

# 3R-Networks in Europe – an Update

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The purpose of this network is to bring European 3R centres and societies together to share best practices, enhance communication, support the exchange of information and prepare the ground for common initiatives.

After the initial meeting of representatives of 3Rs centres and societies at the EUSAAT conference in September 2018 in Linz (Austria), the first follow-up meeting was hosted by the Freie Universität Berlin and took place on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

Major common aims were identified: to further advance the 3Rs, to help implement the aims of Directive 2010/63/EU locally, and to develop strategies and methods to reach out and connect with scientists in basic research. The network could also be used as a platform to exchange experiences on a variety of topics, for example: how the various 3R centres and societies have been built up, how they organize events, how they secure funding etc. In addition, it can also be used for e.g. sharing teaching strategies and resources to implement the 3Rs in the education.

The meeting began with an introduction of the representatives about their aims, institutional or societal structure, their tools and their competencies. During the discussions it became clear that the diversity of the members could be the strength of the network, since they cover many different topics and have experts on Refinement, Reduction and Replacement of animal experiments.

Topics with an urgent need were identified and working groups for these topics have been defined. The progress of these working groups was presented at the third meeting during the FELASA conference in June 2019.

So far, members from Austria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have participated and the network is growing. Institutions from several other countries are in contact with the network and have expressed their wish to join the network.

The network is a completely 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 3R centre or society is welcome to join.

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