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35th National Ethics Councils Forum

November 13 & 14, 2025

Venue: National Museum of Denmark

Ethics in Transition: Institutions, Technologies, and Public Trust

RUNNING DRAFT PROGRAMME

Day 1: Thursday November 13, 2025

Registration & morning coffee

09:00 - 09:30 (30 min)

Welcome

09:30 – 10:00 (30 min)

Opening statement and introductions: Christa Lundgaard Kjøller, Director of the Danish National Center for Ethics

- Welcome by Sophie Løhde, the Danish Minister for the Interior and Health
- Welcome by Joanna Drake, Deputy Director-General in DG Research and Innovation (R&I) at the European Commission - video message
- Welcome by Christine Nellemann, chair of the Danish Council on Ethics and Johan Busse chair of the Danish Data Ethics Council

Session 1: Digital Sovereignty (keynote)

10:00 – 11:00 (60 min)

Moderator: Johan Busse, Chair of the Danish Data Ethics Council

Margrethe Vestager

Chair of the Board of Governors at the Technical University of Denmark and former vice-president of the European Commission and former chair of the Commissioners' Group on "a Europe Fit for the Digital Age" will give a key note on digital Sovereignty, followed by a joint discussion in the topic.

Based on the discussion in this session, the organisers would like to use this opportunity to invite all NEC chairs to co-write a declaration of intent on Digital Sovereignty, emphasising the importance of the protection of the mental health of citizens, in particular children in virtual and digital environment. We expect to have a draft declaration ready shortly after the NEC to be distributed and discussed.



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Coffee break

11:00- 11:30 (30min)

EGE opinion on Green Transition as a Just Transition

11:30 – 12:00 (30 min)

Maria do Céu Patrão Neves (15 min)

President of the National Consultative Ethics Committee (CNECV), Deputy Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)

Climate change affects populations unequally, often worsening existing inequities and creating new forms of injustice. The urgency of the Green Transition lies in its potential to prevent further harm caused by climate inaction. However, it must not only be swift but also just—ensuring fair distribution of benefits and burdens while addressing injustice. The EGE has issued concrete recommendations to ensure justice is at the core of all Green Transition policies. This includes incorporating justice in all policymaking stages, considering social and cultural impacts, promoting inclusive participation, and protecting vulnerable groups. Accountability, solidarity, and alignment with human rights and climate justice principles should guide innovation, trade, and compensation policies throughout the transition.

Q&A + discussions (15 min)

Session 2 part 1: The ethics of AI and new technologies

12:00 – 13:00 (60 min)

Moderator: Sven-Eric Söder, Chair of the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics

Topics

- **AI as a matter of power and democracy (15 min)**
Stefano Semplici, Italian Committee for Bioethics
- **Liability in AI-Driven Healthcare (15 min)**
Inês Godinho, National Council of Ethics for the Life Sciences (CNECV)
- **Missing gaps and challenges of the Ethics Guidelines for Trustworthy AI (15 min)**
Atia Cortés Martínez, Spanish Bioethics Committee

Discussions (15 min)

Lunch break

13:00 - 14:00 (60 min)



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Session 2 part 2: The ethics of AI and new technologies

14:00 - 15:00 (60 min)

Moderator: Sven-Eric Söder, Chair of the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics

- **Ethical issues of freedom of expression and freedom of thought at the confluence of digital and neural technologies (15 min)**
Claude Kirchner & Anaëlle Martin, French National Digital Ethics Consultative Council (CCNEN)
- **Dataethical perspectives on AI in health and welfare technologies (15 min)**
Francisca Nordfalk, Danish Data Ethics Council

Discussions (30 min)

Coffee break

15:00- 15:30 (30min)

Session 3: News and priorities

15:30 - 17:00 (90 min)

Moderator: Joanna Rozynska, Center for Bioethics & Biolaw, University of Warsaw

Topics:

- **Opinion on the Neonatal Screening Program for Congenital Anomalies (15 min)**
Frank Devaux, Advisory Committee on Bioethics of Belgium
- **Biology in Medicine? (15 min)**
Anne Williams, Vice-Chair of the Scottish Council on Human Bioethics
- **The phenomenon of the exhibitions of plastinated bodies in "artistic" poses (15 min)**
Luisa Borgia, Chair of the Bioethics Committee, San Marino
- **Ethics of Predictive Analytics in Health Care: A Joint Opinion of National Commissions of Greece and Cyprus (15 min)**
Evangelos Protopapadakis, the Hellenic National Commission for Bioethics and Technoethics

Discussions (30 min)

Thank you for day one

17:00 - 17:15 (15 min)

- **Announcement of the 36th National Ethics Councils Forum in Cyprus**
Constantinos Phellas, President of the National Bioethics Committee of Cyprus



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- **Closing statement of Day**

Christa Lundgaard Kjøller, Director of the Danish National Center for Ethics

Discussions on the draft statement on Digital Sovereignty

17:20 - 18:00 (45 min)

Moderator: Cristina Chirotan, the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector of DG Research & Innovation of the European Commission

Chairs meeting for further discussions and drafting of the statement

Dinner

19:00-21:00

Networking dinner at the National Museum (Glassalen)



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Day 2: Friday November 14, 2025

Registration & morning coffee

09:00 - 09:30 (30 min)

Session 4: Future Strategies for Ethics Councils

09:30 - 11:00 (90 min)

Moderator: Christa Lundgaard Kjøller, Director of the Danish National Center for Ethics

Presentation of strategy work from **Danielle Hamm** (Director of the Nuffield Council on Bioethics). Followed by commentators from **Carla Saenz** (Regional Bioethics Advisor for the Pan American Health Organization), **Mercury Shitindo** (Chair of the Africa Bioethics Network) and **Lotta Eriksson** (Secretary general at the Swedish National Council on Medical Ethics).

Concluding with a moderated plenary session to share and develop insights.

The current pace of global scientific change, as well as the growing disparities in regulatory landscape and funding opportunities is resulting in huge potential for shifting societal norms within and across nations. As bioethics organisations, we need to be cognisant of global drivers, systems and values to do good policy work in our home countries. This means there is an increasing need for us all to engage internationally, but how can we do this effectively to achieve the biggest impact?

Coffee break

11:00- 11:15 (15min)

Session 5: Ethics in society and a successful NEC

11:15 - 12:45 (90 min)

Moderator: Christine Nellemann, Chair of the Danish Council on Ethics

- **Building Public Trust in Healthcare Governance through Ethics and Integrity (15 min)**
Meri Katvalyan, Human Rights and Biomedicine Division, Council of Europe
- **The Impact Assessment of the activities of the National Council of Ethics for Life Sciences. Successful NEC (15 min)**
Maria do Céu Patrão Neves, President of the National Consultative Ethics Committee (CNECV), Deputy Chair of the European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies (EGE)
- **Citizens' views on ethical principles for priority setting in healthcare and social services (15 min)**
Maija Miettinen, National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics (ETENE), Finland
- **Best practices of the NECs (15 min)**
Myrthe Lenselink & Virgil Rerimassie, The Netherlands Centre for Ethics and Health



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Discussions (30 min)

Closing remarks: The future of the NEC

12:45 - 13:00 (15 min)

- *Edyta Sikorska, the Ethics and Research Integrity Sector of DG Research & Innovation of the European Commission*
- *Christa Lundgaard Kjøller & Francisca Nordfalk, The National Center for Ethics, Denmark – closing and goodbye message*

Lunch and goodbye

13:00 - 14:00 (60 min)