

ETHICS TEACHERS' TRAINING COURSE

Bioethics and Ethics of Science and Technology
Sector for Social and Human Sciences

OBJECTIVES

Ethics Teachers' Training Course is designed to support and promote quality ethics education around the world by building professional capacities of ethics teachers.

METHODOLOGY

The Course is based on a five-day training module developed by UNESCO in collaboration with the global experts in ethics education. The module contains the following key components:



1. **Global Perspective on Ethics Teaching:** trends, challenges and opportunities
2. **The UNESCO Core Curriculum** as a tool for promoting quality ethics education
3. **Ethics Teaching in Action:** what and how to teach (a model lesson)
4. **Workshop:** Sharing experiences in ethics teaching from the local perspective
5. **Classroom communication:** pedagogy and psychology of ethics teaching
6. **Simulated teaching presentations** by participants followed by feedback from the Course instructors

Within this framework, the Course can be modified to accommodate the specific needs and the expectations of the country and the region hosting the training.

VENUE

The venues for ETTC events are selected based on the expressed regional capacity-building need for bioethics education, and an agreement made with the hosting institution. Often, the ETTC is offered in conjunction with the introduction of Bioethics Core Curriculum in the participating universities, with a view to training the instructors working with the curriculum. In the past, the Ethics Teacher Training Courses have been held in the following locations:

- Baku, Azerbaijan (2012)
- Belgrade, Serbia (2011)
- Bratislava, Slovakia (2007)
- Bucharest, Romania (2006)
- Dubrovnik, Croatia (2012)
- Egerton, Kenya (2007)
- Minsk, Belarus (2008)
- Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2007)
- Vinivius, Lithuania (2012)
- Windhoek, Namibia (2012)

ANNOUNCEMENT AND TIME-FRAME OF THE COURSE

Each ETTC event is announced at least 5 month in advance to give the participants sufficient time for planning. The announcement includes the information concerning the venue and the dates of the training, as well as any specific requirements that may be associated with that particular training. The announcement is made using all the communication tools at our disposal, including UNESCO web page, GEObs contact list, various bioethics networks associated with UNESCO, and social networks.

TEACHING STAFF

Ethics Teaching Training Courses are conducted by teams of experts with extensive international experience in ethics education and cooperation with UNESCO. As a rule, a local expert in teaching ethics also participates in the Course.



PARTICIPANTS AND SELECTION CRITERIA

Each training course accommodates from 20 to 30 participants. The announcement of the course, made as soon as the venue and dates of the ETTC become available, provides the application form for all interested candidates. The decisions concerning admission to the course will be made on the bases of the following criteria:

- Masters or higher degree (in areas such as law, medicine, philosophy, ethics, social sciences);
- University affiliation (teaching experience or plans to engage in teaching);
- Good command of the language of instruction (English. Courses in French will be held from 2015);
- Content of the motivation letter (minimum of 600 words, in English), stating the trainee's reasons for participating in the course and expectations concerning the use of the acquired knowledge.

FUNDING

There is no tuition fee for participating in ETTC. However, the participants are expected to cover the charges related to their travel to the venue, and their lodging and food in the duration of the training.

Some host institutions offer various scholarships for specific categories of students. For instance, the Inter University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia, which is collaborating with UNESCO in organizing ETTC on its premises, offers scholarships (covering food, travel and accommodation) for participants from the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Georgia, Russian Federation, Serbia and Ukraine.

UNESCO and Ethics Education

UNESCO played a pioneering role in global bioethics by setting up the Bioethics Programme in 1993, establishing independent expert bodies, such as the International Bioethics Committee and COMEST, adopting unique international standard-setting instruments in the field, and building capacities of Members States to address bioethical challenges of the present and the future.

Globally, ethics education is becoming an integral part of promoting knowledge-based, sustainable, and equitable development. Science in the 21st Century will continue to change the way we live at an exponential rate. The rapidly expanding knowledge in every area of inquiry, and especially in life and biological sciences, is continuously pushing the limits of what we can do. Education is indispensable for maintaining a universal framework of ethical principles and for establishing domestic policies and practices that put to real use these universal principles.

Ethics Teachers' Training Course (ETTC) builds on, and benefits from other capacity-building initiatives of UNESCO:

Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs) is an online system of databases with worldwide coverage in bioethics and other areas of applied ethics in science and technology such as environmental ethics, science ethics, and technology ethics. Database 3: Ethics Teaching Programmes, maps the existing ethics teaching programmes around the world, and currently includes over 230 examples. Teachers interested in launching or strengthening ethics teaching programmes in their institutions can consult the database to find suggestions and ideas from the existing programmes.

The Bioethics Core Curriculum was developed by UNESCO as a tool for introducing and reinforcing bioethics education in universities worldwide. Its structure reflects the ethical framework of the *Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights* and provides sufficient flexibility to be introduced in institutions of higher education in any country. Developed by multicultural committee of experts in ethics education, it does not impose a particular model or specific view of bioethics, but articulates ethical principles that are shared by scientific experts, policymakers and health professionals from various countries with different cultural, historical and religious backgrounds.

The ETTC complements the practical ethics teaching tools developed by UNESCO by focusing on the methodology and pedagogy behind ethics education. The quality of ethics education largely depends on the substantive and pedagogic competencies of the teacher. An effective ethics teacher should be knowledgeable about how to teach, as well as what to teach to the students. The ETTC aims particularly at building capacity of a young generation of teachers who can serve as agents for expanding and improving ethics teaching programmes in their countries in the near future.



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