Mrs Isabelle ERNY holds a Masters degree in civil law from the Law Faculty at the Robert Schumann University of Strasbourg (France) and is a graduate of the National School of Public Health (ENSP) in Rennes, where she began training in 1979 to be an Inspector of health and social affairs. On her graduation, she was appointed to the Directorate of Social Security in the Ministry of Social Affairs. As a senior principal administrative officer since 1994 at the Directorate General of Health (DGS) in the Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, she is currently head of the department for bioethics, patients' rights and the rights of users of the health system within the Rights of Users, Ethics and Legal Support Division (DDUAJE), where she is in charge of cross-sectoral and ethical and legal monitoring of the activities and texts of the various ministries relating to bioethics, medical ethics, patients' rights and the rights of users of the health system.

Since 1994 she has been a member of the French interministerial delegation participating in the intergovernmental work of the Council of Europe in the field of bioethics carried out by the Steering Committee on Bioethics (CDBI) until 2011 and then by the Committee on Bioethics (DH-BIO) since 2012. She was a member of the Bureau of the CDBI from 2002 to 2008, being elected to serve as Vice-Chair of the Bureau from 2005 to 2006, and then as Chair from 2007 to 2008. In 2010, she was asked by the CDBI and then by the DH-BIO to co-ordinate the drafting of a "Guide on the decision-making process regarding medical treatment in end-of-life situations" as a follow-up to the symposium held in Strasbourg in November 2010.