

RESEARCH ON HUMAN EMBRYOS/FOETUS

When involving the use of hESC in their research project, researchers should take into account and specify:

- That the proposal does not include research activities which destroys embryos including for the procurement of stem cells;
- Whether the consortium has taken into account the legislation, regulations, ethical rules and/or codes of conduct in place in the country(ies) where the research using hESC is to take place, including the procedures for obtaining informed consent
- The source of the hESC;
- The measures taken to protect personal data, including genetic data, and privacy;
- The nature of financial inducements, if any

A positive opinion from a Regulatory Committee constituted by Member States' representatives is required.

Participants in research projects must seek the approval of the relevant national or local ethics committees prior to the start of the research activities.

In conclusion, each research proposal involving the use of hESC, which is supported within FP7, is assessed by at least **two independent ethical reviews**: one **in the country itself where** the research will be carried out, and one **at the EU level**.* **No System in the world offers a higher guarantee regarding the respect of fundamental ethical principles.**

* If the research raising ethical issues is performed in more than one country (i.e. n countries), **it implies that more than two ethical reviews will be performed (i.e. in fact n+1 ethical reviews)**

