**Questionnaire on bioethics and disability**

1. Please provide information on the legislative and policy framework in place in your country in relation to:
   1. Prenatal diagnosis

**No data available.**

* 1. Disability-related abortion

**No data available.**

* 1. Informed consent to medical treatment and scientific research

**Please see Section 11 on Participation of Patient in Clinical Trial of the Law On the Rights of Patients:** [**https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/203008-law-on-the-rights-of-patients**](https://likumi.lv/ta/en/en/id/203008-law-on-the-rights-of-patients)**.**

* 1. Protection of persons with disabilities undergoing research

**No special regulation.**

* 1. Euthanasia and assisted suicide

**On 1 March 2010, Latvia ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (hereafter – Convention). In line with the Convention, Latvia has set a clear path for the development of disability policy - a shift from a medical model that emphasizes human disability and dependence on other people, to a human rights approach that focuses on the rights and independent living and active participation of persons with disabilities. This also applies to the right of persons with disabilities to make independent decisions that do not conflict with legal provisions and are in their best interests. The Ministry of Welfare has developed guidelines for the implementation of the Convention for the period 2014-2020. The implementation of these guidelines sets out four strands of action with specific objectives and tasks: education, work and employment, social protection and public awareness raising, including on the issues of non-discrimination.**

1. Please provide any information and statistical data (including surveys, censuses, administrative data, literature, reports, and studies) in relation to:
   1. The availability, accessibility and use of prenatal diagnosis - **No data available.**

The availability, accessibility and use of disability-related abortion - **No data available.**

* 1. The practice of informed consent to medical treatment and scientific research

**The informed consent is practiced only as prescribed by main international documents regulating consent to treatment and research of vulnerable subjects, such as abovementioned UN Convention as well as the Oviedo Convention (approved in 2010), Declaration of Helsinki and others.**

* 1. The existence of measurements of quality of life which affect both clinical decision-making and health policy **- No data available.**
  2. The practice of experimental, controversial and/or irreversible treatments – **No data available.**
  3. The practice of euthanasia and assisted suicide on persons with disabilities

**The practice of euthanasia and/or assisted suicide in the Republic of Latvia is prohibited and constitutes a criminal offence and is qualified as homicide. The Criminal Law defines it either in the Section 116. as murder or in the Section 117. as murder committed in aggravating circumstances: “a person is murdered, the offender knowing that the person is in a state of helplessness”. Implicit or explicit wish to die, expressed by the victim, does not change the criminal status of such an action.**

1. Please provide information on discrimination against persons with disabilities on research involving humans.

**No complaints about such a discrimination have been received by the responsible institutions reviewing human biomedical research. All the scientific research in the Republic of Latvia must be carried out in accordance to the provisions prescribed by the main international and national documents regulating research with human participants.**

1. Please describe how national ethics committees address the rights of persons with disabilities. Please provide information on protocols, guidelines, decisions, investigations or publications in relation to persons with disabilities.

**The Central Medical Ethics Committee of Latvia always considers that this group needs special protection and attention. Therefore, the protocols involving persons with disabilities undergo detailed examination.**

**To promote the rights of persons with disabilities, develop co-operation between the governmental institutions and non-governmental organizations and involve them in the decision-making process related to the integration of persons with disabilities, in 1997, the Ministry of Welfare created the National Council of Disability Affairs (hereafter – NCDA). NCDA is composed of five sectoral ministers, the Ombudsman and representatives of the Latvian Association of Local Governments, the Public Utilities Commission, the Social Integration Fund, the Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia as well as the non-governmental organizations representing persons with disabilities. NCDA is held 4 times a year. The meetings are open, and all interested persons and stakeholders are welcomed to take part. During these meetings, issues of current interest are discussed, like inclusive education, accessibility of environment, including digital, health care and preventive measures.**

1. Please describe to what extent and how persons with disabilities are involved in the work of national ethics committees.

**One member of the Central Medical Ethics Committee of Latvia is a representative of the Latvian Umbrella Body for Disability organisations SUSTENTO.**

**As mentioned above, persons with disabilities can participate in NSDA meetings, express their views on issues under discussion, submit topical questions for further discussion.**

1. Please refer to any innovative initiatives that have been taken at the local, regional or national level to promote and ensure the rights of persons with disabilities in bioethical discussions. **No data available.**