



BIOETHICS RESEARCH PROGRAMME

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Proposal for a Mediterranean Network of Bioethics

Over the past fifty years bioethics has grown into a large network of people with national and international associations. Recently there is also a push towards a globalized ethics. Nevertheless regional bioethics remains important. In Europe many regions have united their efforts and apply for EU projects together in order to harmonize efforts and have a better understanding of the need of patients of the respective regions.

Unfortunately this has not been the case for Southern Europe. Moreover, this region, being the northern border of the Mediterranean has historically been involved with northern Africa and eastern Europe in the widespread Mediterranean. Recent event of migration have created ethical issues of their own, but southern European countries, in general having a more deontological approach and being more harmonized perhaps in normative values, have not yet succeeded in bringing together their academic views on bioethics and ethics education.

A recent paper asked the question 'Is there a Mediterranean Bioethics', requested by the editor of the Journal *Medicine in Health Care and Philosophy* (ed. Prof. Henk ten Have). There is of course a Mediterranean culture; ethics is not that homogenous when it comes to southern Europe and northern Africa. Nevertheless the strategic nature of these countries provides an opportunity for dialogue and can provide a catalyst from which global ethics can benefit.

It is being proposed that a Mediterranean Network of people working or teaching in the field of bioethics be set up. Participating as a region in EU projects may be more beneficial and moreover countries can try to get together for regional meeting and perhaps apply for projects to study regional problem. With the approach of the EU's Horizon 2020 now is the opportune moment to set up such an organization.

It would be opportune to start by contacting people we know in the following countries:

Southern Europe: France, Spain, Italy, Malta, Greece, Cyprus

Northern Africa: Egypt, Tunisia, Libya, Algeria

Eastern Mediterranean: Turkey, Israel

Should the proposal be accepted we should get a number of signatories, and arrange for a meeting to approve a statute and select an executive committee. We will then agree on an action plan.

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