BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN DISCIPLINES THROUGH A RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION HOLISTIC VIEW

INTRODUCTION

The Bioethics and Law Observatory (OBD) was established in 1995, at the University of Barcelona, to promote interdisciplinary research on bioethics and its relationship with international recognized human rights.

OBJECTIVES AND DEVELOPMENT:

In 2007, UNESCO conferred a Chair in Bioethics on OBD that leaves its social mark with measurable impact in different domains and on different stakeholders, including citizens. It provides an approach to bioethics conceived of as an inclusive process with and for society in the field of bioethics.

KEY FACTS:

OBD has contributed towards designing and modifying policies and regulations in assisted reproduction techniques, biomedical research or living wills, for example. Moreover OBD helped to develop procedures for making autonomy in healthcare a reality. Spanish and Catalan policies and acts on these issues have reproduced word for word the recommendations made and published in OBD reports.

CONCLUSIONS

The fact the work and opinion of a scientific and academic group has been so important in changing the law is extremely significant for the glocal perspective.

GOOD PRACTICES

The OBD has established and strengthened international, European and local networks of researchers and professionals with a strong profile in bioethics; for example the IberoAmerican Network of the International Association of Bioethics or the Network of Research and Teaching in Bioethics, that has been recognized as a good practice by the European Commission.

The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics established an Iberian Bioethics Network, in alliance with the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics of Porto. The network created by OBD in 2001 for sharing the good practices and experiences of ethics committees at university level, has been identified by LERU as a good example to be replicated, due to its research integrity and the contributions of ethics committees towards promoting good practices in research.

There are no more than 10 UNESCO Chairs in Bioethics around the world. The UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Barcelona is the only one in Spain and forms part of the Catalan group of UNESCO Chairs.

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