What does it mean today to talk about bioethics in Albania?

First of all, it means bioethical education. Since the fall of the regime in 1990, Albania had to change the entire social structure, including its scale of values. The definition of the human being in the previous scale of values, has generated a man deprived of his freedom to choose his life and death. In the years that have daredevilry followed, that lost freedom has often been violently misinterpreted by one of its opposite forms: a deep disregard of any form of social organization and a complete disdain of the Other. To talk today about bioethics in Albania, it simply means to share the basic principle of any form of civil society: respect for the Other, for his life, his choices, his needs at all levels. In order to share this principle the involvement of the state, as the first partner of the dialogue is mandatory.

A key element of this dialogue is represented by the bioethics education and first of all the bioethics education of the health care professionals. This is the reason why it represents the main strategic goal of the Albanian Unit of Bioethics (UNESCO). A teaching book of bioethics for the students of all the
faculties of the Medical University of Tirana, based upon the fundamental principles, globally shared, and enriched with local elements: this remains the main target of the Albanian Unit of Bioethics. The achievement of this goal will be based on the collaboration with the other Units of the Network.

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