

Finnish 3R Center - finding place in national and international 3Rs landscape

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After adoption of Directive 2010/63/EU and its transposition into national law of EU member states, the Finnish National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific or Educational Purposes was established in 2013. Since then, there has been an ever-increasing number of Three Rs centers and platforms established in Europe and beyond (currently, 54 according to Norecopa's global map of 3Rs centers and networks). The main tasks of these organizations are to disseminate the knowledge and help the stakeholders in implementation of the Three Rs principles. After several years of preparations, the Finnish 3R Center was launched in June 2022. The center is nominated and supervised by the National Committee. The Leading group consists of a Coordinator, and Directors for Replacement, Reduction and Refinement. Each of the leaders has an advisory group with up to three experts. The objective is to promote development and use of methods and strategies based on the 3Rs in education and scientific research. This will be accomplished by increasing education and training of the researchers on 3R methods, further the development of these methods, and dissemination of the best practices to researchers and operators. One of the aims is also to improve communication between national organizations involved in using animals for research (e.g., establishing a network of animal welfare bodies) or developing replacement methods. In addition, we are actively seeking collaboration with other 3R centers internationally. The presentation will summarize the progress in achieving these goals.