The Ethics Programme of UNESCO

ETHICS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Division of Ethics of Science and Technology
UNESCO, Paris, France
Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, adopted October 2005

Follow-up action by UNESCO

Article 25

UNESCO shall promote and disseminate the principles set out in this Declaration
Strategy of the ethics programme

General Conference 34 C/5 Approved:

**Expected Result 2:** International cooperation and national institutional capacities in the field of bioethics enhanced, and integration into relevant policies, as appropriate, of the principles of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights encouraged

**Aim of the activities:**

1. To *disseminate* the principles set out in the Declaration (art.25.1)
2. To *promote* the principles (art. 25.1)
3. To assist in the *application* of the principles (art.18-21)
4. To *elaborate* the principles
Dissemination

1. **Translations:** 30 languages

Armenian, Azeri, Basque, Bulgarian, Catalan, Croatian, German, Georgian, Greek, Hebrew, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Latvian, Macedonian, Norwegian, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Thai, Turkish, Vietnamese
Dissemination

2. Publications

- Books
  * Book on Universal Declaration in UNESCO series
  * UNESCO: background materials and descriptions

- Journal articles

- Legal references
  - European Court of Human Rights
  - Intergovernmental Negotiation on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
Promotion

Significant key events

- **Egerton University, Kenya (August 2008):** Regional Conference on ‘Bioethical Perspectives and Practices in Research, Medicine, Life Sciences and Related Technologies in Sub-Saharan Africa.

- **Cairo, Egypt (August 2008):** Regional Forum on Bioethics:
  - Analysis of implementation in the region.

- **Kazan, Russian Federation (September 2008):** Congress ‘Bioethics and Human Rights and General Assembly of the Forum of Ethics Committees of CIS Countries:
  - Establishment of regional network of national bioethics committees.

- **Yogyakarta, Indonesia (November 2008):** Third UNESCO Asia-Pacific School of Ethics Roundtable concurrent with the Ninth Asian Bioethics Conference:
  - Comparison of results and impact of national ethics education workshops.

- **Abidjan, Cote d’Ivoire (December 2008):** Regional meeting of experts in ethics teaching:
  - Analysis of existing ethics teaching programs.
Application

Ethics infrastructures

- Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs)
- Ethics Education Program (EEP)
- Assisting Bioethics Committees (ABC)

capacity building
Global Ethics Observatory

- Database 1: experts (Who is who in ethics?)
- Database 2: institutions, organisations, commissions
- Database 3: ethics teaching programmes
- Database 4: legislation
- Database 5: codes of conduct
- Database 6: resources in ethics

Freely accessible

6 languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs
Global Ethics Observatory

- Database 4: Legislation and guidelines

**October 200: 22 countries**

- Australia
- Brazil
- Cook Islands
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Fiji
- Germany
- Hungary
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kiribati
- Nauru
- Niue
- Tuvalu
- Panama
- Samoa
- Solomon Islands
- South Africa
- Tonga
- Vanuatu

**UNDBHR**
- * principle of consent

**Bioethical themes**
- * medical research with human beings

**Legal categories**
- * domestic laws

**Relevant texts of legal documents**
Database 6: Resources in Ethics

- Journals in ethics
- UNESCO Publications
- Case materials
- Videos (fragments)
- Resources for ethics committees
- Presentations
- Ethics websites
- Ethics events
Database 6 Search Tool

Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs)

Database 6: Resources in Ethics

Find a resource in ethics

There are currently 139 resources registered in the database.

Area of Ethics
Select a type:
Journals in Ethics
UNESCO Publications
Case Materials
Videos (fragments)
Resources for Ethics Committees
Presentations
Ethics Websites
Ethics Events
UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum Resources

Resource language
Select a language:

Status
Select a status:

Select an area:
Animal ethics
Bioethics
Dental ethics
Engineering ethics
Environmental ethics
Ethics and law
Ethics and social sciences
Food ethics
Medical ethics
Nursing ethics
Pharmacy ethics
Philosophical ethics
Religious ethics
Science ethics
Space ethics
Technology ethics
Other

Copyright
Open source
# Database 6: Resources in Ethics

Find a resource in ethics

New search | Change search criteria
Resources 1 to 10 of 139 resources found

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Type(s)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd International Congress of the REDBIOETICA UNESCO/5th Bioethics Regional Meeting-Bioethics Area of the Health Ministry of Cordoba, Argentina/2nd Open Meeting of the Bioethics Education Programme - REDBIOETICA/Córdoba, Argentina, 12-14 November 2008</td>
<td>Ethics Events</td>
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<tr>
<td>View Acta Bioethica</td>
<td>Journals in Ethics/International</td>
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<td>Journals in Ethics/International</td>
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<td>Journals in Ethics/International</td>
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<td>View Assia: Jewish Medical Ethics</td>
<td>Journals in Ethics/International</td>
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<td>View Avicenna and the ethics of science and technology today</td>
<td>UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum Resources/Unit 16 UNESCO Publications</td>
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<tr>
<td>View Best ethical practices in water use</td>
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<td>View Bioethica Forum: Schweizer Zeitschrift für Biomedizinische Ethik (Swiss Journal of Biomedical Ethics)</td>
<td>Journals in Ethics/International</td>
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</table>
Ethics Education Programme

Activities undertaken

1. mapping of experts in ethics
2. sampling of teaching programs
3. bioethics core curriculum
4. ethics teacher training course
5. ethics resources

Regional expert meetings in:
• Budapest (2004)
• Moscow (2005)
• Split (2005)
• Tehran (2006)
• Muscat (2006)
• Istanbul (2007)
• Marrakech (2008)
• Abidjan (2008)
Database 3: Ethics Teaching Programmes

Global Ethics Observatory (GEO)

There are currently 50 teaching programmes registered in the database.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Select a country:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Region</td>
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<td>Name of Teacher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faculty/Department/School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entry Requirements for Students/Academic Background of Students</td>
<td>Select a requirement:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Level of University Teaching</td>
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<td>Course Language</td>
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<td>Number of Students Enrolled</td>
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<td>Total Number of Teaching Hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Number of Student Working Hours</td>
<td>Select a number range:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Status of the Program</td>
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<td>Objectives of the Program</td>
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<td>Mandatory Study Materials</td>
<td>Any</td>
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</table>

1 November 2008: 192 programs
Ethics teaching programmes (192)

- animal ethics 2
- bioethics 46
- dental ethics 6
- engineering ethics 3
- environmental ethics 6
- ethics and law 10
- ethics and social sciences 5
- medical ethics 77
- nursing ethics 8
- pharmacy ethics 2
- philosophical ethics 20
- science ethics 6
- other 1
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<th>29 countries</th>
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<td>Algeria</td>
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<td>Macedonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Belarus</td>
<td>12</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<td>Croatia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Poland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Greece</td>
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<td>Serbia</td>
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<td>Hungary</td>
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<td>Jordan</td>
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<td>Syria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Ukraine</td>
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Ethics teaching programmes (192)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNESCO documents used in programs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• <em>Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights</em></td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>International Declaration on Human Genetic Data</em></td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights</em></td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NEW

BIOETHICS CORE CURRICULUM
CURRICULUM PRINCIPAL EN BIOETHIQUE
CURRÍCULUM BÁSICO DE ESTUDIOS SOBRE BIOÉTICA
ОСНОВНОЙ УЧЕБНЫЙ ПЛАН ПО БИОЭТИКЕ
生命伦理学主要教程
المنهج الأساسي لتعليم أخلاقيات البيولوجيا

Section 1
- Objectives
- Contents
- Teacher manual

Section 2
(document in progress
- Educational resources
UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum

- based on principles of Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights
- proposes a minimum program
- flexibility: does not impose a particular model
- global outreach: useful in all regions
- heterogeneity: variety and diversity around a common core
- **aim**: to facilitate the introduction of bioethics primarily in medical and science schools
UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum

Implementation

1. materials available on website (english; arabic, french, russian and spanish)

2. development of educational resources
   - multimedia
   - case books (UNESCO Chairs)

3. test phase: introduction in interested universities in different regions with uniform assessment and possible revision
Ethics Education Programme

Ethics teacher training course

Objectives:

a. Learning how to teach ethics
b. Empowering a new generations of ethics teachers

Courses

- 30 October – 4 November 2006: Bucharest, Romania
- 9-13 July 2007: Egerton University, Kenya
- 10-14 September 2007: Bratislava, Slovak Republic
- 3-7 November 2007: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
- 17-21 November 2008: Minsk, Belarus
Educational resources

Ethics and policy

Ethics and healthcare

Ethics and public debate
Assisting Bioethics Committees

1. identification and data collection about existing committees

2. provision of practical information

3. technical support

GEObs database 2

Series of Guidebooks
1. Establishing Bioethics Committees
2. Bioethics Committees at work
3. Educating Bioethics Committees
Assisting Bioethics Committees

technical support

**Madagascar**: February 2007
**Togo**: March 2007
**Guinea**: August 2007
**Gabon**: July 2008
**Ghana**: January 2009

Memorandum of Understanding

**Jamaica**: March 2009
**Mauritius**: February 2009
**Cape Verde**: May 2009
**Chad**: February 2009

**3 years project of assistance**
- Year 1: - training working methods
  - documentation
  - training secretariat
- Year 2: - training ethics
  - partnerships
  - public event
- Year 3: - training ethics
  - networking
Elaboration

**IBC working groups**

- Art. 6: Consent
- Art. 14: Social responsibility and health

15th Session IBC: Further discussion

Elaboration of draft report

May 2009: Mexico

16th Session IBC

July 2009: Paris

IGBC meeting

Final report on Social Responsibility and Health

Director-General UNESCO
A summary view of ethics activities in a coherent framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Capacity</th>
<th>Awareness</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
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<td>Ethics committees</td>
<td>Publications reports</td>
<td>• platforms for ethical action</td>
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<td>Legislation/guidelines</td>
<td>GEO databases</td>
<td>• intensive public debate</td>
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<td>Ethics teaching</td>
<td>Rotating conferences</td>
<td>• informed public opinion</td>
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<td>• (inter)national normative frameworks</td>
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<td>• morally sensitized professionals and scientists</td>
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<td>• assisted policy-making</td>
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