This research compares some ethical, legal and social issues implicit at the interface between assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs) and genetic testing in The Netherlands and Ecuador, from a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective. The first phase focus on the use of ARTs in each country. The second phase focus specifically on the use made of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) and Prenatal Genetic Diagnosis (PND), and its relationship to ARTs practices. Questions raised in this study included: 1) What are the regulations in Ecuador and in The Netherlands, regarding the use of ARTs and genetic testing (such as PGD and PND)? 2) What are the main similarities and differences on perceptions, attitudes, experiences and expectations of medical practitioners and patients from Ecuador and The Netherlands, regarding some ethically sensitive issues related to the practice of ARTs, PGD and PND? 3) Who at the end decides on the solution of ethically sensitive issues regarding the information based on the PGD and PND in The Netherlands and Ecuador? Based on insights from bioethics, medical anthropology, science & technology studies and health communication, this research uses a number of qualitative and quantitative methods that include: in-depth interviews, survey and content analysis. Engaging with the public is essential to the ethical conduct of this project. Hence, it promotes the public engagement. This project will have academic, social, political and ethical relevance.

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