

Workshop on
International Medically Assisted Reproduction (IMAR) –
The Central and Eastern European Perspective
Medical University Innsbruck, 6-8 May 2015

Content and goals:

Over the past decade, a growing yet little understood market of international medically assisted reproduction (IMAR) involving third parties as gamete donors and for surrogacy has been established. From a global perspective, India and Thailand are major arenas for these practices, serving mainly customers from Western societies. Also within Europe, this market seems to flourish due to legislative and socioeconomic differences and asymmetries, particularly between Central and Eastern European countries. Aims of the workshop: (i) to explore the current landscape of third-party IMAR in this region of Europe to better understand the situation and to substantiate an informed academic discourse, (ii) to further develop ERIMAR, a project that studies ethics and regulation of IMAR with the aim to develop a human rights convention for IMAR; this project, initiated in 2014 by Dr. Carmel Shalev, Israel, was also a topic of the 10th UNESCO conference on Bioethics, Medical Ethics and Health Law in Jerusalem in January 2015, (iii) to develop a joint research proposal of CAEE members of the International Network of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics (Haifa).

Topics:

The focus should be on Ethics and legal, cultural and social practices regarding IMAR in Central and Eastern Europe; Science, medicine & markets engaged in reproduction and reprogenetics, particularly those which involve commodification and commercialising body parts; Concepts of identity, parenthood etc.;

How are MAR and cross-country medical services regulated in the various countries of the region? Who has access to such services? What do we know about grey markets regarding egg cell donation, embryo donation and surrogacy in the region? Which regulations and other conditions support the development of IMAR markets? How is adoption regulated for heterosexual and homosexual partners as well as for singles? Which concepts and ideas form the basis of regulations?

Venue & Registration:

Medical University of Innsbruck, Biocenter, Innrain 80/82, Innsbruck, Austria (M01.470 on 6 May, M01.392 on 7 May).

The number of participants will be around 30 in order to facilitate round-table discussions. The workshop is open to students from the Innsbruck universities, UMIT and MCI (up to 20).

Participation is free. In order to help us planning the event, please register via ethucation@i-med.ac.at until 27 April 2015.