



## 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*<sup>1</sup> as part of its collaborative efforts. *Non-Animal Methods* have largely been developed further after the introduction of the 3R concept by Russell and Burch<sup>2</sup> 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* method<sup>3</sup> 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	<a href="http://www.eusaat.org/">http://www.eusaat.org/</a>
Unit Ethics and Human-Animal Studies, Messerli Research Institute, Vienna	Austria	<a href="https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/science/ethik/">https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/en/messerli/science/ethik/</a>
The RepRefRed society / Austrian 3R Center	Austria	<a href="https://www.reprefred.eu/EN">https://www.reprefred.eu/EN</a>

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

<sup>2</sup> 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>

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

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.