



BIOETHICS EDUCATION: TWO LATINAMERICAN EXPERIENCES

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Two Latinamerican Experiences

- Implementation of UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum (BCC) at the Litoral National University (UNL)- Santa Fe (Argentina)
- Permanent Education Programme on Bioethics (PEPB) for Latin America and the Caribbean- UNESCO REDBIOETICA

Both are based on binding Bioethics and Human Rights from a Latinamerican point of view of bioethical issues.

Implementation of the UNESCO Bioethics Core Curriculum at the Litoral National University (UNL)

- **UNL:** Created in 1919. 9 Faculties. 4 University Schools. 100 Degree Careers. 38.500 students. 52 Postgraduated Careers. 2.600 students
- **UNESCO BCC:** It will be implemented to all Degree Careers
- Academic Executive Unity : **“Cátedra Abierta de Bioética”** (Academic Secretary of UNL)
- Cooperation **Programme on Bioethics and Ethics in Science-** Regional Sciences Office of UNESCO - Montevideo

Stages Performed during 2009

- Introduction in Teaching Bioethics Seminar dictated by UNESCO Redbioetica Professors (March 2009)
- Diffussion of the Proposal and Agreement of common issues among Authorities of the different Faculties (April-May 2009)
- Creation of the Commission at UNL for the Study of UNESCO BCC implementation (May 2009)
- Memorandum of Understanding UNESCO-UNL

Activities of UNL Commission (May-November 2009)

- Diagnostic of situation about Teaching Bioethical Issues and Problems in UNL.
- Adaptation of UNESCO BCC to Latinamerican and National Reality.
- Discussion of specific contents for the different Faculties.
- Proposal and calling for teachers for integrating a Teacher Team.

Next Steps (1)

- **Training Seminar for Teachers of UNL on Bioethics (March-June 2010)**
 - ✓ 180 Hours. Final Evaluation
 - ✓ Professors: Experts of UNESCO Redbioética and UNL
 - ✓ Recipients: 45 Teachers of UNL

Next Steps (2)

- **Starting of “Bioethics” Subject** (August-December 2010)
 - ✓ Recipients: Students of all UNL Careers who completed the 1st. year
 - ✓ Professors: UNL Teacher Team
 - ✓ 60 Hours (5 Hours per week)
 - ✓ Activities: 50% theory - 50% practice (Analysis of ethics problems based on local cases)
 - ✓ Term and final exam

- **Outcoming Evaluation:** December 2010

Achievements

- Commitment from UNL's Authorities about the future professionals' training
- Democratic and participatory process ⇒ Commission integrated by representatives from all Faculties.
- Students and professors sensitized because of the proposal.

Challenges

- Coherence of an educational project implemented from a sole Chair taking into account particular situations in each Faculty.
- Interdisciplinary Teacher Team.
- To attend the increasing demand of permanent training.



Permanent Education Programme (PEPB) on Bioethics for Latin America and the Caribbean- UNESCO REDBIOETICA

General Goal

To train professionals from different fields in the necessary basic knowledge to develop educational consultive and normative tasks on Bioethics.
Frame of Reference: Bioethics based on a Universal Conception of Human Rights attending Historical, Social and Cultural Values having Latinamerican Reality as its setting.

Courses

- **Introduction to Research Ethics on Human Beings** (Beginning 2006) At present attending 4th. Cohort.
- **Introduction to Clinical and Social Bioethics** (Beginning 2007) At present attending 3rd. Cohort.

Characteristics

- **Amount of hours:** 220
- **Type:** On line course. Virtual classes (debate forums, chat, video conferences)
- **Language:** Spanish - Portuguese
Bibliography: Spanish - Portuguese - English
- **Duration:** 10 months. (4 modules 2 month each + development and evaluation of final work)
- **UNESCO – Scholarships:** Bioethics Programme of Montevideo Unesco Office supported the students scholarships.

Recipients

- Health Care Professionals and other professions related to Social Sciences
- Ethics Committees' members.
- Community Leaders, Politicians, NGO's Leaders with influence in specific areas.
- People interested in Bioethics who have the capacity to carry out an educational project or in Public Administration.

Applicant Selection Criterion

- Antecedents (professional skills, current relation to Bioethics, previous training, etc.)
- Institutional influence
- **Regional accessibility.** Distribution of the places per country

Some Numbers

- **395** professionals trained (2006-2007-2008)
- **291** are attending their training (2009)
- **863** professionals from **22** countries have been part of the Programme
- **650** UNESCO scholarships
- **329** Application Projects approved.
 - 209** Research Ethics on Human Beings
 - 120** Clinical and Social Bioethics
- **385** professionals interacting in PEPB former students forums.



PEPB UNESCO REDBIOETICA

Perspectives

- To incorporate new members to UNESCO Redbioética for Latin America and the Caribbean ⇒ Increase of its Academic Production.
- Permanent and increasing Training.
- Incidence of training on Bioethics in Public Politics of each country.
- Support: Commitment of the institutions in training their professionals on Bioethics.



THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR
YOUR ATTENTION