Perceptions of Ethical Arguments Related to Euthanasia

Abstract:

The legitimacy of euthanasia is a controversial issue in many countries. Many ethical, moral, judicial or practical arguments have been expressed in favour of or against its legalization in the European public space. However, Romania seems to have remained outside these debates. In this paper we have attempted to investigate public opinion about some ethical aspects concerning euthanasia, as they are perceived in the academic field. A questionnaire was administered to students with various majors and to academic staff, which aimed to investigate: 1. their general opinion about various forms of euthanasia: active vs. passive, direct vs. indirect, voluntary vs. involuntary; 2. their agreement/disagreement with the main ethical, practical or religious arguments in favour of or against the practice of euthanasia. The results are further analysed and discussed in the Romanian socio-cultural context.

Keywords: *euthanasia, bioethics, terminal care.*