

Dear Ivana, dear Amir,

Many thanks for this message and your kind invitation to collaborate in your project. Amir, you probably remember that about 10-12 years ago we had the opportunity to discuss in the nice city of Bakar about the idea to develop within your center some program concerning the Mediterranean area.

I am particularly glad that you have now decided to give birth to this idea. The Mediterranean is, in fact, an area rich in cultural diversity and exchange, as its history testifies: a place where great civilisations, the three monotheisms, philosophy, law and medicine have emerged and flourished, but also a place of confrontation between powers, migratory flows and economic routes that have led to the reshaping of the States that surround it. So, it makes it a complex world and it is important to define how we would like to approach the practice of Bioethics in the Mediterranean area.

For the historical reasons I mentioned, Mediterranean Bioethics is certainly a good way to understand and study the complexity of the global phenomenon which bioethics is. It is pluralistic in traditions, norms, religions, languages - English is certainly not the proper language of the Mediterranean. But it is also an area where the question of the relationship between the values on which Mediterranean societies are based and the idea of modernity is very sensitive. It is also an area where violence and the sacred are intertwined.

From what I read of the brief presentation of the scientific aspect of your project, I noted that your objective is to analyse the similarities and differences existing in the Mediterranean Bioethics and to reach this you propose two methodological pillars: empirical studies and dialogue through the establishment of an academic network.

I think we need to go into more detail. If we are to be practical and attract researchers to the network, we need to give them original lines of research that will attract their interest and not duplicate what already exists. As an example, we may imagine 3 research lines that could fit with Mediterranean Bioethics:

The ethical governance of innovative technologies

Bioethics perceptions: by individuals and communities, in urban areas and in rural areas.

Bioethics and the environment (health issues, natural disasters, climate change, energy resources)

So, as a first step, I would strongly suggest setting up a Euro-mediterranean scientific advisory board (6-10 persons/institutions from Europe, East Medit., Maghreb and State Islands) which will assist you in elaborating more closely the lines and methodology for research.

Then you could begin enlarging the network with the institutions and freelance researchers having some experience and interest to join. In contacting them you may be interested to know that you may diffuse the information to existing networks such as Thétys (University of Slif is a member but not the University of Rijeka [https://tethys.univ-amu.fr/en/news?target\\_id=All](https://tethys.univ-amu.fr/en/news?target_id=All))

Regarding my own involvement, I will be delighted to actively support this initiative and contribute to the constitution of this board. I will engage myself as Secretary general of the International association of law, ethics and science but also as researcher of the Institute of legal

and philosophical studies of the Sorbonne. I will make contact with the 3 French Mediterranean universities of Montpellier , Aix-Marseille and Nice to make them join the future network. I will also suggest some contacts with UNESCO, WHO , the Council of Europe and the European Union\*. And hopefully, I could propose names in Maghreb and Mashreq countries.

Have this in mind and let me know how you would like to proceed. It might be useful to have at the beginning of 2025 a brief visioconference to exchange our views on a specific agenda dealing with the most important questions relating to launching the network.

Please let me know so that we could eventually fix a date. In the meantime do have a happy Xmas.

With all my best, yours, Judge Christian Byk