FG3-Ethics: Recreate life

**Title:** Recreate life

**Faced Topic:** Ethics in scientific research

**Goal of the activity :** Make the students realize, verbalize and discuss about their own ethical feelings on science and innovations.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Description of the FG :**

1. Intro - 5 min
2. The facilitators draw a line on the blackboard. On the left extremity they write “impossible”, on the right extremity they write “doable”. There is 10 marks on the line : from 0 (impossible) to 10 (doable).
3. The facilitator draws a card with an innovation on it (see materials). The students discuss about the innovation, and must say if, according to what they think and what they know about modern technology and research, this innovation is more likely to be “impossible” or “doable”. They must physically put it somewhere on the line drawn in sec. 2. The final decision **must be** a collective consensus. This step should last about 5 min.
4. Point 3 is repeated, with new innovations, during 30 min. About 5 or 6 cards should have been discussed during this time.

*note : the students can attribute the same mark to more than one innovation.*

1. On the extremities of the line, the facilitators replace the word “impossible” by “unacceptable” and the “doable” by “desirable”. Now the 10 marks go from 0 (unacceptable) to 10 (desirable).
2. The facilitators ask the students if they think that some of the cards must now be moved. If they think so, the cards are moved, but once again, the final position must be a collective consensus. 20 minutes
3. Facilitators help the students to define “ethics” with their own words. the facilitators compare briefly this definition with what actually is ethics on nowadays research and innovation. 5 minutes
4. Debriefing. - 5 min

**Material Needed:**

* Set of A4 cards with some of the possible innovations from above (it is not necessary to treat all of them !) :
  + Chose the sex of your child.
  + Bringing back to life someone who has been under cryogenic process.
  + Recreating an extinct species.
  + Merging a rabbit with a chicken.
  + Create a child who will always be top of the class.
  + Create human beings never have heart disease.
  + Transplant a pig heart in a human being.
  + Know at birth how you will die.
  + Create a living organism from inert matter.
  + Cloning a human being.
  + Make a bacteria that can produce energy.
  + ...

*Of course other relevant ideas may be added to this list*.

* Magnets or adhesive gum to stick the cards on the blackboard.
* A marker to draw the line and write the scale.