



## 6th International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation

May 11-14, 2010 ♦ Portland Art Museum ♦ Portland, Oregon, USA

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### Abstract Submission Form – Papers

Please contact John Tuohey at [ethics@providence.org](mailto:ethics@providence.org) with any questions.

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Proposed title of paper: Regulation of Healthcare Ethics Committees in Europe?

Abstract with 3 clearly stated objectives in 250 words:

In this presentation, I will discuss the question whether or not Healthcare Ethics Committees(HECs) should be regulated and, if yes, how this should be done. Clinical ethicists from eight member states of the European Union were asked to share their vision as to the question of regulating HECs: four from Eastern Europe, four from Western European Countries. The presentation consists of two parts. In the first part, I will summarize the brief country reports as to the status quo of regulation, and the reasons as to the form of regulation the contributors consider most adequate. In the second part, the country reports will be analyzed. I will discuss the general suggestion that regulation of HECs, if considered desirable, should be central and weak. Central regulation can be argued to be apt to improve HECs' accountability, relevance and comparability. To facilitate biomedical citizenship and ethical reflection, which both in Western and Eastern European countries seems to be strived for nowadays, regulation should at the same time be weak rather than strict. Independence of HECs to deliberate about ethical questions, and to give solicited and unsolicited advice, should be supported and only interfered with in the case of justified exceptions. One such exception could be circumstances that temporarily become adversarial to ethical deliberation. In view of the process of European unification, steps could be taken to develop consistent policies for both Eastern and Western European countries under the condition of diverse points of departure.

Objectives:

1. To explore the status quo as to the regulation of HECs in Eastern and Western European countries
- 2 To discuss arguments for and against regulation of HECs

3 To discuss a concept of regulation of HECs under the condition of diverse cultural conditions

If you have or will publish on this topic, please cite reference:

Med Health Care Philos. 2007 Dec;10(4):461-75.

Are you planning to or will you be willing to submit a poster along with your paper?

Yes     No