

**Annex 1: Human stem cell regulations and legislation in Europe** (May 2010)

Country	Reproductive cloning prevented by national law	Research authorised by national law on				Prohibition of human embryonic stem cell (hESC) research	No specific legislation regarding hESC research	Ministry or official body in charge
		Stem cells *	Human embryos		Aborted fetuses			
			Procurement of stem cells from supernumerary embryos	Creation of human embryos for research purposes **				
Austria <sup>1,2</sup>	●	●						Federal Chancellery
Belgium	●		●	●				Public Health & Research (W) Justice & Health (F)
Bulgaria <sup>3,4</sup>	●						●	Health
Croatia <sup>3,4</sup>							●	N/A
Cyprus <sup>3,4</sup>	●						●	Independent Body
Czech Republic <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Health
Denmark <sup>3</sup>	●		●					Science Technology and Innovation
Estonia <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Social Affairs
Finland	●		●		●			Social Affairs and Health
France	●		●		●			Health
Germany	●	●						Federal Ministry of Health
Greece <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Development and Health
Hungary <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●		●			Health
Iceland <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Health and Social Security
Ireland		●						Department of Health and Children
Italy	●	●			●			Health
Lithuania <sup>1,3,4</sup>						●		Health
Luxembourg <sup>6</sup>							●	Health
The Netherlands	●		●		●			Health, Welfare and Sports
Norway <sup>3</sup>	●		●		●			Health and Care Services
Poland <sup>1</sup>						●		Health and Social Affairs & National Education and Science
Portugal <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Health
Romania <sup>3,4</sup>	●						●	Health
Slovakia <sup>1,3,4</sup>	●				●	●		Health
Slovenia <sup>3,4,7</sup>	●		●		●			Health
Spain <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●		●			Health & Science and Innovation
Sweden <sup>8</sup>	●		●	●	●			Health and Social Affairs & Education
Switzerland <sup>3,4</sup>	●		●					Federal Office of Public Health
Turkey <sup>3,9</sup>	●						●	Health
United Kingdom	●		●	●	●			Department of Health

\* Prohibiting the procurement of stem cells from supernumerary embryos but allowing the import and use of stem cell lines.

\*\* SCNT is not considered in this table: Belgium, Sweden, UK, Spain and Portugal allow SCNT by law, while Finland and the Czech Republic neither prohibit nor allow it by law.

1. Countries that voted against the Council Decision on hESC research during FP7 ([www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/90654.pdf](http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/intm/90654.pdf))

2. AT: The Austrian Bioethics Commission published an opinion on 16 March 2009 which recommends allowing hESC derivation from supernumerary IVF embryos.

3. Countries who have signed and ratified the 1997 Convention of the Council of Europe on Human Rights and Biomedicine CETS 164 (<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=164&CM=8&DF=4/16/2009&CL=ENG>)

4. Countries who have ratified the 1998 Protocol on the Prohibition of Cloning in Human Beings CETS 168 (<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/en/Treaties/Html/168.htm>)

Specific national committee(s)	Competences of the committee members	Committee website(s)
Bioethics Commission	Medical experts (reproductive medicine, gynaecology, psychiatry, oncology, pathology), legal experts, sociologists and experts in philosophy, theology and microbiology.	<a href="http://www.bka.gv.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=3575&amp;Alias=english">www.bka.gv.at/DesktopDefault.aspx?TabID=3575&amp;Alias=english</a>
Advisory Committee on Bioethics <sup>5</sup>	Biologists, ethicists, lawyers, philosophers, physicians and theologians.	<a href="https://portal.health.fgov.be/portal/page?_pageid=56,512676&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL">https://portal.health.fgov.be/portal/page?_pageid=56,512676&amp;_dad=portal&amp;_schema=PORTAL</a>
Central Ethical Committee <sup>5</sup>	Medical doctors, pharmacist, pharmacologist and lawyer.	Not available
N/A	N/A	N/A
National Bioethics Committee	Biologist, geneticist, medical doctor, psychologist and sociologist.	<a href="http://www.bioethics.gov.cy">www.bioethics.gov.cy</a>
(a) Bioethical Commission of the R & D Council and (b) Ethical Committee of the Ministry of Health <sup>5</sup>	Bioethicist, biologist, biotechnologist, ethicists, geneticist, immunologist, medical scientist, molecular biologists, philosophers, physiologist, sociologist and theologian.	<a href="http://www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=15908">www.vyzkum.cz/FrontClanek.aspx?idsekce=15908</a>
Council of Ethics <sup>5</sup>	Bishop, former politician, journalist, lawyer, lay persons, scientists, teacher, theologian and vicar.	<a href="http://www.etiskraad.dk/sw293.asp">www.etiskraad.dk/sw293.asp</a>
Council on Bioethics	Ethicists, lawyers, medical doctors and ministry representatives.	<a href="http://eetika.ut.struktuur.ee/260565">http://eetika.ut.struktuur.ee/260565</a>
Sub-committee on Medical Research Ethics of the National Advisory Board on Health Care Ethics <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, medical doctors, lawyers and lay persons.	<a href="http://www.etene.org/e/index.shtml">www.etene.org/e/index.shtml</a>
Biomedicine Agency <sup>5</sup>	Lay persons, philosophers, theologians, scientists and medical doctors.	<a href="http://www.agence-biomedecine.fr">www.agence-biomedecine.fr</a>
(a) German National Ethics Council (Deutscher Ethikrat) and (b) Central Ethics Commission for Stem Cell Research <sup>5</sup>	(a) Scientists, politicians, lawyers, lay persons, philosophers, medical experts, bishop and theologians and (b) biologists, ethicists, medical experts and theologians.	<a href="http://www.nationalerethikrat.de">www.nationalerethikrat.de</a> <a href="http://www.rki.de/cln_049/nn_216782/EN/Content/Institute/DepartmentsUnits/StemCell/StemCell__node.html?__nnn=true">www.rki.de/cln_049/nn_216782/EN/Content/Institute/DepartmentsUnits/StemCell/StemCell__node.html?__nnn=true</a>
National Bioethics Commission	Lawyers, philosophers, scientists and theologians.	<a href="http://www.bioethics.gr/index.php?category_id=3">www.bioethics.gr/index.php?category_id=3</a>
Health and Scientific Council/National Scientific and Ethical Committees <sup>5</sup>	Bioethicist, biologist, geneticist, lawyer, lay person, medical doctors, nurse and priest.	<a href="http://www.ett.hu">www.ett.hu</a> (in Hungarian only)
National Bioethics Committee	Lawyers, medical doctors, philosophers, scientists and theologians.	<a href="http://www.visindasidanefnd.is">www.visindasidanefnd.is</a>
Irish Council for Bioethics <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, lawyers, scientists, philosophers and physicians.	<a href="http://www.bioethics.ie/">www.bioethics.ie/</a>
National Bioethics Committee <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, lawyers, medical doctors, scientists, pharmacologists and patient representative.	<a href="http://www.palazzochigi.it/bioetica/eng">www.palazzochigi.it/bioetica/eng</a>
Bioethics Committee	Ethicist, geneticist, lawyer, medical doctors, philosophers, psychologists, psychiatrist and priest.	<a href="http://bioetika.sam.lt/index.php?-1876243809">http://bioetika.sam.lt/index.php?-1876243809</a>
(a) National Consultative Bioethics Commission for Health and Life Sciences and (b) Committee for Research Ethics (Ministry of Health)	Government representative (Social Security), lawyers, medical doctors, social workers, teachers and theologians.	<a href="http://www.cne.public.lu/">www.cne.public.lu/</a>
Central Committee on Research Involving Human Subjects <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, medical doctors, nurses, scientists and pharmacologists.	<a href="http://www.ccmo-online.nl">www.ccmo-online.nl</a>
National Committee for Medical and Health Research Ethics <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, lawyer, lay persons, pharmacist, philosopher and psychologist.	<a href="http://www.etikkom.no/In-English/">www.etikkom.no/In-English/</a>
N/A	N/A	N/A
(a) National Committee for Reproductive Medicine and (b) National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences <sup>5</sup>	(a) Biologists and medical doctors and (b) geneticists, legal experts, medical doctors, philosophers and theologians.	<a href="http://www.cneecv.gov.pt/cneecv/en/">www.cneecv.gov.pt/cneecv/en/</a>
Bioethics Commission of Health and Family	N/A	N/A
National Ethics Committee	Geneticist, medical doctor, ministry representative (Health), priest, sociologist and theologian.	<a href="http://www.health.gov.sk">www.health.gov.sk</a>
(a) National Committee for Medically Assisted Reproduction and (b) National Medical Ethics Committee	(a) Ethicist, lawyer, medical doctor, ombudsman representative and psychologist and (b) ethicist, lay person, lawyer, physicians, psychologist, sociologist and theologian.	Not available
(a) National Commission on Human Reproduction and (b) Observatory of Law and Ethics	Scientists, lawyers, psychologists and government representatives (Health).	Not available
National Council on Medical Ethics	Ethicists, lawyer, medical doctors, politicians and ministry representative (Health and Social Affairs).	<a href="http://www.smer.se">www.smer.se</a>
National Advisory Commission on Biomedical Ethics <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, lawyers, lay persons, medical doctors and scientists.	<a href="http://www.swissethics.ch">www.swissethics.ch</a> <a href="http://www.bag.admin.ch/nek-cne/">www.bag.admin.ch/nek-cne/</a>
Ethics Council <sup>5</sup>	Medical doctors, a pharmacist, and ministry representatives (Health).	Not available
(a) Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and (b) Human Genetics Commission <sup>5</sup>	Ethicists, journalist, lawyers, lay person, medical doctors and scientists.	<a href="http://www.hfea.gov.uk">www.hfea.gov.uk</a> <a href="http://www.hgc.gov.uk">www.hgc.gov.uk</a>

5. Apart from national committee(s), whether existing or not, there are local and/or regional ethical committees.

6. LU: A new law is under preparation. Opinion against human reproductive cloning has been given in 2004. Opinion for the authorisation of research on stem cells obtained from supernumerary embryos and of creation of embryos for therapeutic purposes has been given in 2003.

7. SI: Research on supernumerary embryos from IVF procedures (and thus the procurement of hESC) is allowed with zygotes or embryos until 14 days of development.

8. SE: Tissue from aborted fetuses may be used for medical purposes only.

9. TK: hESC research has been suspended at all levels by the Turkish Ministry of Health and legislation regarding hESC research is under preparation.