communities is ruled by special codes on ethics, which reflect the “multi-layer” character of professional ethics of sociologists caused by multi-variant nature of their social relations. Under current conditions, sociologists as representatives of professional community have to take their personal moral responsibility for relations with various subjects, whom or which they must contact while conducting their professional activity:

1. Society represented by a) those who retransmit information (journalists, politicians, politologists, commentators), b) users of information (specialists appealing to the results of sociological surveys), c) population being a bearer of the public opinion, and d) power structures and ideological institutions interested in biased information of a certain kind.
2. Co-executives in certain projects.
3. Respondents.
4. Clients (those who order projects).
5. Professional community.

Undoubtedly, the work of sociologists is based on human moral standards, legislation and general ethical standards of scientific research and communication. However, sociology (mainly its empirical component) has its own specific character leading to additional requirements on moral standards: collective character of work; continuity and possibility to compare results; confidential aspects of surveys; work relations (with those who order surveys); social, political, and public significance of results.

Collective character of work, continuity, and possibility to compare results in empirical sociology can explain why plagiarism in empirical sociology is more probable than in other sciences. Sociological researchers more often can see how their results are misappropriated or their names are “forgotten” in manipulations with their data. References in sociology need to be rigorously regulated. That especially concerns research tools. We can witness many new sociologists using, with childish spontaneity, the methods by other scientists and considering these acts as legal ways of scientific or applied work. Unfortunately, these people forget that such a research needs references and such applications must coincide with payments to their real authors.

Social and structural changes that began in our society in the period of “perestroika” and declaration of independence by Ukraine touched the whole institution of science. However, among all sciences, the most signif-

icant structural, ethical, and professional deformations were seen in sociology. The main reason of these phenomena is that many of the new political and economic institutions needed a larger number of qualified specialists in sociology than it was possible to prepare professionally.

Sociology made a sudden step from a scientific institution to the social and political practice. Formerly, “sociologist”, as a profession, meant mainly a scientist; now it covers not only that, but also a wide sector of informational production and, what is new for our society, marketing relations with numerous clients. Such widening of public functions (without institutional support) caused many problems in moral and legal regulation of professional activity. As a result, sociology had to suffer not only from all-national problems, but also from those related to its new role in society.

Among all-national problems, the first is certainly insufficient moral regulation of people’s behavior: the old value and normative system is destroyed, but the new one is still forming. Anomie profoundly influences general moral and psychological spirit of society members (because people are demoralized and not confident of their future), as well as formation of ethical regulation for social and professional conduct in the present context. Change in social conditions destroyed grounds of professional scientific activity. Adequate interrelations with society failed: our society cannot ensure scientists even minimum standard of well-being necessary for normal work and life.

As to inner professional aspects, growing demand in sociological research led to a flow of people that come in sociology without special and systematic education, with poor understanding of moral and professional regulation in sociological work. For instance, parts of them were specialists in historical materialism, scientific communism, and other social disciplines of the past, who appeared in sociology due to ideological changes in society. As a rule, these people are capable of working with publications; thus, there are no problems for them to deal with theoretical analysis or teaching. But empirical sociology needs principally other knowledge basis related to mathematical statistics and measurements.

Another factor that attracted non-professionals to sociology is money appeared in the market of “sociological services”. We could see people for whom money were the main (perhaps, even the only) value. They are so-called “sociological dealers and brokers” who were able to find investors or corresponding funds, take money from them and request for specialists to do the work at best or to perform the order without specialists’ assistance at the worst. These people, who represent the social institution

of trade and marketing with corresponding moral and professional values, act in the public scene as sociologists and do it without any uneasiness. Sometimes even that is not enough for them; they call themselves heads of sociological companies, centers, funds, curators, and supervisors of important sociological projects. In my opinion, **impostors** are the main problem of sociological community in Ukraine. The most touching is that after working out a number of awkward questions or taking them from others' questionnaires, becoming familiar with them in "analysis" and having published several semi-literate tables in mass media, impostors sincerely feel that they are sociologists and it does not matter that they have no professional attributes. Such specialists in sociological community affect its moral grounds and professional level.

Frequent cases of violated professional ethics in Ukraine under new social conditions led to numerous public speculations on sociology, distorted comprehension of its role in society. In contrast to the public, professional community seldom gives top priority to debate on relations between sociologists and society or censure on all sorts of social and political speculators.

The 3rd Congress of the Sociological Association of Ukraine (SAU) took the first step to the solution of ethical and professional problems, when it was decided to organize the Committee on Professional Ethics that had to develop the Code of Professional Ethics in accordance with modern requirements on professional activity of sociologists.

While developing this Code, the Committee proceeded from the following criteria:

1. The Code has to meet the main requirements adopted currently in the world sociological community.
2. It has to take into account specific features of professional activity and ethical problems of Ukrainian sociologists in the present-day social situation.
3. The document has to be normative and strictly regulating ethical aspects of professional activity.
4. The Code has to prevent professional conflicts and solve constructively ethical collisions appearing as a result of professional activity or communication.

Draft Code was published in the *Sociology: Theory, Methods, Marketing* (2001, № 3) journal. Amendments by the SAU members were taken into consideration, and the 5th Congress of the Sociological Association of Ukraine adopted the final version of the Code in May 2004.

The normative base is systematized within the frames of regulative document. Thus, now the main task for the part of sociological community, which considers themselves to be professionals is to do everything in their power (sometimes even forgetting about immediate benefit), so that the norms included in the Code should be not only of archive value, but also really regulate professional ethics and form corporate solidarity. Possible material loss will be compensated by creation of real professional association, which will fight for the interests of its members due to the high level of professionalism. It is necessary not only for normal development of society, but also in order to raise the status of sociology.

THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS OF SOCIOLOGIST

*(Adopted by the 5th Congress of the Sociological Association of
Ukraine on May 20, 2004)*

Introduction

The Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist (the Code) identifies the main principles and ethical standards of professional responsibility and conduct of Ukrainian sociologists. The Code consists of four sections: Introduction, the main part ("Ethical Standards"), Appendix ("Responsibility for Violation of the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist"), and Conclusion.

The main contents of Code include ethical standards and rules structured in accordance with the following spheres of professional sociological activity:

1. Organization of professional activity and employment relations.
2. Research activity.
3. Scientific communication.
4. Presentation of survey results and scientific publications.
5. Public announcements.
6. Editing and publishing activity.
7. Education, teaching, and professional training.
8. Consulting and expertise.
9. Works under contracts and providing services.

Appendix contains the part called “Responsibility for Violation of the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist” that describes procedures of lodging and considering complaints by the Committee on Professional Ethics of the SAU.

Ethical standards declared by the Code are based on **general moral principles**, which adopted in the world sociological community:

- **Professional competence.**
- **Honesty.**
- **Professional responsibility.**
- **Social responsibility.**
- **Respect for people’s rights and dignity.**

Ethical standards determine general rules of a sociologist’s conduct. The presented list is not exhaustive. If the Code does not include a specific way of behavior, that means — this way of behavior is to be regarded according to general ethical principles. In any case, sociologists must follow these principles while solving ethical problems related to professional activity, and the Committee on Professional Ethics has to follow them in interpretation of ethical standards. Sociologists may add their standards of conduct derived from their own values, culture, experience, but not conflicting with standards fixed by the Code.

The membership in the SAU commits members to adhere to the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist and follow procedures carried out by the Committee on Professional Ethics.

Members are advised of this obligation upon joining the SAU. Violations of the Code may cause the imposition of sanctions, right up to the exclusion from the SAU.

Personal activities having no connection to or effect on sociologists’ performance of their professional roles are not subject to the Code of Ethics.

Ethical Standards

1. Organization of Professional Activity and Employment Relations

1.1. Professional activity of a sociologist (research, teaching, consultations, expertise, providing services, and public announcements) is conducted only within the competence based on his/her education or experience gained under corresponding scientific supervision.

1.2. Being hired, a sociologist should provide his/her employer with complete and accurate information on his/her professional qualifica-

tion and experience. When leaving a position, a sociologist should take steps to reduce negative effects of his/her resignation.

1.3. A sociologist is responsible for moral atmosphere and attitudes to profession among his/her subordinates, colleagues, post-graduates and students and never shows disrespect to the professional and ethical principles of scientific and teaching work.

1.4. A sociologist-supervisor should make efforts to ensure fair treatment of all employees. Also he/she should not practice or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, state of health, marital status, or other applicable basis prescribed by law.

1.5. Being a head of research collective (full or part-time), a sociologist should specify the requirements for hiring of employees (or concluding contract to work on a certain project), determine exact functions, rights and obligations, termination for the position, work term, conditions and salary rates, as well as possibilities of promotion.

1.6. A sociologist should not set a task to his/her subordinates, employees, or students if their education or professional experience may be insufficient for fulfilling this task at the due professional level.

1.7. No personal, economic or professional benefit gives the right to sociologists for exploitation of subordinates or those whose work they appraise (students, employees, colleagues, or research fellows).

1.8. A sociologist should avoid activities when his/her personal conditions may have an effect on professional work or cause harm to those whom he/she is professionally responsible to.

1.9. Submitting an application for grants, a sociologist must be fair to possible competitors and should not make use of informal relations with members of competitive committee, reviewers or representatives of organizations financing grants.

2. Research Activity

2.1. A sociologist should regard as his/her professional duty to be familiar with scientific and professional information related to his/her activity and maintain the high level of professional competence.

2.2. A sociologist should start research, teaching, practical work in a new sphere or with application of new technologies only after having taken necessary steps ensuring his/her competence in this sphere.

2.3. In all kinds of activity related to fulfilling professional duties, a sociologist should never distort the truth deliberately whatever conditions or circumstances push him/her to act in such a way.

2.4. A sociologist should manifest scientific honesty and correctness in appraisal of his/her own research, clearly understand and refer to contribution made by his/her predecessors, colleagues, subordinates to theoretical basis, methods, organizational process, and results of research.

2.5. A sociologist is personally responsible for results obtained by him/her due to programs and methods of other researchers, as well as for application of others' ideas and results in his/her own scientific work.

2.6. Analyzing social problems, a sociologist should not allow his/her personal interests or other irrelevant aspects prevent from reaching the scientific truth.

2.7. For the purpose to find the truth, a sociologist should pay special attention to the maximum credibility and reliability of sociological information, adequate interpretation, conclusions and recommendations based on analysis of this information.

2.8. A sociologist must clearly understand limits of applied methods, his/her own cognitive abilities and available resources and set only to those research tasks that can be solved within the given limits.

2.9. A sociologist should take steps for protection of rights and well-being of research members and other people whose interests may be interfered by the research.

2.10. A sociologist is responsible for ethical way of research that not only he/she would manifest, but also those people whom he/she leads or supervises.

2.11. A sociologist should not allow applying methods, techniques or procedures offensive to respondents' dignity or interests.

2.12. A sociologist that conducts a survey must obtain consent of participants when a) data are collected from research participants through communication (questioning) or intervention in their lives, and b) behavior of research participants occurs in a private context where an individual can reasonably expect that no observation or reporting is taking place.

2.13. A sociologist must obtain consent of research participants for video recording, filming, or other kinds of documenting apart from naturalistic observations in public places.

2.14. A sociologist should inform research participants about the nature of the research, indicate to participants that their participation is voluntary and they can withdraw from participation at any moment they wish to do so.

2.15. A sociologist should inform participants of important factors that could exert influence on their willingness to participate (*e.g.* possible risks and benefits of their participation) and respond to questions from prospective participants. The sociologist should explain that refusal or withdrawal from participation in the research as a whole or in its part involves no penalty.

2.16. A sociologist should never deceive research participants about significant aspects of the research that could affect their willingness to participate (such as physical risks, discomfort, or unpleasant emotional experience).

2.17. A sociologist should honor all commitments that he/she has made to research participants as a part of the consent process.

2.18. In all cases, when research participants are children, a sociologist should obtain consent of their parents or legally authorized tutor. The sociologist may seek waivers of parental or tutor consent when a) the research involves no more than minimal risk for participants, b) it is practically impossible to carry out such a research in case of the consent has been obtained, and c) the consent of a parent or tutor is not a reasonable requirement to protect the child (*e.g.* parents were deprived of parental rights).

2.19. A sociologist should not use deceptive techniques unless: a) it is defined that their use would not be harmful to research participants; b) it is justified by prospective scientific, educational, or applied value of the study; c) equally effective alternative procedures that do not use deception are not feasible; d) researches have obtained the approval of the SAU with expertise on the ethics of research.

2.20. In relations with respondents, a sociologist should maintain strict confidentiality and does not disclose the information presented by respondents. Confidentiality is not required when a program of data collection does not imply that. In this case respondents must be informed in advance.

2.21. Using private information about individuals, a sociologist should protect the confidentiality of individually identifiable information. Information is considered as private when an individual can reasonably expect that the information will not be made public. Confidentiality is not required with respect to observations in public places and activities conducted in public or other settings where no rules of privacy are provided by law or custom.

2.22. A sociologist has no right to use the information collected confidentially in the way, which would compromise research participants, team, clients, or other people.

2.23. When confidential information related to research participants, clients or other users of the provided services comes in databases or systems available to people who do not have the consent of proper parties, a sociologist should protect the confidentiality of individually identifiable information. When the sociologist transfers confidential records, data or information to other people or organizations, he/she should obtain assurance that the recipients of the records, data, or information will take appropriate measures to protect confidentiality at least equal to those originally pledged. The sociologist should duly plan his/her work in order to protect confidential records, data, and information in case of his/her death, incapacity, dismissal, or change of occupation.

2.24. Leading a research project, a sociologist must ensure that all work documents related to a field stage of empirical survey enabling to check its quality, methodological and organizational features (*filled questionnaires, instructions for interviewers and supervisors, reports of interviewers, supervisors, project managers and research leader, sample description, instructions on selection of respondents, audio and videotape recordings, etc.*) may be kept for at least 12 months after the first publication has been made with detailed information about organizational and methodological principles of the survey (*sample description, methods, and organizational features*), but no longer than two years after the survey has been finished.

2.25. Planning and implementing the research, a sociologist should consider its ethical acceptability to the Code of Ethics. If the best ethical practice is unclear, the sociologist should consult with the Committee on Professional Ethics of the SAU.

2.26. A sociologist has a right to support and assistance of the SAU and its local bodies if it concerns favorable moral and legal conditions for his/her work and protection of his/her professional dignity.

3. Scientific Communication

3.1. A sociologist should stand for his/her views, ideas, and conceptions despite conjuncture and authority.

3.2. A sociologist should treat other ideas and people — their authors or supporters — with tolerance and respect. Scientific critics and polemics being natural ways of scientific development are incompatible with ideological appraisal and attempts to settle a score with opponents.

3.3. Leading professional discussions, a sociologist should not discredit his/her opponents professionally or personally if he/she has no solid grounds related to serious violation of scientific or teaching ethics.

3.4. A sociologist should not look for benefit that the information collected confidentially would bring (*e.g.* the knowledge that were gained from reviewing articles or providing assistance in research) when he/she has not the author's consent to that or before the information has been widely published.

3.5. Sociologists should exchange information in the way that corresponds to interests of research participants, does not violate confidentiality, and coincides with the Code of Professional Ethics.

3.6. Having obtained consent from scientific supervisor of a project or those who ordered the survey, a sociologist should make his/her data available when the project has been completed or the main documents have been published apart from cases of special agreement with supervisors or clients forbidding the access or if the data cannot be available because of confidentiality or possibility of leaking individually identifiable information (*e.g.* records of a field stage, detailed information of ethnographic interviews).

3.7. A sociologist should provide access to his/her data via: a) publications; b) transfer of survey materials to banks and archives of sociological information; c) transfer (based on a contract) of survey materials to other sociologists requesting the data for further analysis; d) cooperation with mass media. In case of need, the sociologist may ask those who request his/her data for further analysis to reimburse for incremental costs.

3.8. A head of research collective carrying out a survey should establish the order and consequence for publication of research results. He/she may transfer this function to executives who are responsible for the survey. Engaging in this kind of activity, the head (or the executive) should try to find balanced decisions preventing possible conflicts of interests: a) between sociologists' wish to publish their results as soon as possible and necessity to validate them, substantiate interpretations, conclusions and recommendations; b) between personal scientific interests of survey co-workers.

3.9. Being a member of research collective that carries out an empirical survey, a sociologist should come to an agreement with a survey leader (in good time) about the order of publication or other application (for scientific or practical purposes) of the results gained by collective sociological surveys, in which he/she participated. If the sociologist did

not do it in time, he/she must get permission from the survey leader for publication, transfer to other persons, or any other application of the results.

4. Presentation of Survey Results and Scientific Publications

4.1. A sociologist should consider as his/her duty to inform about results of the carried out survey apart from unpredictable obstacles or special agreements with leaders or clients that forbid such announcements.

4.2. A sociologist should not fabricate the data, falsify the results of research or present in his/her publications or presentations insufficiently grounded conclusions, recommendations, social and political generalizations, as well as “pin labels”.

4.3. A sociologist does not publish materials when the ideas or data presented by him/her are insufficiently grounded or verified. A scrupulous attention is required in the cases when insufficiently grounded or verified results may affect reputation or authority of people or organizations.

4.4. Presenting his/her work, a sociologist should provide complete information without omitting the results that do not correspond to his/her hypotheses or concepts. All results must be announced whether they coincide with the expected ones or contradict them.

4.5. After public presentation of his/her survey results, a sociologist should give permission to other scientists for open appraisals and verification of methods and data with precautionary measures if they are needed for protection of confidentiality of survey participants.

4.6. If a sociologist has found serious mistakes in his/her publications or other presentations of information, he/she should take appropriate measures in order to correct these mistakes in special announcements or different ways acceptable to a scientific society.

4.7. In his/her publications, scientific reports, and presentations, a sociologist may use unpublished research data of other scientists only by consent in written form where it is mentioned what data and in what way can be used. In the cases when colleagues enjoy each other's confidence, the consent may be given verbally. However, while using the data, the sociologist should realize possible risks and assume responsibility for conflicts related to different understanding of consent given for use of data obtained by others.

4.8. Referring to works of other scientists, a sociologist should be responsible for correct statement of these works, conceptions, methods, results presented in them, and for accuracy of texts cited.

4.9. Apart from satisfying general scientific requirements, sociological publications, especially grounded on empirical basis, must contain information that would enable to appraise professionally whether the tasks of research were stated correctly and the results obtained were reliable.

4.10. A sociologist should treat his/her colleagues with respect, always inform about their participation in a survey and assistance as to the scientific materials being published (survey report), acknowledge all kinds of help if it does not imply a right to co-authorship.

4.11. With respect to work of colleagues and author's rights, while using in his/her research methods (completely or in parts) taken from other works or referring to data from other surveys, a sociologist should always mention the authors of these methods and research programs.

4.12. Plagiarism and appropriation (in any form) of another person's ideas, texts, methods, or research data are unacceptable and incompatible with professional activity of sociologists.

4.13. In publications, lectures, and public presentations, a sociologist should not divulge confidential information enabling to identify the survey participants if there is no their consent or consent of their authorized representatives.

4.14. In his/her articles, a sociologist should inform about sources of financial support. In special cases, when it is not required to make known the name of a specific sponsor, the sociologist must completely and adequately describe the sponsor's aims and interests.

5. Public Announcements

5.1. Sociologists should not make public announcements that lead to delusion about their: a) professional education, experience, or competence; b) academic degrees; c) authorities; d) contacts with institutes or associations; e) services; f) emoluments; g) publications and scientific achievements; h) scientific basis, results, or success in professional activity.

5.2. If a sociologist advises professionally or gives commentaries in public lectures, interviews, broad- or telecasts, audio- or video materials that were recorded in advance, as well as in the document prepared for mass media, he/she must take measures ensuring that these statements are based on reliable scientific data and meet the Code of Professional Ethics.

5.3. Cooperating with other people or organizations that develop or represent products of his/her work, a sociologist should bear full re-

sponsibility for information (related to their work) provided by these people or organizations.

5.4. Cooperating with mass media, a sociologist should understand that journalists could inadequately interpret his/her statements (because of different professional requirements determined for sociologists and journalists); therefore he/she must try to make these interpretations adequate.

5.5. A sociologist should keep up with the mass media publications that directly or indirectly use results of his/her survey in order to ensure adequate interpretations of his/her data and necessary information guaranteeing that the mass media audience would have a clear idea of the specific features of survey organization and conduct (description of sampling pattern and size, maximum sampling error, survey period, names of sociological organizations responsible for quality of the information).

5.6. If the interpretations are inadequate and journalists (or others) do not consider opinions of a sociologist and his/her information rights, the sociologist may rely on support of the SAU.

6. Editing and Publishing Activity

6.1. Submitting manuscripts for publication to a professional journal, popular scientific edition, or book publishers, a sociologist should guarantee that he/she asks for publication for the first time, apart from cases when numerous submissions are permitted. The sociologist should not ask for the second publication until the official decision about publication is made or the manuscript is returned to him/her with rejection.

6.2. If a previously published manuscript is submitted to an editorial board or publishing house, a sociologist should inform them when and where it was already published.

6.3. Serving as an editor of a journal or book series, a sociologist should not appeal to his/her personal or ideological attitudes. He/she must respect the confidentiality of reviewing, make every effort to ensure that all articles are examined at proper time and all inquiries about the examination are given as soon as possible. The sociologist should not prevent from publication of all articles accepted for publication unless serious mistakes were discovered after decisions on publication had been made (*e.g.* plagiarism or survey falsification).

6.4. Reviewing works of his/her colleagues, a sociologist should follow the criteria of truth, objectivity, professional competence, and ethics of scientific activity without demonstrating his/her personal attitude to

the authors, emotional appraisals, as well as “pinning” ideological or political labels.

6.5. Regarding critical analysis as useful for all stages of his/her work, a sociologist respects criticism by his/her colleagues and does not consider scientific opponents to be personal enemies or ill wishers.

6.6. Reviewing a manuscript submitted for publication, grant application, or other purposes, a sociologist should respect the confidentiality of this process and proprietary rights to such information of those who submitted it.

6.7. A sociologist may decline request for review if it concerns his/her personal interests, relationships or if he/she doubts in honesty of those who are interested in the reviewing.

7. Education, Teaching, and Professional Training

7.1. Before starting his/her teaching work, a sociologist should assess his/her own knowledge and qualification whether they meet standards required for qualitative sociological education and take measures to improve his/her teaching qualification if necessary.

7.2. At the beginning of his/her course, a sociologist should provide students with clear information on its contents and criteria related to assessment of knowledge and practical skills acquired by students.

7.3. Course contents, requirements to students, and assessment of their results must be determined by a sociologist who follows to the criteria of qualitative education, modern standard of sociological knowledge, and fair evaluation of students' progress in studies.

7.4. A sociologist should not permit his/her personal animosity or intellectual differences to become an obstacle preventing from communication with students or affecting their education, progress, and professional activity.

7.5. Working as a teacher, a sociologist should aim at developing students' ideas about their future profession in the strict accordance to the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist.

8. Consulting and Expertise

8.1. A sociologist should give his/her consent to be expert or consultant only when he/she is knowledgeable about the subject matter, methods, and techniques that he/she intends to apply.

8.2. Before beginning his/her work as an expert or a consultant, a sociologist should provide persons or organizations meant to use his/her services with full and correct information on his/her professional qualifications proved by education, publications, and scientific experience in

the corresponding sphere. The sociologist should not give misleading information about his/her qualification related to the subject matter of consulting or expertise.

8.3. Presenting his/her professional judgments or decision of a commission of experts, a sociologist should explain truly, accurately, and in detail all limitations of these judgments.

8.4. A sociologist should not give consent to consulting or expertise if it means violation of the Code of Professional Ethics. The sociologist should reject such an activity when he/she reveals any violation like this and cannot improve the situation.

8.5. If a sociologist discovers that his/her work was wrongly applied or presented, he/she must take appropriate measures in order to correct the situation or minimize the wrong application or presentation.

9. Works under Contracts and Providing Services

9.1. In relations with clients, a sociologist should strictly follow the statements of the contract requirements.

9.2. A sociologist should not accept a contract if it means violation of the Code of Professional Ethics. He/she should reject such an activity when discovers violations like this and cannot correct the situation.

9.3. Signing a contract, a client has a right to confidentiality as to a) the fact that the task was completed, b) his/her name and name of organization, and c) the data collected as a result of the survey (the whole or any part).

9.4. Developing a contract for a survey or other services, a sociologist should start with determination of his/her relations with a client, contract clauses, and limits of confidentiality in particular. If the client gives consent, the contract can include limits and possibility of further application (by the sociologist) of the survey results in his/her scientific work and publications. There also could be a work procedure and terms of payment.

9.5. A sociologist should honestly and in proper time (before signing a contract) inform a client that in the event that he/she publishes results of empirical survey the project sponsor also must be named. Thus, the client's consent if given means that publication of the collected information deprives the client's organization of confidentiality.

9.6. A sociologist should inform a client that any publications commissioned by the client or presentations of the survey data in any other ways must include the name of sociologist who supervised the survey or was responsible for execution of sociological part of the project (program

author), as well as the name of organization collected the initial sociological data.

9.7. A sociologist must ensure that confidentiality is protected according to the limits agreed in a contract, apart from the cases when publication of results was additionally agreed with a client or such a disclosure becomes necessary by the law.

9.8. A sociologist should take steps to keep those with whom he/she works (employers, publishers, sponsors, organization-client, mass media, *etc.*) from deceiving statements on the sociologist's position, education, academic degrees, scientific activity, teaching, and practice.

9.9. A sociologist should not benefit from information or materials related to a client without a client's consent given.

Appendix

Responsibility for Violation of the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist

1. A sociologist has an obligation to be familiar with this Code. Lack of awareness or misunderstanding of an ethical standard is not, in itself, a defense to a charge of unethical conduct.

2. When a sociologist is uncertain whether a particular situation or course of action would violate the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist, he/she should consult with other sociologists and with the Committee on Professional Ethics of the SAU.

3. When a sociologist has a substantial reason to believe that his/her colleague has committed an ethical violation and does not see other ways to resolve the issue, he/she may file to the Committee on Professional Ethics.

4. A sociologist does not file or encourage the filing of complaints about unethical conduct that are groundless and intended rather to harm the alleged violator than protect the integrity of professional community.

5. The Committee on Professional Ethics of the SAU shall have jurisdiction to receive and consider complaints of the violation of the Code by a current member of the SAU. In the event that a complaineer resigns from the SAU subsequent to the filing of a complaint against him/her, the Committee on Professional Ethics shall have discretion to resolve the complaint as if the complaineer were still a member.

6. In the event that a complaint alleges conduct which is, or may be, the subject of legal proceedings, the Committee may defer further proceedings with respect to the complaint until the conclusion of legal proceedings.

7. Any member or non-member of the SAU who perceives that a member of the SAU has violated an ethical standard may file a complaint with the Committee on Professional Ethics.

8. The Committee on its own behalf may initiate a complaint.

9. A complaint may not be accepted if it is received more than 12 months after the alleged conduct either occurred or was discovered. A complaint received after the 12-month time limit may not be accepted unless the Chair of the Committee on Professional Ethics determines that the complaint is worth addressing despite the expiry. No complaint will be considered if it is received more than three years after the alleged conduct occurred or was discovered.

10. A complaint shall include the name and address of the complainant; the name and address of the complainee; the provisions of the Code alleged to have been violated; a statement that other legal or institutional proceedings involving the alleged conduct have not been initiated or, if initiated, the status of such proceedings; a full statement of conduct alleged to have violated the Code of Professional Ethics, including the sources of all information on which the allegations are based; copies of any documents supporting the allegations; and, if necessary, a request that the 12-month time limit be waived. Anonymous complaints shall not be accepted. If material in the public domain is provided anonymously, the Committee may choose to use such material in support of its own complaint.

11. The Committee member shall screen each complaint to determine whether the complainee is a member of the SAU and whether the alleged conduct is covered by the Code. If the complaint does not include the information required by the paragraph 11, the Committee shall so inform the complainant, who will be given the opportunity to provide additional information. If no response is received from the complainant within 30 days, the matter will be closed and the complainant so notified.

12. If the complaint is complete as set forth in the paragraph 10, the Committee on Professional Ethics shall evaluate whether there is a cause for action by the Committee. Cause for action shall exist when the complainee's alleged actions and/or omissions could constitute a breach of ethics. For purposes of determining whether cause for action exists, incredible, speculative, and/or internally inconsistent allega-

tions may be disregarded. If cause for action exists, a formal case is initiated. If cause for action does not exist, the complaint will be dismissed at this stage and the complainant so notified.

13. If the Committee determines that there is a sufficient evidence to proceed with the complaint, it shall appoint an Investigation Panel composed of three members of the Committee on Professional Ethics to investigate the complaint. The Panel may communicate with the complainant, complaine, witnesses, or other sources of information necessary to carry out its functions. The Panel shall submit a written report of its findings and any recommendations for sanction to the Committee within 90 days, unless a longer period is necessary in the opinion of the Chair. A copy of the Panel's findings and recommendations shall be provided to the complainant and complaine, who may submit a response in writing within a time frame of no more than 30 days.

14. The Committee on Professional Ethics shall determine whether a violation of the Code has occurred on the basis of the complaint, the response, any other information provided to the Investigation Panel, the recommendation and findings of the Panel and the responses of the parties thereto provided. However, the Committee may hear the testimony of witnesses where in its view it is essential to the fairness of the proceeding. The Committee may return any matter to the Investigation Panel for further investigation. Upon completion of its review, the Committee shall issue a determination of whether one or more violations of the Code of Professional Ethics have occurred, including a summary of the factual basis for this determination and of the appropriate sanction.

15. In any case in which it has determined that a violation of the Code of Professional Ethics has occurred, the Committee may impose no sanction or one or more of the following, as appropriate:

A. Private Reprimand. In cases where there has been an ethics violation but the violation did not cause serious personal and/or professional harm, an educative letter concerning the violation, including any stipulated conditions of redress, may be sent to the complaine. Failure to comply with stipulated conditions of redress in a reprimand may result in the imposition of a more severe sanction.

B. Public Reprimand. Where the Committee on Professional Ethics determines that the seriousness of the violation warrants more than a private reprimand, it may direct that a copy of the letter of reprimand be made public in an appropriate manner.

C. Termination of Membership. In cases where there has been an ethics violation and the violation caused serious personal and/or professional harm, the SAU membership of the complainee may be terminated for a period to be determined by the Committee on Professional Ethics. Eligibility to renew membership at the expiration of this period may be automatic or may be conditioned on a future determination by the Committee that eligibility is appropriate.

16. The Chair of the Committee shall notify the complainant and complainee of the decision of the Committee on Professional Ethics.

17. A complainee who was found by the Committee to have violated the Code and who receives a sanction may appeal this determination by filing a notice of appeal and statement of reasons no later than 30 days after receipt of the notice of determination. If an appeal is filed, the President of the SAU shall appoint a three-member Appeal Panel (members of the SAU Board) to review all information considered by the Committee and, within 90 days, make a decision to uphold or reverse the determination. The Appeal Panel may set aside the Committee determination that a violation has occurred or it may determine that the sanction imposed by the Committee is not appropriate. To adopt the final decision on the violation and sanction, the SAU Board or Congress shall discuss the decision of the Appeal Panel.

18. The filing of a complaint against a member of the SAU and all proceedings held shall be kept confidential by the Committee, the Investigation Panel, the Appeal Panel, and the SAU President prior to a final determination of the matter. Determinations of violations of the Code of Professional Ethics by the Committee or by the Appeal Panel shall be kept confidential, except in the case of termination of membership or unless disclosure of the determination to the public is imposed as a part of sanction. The name of each individual whose membership is terminated and a brief statement of the reason for termination shall be reported annually to the SAU Board and published in the official newsletter of the SAU.

Conclusion

The SAU Membership commits members to adhere to the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist for all the period of their sociological activity. To become a member of the SAU, an applicant must be familiar with the Code of Professional Ethics of Sociologist and ready to adhere all its requirements on professional activity of sociologist.