



Letter

Consensus Statement from the European Network of 3R Centres (EU3Rnet)

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A Network of European 3R Centres (EU3Rnet) was established in connection with the EUSAAT conference in 2018 in order to strengthen cooperation between different centres. Increased cooperation has a multitude of benefits, since many of the efforts made by local or regional centres are of national and international importance. As an important step, the members have decided to publish a consensus statement for the network.

Consensus Statement

EU3Rnet embraces *all* of the 3Rs (*Replacement, Reduction and Refinement*) throughout its work, since the 3Rs are the foundation of improved conditions for research animals and for better science.

EU3Rnet also considers it important to focus on *Non-Animal Methods*¹ as part of its collaborative efforts. *Non-Animal Methods* have largely been developed further after the introduction of the 3R concept by Russell and Burch² in 1959, thanks to technological advances in *in vitro* and *in silico* methods. EU3Rnet will therefore endeavour to promote this approach, so that researchers do not consider animal models by default when answering research questions, and instead consider the range of *Non-Animal*

Methods available, in order to avoid the unnecessary use of animal experimentation. When a relevant *Non-Animal Method* or an alternative *Replacement* method³ to an animal model does not exist, the possibilities for *Reduction* and *Refinement* of the model must be examined.

EU3Rnet considers it important that internationally relevant national efforts to develop and promote the 3Rs and *Non-Animal Methods* are disseminated within the network. The network will disseminate such information to its members, who in turn will disseminate the information further through their communication channels (which include websites, newsletters, symposia, training activities, annual reports and other channels).

EU3Rnet will emphasize the importance of involving all members of the research animal community in these efforts to develop and disseminate 3R resources. These include animal carers, technologists, veterinarians, teachers, lecturers and scientists.

All of the 3R centres in EU3Rnet pledge themselves to prioritization of their dissemination efforts. Whenever possible, they will use publically available platforms to disseminate this knowledge, in order to maximize exposure.

Participants of EU3Rnet, who agreed to the consensus statement:

Institution	Country	URL
EUSAAT – European Society for Alternatives to Animal Testing	Europe	http://www.eusaat.org/
Unit Ethics and Human-Animal Studies, Messerli Research Institute, Vienna	Austria	https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/science/ethik/
The RepRefRed society / Austrian 3R Center	Austria	https://www.reprefred.eu/EN

¹ Non-animal methods are defined as totally animal-free methods, not using any animal component.

² Russell, W. M. S. and Burch, R. L. (1959). *The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique*. <https://caat.jhsph.edu/principles/the-principles-of-humane-experimental-technique>

³ Replacement methods like *in vitro* methods might still be dependent on animal components such as fetal bovine serum or Matrigel.

* Winfried Neuhaus has submitted the Consensus Statement on behalf of all participating centres, institutes and societies of EU3Rnet.

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Institution	Country	URL
MUI animalFree Research Cluster	Austria	https://www.i-med.ac.at/muianimalfree/
Innovation Centre – 3R Alternatives (IC-3Rs)	Belgium	https://www.ic-3rs.org/
3Rs Center Czech Republic	Czech Republic	http://www.szu.cz/
The Danish 3R-Center	Denmark	https://3rcenter.dk/
BB3R - Freie Universität Berlin	Germany	https://www.bb3r.de/
Charité 3 ^R – Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin	Germany	https://charite3r.charite.de/
Leibniz Alternatives at IUF – Leibniz Research Institute for Environmental Medicine	Germany	https://en.leibniz-alternatives.de/
R2N – „Replace“ und „Reduce“ aus Niedersachsen	Germany	https://r2n.eu/
TARC _{force} 3R – Medical University Mainz	Germany	https://www.unimedizin-mainz.de/tarc/tarc-force-3r.html
ICAR3R – Interdisciplinary Center for 3Rs in Animal Research	Germany	http://www.ICAR3R.de
Comparative Medicine, Trinity College Dublin	Ireland	https://www.tcd.ie/comparativemedicine/
Centro3R: Italian Interuniversity Center for the Promotion of the 3Rs Principles in Teaching and Research	Italy	http://www.centro3r.it/
LIST – Luxembourg Institute of Science and Technology	Luxembourg	https://www.list.lu/
Norecopa	Norway	https://norecopa.no/
ROCAM – Romanian Center for Alternative Test Methods	Romania	http://rocam.usamvcluj.ro/
Slovak National Platform for 3Rs in Research, Development and Education	Slovakia	https://www.snp3rs.com/
CMCiB-IGTP – Comparative Medicine and Bioimage Centre of Catalonia, Germans Trias i Pujol Research Institute	Spain	http://www.cmcib.cat/
The Swedish 3Rs Center	Sweden	https://www.jordbruksverket.se/3R
Swiss 3RCC	Switzerland	https://www.swiss3rcc.org/en/
3Rs-Centre of Utrecht University	The Netherlands	https://www.uu.nl/en/organisation/3rs-centre
The National Centre for the 3Rs	UK	https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/

The network is an entirely independent, open and free community, which is very much dependent upon initiatives of its protagonists and personal efforts. It is based upon a bottom-up approach, and every 3Rs-centre, institute or society is welcome to join the network and sign the consensus statement.