

The Observatory of the Ibero-American Bioethics Network (ORIBI), bases for its operation

El Observatorio de la Red Iberoamericana de Bioética (ORIBI), bases para su operación

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Abstract

The text presents a detailed overview of the importance and operation of the Observatory of the Ibero-American Network of Bioethics (Observatorio de la Red Iberoamericana de Bioética, ORIBI, by its acronym in Spanish), arguing the relevance of bioethics in contemporary times. Bioethics, defined as ethics applied to life, has expanded its influence beyond medicine to encompass areas such as the environment, human rights and the fight against poverty, highlighting the interdisciplinary approach essential to address complex ethical dilemmas. The ORIBI, developed by the Anáhuac Center for Strategic Development in Bioethics (Centro Anáhuac de Desarrollo Estratégico en Bioética CADEBI, by its acronym in Spanish), seeks to consolidate some dispersed efforts in Ibero-America, fostering regional collaboration in bioethics research, training and management. It highlights the need for collaborative work among existing observatories, taking advantage of resources and knowledge to promote social welfare. ORIBI plans its action around continuous monitoring, analysis of activities and networking, relying on tools such as the Ibero-American Atlas of Bioethics and a series of follow-up indicators. This strategic and flexible approach allows the observatory's operation to adapt to emerging challenges.

Keywords: observatory, atlas, linkage, management, training, research.

1. Introduction

Bioethics, from its most elementary definition developed by the oncologist Van Rensselaer Potter, can be considered as ethics about life, that is, the direct application of ethics to life-related issues and its emergence is conditioned by the need of the contemporary global community to introduce ethical and moral principles in rational

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decision making, especially in situations of uncertainty, both with regard to life in general and specifically with regard to human life (1). However, later developments detected the need to join to the new discipline of bioethics medical ethics, that is, as Elio Sgreccia explains:

...bioethics is not a recent and added part of medical ethics, but ethics concerning interventions on life must be understood in an extensive sense, to include also interventions on human life and health (2).

The line of study developed by Sgreccia is the one explained in the 1978 Encyclopedia of Bioethics in such a way: “Systematic study of human conduct in the field of life and health sciences, analyzed in the light of moral values and principles” (3) and, therefore, the one that has been transmitted, expanded and diversified through works, research and training programs in bioethics. Therefore, this intrinsic relationship between life and bioethics resulted in the direct interrelation of this discipline with medical ethics, entering its scope of work issues such as: public health, equity in the administration of medical resources, ethics in research with human beings, biomedical sciences, among many other issues arising from the protection of human dignity (4).

However, the development of bioethics as a discipline has not been limited only to the area of medicine but has extended to other topics such as: the environment, human rights, even the fight against poverty and discrimination, among others. These areas of work have been developed by Latin American authors in an attempt to respond to the needs of the Region, which are very different in their perspectives and arguments from those of Anglo-Saxon countries. One example is the so-called bioethics of intervention, a proposal that directs its efforts to the search for equality and social inclusion (5).

Given the different perspectives and approaches of the discipline, it is essential to develop an interdisciplinary mentality that is built from a constant dialogue with the purpose of helping to better

understand the ethical implications in each of the problems or dilemmas that arise in the complex reality in which we live, and that ultimately contributes to making ethically correct or at least ethically informed decisions at the individual, institutional and even political and social levels (4).

The work presented here is the basis for the creation of the Observatory of the Ibero-American Bioethics Network (ORIBI), which is proposed as a strategic response to the complex ethical challenges facing our society in the Ibero-American region. This project, led by the Anahuac Center for Strategic Development in Bioethics (CADEBI), is based on a detailed analysis of the existing bioethics observatories in Ibero-America, which show the diversity of issues addressed and the need to promote an interdisciplinary approach, conduct relevant research and encourage public debate on bioethical issues.

In this sense, ORIBI seeks to articulate the various initiatives that exist in the region, providing a meeting and collaboration space for institutions and professionals dedicated to bioethics. This regional collaboration will help strengthen efforts in bioethics research, education and dissemination, as well as facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices among Ibero-American countries.

ORIBI aspires to foster a bioethics culture in Ibero-America that prioritizes the dignity of the person and of all individuals, promoting a positive transformation of society, by facilitating the processes of strategic connection between Ibero-American institutions dedicated to bioethics, through the development of interdisciplinary methodologies that contribute to dialogue and collaborative work.

To achieve its objectives, ORIBI will focus on three main lines of action: continuous monitoring, analysis of activities and networking. To this end, an Ibero-American Atlas of Bioethics will be developed as a key tool for strategic linkage, as well as a series of follow-up indicators that permanently monitor the development of bioethics in the region.

2. The creation of social observatories as a tool for the generation of knowledge

The complexity of the society in which we live can be analyzed from the multidimensionality of the phenomena that occur in it, the link between its components, the interdefinability and interdependence between each and every one of its elements. To cite an example of this, we can analyze how an environmental phenomenon, such as the pollution of the Ganges River (6), which supplies almost half of the population of northern India, can trigger health problems, motivated by the growing demand for textiles that use polyester and rayon (viscose) (7) in North America (8); this derived from the flows of world trade. This complexity of our world has generated the need to identify and monitor different phenomena at a global level.

This growing need to monitor, systematize, evaluate and document the different phenomena has been favored by the growing network of existing information systems and the development of artificial intelligence. An example of this is the National Laboratory for Earth Observation (LANOT) (9), which is based at the Geography Institute of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and, through the technology it has developed, can monitor and obtain images of the western hemisphere and provide precise and constant follow-up of natural phenomena such as fires, storms and cold fronts.

In the field of social sciences and humanities, observatories have emerged as a response to the need to monitor and analyze multiple phenomena that have an impact on the lives of people and societies, the way they organize themselves and shape their economy. Among the issues that have been of greatest interest in the creation of observatories are poverty and inequality, education, the environment, gender equality, labor, public safety (10), among others (11). One of the main factors that have motivated the emergence of this type of surveillance and monitoring structures is the demand for increasingly

comprehensive and immediate information to support or justify decision making, in a context of social volatility and uncertainty.

Observatories have been promoted by different institutional profiles: governmental organizations, organized civil society, universities or international organizations. As well as with different objectives and purposes: research, political analysis, for the administration of public affairs, among others. In all of them, information is fundamentally gathered through different means and sources, an analytical treatment of this information is made and based on this, periodic reports are produced.

In general, the growing complexity in the flow of activities that are linked as part of globalization and the advance of information and communication technologies (ICTs) has implied, among other things, the growing need to organize and make sense of the accumulation of data generated in this dynamic. The establishment of observatories contributes to this function, thus becoming valuable tools in the dialogue and debate that needs to be developed among the different actors involved in the phenomena of our reality.

According to Germán Guerra and collaborators (12), the work of the observatories goes beyond monitoring and measuring data; he explains that an observatory focuses on four major processes:

“a) collecting health and health care related data; b) processing data as indicators; c) interpreting the results in the local context and d) disseminating the results to diverse audiences, including the general public, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), policy and decision makers, researchers and academics, among others” (p. 2).

In this sense, an observatory is a complex platform from which, in collaboration with different actors and institutions, trends in bio-ethical perspectives are identified, strategies for collaboration and planned development are proposed, and specific actions are proposed to respond to the most pressing challenges.

Currently, there is ample experience in the process for the creation of this type of monitoring and follow-up systems. The same authors (12), who have proposed a “three-stage” methodology for the creation of an observatory on health inequity, can be taken as a reference, stating that three components should be considered:

1. The bases for the generation of evidence and monitoring of information: basic and specific information systems: censuses; demographic and health surveys; records, statistics, epidemiological surveillance system data, semi-structured interviews with key informants, data from online social networks, search engines and the *World Wide Web* (www) are forms of unstructured knowledge, and so on.
2. The installed capacity of public agencies to provide strategic information on a regular basis: periodic public publication of executive summaries or overviews of the situation of the population with respect to certain topics; reports on the performance of health and medical care systems; reports on evaluations of implemented policies, etc.
3. Installed capacity of the level of linkage and capacity for dialogue between stakeholders and decision-makers.

Based on the above, an observatory can be defined as an organization that arises from the determination to respond to needs, and its objectives respond to the creation of complete, integrated, reliable and accessible sources of data, with the objective of facilitating access to information systems in cultural matters (13). On this basis, it was determined that there is currently a need to compile, systematize, publish and generate links and networks in the field of bioethics, for which a first action was to carry out an exploratory and documentary approach of the efforts that have been developed in this sense in the Ibero-American region.

3. Observatories as tools for interdisciplinary work in bioethics

Given the different perspectives and approaches to bioethics, it is essential to promote an interdisciplinary mentality that is built from a constant dialogue with the purpose of helping to better understand the ethical implications of each of the problems or dilemmas that arise in the complex reality in which we live, and that ultimately contributes to making ethically correct or at least ethically informed decisions at the individual, institutional and even political and social levels (14).

To achieve this purpose, it is necessary to have adequate tools, such as observatories, which provide complete, updated and systematized information on all the work related to bioethics, so that trends and needs can be identified in the work developed in this field of knowledge. In a first exploratory approach, it was possible to locate a series of efforts that have been made in Ibero-America, based on the activities developed by at least 12 observatories that have been identified in the Region, which show the multiplicity of topics, objectives and lines of research that support them.

Based on this information and considering the similarities described above, the aim is to identify the areas that favor the development of bioethics issues in Ibero-America. Table 1 lists these observatories:

Table 1. Summary table of bioethics observatories in Ibero-America

Name of the Observatory	Main features
Argentine Bioethics Observatory FLAC-SO, Argentina. Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was created in 2002 with the aim of promoting a critical and non-dogmatic approach to bioethics in the field of health. - It carries out research, from an interdisciplinary point of view, on the ethical, social and legal implications of technology applied to health. - It has training and capacity building programs in bioethics. - It carries out dissemination and dissemination of bioethics through publications, conferences and seminars. In addition to participating in the design of public policies. - It works in coordination with the Observatory de Bioética i Dret de Barcelona
Bioethics Link	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 2005, the UNESCO Bioethics Network launched a Web page that included a section dedicated to the Observatory. - Its objective is to deepen the study and research of bioethical issues related to the context of Latin America and the Caribbean. - Its thematic axes are convergent technologies, environmental ethics and ethics of health research. - It proposes an inter-transdisciplinary approach, considering as a frame of reference the ethical values and principles that inspire the international system of human rights. - It is part of the UNESCO Bioethics Network, which provides it with an international framework for its activities and collaborations. - It carries out dissemination activities on relevant ethical issues in Latin America, contributing to debate and awareness.

<p>Guatemalan Observatory of Bioethics and Biolaw. Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its main objective is to promote ethical reflection on scientific and technological advances in the field of biomedicine, as well as the development of regulations and policies that regulate these areas in a fair and equitable manner. - The social network through which it generated communication stopped publishing as of September 2018.
<p>Mexican Bioethics Observatory (OMEBI). Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was established in 2012 as a non-profit civil association with the aim of promoting the study of bioethics from a secular perspective, encouraging dissemination, research and education in the field, and contributing to the analysis of public policies from the academy. - The social network through which it generated communication stopped publishing as of August 2021.
<p>Bioethics and Law Observatory. Faculty of Clinical Medicine, German University of Development (Chile). Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was created in 2012 as a research program dedicated to the impact of the ethical, legal, social and political study of legal, regulatory and administrative regulations on bioethics in Chile. - Its focus on bioethics and law is centered on analyzing the intersection between bioethics and law, especially in the context of biotechnologies. - It conducts legal research and analysis on ethical issues related to medicine and science. - It has the International Chair of Biolaw, which is a comprehensive academic platform that projects several other bioethics and law projects.
<p>Bioethics and Work Observatory. Laboratory of Ethics (Colombia). Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Initiative of the Ministry of Labor and the Pilot University of Colombia (2018). - Addresses ethics and bioethics applied to labor rights, international trade, among other similar areas. - Promotes scientific knowledge applied to the world of work and its relationship with bioethics - Teaches the course on labor bioethics

<p>Bioethics Observatory. El Bosque University (Colombia). Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Its mission is to promote analysis and critical reflection on ethical dilemmas that arise in the fields of health, biotechnology and the environment. - It carries out studies and research projects in clinical bioethics, environmental bioethics, and bioethics in education. - It provides consulting and advisory services to ethics committees and health institutions. - It offers courses, seminars and workshops on various bioethical topics, aimed at health professionals, students and the community in general. - It organizes events such as conferences and symposia to promote debate and discussion on bioethical issues. - It promotes collaboration between different disciplines to comprehensively address ethical challenges.
<p><i>Bioethics and Dret Observatory</i> UNESCO Chair of Bioethics. University of Barcelona. Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is a research center of the University of Barcelona founded in 1995 - It focuses on research and teaching of bioethics and law, promoting critical analysis and training in these fields. - It works in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair of Bioethics, which allows it to strengthen its international activities and connections. - It teaches the Master's degree in Bioethics and Law focused on the analysis of the ethical, legal and social implications of biotechnology and biomedicine. - It teaches the doctorate in the line of bioethics and law for advanced training in the fields of bioethics and its relationship with human rights. - Since 2004 it publishes the journal of bioethics and law.

<p>Bioethics Observatory. Catholic University of Valencia “San Vicente Mártir”. Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The observatory was founded in 2005 and is part of the Institute of Life Sciences. - It is dedicated to the study and promotion of bioethics in the Valencia region, addressing ethical issues relevant to the local community. - It carries out research and dissemination activities on ethical issues related to human life and the biotechnological and biomedical aspects that affect it. - It teaches the Master’s Degree in Bioethics focused on the ethical analysis of biomedical advances.
<p>Bioethics Observatory. Pablo VI Foundation. (Spain)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The observatory was created in 2018 with the purpose of generating a space for reflection, dialogue and encounter. - It focuses on the promotion of bioethics, addressing ethical issues relevant to society from a Catholic perspective. - It carries out analysis and dissemination activities on current ethical issues from a Catholic perspective.
<p>Observatório Direitos Dos Pacientes. UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Brasilia. Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is part of an initiative of the Postgraduate Program in Bioethics of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics at the University of Brasilia - It is dedicated to analyzing and promoting the rights of patients in the health field, contributing to their protection and promotion. - It carries out research and awareness-raising activities on patients’ rights, promoting debate and action in this area.
<p>Unimet Bioethics and Law Observatory (OBDU). Venezuela. Link</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Founded in 2015 as part of the Faculty of Legal and Political Studies of the Metropolitan University in Venezuela. - It seeks to provide arguments that encourage a social debate based on secularism, the autonomy of people and respect for human rights in order to work towards the construction of an increasingly plural and democratic society. - Its objectives include research from a plural approach, training with different educational offerings

	and the transfer of bioethical knowledge to other institutions. - It produces national and international reports on topics related to Bioethics.
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Source: own elaboration.

From the information included in this table, the effort that has been dedicated to the creation and maintenance of bioethics observatories in Ibero-America during the last two decades is visible. During this period, a significant number of these observatories have been established. Among the identifiable similarities, the following stand out:

1. They promote an interdisciplinary approach in their activities, combining various disciplines such as ethics, law, medicine and social sciences to address bioethical issues from multiple perspectives.
2. They develop research and analysis on bioethical issues relevant to their respective regions or areas of competence. Through academic studies, legal analysis or applied research, they contribute to the knowledge and understanding of ethical issues in health and biotechnology.
3. They offer education and training programs in bioethics, such as courses, masters or doctoral degrees, reflecting their commitment to the education and promotion of bioethics among students, health professionals and the general public.
4. Engage in bioethics dissemination and outreach activities through publications, conferences, seminars and other awareness-raising initiatives, with the aim of promoting public debate and awareness of ethical issues related to health and biotechnology.
5. Collaborate with other institutions at the national and international level to strengthen their activities, share resources and collaborate in bioethics research and education projects; as well as in advising on research projects and protocols.

Considering the similarities found in the bioethics observatories in Ibero-America and their commitment to the development and promotion of this discipline, it is possible to identify, in general, some areas of opportunity that could favor their continued progress:

1. Strengthening international collaboration: although several of the observatories already collaborate with institutions outside their countries of origin, there is an opportunity to strengthen these collaborations and promote the exchange of knowledge and resources at the international level. This could broaden perspectives and enrich bioethics research and training programs.
2. Greater focus on emerging issues: although observatories address a wide range of bioethical issues, they could consider focusing more on emerging areas, such as environmental bioethics, the ethics of artificial intelligence in health, or equity in access to health care. This would allow them to be at the forefront of the discussion of relevant and pressing issues in the field of bioethics.
3. Incorporation of educational technologies: while many observatories offer bioethics training programs, they could explore the use of innovative educational technologies, such as online education or simulation-based learning, to reach a broader and more diverse audience, including health professionals in remote or time-constrained areas.
4. Promotion of citizen participation: observatories could involve civil society more actively in their activities, promoting spaces for public participation and dialogue on bioethical issues. This would not only increase public awareness of these issues, but would also enrich the debates with a variety of perspectives and experiences.
5. Impact evaluation and continuous feedback: it would be beneficial for observatories to conduct periodic evaluations of their impact on the community, both in terms of the quality of research and training and their contribution to public

debate and bioethics policies. This feedback would help to continuously improve their activities and ensure that they are effectively fulfilling their mission of promoting bioethics in the region.

3. The Observatory of the Ibero-American Network of Bioethics (ORIBI) as a promoter of linkages and collaborative work in bioethics

As has been explained throughout this paper, the *Anahuac Center for Strategic Development in Bioethics* (CADEBI) (15) attached to the Universidad Anáhuac México, has considered as a priority project the creation of the *Observatory of the Ibero-American Network of Bioethics* (ORIBI) due to the needs identified after years of work in the area of Bioethics, specifically in the Faculty of Bioethics of the Universidad Anáhuac México.

From the detailed analysis of the bioethics observatories identified in Ibero-America, it is evident the multiplicity of issues addressed, as well as the shared commitment to promote an interdisciplinary approach, conduct relevant research, offer educational programs and promote public debate on bioethical issues. All these objectives become areas of opportunity in the ethical approach to the complex problems facing society in the Region.

Based on the analysis of bioethics observatories in the region, the need was identified to create an observatory that would bring together, harmonize and consolidate the efforts of the different institutions in the development of bioethics, which are still scattered. Therefore, the projected Observatory would provide a meeting and collaboration point for the various institutions and professionals dedicated to bioethics. This collaboration at the regional level could strengthen capacities for research, education and dissemination of bioethics, as well as facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices among Ibero-American countries.

In this context, ORIBI could become a reference point for the identification of emerging and cross-cutting issues that transcend national borders, such as environmental bioethics, equity in access to health care and the ethics of artificial intelligence in health, as well as a source of information. By linking experts from different countries and disciplines, the Observatory could contribute to the development of common ethical approaches and the exchange of innovative solutions to these global challenges.

In terms of bioethics education and training, ORIBI will aim to visualize and disseminate the multiple possibilities of online and face-to-face training programs offered by different institutions throughout the region. This would be especially beneficial for health professionals and others interested in bioethics who have limited access to formal educational programs in their home countries.

Likewise, the observatory could play an active role in promoting citizen participation in bioethical debates by publicizing and promoting public events, disseminating relevant information and creating spaces for dialogue between the academic community, health professionals, policy makers and society at large. This would contribute to increasing public awareness of bioethical issues and enriching decision-making processes in the field of health and biotechnology.

To this end, it has been established that ORIBI's mission would be to facilitate and promote the strategic connection between Ibero-American institutions dedicated to bioethics, through the development of interdisciplinary methodologies that contribute to dialogue and collaborative work. Its vision would be defined by promoting a bioethical culture in Ibero-America that prioritizes the dignity of the person and of all individuals, thus promoting a positive transformation of society.

The general objective of ORIBI will be to identify and promote areas of consensus on complex bioethical issues in order to foster a common framework for action in the region. To achieve this, three lines of action will be derived:

- a. Continuous monitoring: to constantly follow up on the training, management and research initiatives in bioethics carried

out by the institutions, in order to maintain an updated and relevant database.

- b. Monitoring of activities: to determine the level of involvement and activity of institutions in the field of bioethics in Ibero-America, identifying leaders and innovative projects.
- c. Linkage network: to promote and strengthen a linkage network through an interactive atlas that facilitates the exchange of knowledge, experiences and resources.

Two of the central aspects in the creation of this observatory will be, on the one hand, the support provided by the information obtained from the Ibero-American Atlas of Bioethics (15), which has been developed as a strategic linkage tool of ORIBI and, on the other hand, the follow-up of the matrix of indicators, which have been defined based on the application of the logical framework, characterized by a methodology for planning, monitoring and evaluating projects. It is structured in four levels: general objective, specific objectives, components or results, and indicators with their respective means of verification; it also considers critical assumptions for the success of the project. This methodology facilitates the organization of information and improves project management and performance (16).

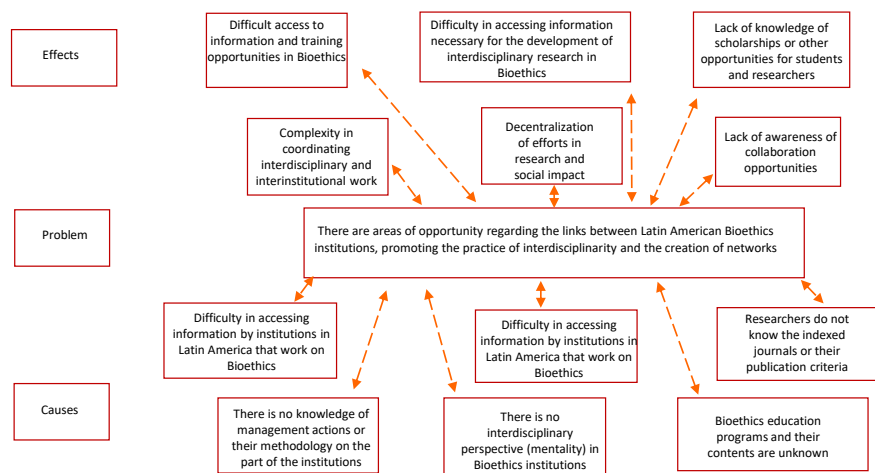
4. ORIBI's planning from the Logical Framework Methodology (LFM)

Based on the Logical Framework Methodology (LFM) (17), a Matrix of Indicators of Results (MIR) was designed to guide and allow the periodic evaluation of the progress in the fulfillment of the proposed objectives, that is, given the challenges previously analyzed, it was considered necessary to build a planning that would guide the actions of both ORIBI and its main tool, the Iberoamerican Atlas of Bioethics.

The first step consisted in the elaboration of a problem tree, which was generated from a brainstorming exercise carried out by

CADEBI staff, as well as by students of the Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Bioethics of the Universidad Anáhuac México. From this exercise, the following problem tree was extracted and developed in Figure 1. It is relevant to point out that most of the problems identified by the people who collaborated in the brainstorming exercise focus on access to information about the actions developed by the different bioethics institutions, courses, research, researchers and their lines of work, including research guidelines.

Figure 1. Problem Tree

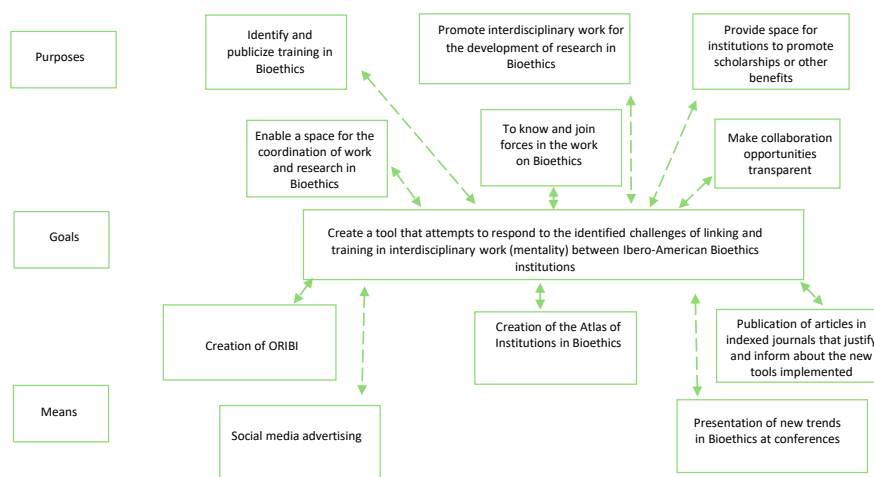


Source: own elaboration.

From the problem tree described above, a tree of objectives was deduced, which will mark the lines of work from which ORIBI's key actions will be generated. The objectives and actions will be developed based on indicators that will make it possible to monitor the evolution of ORIBI's work, as well as the fulfillment of the proposed objectives in the short, medium, and long term.

Based on this tool, the *raison d'être* of a project such as ORIBI becomes evident, built by establishing a structure of coherent interrelationships between the problems and needs identified, the existing opportunities and the objectives and means for their solution, as well as the logical sequence between them.

Figure 2. Objectives Tree



Source: Prepared by the authors.

The Logical Framework Methodology (LFM) is constructed based on the design of a problem tree and an objective tree, as shown in Figures 1 and 2. From these two figures, an appropriate strategy is established that leads to the project's narrative summary (Annex 1). It is necessary to clarify that, in order to arrive at the narrative summary, the Matrix for Results Indicators (MIR), that is, the instrument for the design, organization, execution, follow-up, evaluation and improvement of the projected activities, resulting from a planning process based on the MML, had to be previously carried out.

In this way, a summarized, simple and harmonious strategic planning tool is built, since the MIR organizes the objectives, indicators and goals in the programmatic structure, linked to the Program. As in any project analysis, it was necessary to identify possible risks, i.e., the circumstance or accumulation of circumstances that may interfere with the Observatory's work and, eventually, hinder or prevent the achievement of its objectives, either in the short, medium or long term. Of the risk situations analyzed, the most important is that the institutions working in bioethics, as well as those interested in bioethics and the opportunities it offers, may not find the proposed tool, the Ibero-American Atlas of Bioethics, useful. However, from the project's organization, it is estimated that this risk is of low intensity due to the existing needs of bioethics institutions in the region, the management and liaison work developed by CADEBI and the level of work organization and collaboration developed by the existing institutions.

Based on the MIR (Annex 2), a proposal has been made for indicators that specify the ORIBI's action route as shown in Table 2, which can be measured and evaluated in the short, medium and long term. According to the methodology used, an indicator is understood as a quantitative expression of the behavior and performance of an action or process. The indicators resulting from this analysis process were as follows:

Table 2. MML indicators for ORIBI

MML Indicators	
<p>GOAL. To collect information from institutions working in bioethics in Latin America and include them in the Ibero-American Atlas of Bioethics.</p> <p>Impact Indicators</p>	<p>- Number of institutions that are part of the Atlas/ Number of institutions identified on the website and contacted. Objective: to find out the number of institutions that are interested in being part of the Atlas. <i>It will be measured using percentages until reaching 100%</i></p>
<p>PURPOSE. To generate an interactive platform for communication, linking and dissemination on bioethics that serves as an incentive for the generation of interdisciplinary and/or networked work in bioethics.</p> <p>Impact Indicators</p>	<p>- Number of institutions that actively participate in the Atlas/Number of institutions that are part of the Atlas. Objective: to identify how many institutions that are part of the Atlas actually use it to generate interdisciplinary work. Active participation will be understood as the periodic updating of data, promotion of courses, searches for researchers or lines of research. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p>

COMPONENTS	MANAGEMENT	
<p>What did we find?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.1. Include complete information on the largest number of institutions working on bioethics in Latin America. - G.2. Identify the existing bioethics work networks in Latin America. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of institutions that respond and return the form/number of institutions contacted. Objective: to determine whether the Atlas contains a representative amount of information on existing institutions in Latin America that work on bioethics. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i> - Number of networks that respond and return the form/number of networks contacted. Objective: to determine whether the Atlas contains a representative amount of information on existing networks in Latin America that work on bioethics. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i> - Number of people who enter the interactive platform/time they remain on the interactive platform. Objective: determine whether the Atlas is effectively reaching people working in or interested in bioethics at the national and international level. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i>
<p>Result Indicators</p>		

	<p>TRAINING</p> <p>F.1. Include in the Atlas information related to the number of educational offerings (courses, diplomas, specialties, master's degrees and doctorates) aimed at training in bioethics in the region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of courses in bioethics included in the Atlas/number of courses identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas includes a representative number of courses in bioethics identified in web searches. <i>Se calculará en modo de porcentaje.</i> - Number of graduates in bioethics included in the Atlas/number of courses identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas includes a representative number of graduates in bioethics identified in web searches. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i> - Number of bioethics specialties included in the Atlas/number of courses identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas includes a representative number of bioethics specialties identified in web searches. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i>
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		<p>- Number of master's degrees in bioethics included in the Atlas/number of master's degrees identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas contains a representative number of master's degrees in bioethics identified in web searches. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p> <p>- Number of PhDs in bioethics included in the Atlas/number of courses identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas includes a representative number of PhDs in bioethics identified in web searches. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p>
	<p>RESEARCH</p> <p>-I.1.Include information about indexed journals, popular journals, and other periodical publications on bioethics in Latin America.</p>	<p>- Number of periodical publications on bioethics included in the Atlas/number of periodical publications on bioethics identified. Objective: determine whether the Atlas contains information on a significant number of bioethics journals. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p>

	<p>-I.2.Include information about institutions that conduct research on bioethics in the region.</p> <p>-I.3.Include information about the lines of research and topics addressed by institutions working on Bioethics in Latin America.</p>	<p>- Number of institutions that carry out research on bioethics topics included in the Atlas/number of institutions that carry out research identified in the region. Objective: determine whether the Atlas contains information on a significant number of popular articles on bioethics. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p> <p>- Number of lines of research on bioethics reported/number of existing lines of research in the field of bioethics. Objective: to verify that the lines of research encompassed by the discipline of bioethics, including emerging topics, are covered in the Ibero-American region. <i>It will be calculated as a percentage.</i></p>
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Source: own elaboration.

5. Other indicators related to the state of bioethics in Ibero-America

In addition to the indicators set out in the MLM developed in the previous table, Table 3 proposes another set of indicators related to the previous ones, which will be used to monitor and analyze the state of bioethics in the region.

Table 3. Indicators for diagnosing the state of bioethics in Ibero-America

Indicators for the diagnosis of bioethics in Latin America	
MANAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number and type of activities carried out by centers and institutes working on bioethics in each Latin American country. - Number and characteristics of the networks or associations on bioethics identified in each Latin American country. - Number and type of activities carried out by international bioethics organizations that have an impact on Latin American countries. - Number and type of activities carried out by bioethics observatories in Latin America. - Number and characteristics of national bioethics commissions in Latin American countries. - Number and activities carried out by state, regional or local committees in Latin American countries. - Number and characteristics of hospital bioethics committees by country in Latin America. - Number and characteristics of research ethics committees by country in Latin America.

EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number and characteristics of courses on bioethics by country in Latin America.- Number and characteristics of diplomas and seminars on bioethics by country in Latin America.- Number and characteristics of specialties on bioethics by country in Latin America.- Number and characteristics of master's degrees on bioethics by country in Latin America.- Number and characteristics of doctorates on bioethics by country in Latin America.
RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Number and characteristics of institutions that have a research area in bioethics.- Number of bioethics researchers identified by country.- Number and type of lines of research being developed on bioethics in Latin America.- Number and characteristics of Latin American journals and periodical publications focused on bioethics.

Source: own elaboration.

It is important to recognize that the indicators developed are susceptible to adjustments, adaptations and modifications as the ORIBI project progresses. This flexibility is essential to address the inherent complexity of the reality in which we are working. Since projects often evolve and face unexpected challenges, it is necessary to be prepared to review and redefine the indicators according to the needs and results observed in the development of the project. This dynamic approach allows for greater responsiveness and better alignment with the objectives and changing conditions of the environment in which the work is being carried out.

6. Conclusions

Bioethics, understood as ethics applied to life, has increased its relevance due to the need to incorporate ethical and moral principles in global decision making, especially in contexts of uncertainty related to human life and its habitus or environment. This reflects an expansion of the field beyond medicine to encompass areas such as the environment, human rights and the fight against poverty and discrimination.

In this framework, the Observatory of the Ibero-American Bioethics Network (ORIBI) emerges as a strategic response to the complex ethical challenges in the Ibero-American region, seeking to consolidate dispersed efforts and promote regional collaboration. Its objective is to strengthen research, education and dissemination in bioethics, facilitate the exchange of experiences and best practices, and promote a bioethical culture that prioritizes human dignity. Emphasizing and highlighting the importance and relevance of ORIBI in this context is essential for understanding the expansion of the field of bioethics beyond medicine, encompassing areas such as the environment, human rights and the fight against poverty and discrimination.

The idea of fostering collaborative work among the various existing observatories cannot be underestimated. Such collaboration would not only strengthen institutional development in the region but would also enrich the individual efforts of each observatory. Rather than competition among them, it is a matter of joining forces in the construction of common objectives. Bioethics observatories play a fundamental role in the monitoring and analysis of complex phenomena. Their work goes beyond mere data collection, as they seek to interpret the results within specific local contexts. In addition, they strive to disseminate this knowledge to a wider audience, which contributes to the enrichment of public debate and encourages informed decision-making.

By collaborating closely with each other, observatories can better leverage their resources and expertise. This allows for greater

efficiency in identifying trends, producing more comprehensive analyses and generating relevant recommendations. Ultimately, this collaboration not only benefits the observatories themselves, but also promotes the advancement of bioethics and the well-being of society as a whole.

The planning and development of ORIBI involves a methodology based on the logical framework, including the definition of impact, outcome and management indicators. This strategic planning is fundamental to guiding the observatory's actions, evaluate its progress and adjust its approach as needed. In addition, recognizing the need for flexibility and adaptability in project development is crucial. Indicators and strategies must be open to adjustment to respond effectively to emerging challenges and changing environmental conditions.

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Annex 1. Narrative summary

NARRATIVE SUMMARY							
Goals	To collect, analyze, structure and monitor information about the actions carried out by institutions working in bioethics in Latin America and to include the results of this research in the Atlas, in such a way as to encourage collaborative and interdisciplinary work.						
Purpose	Generate an interactive platform for linking and disseminating information on bioethics that serves as an incentive for the generation of interdisciplinary and/or networked work in bioethics.						
Components	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Management</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.1.Include complete information on the largest number of institutions working on bioethics in Latin America. - G.2.Identify the existing bioethics work networks in Latin America. </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training</td> <td>- F.1. Include in the Atlas information related to the number of educational offerings (courses, diplomas, specialties, master's degrees and doctorates) aimed at training in bioethics in the region.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Research</td> <td>- I.1. Include information about indexed journals, popular journals and other periodical publications on bioethics in Latin America.</td> </tr> </table>	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.1.Include complete information on the largest number of institutions working on bioethics in Latin America. - G.2.Identify the existing bioethics work networks in Latin America. 	Training	- F.1. Include in the Atlas information related to the number of educational offerings (courses, diplomas, specialties, master's degrees and doctorates) aimed at training in bioethics in the region.	Research	- I.1. Include information about indexed journals, popular journals and other periodical publications on bioethics in Latin America.
	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.1.Include complete information on the largest number of institutions working on bioethics in Latin America. - G.2.Identify the existing bioethics work networks in Latin America. 					
	Training	- F.1. Include in the Atlas information related to the number of educational offerings (courses, diplomas, specialties, master's degrees and doctorates) aimed at training in bioethics in the region.					
Research	- I.1. Include information about indexed journals, popular journals and other periodical publications on bioethics in Latin America.						

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.2. Include information about institutions that conduct research on bioethics issues in the region. - I.3. Include information about the lines of research and topics addressed by institutions working on bioethics in Latin America.
Activity	Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G1.1. Identify the largest number of institutions working in bioethics in Ibero-America. - G1.2. Contact and request information from the largest number of institutions working in bioethics in Ibero-America (form). - G2.1. Identify the existence of existing bioethics networks in Ibero-America. - G2.2. Contact and request information from the identified networks.
	Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - F1.1. Identify the available academic offerings (courses, diploma courses, specialties, master's degrees and doctorates) for bioethics training in the region. - F1.2. Contact and request information from the institutions about courses, diploma courses, specialties, masters and doctorates in Bioethics. - F1.3. Include and classify the information in the Atlas on courses, diplomas, specialties, masters and doctorates in bioethics in Ibero-America.

	Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I.1.1. Identify and include in the Atlas the contact information and means of linkage of indexed journals, outreach journals and other periodicals on Bioethics in Ibero-America.- I.2.1. To identify and include in the Atlas information about the institutions that carry out research on bioethics issues in the region.- I.3.1. Identify and include information on the lines of research and topics addressed by institutions working in bioethics in Ibero-America.
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Annex 2. Matrix for Results Indicators (MIR)

	NARRATIVE SUMMARY	RISKS	ASSUMPTIONS
Goal	Collect information from institutions working on bioethics in Latin America and publish it in the Atlas.	That the interactive platform does not include the necessary information because it is not available on the Web or because the Institutions involved do not share their information or refuse to be part of the Atlas	Locate the appropriate information on the Web and carry out the necessary management actions with the Bioethics Institutions in the region.
Purpose	Generate an interactive platform for linking and disseminating information on bioethics that serves as an incentive for the generation of interdisciplinary and/or networked work in bioethics.	That the Atlas is not used by users or is not used for the generation of interdisciplinary and/or networked work in bioethics.	Design and implementation of information and promotion strategies on the Atlas and its benefits for interdisciplinary and network work.
Components			

Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - G.1. Include complete information on the largest number of institutions working on bioethics in Latin America. - G.2. Identify the existing bioethics work networks in Latin America. 	<p>That the contacted institutions or networks do not give their consent to participate in the Atlas, do not send detailed information about their activities or that potential users do not have access to the platform.</p>	<p>Generate and implement a strategy to highlight the benefits of participating in the Atlas for Institutions and promote the instrument in such a way that it reaches potentially interested users.</p>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - F.1. Include in the Atlas information related to the largest number of educational offerings aimed at training in bioethics in the Region. 	<p>That institutions do not provide information about courses, diplomas, specialties, master's degrees and/or doctorates in bioethics, or that the information available is not current and updated.</p>	<p>Implement management strategies that emphasize the advantages of being part of and sharing information about its academic offering with the Atlas; as well as establishing constant and systematic monitoring of the current academic offering.</p>
Investigación	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.1. Include information about indexed journals, popular journals and other periodical publications on bioethics in Latin America. 	<p>Those institutions do not provide information about the lines of research or topics addressed. Or that the information in the periodical publications on</p>	<p>Establish a strategy to highlight the benefits of sharing research lines in the Atlas and learning about the research lines of other institutions. Establish constant and</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- I.2. Include information about institutions that conduct research on bioethics in the region.- I.3. Include information about the lines of research and topics addressed by institutions working on bioethics in Latin America.	bioethics in the region is not up to date.	systematic monitoring of current bioethics journals and publications.
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