

Ethical Biotechnology Regulation

(The Function and Responsibility of Advisory committees)

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Abstract

Nowadays, in many advanced sectors, knowledge is created in the context of product-oriented R&D. The new mode of knowledge production /Gibbons/ entails certain transformation in the countenance of research together with a change of its environment. The advance and application of modern biotechnology could affect the most fundamental human situations, food, health, environment and nature. This novel kind of research challenges the modern social capabilities of harmonizing the rate of advance with the social profit and unexpected damage. The ethical constraints make an important part of biotechnology regulation.

The paper examines the intermediate position of the Advisory Committees toward establishing a good practice for open debate and ethical reasoning unifying all actors involved – researchers, producers, state officials and public in respect in ensuring trust, cooperation and harmonization of European regulation.

The investigation of the special 'ethos' of modern advisory process /Jasanoff/ and the way in which the advisory committees frame their advices to take account of social and ethical issues surrounding modern biotechnology is based on findings from the social studies of science with the particular concerns of science policy in the broad field of STS.

The investigatory purpose is directed to defining a successful biotechnology regulatory practice. This definition will present suggestions for establishing a pattern of good technological research regulations. Also, it will explore how those regulation can be best implemented in regions where regulations are still missing or ignored /the case in Bulgaria/. The paper will further explore on the importance of international cooperation of advisory committees as an element in the process of European integration.