ROOTS – Social, Environmental, and Cultural Connectivity in Past Societies

Talk: "Access and utilization of genetic resources - what the Nagoya Protocol is all about"

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Wednesday July 10 from 12 to 13.30pm

Venue: Leibnizstr. 1, Seminar Room 204

The Nagoya Protocol on **A**ccess and **B**enefit **S**haring (ABS) is an international agreement that aims at the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources. It is composed of three pillars, also known as the **ABC**s of ABS. Both **A**ccess and **B**enefit-**S**haring obligations will be established and negotiated between the Providing Country (country of origin) of the genetic resource and the User (Researcher) of the genetic resources.

Access to genetic resources will be granted by the providing country through a Prior Informed Consent (PIC) permit that allows the researchers to legally acquire this material. Within national jurisdiction, the protocol covers all genetic resources (non-human material containing DNA, dead or alive and derivatives). This excludes organisms covered by specialized treaties (e.g. International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture and Pandemic Influenza Preparedness) and any type of human material **but** includes human pathogens.

Benefit-**S**haring obligations are contractual obligations between the providing country and the user of the genetic resources and will be established through Mutually Agreed Terms (MAT) to provide for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of such genetic resources. Utilization is defined as conducting research and/or development on the genetic and/or biochemical composition of the genetic resource. This also includes R&D on derivatives such as enzymes, proteins, metabolites, etc.

Compliance obligations, on the other hand, are implemented and regulated at a national level by means of the EU ABS regulation No.511/2014. This means, if your research falls within the scope of the regulation (checklist available), you

will need to exercise a **due diligence declaration** regarding the legality of the access to the genetic resources and the establishment of benefit-sharing measures with the providing country of the genetic resources. **As a User (Researcher) of a genetic resource, you will be liable if found non-compliant with the regulation. Documentation should be kept for 20 years after the end of utilization of the genetic resources.**

In my presentation, I will walk you all through the definitions and main points you need to consider to determine whether your research falls within the scope of the regulation. If your research **falls** within the scope of the regulation, fear not! I will provide support and guidance to foster compliance with the regulation.