



Hellenic Republic
National Commission
for Bioethics & Technoethics



Meeting of the National Ethics Councils (NEC) and EGE Chairs

Policy impact for Ethics in the EU

12-13 December 2024

Meeting Portfolio

Christos-Georgios (Akis) Skertsos

Minister of State
Responsible for the Coordination of Government Policies



Akis Skertos served as Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister, Responsible for the Coordination of Government Policies and he also performed duties as a Government Representative.

He holds a Master of Arts in Political Management and Lobbying from George Washington University of USA, a BA in Journalism and Communications from Aristoteleion Panepistimion Thessalonikis.

Joanna Drake

Deputy-Director General
of DG Research & Innovation of the European Commission



Entirely dedicated to the European Union, Joanna Drake's career has been propelled by her relentless energy and passion for the project and the values the EU stands for. As such for the last 40 years, she has contributed to the EU in several roles at the national and European level.

Since 2021, Joanna DRAKE has been the Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). In this role, she provides overall assistance to the Director-General in the management of the DG, contributing to the definition, coordination and implementation of strategy and policy orientation. She currently focuses mainly on the green transition policies, health (she is mission manager for Cancer) and culture, synergies and co-chairs the Group on Earth Observation for the Commission. Between 2016 and 2021, she Deputy Director-General in DG Environment where she chaired a crosscutting Task Force spearheading strategic positions for the DG on (inter-alia) the post-2020 Commission financial framework negotiations, Brexit co-ordination, the urban agenda and the future-proofing of the EU's environmental acquis. Between 2010 and 2015 she was director for SME's and Entrepreneurship in the DG for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW). During her tenure in DG GROW she also led the Commission's Task Force on The Collaborative Economy, New Business Models and SME's.

By training, Joanna holds a doctorate in laws from the University of Malta, where she also taught EU law full time in the Department of European and Comparative Law in the run up to Malta's EU accession. She acquired a post-graduate degree in Advanced European Legal Studies from the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. She held various legal and management posts in the private (including Head of Legal/Regulatory Department in Vodafone Malta) and public sector before joining the European Commission as head of the European Commission Representation in Malta in 2005. She also had a key role in the Malta-EU accession negotiations as member of the Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee and chaired the national 'YES movement' in the run up to the referendum on Malta's EU accession in 2003.

Joanna is a trained actress (and still treads the boards in Brussels, agenda permitting) and is very keen on sticking to her daily dose of physical training...apart from taking care of her cat, Winston.

Charalambos Tsekeris

Vice Chair and acting Chair of the National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics of the Hellenic Republic



Charalambos Tsekeris is Int. Chair of the Greek National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics; and Senior Research Fellow in Digital Sociology at the Institute of Social Research, Greek National Centre for Social Research. He currently serves as Full Member of the Greek National Commission for Human Rights; Member of the OECD Expert Group on AI Futures; Member of the Greek Prime Minister's High-Level Advisory Committee on Artificial Intelligence; and Visiting Professor at the University of Athens. His research focus is on Ethical Strategic Foresight and the Ethical Sociology of the Internet, with specialization in digital social research and the ethics and governance of Artificial Intelligence. He has previously served as an External Scientist at ETH Zürich and as a Professor Extraordinary at the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University. Currently, he holds the position of Research Associate at the Anti-Corruption Centre for Education and Research (Stellenbosch). He coordinates the World Internet Project-Greece, which examines the use of new technologies in Greece, and has taught at numerous academic institutions and study programs in Greece and abroad.

Lisa Diependaele

Policy Officer for the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector,
DG Research & Innovation, European Commission

Lisa Diependaele, PhD, is a policy officer for the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector of the Unit 'Science for Policy, Advice, and Ethics' (RTD.02) of the European Commission.

Her work is focused on bioethics and ethics of new and emerging technologies in health research context. In this capacity, Lisa is involved in coordination and design of the Ethics Appraisal Process for EU-funded research, the design and evaluation of procedures, guidances, and codes on ethics and integrity, policy design of the relevant aspects of the Horizon Europe Work Programme and the European Research Area policy-agenda, and contributes to European and international dialogues and initiatives on ethics and integrity (e.g., in the context of the National Ethics Council Forum). She is a member of the Steering Committee of the VoIREthics (Healthy Research Volunteers and Ethics) Initiative.

Before joining the Commission in 2020, Lisa was a postdoctoral researcher and assistant academic staff member at Ghent University. She lectured courses in applied ethics and global ethics as well as social and political philosophy. Her research focussed on ethical issues relating to the protection of pharmaceuticals through patents, data exclusivity and trade secrets, intersections with international investment law, and ethical issues pertaining to the use of algorithms in the context of clinical research and decision-making.

Christiane Druml

Chair of the Austrian Bioethics Commission

Christiane Druml was born in Vienna and studied law at the University of Vienna.



Since 2016 she is holding the UNESCO Chair on Bioethics at the Medical University of Vienna and serves as Director of the Department of Ethics, Collections and History of Medicine and Director of the Josephinum - Medical History Museum Vienna.

In 2007 she has been appointed President of the Austrian Bioethics Commission by the Austrian Federal Chancellor.

From 2011 to 2015 she was Vice-Rector for Clinical Affairs at the Vienna Medical University. Before that she has been managing director of the Research - Ethics Committee at the Vienna Medical University (1992-2011). Christiane Druml was member of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC) of UNESCO from 2008 to 2015. In 2021 she has been awarded the City of Vienna Award for Medical Sciences.

Abstract

Historical perspectives on ethics committees and councils

In Austria, the task of the Bioethics Commission is to “advise the Federal Chancellor from an ethical point of view on all social, scientific and legal issues arising from scientific advances in the field of human medicine and biology.” Bioethics Committees have been created as political advisory bodies by governments or parliaments in the field of life sciences since the late 1970ies. The national advisory bodies in bioethics are united in a network in Europe (“NEC Forum”), meeting regularly under each European presidency. One of their goals is dedicated to international exchange of information and discussion, creating an international community. The structure of those advisory bodies is similar in the various European countries, but also worldwide, which facilitates communication, exchange and networking.

The first session of the Forum will look into the results of the past NEC survey and discuss further steps on European level.

Virginie Pirard

Vice-President of the Belgian Advisory Committee on Bioethics
Université libre de Bruxelles, Belgium



Virginie Pirard is a jurist and philosopher, specialized in bioethics and research ethics (including epidemics ethics). Since December 2023, she is Vice-President of the Belgian Advisory Committee on Bioethics (mandate 2023-2027) where she also co-chairs the sub-committee on euthanasia.

Since April 2024, she is part of the FWB-COARA Project, a collaborative initiative between the 5 French-speaking Universities in Belgium to improve the research evaluation ecosystem. As such, she leads for Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) the WP dedicated to the mapping and fostering of research ethics committees.

She also teaches ethics to healthcare professionals (Haute Ecole Libre de Bruxelles) and conducts academic research at ULB on the growing impact of bioethics worldwide and the role and legitimacy of ethics committees. Her work is based on over 15 years' experience as chair or member in the 3 main kind of ethics committees: National Ethics Committee (NEC), Institutional Review Board (Institut Pasteur, Paris) and Hospital-based Clinical Ethics Committee (Cliniques Saint Jean, Brussels).

Working at an international level, she recently took part to the WHO-led steering Committee of the 2024 NEC Global Summit and introduced as a speaker the first session of the Summit. Since November 2024, she co-leads (with Pr. Pinsart) an international consortium (8 partners, 4 involved continents) dedicated to contribute to the future WHO guidelines embedding Ethics Committees in the WHO response to Climate change.

In the past, she worked as an advisor and expert in Bioethics in the office of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health (Belgium). From 2012, she worked as an ethicist at a world leading research institution, Institut Pasteur (Paris, France), where she created and headed the Ethics Unit until 2021. She was also coordinator of the EDCTP-funded AFREENET project (2018-2021, 300k euros) dedicated to supporting and strengthening the capacities of 3 national ethics committees in West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea and Benin).

During the pandemic, she co-chaired the "COVID-19 Vaccination" sub-committee within the Belgian Bioethics Advisory Committee and was rapporteur for several opinions on COVID-19 vaccine prioritization and mandatory vaccination. She also contributed as a member in the WHO-led Working Group on the Monitored Emergency Use of Research Interventions (MEURI)

Abstract

Emergence of (bio)ethics committees in the 20th century: a new format for old discussions?

Ethics committees now exist in most UN countries, despite differences in culture and resources. However, conceptual resources for understanding the unique success of this form of deliberation remain limited, including in the bioethics literature. By revisiting the history of bioethics from a somewhat different perspective, our presentation will attempt to identify what makes this form of deliberation special, and how the advent of ethics committees (whatever form they take) changes not only the way ethical issues are discussed, but also the content and impact of those discussions.

Christos Lionis

National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
of the Hellenic Republic
Head of the Clinic of Social and Family Medicine
School of Medicine, University of Crete, Greece
& WONCA Working Party on Mental Health



Christos Lionis MD PhD FRCGP(Hon) FESC FWONCA

Christos Lionis is a medical doctor and Professor with a strong interest in primary care and public health education, practice, and research. Christos has served the Clinic of Social and Family Medicine (CSFM) at the School of Medicine, University since 1995 (March) as a Professor of General Practice and Primary Health Care and CSFM Director until August 2022. In January 2023, Christos was appointed Professor Emeritus of the University of Crete. He is also designated as a Guest Professor of General Practice at the Institute of Health and Medicine at the University of Linköping, Sweden (2018), a position he still holds today. As part of his work with the CSFM, Christos has been involved as PI and collaborator in multiple large European and international research collaboratives and research proposals funded by the EU and international agencies. His work has focused on capacity building of primary health care and public health in Greece and internationally. Christos has a passion for education and has played a vital role in developing medical training, continuing medical education, and quality standards in primary care and public health nationally. Christos is also involved in an editorial and advisory capacity with several international journals. He is also a member of the Executive Board of various professional organisations, including that of the WONCA Working Party on Mental Health, where he serves as Chair. He has been awarded as an Honorary Fellow for the Royal College of General Practitioners (2009), the World Organization of National Colleges, Academies and Academic Associations of General Practitioners/Family Physicians (WONCA) (2016), and the European Society of Cardiology (2017). Christos has published 462 papers in international journals that they cited in PubMed with a h-index of 67, a total i10 index of 349, and a total citation of 44446 (AD Scientific Index 21 October 2024). Between 2019 and 2022, Christos served as a member of the European Commission Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health, while he still serves the Specific Advisory Group of the European Medicines Agency (EMA) today. He is also a member of the National Committee for Mental Health Reform and Bioethics and Biotechnology since 2022.

Maria do Céu Patrão Neves

Chair of the National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences (CNECV), Portugal

Vice Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)



Full Professor of Ethics of the University of the Azores (Portugal), President of the National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences (Portugal), Vice-chair of the European Group of Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE, European Commission), Member Steering Committee for Human Rights in the fields of Biomedicine and Health (CDBIO, Council of Europe), of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST, UNESCO), of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences. She was consultant on Ethics of Life for the President of the Portuguese Republic, Member of the Board of Directors of the International Association of Bioethics.

Currently she teaches at different Universities and is a member of several Ethics Committees, also coordinating international projects, namely within Africa-EU partnership. Ethics expert and project evaluator for the European Commission, and Ethics Advisor and Chair of Ethics Advisory Boards (EAC) of several European Research Projects. Authored and/or coordinated 37 books, including the 12-volume collection dedicated to Applied Ethics (2016-2018), and the Dictionary of Global Bioethics, with Henk ten Have (2021), and hundreds of papers, delivered over 400 conferences. She is a regular columnist in regional and national journals. Member of the European Parliament (2009-2014).

Abstract

Strengthening an ethics council in a changing world

The National Ethics Council for Life Sciences was created in Portugal in 1990 as a transdisciplinary, consultative, and independent body, working alongside the Assembly of the Republic, in an advisory capacity. Its mission is to analyse the ethical problems raised by scientific progress in the fields of biology, medicine or health in general and the life sciences, in permanent dialogue with decision-makers and civil society.

In more than three decades, the scientific and technological landscape has expanded and diversified, society has become more multicultural and pluralistic, and means of information and communication have been revolutionized, mainly due to the development of social media.

National Ethics Councils must adapt to these new realities in order to effectively and efficiently fulfill their mission of qualifying public policies and promoting informed and responsible citizenship. Throughout its long history, the Portuguese National Ethics Council has always sought to play this role of pivot between legislators and policy makers, on the one hand, and scientists, academic community and civil society, on the other.

In this context, the Council's current mandate, which began in 2021, has sought to (1) strengthen its working conditions (human and financial), (2) broaden and diversify the issues it focuses on, (3) promote joint initiatives with other institutions, building synergies for the development of knowledge, and for the expansion of social influence, thus broadening and diversifying its audience, (4) implementing communication strategies suited to different audiences (youth). These are some of the most important initiatives of the Portuguese National Ethics Council in order to respond positively to the needs of our time, involving ever more citizens.

Abstract

The role of the EGE: lessons from advising the Commission on science and technology policy.

The EGE was founded in 1991, under Jacques Delors' Commission, in recognition of the need to address ethical dilemmas associated with new techniques in biotechnology. It is composed of 15 experts appointed based on their expertise in fields such as philosophy and ethics, law, natural and social sciences, reflecting a geographical and gender balance. Currently, it provides the Commission, Parliament and Council with independent advice on how EU policies should take account of ethical, societal and fundamental rights issues as science and new technologies advance. With the assistance of the special team within the European Commission, the Secretariat, the EGE has been working on the topics of planetary ethics, democracy, values in policy-making, pandemics and crisis management, genome editing, artificial intelligence and the future of work, issuing Opinions (identification of emerging and future developments, and examination of their implications) and Statements (quickly and concisely advice on a given topic) that contain evidence-based recommendations.

The EGE acts as a key reference point for the 27 National Ethics Councils in the EU and further afield within the international ethics framework and is committed to strengthening and diversifying this relationship.

Claude Kirchner

Honorary Director of the National Pilot Committee
for Digital Ethics, INRIA



Claude Kirchner headed until May 2024 the « Comité national pilote d'éthique du numérique » (French national pilot committee on digital ethics) created in December 2019 under the aegis of the CCNE. He is Director of Research Emeritus at Inria, the French national research institute for digital science and technology, of which he was the scientific director from 2010 to 2014. He is also a member of Viginum's Ethics and Scientific Committee and of the CNIL's Foresight Committee.

He was a member of the CCNE (Comité consultatif national d'éthique pour les sciences de la vie et de la santé) from 2018 to 2023, a member of the ANSSI (Agence Nationale pour la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information) scientific council until 2022 and the first chairman of COERLE, Inria's operational committee for legal and ethical risk assessment, and its scientific integrity referent until the end of 2018.

His scientific interests and contributions focus on the logical and semantic foundations for the design and implementation of reliable and secure digital systems, and their applications to cybersecurity.

Abstract

Round table: Ethics advice beyond bioethics? Expansion, fragmentation and fusion of bioethics and digital ethics. Experiences from France, Denmark and Greece

The French national pilot committee on digital ethics (CNPEN) has been created in December 2019 under the aegis of the CCNE, the French Consultative Bioethics Committee. This short presentation will mention its contributions, of which the ones concerning health are in collaboration with CCNE: bulletins, opinions and events organisations, where the topics addressed concerned digital (including AI) ethical issues for + digital tools in and for pandemics, + digital fraternity, + dis- or mis-information, + tele-medicine and tele-care, + “autonomous” vehicles, + conversational agents, + medical diagnosis, + health data platforms, + name change in digital documents, + generative AI, + facial recognition, + metavers.

One of the main consequences of this work is the confirmation of its usefulness by the publication on May 23, 2024 of the executive order stating the setting of the Comité Consultatif National d'Éthique du Numérique (CCNE Numérique: French Consultative Digital Ethics Committee).

Therefore, the pilot action has now been completed, and the members of the perennial Digital CCNE are currently being appointed.

Berghol Borg Christensen

Project Manager and Scientific Advisor
in the Secretariat for the Danish Council for Data ethics



Berghol Borg Christensen has worked at the intersection of emerging technologies and policy for almost a decade. Her career spans significant roles in both Denmark and Silicon Valley, where she has effectively bridged the gap between technological advancements and regulatory frameworks.

Currently serving as a Senior Advisor at the Secretariat for the Danish Data Ethics Council, National Center for Ethics, Berghol is responsible for the council's consultation responses and engagement with the Danish Parliament. In addition, she prepares the analytical foundations for the DDEC's recommendations and other work on a range of topics like facial recognition, generative AI's impact on young people, and combating the spread of child sexual abuse material online. She previously worked in the Danish Foreign Service and the Danish Business Authority. Berghol holds a Master's degree in Political Science from the University of Copenhagen.

Abstract

In this brief presentation, I will 1) give a short overview of the National Center for Ethics and 2) reflect on the lessons learned about key similarities and differences between the policy impact of the Danish Council on Ethics and the Danish Data Ethics Council.

The National Center for Ethics: The NCE was established in 2021 to create a strong national platform for ethics in Denmark. Today, the NCE houses the Danish Council on Ethics, the Danish Data Ethics Council and the Danish Research Ethics Committees reviewing applications for scientific studies dealing with sensitive data.

Focusing on the two councils, both have benefited from sharing a home. The NCE enhances the overall mission of promoting ethics in policy-making and strengthens the day-to-day operations of the councils, allowing council members and secretariats alike to focus their efforts on ethical dilemmas and policy impact. It has also eased coordination on areas of common interest such as health data and AI in medicine. The joint home has underlined similarities and differences: Despite having different policy agendas, both councils approach ethical deliberation from a similar ethical foundation. However, key differences remain. Compared to bioethics, the policy space around data ethics is diffuse and varying, given that digital technologies affect almost all aspects of life and span most areas of government. Further, the debate around data is characterized by an abundance of voices competing for limited time. For data ethics, balancing between a focus on limited thematic priorities whilst reacting to relevant topics in the public debate is thus paramount. In contrast, bioethics is by its nature a narrower field, where the Council on Ethics holds a more exclusive role in policy making. Another important difference is the role of 'efficiency' and cost-saving of digitization, whereas debates around bioethics are more centered on human considerations.

Theodoros Trokanas

National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
of the Hellenic Republic



Theodoros Trokanas was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He graduated from the Department of Law of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (2000). In 2003 he obtained his Master's degree in "Human Rights and Protection of Humanity" with a specialisation in private law from the University of Dijon. In 2011 he was awarded a doctorate in Civil Law (Family Law) by the Faculty of Law of AUTH.

From 2011 to 2013 and from 2018 to 2020 he taught civil and commercial law courses at the Department of Accounting and Finance of University of Macedonia. From 2013 to 2017 he held the position of Lecturer and then Assistant Professor of Civil Law at the School of Law of European University Cyprus. Since 2011 he has been teaching as Visiting Professor in the Interdepartmental Postgraduate Programmes "Modern Medical Acts: Legal Regulation and Bioethical Dimension" and "Critical Thinking and Soft Skills in Biomedical Sciences" at AUTH. As an Adjunct Professor of the Hellenic Open University from 2017 to 2020, he taught the Module "Basic Principles of Law and Administration" in the Business and Organisations Administration Programme. As an Adjunct Professor of the Open University of Cyprus since 2021 he has been teaching the Module "Ethics and Reproductive Health" in the postgraduate programme "Bioethics-Medical Ethics", and since 2024 Modules "Contract Law" and "Family Law" in the undergraduate programme "Law. From 2022-2023 he taught "Inheritance Law" and "Land Law - Horizontal and Vertical Property" at the Faculty of Law of AUTH and since 2023 he has been teaching "Civil Law" and "Labour Law" at the Department of Accounting and Finance of the Athens University of Economics and Business. Since 2024 he has been teaching "Principles of Law" at the Hellenic Air Force Academy.

In 2017 he co-directed the International Anniversary Conference "1997-2017: 20 years after Oviedo Convention on Human Rights and Biomedicine. What are the achieved gains and its potential?". Since 2020 he has been a National Trainer of the Council of Europe in the HELP project "Key human rights principles in Biomedicine", and since 2021 he has participated in the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Bioethics Academy (SNFBA) initiative of the Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics (JHU) and Bioethics Chair at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH).

He is a member of the Laboratory for the Study of Medical Law and Bioethics at the Faculty of Law of AUTH, a Member of the Society for the Study of Medical Law and Bioethics and an external member of the Research Ethics Committee of the Ionian University. He is also a member of the European Society for Reproduction and Ethics and the European network on Health, Law and Bioethics (HeaLaB EuroNet).

He authored the monographs "Human reproduction: private autonomy and its limits" (2011), "The Cyprus Law of Medically Assisted Reproduction" (2016) and "The error in motive under the Civil Code" (2022), as well as numerous articles on family law, inheritance law, medical law and personal data law. He has been invited as a speaker at many Greek and international medical law conferences.

Since 2002 he has been a practicing lawyer, a member of Thessaloniki Bar Association, and since 2018 a lecturer of GDPR/DPO seminars at the Lifelong Learning Centre of the AUTH.

Since September 2023 he serves as a Scientific Officer at the Hellenic Republic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics.

He has an excellent command of English and French and good command of German and Spanish.

Abstract

Round table: Ethics advice beyond bioethics? Expansion, fragmentation and fusion of bioethics and digital ethics. Experiences from France, Denmark and Greece

My contribution to the Round Table will focus on the fusion of Bioethics and Digital Ethics, drawing from the paradigm of transformation of Hellenic Republic National Bioethics Commission to National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics in 2021. This brief presentation will explain the origins of the term "technoethics", which was coined by Mario Bunge, and prove the topicality of his philosophical thought nowadays.

Evangelos Karkaletsis

Member of the High-Level Advisory Committee on AI
to the Greek Prime Minister
Greek representative at the EU AI Board
National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
of the Hellenic Republic



Dr. Vangelis Karkaletsis is the Director of the Institute of Informatics & Telecommunications (IIT) at NCSR Demokritos since February 2019 and he headed the Software & Knowledge Engineering Lab (SKEL) at IIT until December 2019. He is a graduate of the Department of Computer Engineering & Informatics, University of Patras, with an MSc in Artificial Intelligence from Queen Mary & Westfield College, University of London, and a PhD in knowledge representation and information extraction from the Informatics & Telecommunications Department, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens.

His research interests are in the areas of content analysis, big data management, knowledge representation, human-machine interaction. Coordinator, scientific and technical manager of many European and national projects while also organised international summer schools, workshops and conferences. Being responsible for the Institute's educational activities for more than 10 years, he initiated the joint PhD scholarship program with several Universities abroad, started the new MSc in Data Science program, and launched the NCSR Demokritos educational program for primary and secondary schools. Co-founded one of the first spin-offs at NCSR Demokritos on information extraction from multimedia content, and participates in another one on document categorization and summarization which is about to be launched.

Xenia Ziouvelou

National Representative EU AI Board GPAI
Steering Group, Institute of Informatics
and Telecommunications of the National Centre
for Scientific Research “Demokritos”



Dr. Xenia Ziouvelou holds a PhD in Internet Economics & Strategy (scholarship awarded) from the Department of Economics of Lancaster University (UK). Xenia is currently working as the Innovation Officer and a research scientist at the Software and Knowledge Engineering Lab of the Institute of the Institute of Informatics and Telecommunications (IIT) of NCSR “Demokritos” (NCSR). She is also a visiting academic at the Business School of the University of Southampton (UK) and acts as an external innovation expert for the European Commission. Xenia is a member of the scientific committee of AI4People, Europe’s first Global forum on the social impacts of artificial intelligence, launched by Atomium–European Institute for Science, Media and Democracy (EISMD). She has a long working experience as a senior research scientist, lecturer/Assistant Professor, technology transfer and innovation officer in research and education institutions in UK and in Greece. Xenia has worked as a research scientist and innovation manager in numerous EU-funded research and industrial projects covering diverse thematic areas in the context of innovation and technology-mediated evolution across various industrial sectors. Her principal research interests are in innovation and technological transformation and the way that they revolutionise business, law and policy. Xenia is a working group member of the Creative Commons Greece and holds two open innovation patents (USPO) as the principal investigator.

Stelios Karozis

High-Level Advisory Committee on AI
to the Greek Prime Minister
Institute of Nuclear and Radiological Sciences
and Technology, Energy & Safety of the National Centre
for Scientific Research “Demokritos”



Education

- Ph.D. in Chemistry, University of Crete (2017); Thesis: Study of Structure and Diffusion Processes in Nanostructured Materials Using Molecular Simulation Techniques
- MSc in Data Science, University of Peloponnese & NCSR “Demokritos” (2021); Thesis: A Deep Learning Approach for Spatial and Time Error Correction of Numerical Weather Prediction Simulations
- MSc in Computational Mechanics, NTUA (2013); Thesis: Prediction of Thermodynamic Properties of Liquid Mixtures Using Molecular Simulation
- Diploma in Chemical Engineering, NTUA (2010)

Professional Experience

Researcher (grade C) (2024-present) | Collaborating Researcher (2019–2024) | Associate Researcher (2017–2019) | PhD Researcher (2013–2017) | Assistant Researcher (2011–2013)

Institute of Nuclear & Radiological Sciences & Technology, Energy & Safety (INRASTES), NCSR “Demokritos”

- Developed advanced computational methods combining AI and HPC for climate modeling, resilience assessment, and physical systems analysis.
- Contributed to European and national research projects (H2020, LIFE, Horizon Europe).
- Led the development of HPC infrastructure of INRASTES, serves as Greece’s Training Champion (EuroCC).

Key Roles

- High level advisory on National AI Committee: Expert in AI infrastructure and data governance.
- Co-author: Horizon Scanning study on Generative AI in Greece (2030).
- Participant in the TSI program for Greek State titled “Building capacity for evidence-informed policymaking in governance and public administration in a post-pandemic Europe”

Research Interests

High-performance computing, climate research, AI applications

Konstantinos Karpouzis

National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
of the Hellenic Republic,
Department of Communication, Media and Culture,
Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences



Dr Kostas Karpouzis is an assistant professor at the Department of Communication, Media and Culture at Panteion University. His research deals with algorithms that make computer systems more adaptive to how people interact with them and how digital games and gamification, as cultural artifacts, can be used to teach conventional and social skills.

At the same time, he explores the ethical and social values embedded in and influenced by AI systems.

Since 1998 he has been involved in over twenty R&D projects, with prominent examples being the Siren project (the project was voted Best Learning Game in Europe in 2013 by the Games and Learning Alliance), the H2020 iRead project, which produced Navigo, the winner of the GALA Serious Games competition in 2018, and the ongoing Road-STEAMer project, which is designing the European roadmap and proposing policies for teaching STEAM topics in schools and universities.

He is a member of the National Bioethics and Technology Ethics Committee and President of the Association of Computer and Communication Engineers of Greece. He has given three talks at TEDx events and his TED-Ed video "Can machines read your emotions?" has been viewed over 670,000 times and translated into 26 languages.

Sven-Eric Söder

Chair of the Swedish National Council
on Medical Ethics (Smer)



Mr. Sven-Eric Söder was appointed chair of Smer in 2021.

Mr. Söder has extensive experience from government ministries where he has taken on several positions, such as State Secretary at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications, State Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Press Officer to the Swedish Minister of Defence.

As State Secretary at the Ministry of Enterprise, Energy and Communications Mr. Söder was e.g. in charge of the first Swedish Life & Science strategy.

Adding to this, Mr. Söder has experience from the private sector and the pharmaceutical industry in particular. As a member of the Leadership Team of Pfizer Sweden, he has been in charge of public affairs and communication on the Swedish market.

Mr. Söder has also served as Director General of the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The Swedish Government Agency for International Peace and Security with worldwide activities and extensive cooperation with the EU, OSCE and UN.

Currently Mr. Söder is also chair of the Swedish Export Credit Agency and Vice Chair of the Swedish University of Arts, Crafts and Design.

Abstract

Setting up an Ethics Council: Experiences and Perspectives from Sweden

This presentation explores the establishment, mandate, structure, development and characteristics of the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics (Smer).

The Council is the second oldest council in the world and was established in 1985 on initiative of the Swedish Parliament. The political initiative to found a council on medical ethics in the middle of the 1980's reflected the zeitgeist. The Swedish initiative was with great certainty influenced by the French decision to establish the first council in the world, two years earlier during the beginning of the Mitterand era. More and more decision makers felt the need of identifying, analyzing and developing policies in regard to the increasingly rapid development within medicine and biotechnology.

The Council's composition is unique and consists of a combination of political representatives and professional experts. The aim of the structure is to make sure that discussions and decisions in the council reflects both the societal debate and professional perspectives on ethical issues related to health care.

Operating within the Swedish Government Offices, while maintaining an independent status, Smer occupies a unique position in policy-making. This proximity to decision-making bodies offers the opportunity to contribute to policies directly. However, safeguarding independence remains a core principle to uphold the Council's credibility and integrity.

The presentation will also highlight the interesting fact that some issues seem to be eternal and has recurred on the agenda over the years. However, discussions and decisions has changed in accordance with access to new knowledge and changed societal values. Examples of issues are assisted reproduction, genetic diagnostics, abortion and prenatal screening, as well as end-of-life issues like euthanasia. All these topics illustrates the evolving intersection of ethics, law, medicine and public policy in terms of addressing sensitive medical and societal challenges.

The aim of the presentation and subsequent discussion is to provide insights and reflections on the role of ethics councils in relation to the complexities of modern healthcare, biotechnology and politics, based on almost 40 years of experience.

Juan Carlos Siurana

Chair of the Spanish Bioethics Committee



Dr. Juan Carlos SIURANA is Chair of the Spanish Bioethics Committee. Professor of Moral Philosophy, Department of Philosophy of the University of Valencia, Spain. He is the coordinator of the Interuniversity Doctorate Program in Ethics and Democracy and director of the Bioethics Research Group at the University of Valencia. President of the Ethics Committee of the Social Services of the Valencian Community, and member of the Ethics and Good Practices Committee of the Social Services of the Valencia City Council. Researcher at the ÉTNOR Foundation (For the Ethics of Business and Organizations).

He has published more than one hundred scientific articles or book chapters in his fields of research: discourse ethics, ethical theories, applied ethics and bioethics.

He is the author of the following books (published in Spanish, but the titles are translated into English): A compass for moral life (2003), Advance Directives (2005), The ethical society (2009), The advice of philosophers (2011), and Ethics of humor (2015).

His last two books are: Happiness through self-help (on ethical issues around self-help books) (2018), and Ethics for influencers (on ethics applied to the activity of people who have the greatest impact on social networks and their followers) (2021).

Zvonimir Koporc

Medical Faculty of the Catholic University of Croatia



Professor of Immunology at Medical Faculty, Catholic University of Croatia. With a primary research interest in transplantation immunology and research ethics, his primary consultative activity in life sciences, biomedical sciences, and ethics is present for different EU bodies and agencies.

Being a member of several national Ethics committees, he also acted as a consultant and adviser, delivering training on research ethics for several Croatian universities and state agencies, such as the Croatian Agency for Mobility and EU programs. His recent contribution to the EU-funded SwafS project PRO-RES, in cooperation with the Croatian Personal Data Protection Agency, led to the publication of several research papers in the field of research ethics and personal data protection.

During the coronavirus crisis, professor Koporc demonstrated strong leadership and adaptability by organizing and chairing the 25th Forum of the National Ethics Councils (NEC) and the Meeting of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE). This event was organized in a new online format for the first time, proving that channels for exchanging experiences and knowledge can be found even in demanding times of crisis.

His dedication to fostering cooperation between the EU National Ethics Councils drove the EU NECs survey in 2024. This research, conducted with the support of RTD EC, will be presented at this meeting.

Abstract

In a globalized environment of new and fast-evolving technologies, the pivotal role of National Ethics Committees (NECs) is crucial in steering over the sea of potential ethics challenges accompanying emerging technologies, both on the EU and national levels.

To determine how EU NECs cope with those challenges, for the first time, we explored their compositions, functioning, operability, financing, independence, and potential influence on policy decision-makers in society. Results showed that the EU NEC's independence is mainly officially protected, usually with no obligation to consult governmental bodies before adopting an opinion, and other entities or bodies can't revise their positions.

However, although most EU NECs are mandated to advise the government, parliament, or other public bodies on specific issues or topics, providing advice, opinions, statements, guidelines, or

other official positions at their initiative, they mostly do not have a formal role in any legislative processes. Regarding their public visibility, our research shows that despite the EU NECs declaring initiatives to make their activities publicly available, they are mostly neither present on social media nor try to actively engage the general public in their activities.

The results presented at this meeting might serve as a solid base to tailor future supportive EU NEC strategies.

Paweł Łuków

Chair of the Ethics Department, Faculty of Philosophy,
University of Warsaw,
Chair of Committee on Ethics in Science
at Polish Academy of Science
Member of European Group on Ethics
in Science and New Technologies (EGE)



Paweł Łuków is professor of philosophy and ethics. He is the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Warsaw, Poland, where he chairs the Department of Ethics, and the Center for Bioethics and Biolaw.

He is the head of the the Supreme Bioethics Committee for Clinical Studies. He also chairs the Committee on Ethics in Science at Polish Academy of Science, and is a Member of European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE). He works as an ethics expert for domestic and international institutions. He has published on I. Kant's ethics, bioethics, and philosophy of medicine. His current research focuses on human dignity and human rights in bioethical regulation and policy-making in a democratic society, the ethical and legal status of the human body, protection of human dignity and vulnerability in biomedical research.

His more recent publications include "The ethical significance of consent to postmortem organ retrieval" *Bioethics*, 37(5) 489-497, 2023; "Solidarity and the Ethics of Exposing Others to Risk in Medical Research". *Bioethics* 36 (8):821-828, 2022; "Pure Altruistic Gift and the Ethics of Transplant Medicine". *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* 17 (1):95-107, 2020.

Vasiliki Mollaki

National Commission for Bioethics
and Technoethics of the Hellenic Republic
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Dr Mollaki has a background in Genetics from Cardiff University, UK, while her postgraduate and doctorate studies were in Molecular Genetics in Sheffield University, UK. Her postdoctoral research has spanned various genetic studies in human diseases. She is a Scientific Officer at the Hellenic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics, Greece, contributing to the Advisory role of the Commission. She is serving as an external Ethics Expert for the European Commission in the ethics review of research projects. She is a scientific associate in the National Centre of Scientific Research "Demokritos" in the EU-funded project CHANGER aiming to promote changes in research ethics reviews by strengthening the capacities of researchers to incorporate ethical judgements in the project design and implementation. She lectures on Bioethics and Ethics at the International Hellenic University, Greece and the Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus. Dr Mollaki is a member of the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes in Greece and serves as a member of Research Ethics Committees in Greek Universities. Her work includes three monographs, an e-book, several chapters in collective books and numerous journal articles on bioethics and genetics.

Abstract

The ethics review process in a changing research environment: Novel methodologies from the CHANGER project

Trust in science and technology and the acceptability and adoption of innovative outcomes is crucially dependent on the ethical qualities of the research. But are the current ethics review procedures of research, and particularly the widely used ex ante model fit for purpose? How should ethics reviews be adapted to current research practices moving to new forms of ethical challenges?

The EU-funded project CHANGER (<https://changer-project.eu/>) argues that a new paradigm for ethics reviews is required to meet the constantly evolving ethical challenges. It aims to promote changes in research ethics reviews, to strengthen the capacities of researchers to incorporate ethical judgements in the project design and implementation, as well as to support Research Ethics Committees in addressing new challenges posed by new developments in research.

The project explores the notion of moving from an ex-ante review model to a process-oriented model of learning by doing and ethics in dialogue, adaptive across all research phases, utilising various tools: narrative based scenarios in projects to help anticipate challenges in research; iterated ethics assessments, and differentiation into primary and secondary uses of personal data;

and institutional capacity building in project preparations to account for ethics-by-design and upstream assessments.

Alexei Grinbaum

Senior research scientist, Chair of the CEA
Operational Digital Ethics Committee
Member of the French National Digital Ethics Committee (CNPEN)



Alexei Grinbaum is senior research scientist at CEA-Saclay with a background in quantum information theory. He writes on ethical questions of emerging technologies, including robotics and AI. Grinbaum is the chair of the CEA Operational Ethics Committee for Digital Technologies and former member of the French National Digital Ethics Committee (CNPEN). He coordinates and contributes to several Horizon projects and serves as ethics expert to the European Commission. His books include "Mécanique des étreintes" (2014), "Les robots et le mal" (2019), and "Parole de machines" (2023).

Abstract

Building an efficient digital ethics institutional architecture in public research organizations is a challenging task. While compliance with the AI Act and other regulation is required for placing R&D products on the market, operationalizing this requirement in early-stage research creates the need to address multiple grey zones, translating high-level values and principles into useful ethics-by-design tools. I'll illustrate several solutions that go beyond compliance: a) short and practical AI ethics evaluation checklists for RECs based on the work done in the iRECS and TechEthos projects, together with training materials in AI ethics for REC members; b) the new Ethics Readiness Levels tool for technological and industrial R&D based on the work done in the MultiRATE and SOPRANO projects. Using these instruments in practice necessitates an evolution in the REC model, moving toward ongoing assessment during the entire project lifecycle.

Ismini Kriari

National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
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Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences



Emeritus Professor at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, where she has taught Constitutional Law since 1995 and Bioethics and Human Rights since 2002 at pre-graduate and post-graduate level. Former Vice-Rector (2011-2016) and Rector (2016-2020) of the a.m. University.

Author of five books and many articles in reviews and collective tomes on bioethical issues with regard to human assisted procreation, end-of-life decisions, euthanasia, organ transplantation, xenotransplantation, embryo research, the protection of genetic data, on issues with regard the mapping and sequencing the human genome (the genetic tests and the genetic interventions), on AI and law.

President of the National Authority on Human Assisted Procreation (since July 2024)

Member of the National Committee on Bioethics and Technoethics (since 2021)

Member of the Executive Committee of the Parliamentary Foundation on Democracy (since 2021)

Member of the Intergovernmental Committee of UNESCO (2010-2016).

Member of the Council of Europe Steering Committee on Bioethics (2010-2012).

Evangelos Protopapadakis

National Commission for Bioethics & Technoethics
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Evangelos D. Protopapadakis is a Professor of Applied Ethics (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Director of the [NKUA Applied Philosophy Research Laboratory](#); President of the Ethics and Deontology Committee of the National Center for Scientific Research “Democritos”; Member of the Hellenic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics; Head of the [Greek Unit of the International Chair in Bioethics \(WMA Cooperation Center\)](#), Director of the [MA Program Animal Welfare, Ethics and the Law](#), Member of the Pan-Orthodox Committee of Bioethics of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Constantinople, Member of the Greek National Authority of Assisted Reproduction, Member of the Bioethics Committee of the Hellenic Pasteur Institute, and President of the Research Ethics and Deontology Committee, National Centre for Scientific Research 'Demokritos'. He has published 4 books in Greek and 2 in English as the single author, as well as 12 edited volumes as the editor or the co-editor: 5 in English, 1 in Serbian and 6 in Greek. He has published more than 100 papers in domestic or international scientific journals and volumes. He is a member of several domestic and international philosophical societies; he is also the Editor-in-Chief of [Conatus – Journal of Philosophy](#).