



Oberseminar

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Florian Steger
Sommersemester 2025

Dienstag von 14:00 – 15:30 Uhr

**Institut für Geschichte, Theorie und Ethik der Medizin | Seminarraum
3. OG | Barbara Mez-Starck-Haus, Oberberghof 7, 89081 Ulm**

Dienstag, 22.04.2025
Prof. Dr. Silviya
Aleksandrova-
Yankulovska
(Ulm)

Ethical challenges of the European normative framework on fertility preservation

Purpose Preservation of reproductive tissues and cells is part of the highly regulated area of assisted reproduction but alone is performed for preserving fertility. Our research aims to analyse the European normative framework of fertility preservation, i.e. laws, guidelines, and regulations, in view of identifying its ethical challenges.

Methods A systematic literature search in EUR-Lex, national legal databases, Science Direct, Web of Science, PubMed, BELIT and a subsequent thematic and ethical analysis. Altogether, 63 documents, including 37 legal documents and 26 guidelines, were analysed.

Results Ten thematic topics were identified: concept of fertility preservation; age limits for fertility preservation; preservation of reproductive biomaterial; posthumous usage; voluntary informed consent; state/health insurance funding; storage period; social egg freezing; requirements for partnership status; special provisions for transgender individuals. Legal regulation was most liberal towards the partnership status requirements and social egg freezing. Most conservatively regulated were the age limits for fertility preservation. The topics correlated to the four principles of bioethics with predominance of principle of justice in legal regulation and principle of beneficence in guidelines.

Conclusion Laws and guidelines dealing with fertility preservation were not equally inclusive for all user groups and they did not provide sufficient guidance on ethically challenging aspects. The diverse normative background, that was depicted and analysed, led to the conclusion that there is an impending need to harmonise European regulation regarding fertility preservation. Our research underlined some ethically relevant points of normative divergence so as to draw policymakers' attention to the need of their further resolution.

**Gäste sind
herzlich willkommen!**