



Vlaanderen
is diervriendelijk

Reducing Animal Use

Roundtable Discussions and Action Plan

DEPARTEMENT
OMGEVING



Context

- ▶ **European Directive 2010/63/EU**
- ▶ **Belgium: ca. 475.000 animal procedures yearly**
- ▶ **Flanders: ca. 55%**
- ▶ **2019 Flemish political objective to reduce animal testing**



Flemish political objective (2019)

"We avoid animal testing as much as possible. We invest extensively in alternatives so that we can minimize or replace animal experiments with scientific methods. We initiate a roundtable with the sector to develop a concrete action plan."

Roundtable discussions & survey

- ▶ **Researchers (neurosciences, immunology, oncology)**
 - insights on the current position of animal methods and non-animal methods per domain
 - insights on obstacles and opportunities for reduction



Obstacles and opportunities

- ▶ “The interactions between different cell types, organs, and systems are too complex to replicate”
- ▶ “NAMs are not yet well-developed”
- ▶ “Lack of NAMs, equipment, expertise or information”
- ▶ ...
- ▶ “Further development, validation and acceptance”
- ▶ “Biobanks”
- ▶ “Training”
- ▶ “Sharing knowledge, infrastructure, ...”
- ▶ “Cooperation”
- ▶ “More efficient use of animals”
- ▶ ...

NAMs = New Approach Methodologies

7 key areas

- ▶ We identified seven key areas that are important for further reduction of animal use in Flanders:

1. More efficient use of animals
2. Improved knowledge sharing
3. Financing animal-free methods
4. (Further) development of methods
5. More (international) cooperation
6. Adjustment of legislation
7. Training of (future) researchers



Roundtable discussions & commitment



- ▶ **Reaching out to key organisations**

- ▶ **Organising two information sessions**
 - During these information sessions we presented the key areas and invited stakeholders to commit to 1 or more actions
 - × Commitment was voluntary
 - × Actions had to be identified bottom-up (by the organisation itself)
 - × Actions had to be new, specific and feasible
 - × Actions had to have the potential to reduce animal use in Flanders



Action plan 'Reducing animal use'

- ▶ ° 2023
- ▶ Monitoring
- ▶ Lessons learned



Thank you for your attention!

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