

Subcommittees

For now there is only 1 committee.

Committee on developing countries

The National Committee on Biomedical Research Ethics provides the National Committee provides consultative statements on developing country matters, meaning biomedical research projects financed by Denmark and/or under the management of Danish researchers - regardless of source of financing - for implementation in developing countries. This involves tasks not prescribed by law, which are taken on by the National Committee on its own initiative. This is a practice that has applied since around 1990.

So it is a voluntary arrangement and therefore researchers are not obliged to submit projects for evaluation. However, the National Committee is aware that researchers are generally happy with this arrangement. The National Committee's consultative statements are made in accordance with the research ethical norms under Danish legislation, which appears from the reply to the researcher. It is also stated that this is a voluntary arrangement.

In 2002, the Nuffield Council on Ethics presented the report: "The ethics of research related to healthcare in developing countries." The main purpose of the report was to assess how externally financed research projects influence the population in developing countries. Among other things, the report recommends that all countries set up an effective system for explanation of ethical aspects of research, which includes the establishment and maintenance of committees on research ethics that are independent of governments and sponsors. In this connection it is stated that research should be made the subject of ethical evaluation in the project country as well as in the country sponsoring the research.

Research projects in developing countries are often of a nature different from research projects in industrialised countries, and it is therefore appropriate that a small group of people will achieve the professional knowledge required in these cases.

On this background, the National Committee has set up a working party to currently deal with these cases.