

Circolazione dei dati genetici e risposte del diritto tra opportunità e rischi

ELISA STEFANINI

Abstract: The availability of genetic data offers great opportunities to improve both our health and our possibility to take mindful decision about our own life. However, on one side, the improvement of the individual power of choice often faces the opposite rights of other persons (who generally belong to the same genetic group) or of the collectivity as a whole (e.g. in the context of the scientific research) and needs to be balanced with other interests. On the other side, the circulation of genetic data could also cause the risk for an individual to be reduced to the ensemble of his/her genetic features and to be object of discrimination. In this context, the scientific communication plays a very important role in order to clarify the right meaning of the genetic data, providing people with the necessary “genetic education”. A different cultural approach could also positively affect the regulatory choices and contribute to a reassessment of the “genetic exceptionalism”.

Keywords: Genetic data, Scientific research, Genetic education, Genetic exceptionalism.