

✓ **Announcing the Establishment of the Central and East European Association of Bioethics (CEEAB)**

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The Central and East European Association of Bioethics, CEEAB, was founded in the Hungarian city of Pecs, on 6 February 1999, at a meeting of scholars from Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Slovakia, and Russia. The meeting was supported by the Soros Foundation and the Albert Schweitzer Institute for the Humanities.

CEEAB is a “not-for-profit” and “nonpolitical” public organization based on the members’ strong dedication to universal values of human rights and respect for human dignity. CEEAB aims to consolidate efforts of scholars, medical professionals, and lay people from former socialist and other countries in the areas of reformation of healthcare systems, teaching of medical ethics and philosophy of medicine, improvement of healthcare policies and legislation, protection of patients’ rights, and development of bioethical research.

CEEAB plans:

- (a) to facilitate exchange of information, experience, and expertise among scholars working in bioethics in member countries;
- (b) to organize joint conferences and workshops on the most burning issues of bioethics in societies with transitional economic and political life; and
- (c) to stimulate application for funding of joint cross-cultural (national) research projects of scholars in different areas of bioethics.

To facilitate CEEAB’s development, participants of the meeting in Pecs appointed a provisional “Secretariat” to deal with organizational issues and the “Board of Coordinators” to represent CEEAB in their countries during the provisional period:

Bela Blasszauer (Hungary), acting President

Eugenijus Gefenas (Lithuania), acting Vice President

Secretariat and Board members: Biserka Belicza (Croatia), Anges Csikcs (Hungary), Joseph Glasa (Slovakia), Givi Javashvili (Georgia), Eszter Kismodi (Hungary), Zbigniew Szawarski (Poland), Pavel Tichtchenko (Russia), Zbigniew Zalewski (Poland), Boris Yudin (Russia).

The main goal of the Secretariat and the Board is to register the organization, to inform and invite scholars from former socialist and other countries

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to join CEEAB, to design a draft of CEEAB's Constitution, to prepare a representative conference for development and adaptation of the CEEAB Constitution and election of coordinating bodies.

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