CONTRIBUTING TO GEObs

We invite you to enrich GEObs by providing data you would like to be included in any of the databases. For this and for further information, please contact:

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Division of Ethics of Science and Technology

The Division of Ethics of Science and Technology embodies the priority UNESCO gives to the promotion of ethics of science and technology, with emphasis on bioethics.

The Division's actions include providing support for Member States of UNESCO that are planning to develop activities in the field of ethics of science and technology.

The Division also functions as the executive secretariat for three international ethics bodies, namely the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST), the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), and the Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee (IGBC).

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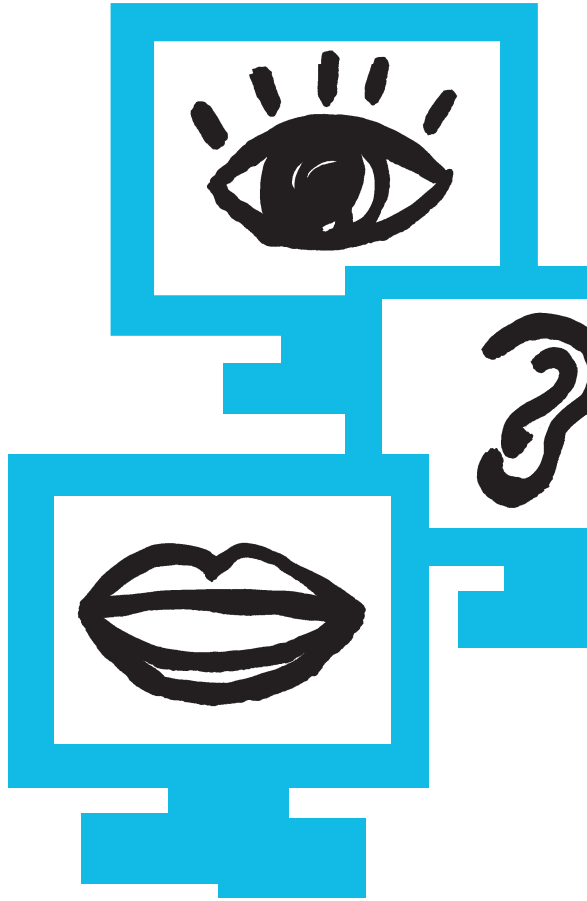
SOCIAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES SECTOR

UNESCO

GEObs

Global Ethics Observatory



www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs

The Global Ethics Observatory (GEObs)

A system of databases with worldwide coverage in bioethics and other areas of applied ethics in science and technology such as environmental ethics, science ethics, and technology ethics.

This UNESCO initiative is freely accessible online to all Member States and the general public. It is designed to serve as a valuable reference, collaborative, consultative, and comparative resource hub of ethics activities around the world. The GEObs is also intended to become a crucial platform for supporting and advancing ethics activities by assisting Member States and other interested parties to identify experts, establish ethics committees, construct informed policies in the area of ethics, and design ethics teaching curricula. In order to facilitate global accessibility, the GEObs will be available in the six official languages of UNESCO: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, and Spanish.

The GEObs databases can be accessed at:

www.unesco.org/shs/ethics/geobs

DATABASE 1

WHO'S WHO IN ETHICS

The Who's Who in Ethics database is a compilation of information regarding ethics experts around the world.

Experts are determined via a peer review process based on the quality and focus of recent publications in ethics of science and technology; involvement in ethics-related activities; involvement in ethics of science and technology research projects; and the level and extent of ethics component in the individual's educational and professional background. Users are able to search for experts within the database using the following criteria: name, country, region, professional background, ethics activities, type(s) of affiliated institution, areas of interest in applied ethics, ethics expertise(s), and/or involvement within UNESCO. Users will also be able to print and email relevant search results.

DATABASE 2

ETHICS INSTITUTIONS

The Ethics Institutions database provides information on departments, institutes, centres, commissions, councils, committees, review boards, societies, associations, and other relevant entities in the area of ethics of science and technology.

Institutions within the database have been validated against their mission, activities, and publications as a confirmation of their active involvement in the field of ethics of science and technology. Users are able to search for institutions within the database using the following criteria: region, country, type of organization (including level of operation, membership size, and meeting frequency among other secondary criteria), foundation date, areas of applied ethics, and activities. Printing and emailing features are also available. Collectively, the Who's Who in Ethics and Ethics Institutions databases enable the GEObs to efficiently connect specific needs and requests with the appropriate experts and institutions.

DATABASE 3

ETHICS TEACHING PROGRAMMES

The Ethics Teaching Programmes database contains descriptions of existing teaching programmes within the field of ethics of science and technology.

This GEObs component is strategically positioned to support and encourage collaboration in the design of ethics curricula. Users are able to explore the database using the following search criteria: country, region, name of teacher, faculty/department/school of the teacher, city of university, academic background of students, area of ethics, level of university teaching, course language, number of students enrolled, number of teaching and student working hours, status and objectives of programme, type of study materials, and topics included in syllabus.

DATABASE 4

ETHICS RELATED LEGISLATION AND GUIDELINES

The fourth GEObs database is a collection of examples and descriptions of ethics related legislation and guidelines introduced within various countries to normalize activities in the fields of science and technology.

By providing this information, the GEObs establishes a valuable platform for sharing of knowledge and experiences in policymaking and management of ethical issues in science and technology. For the pilot phase, data from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, Hungary, Japan, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia covering bioethical themes of medical research with human beings, access to health care and essential medicines, genetic counseling, protection of future generations, and freedom of scientific research have been collected. Search terms for the database include country, region, type of legal instrument, bioethical themes, and articles of UNESCO's bioethics declarations.

DATABASE 5

CODES OF CONDUCT

The fifth GEObs database provides a selection of Codes of Conduct related to the ethics of science and technology issued by professional entities in the private and public sectors. This database further strengthens the observatory's capacity building and knowledge-sharing functions, especially for governments, professional groups, and the private sector. Within the database, common ethical principles across the codes have been identified and the related texts extracted for easy reference. Users are able to navigate the database by country, region, profession/discipline, field of activity, geographical coverage of the code, nature of the code, and identified common principles.