

A Survey of National Research Expenditure on 3R Alternatives in Europe



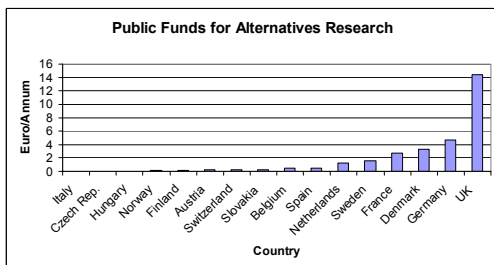
Tonia Devolder¹, Kirsty Reid², Vera Rogiers³, Simon Webb⁴, David Wilkins⁵

1 - European Consensus Platform for Alternatives (ecopa), Belgium; 2 - Eurogroup for Animals, Belgium; 3 - Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium; 4 - Procter & Gamble, Belgium; 5 - Independent Consultant, UK.

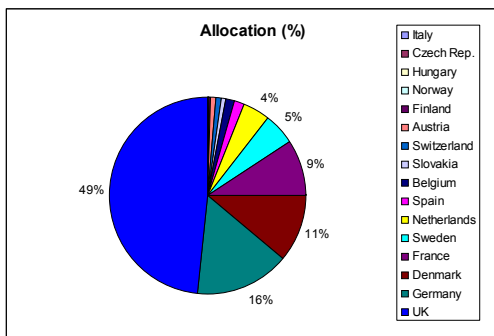
Abstract: A survey of public funded research specifically targeting alternatives to animal testing was conducted over 2006/2007. Responses were received from 16 European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom). The responses were compiled by national agencies or national consensus platforms. The current annual total across the 16 countries was estimated as €30 million. The largest contributions came from the United Kingdom with €14.4 million (48% of the total) and Germany with €4.6 million (15% of the total). Information was also collated on the existence of a national strategy on alternatives research, the focus of any such strategies, the research priority setting process, stakeholder consultation in that process, project funding preferences or limits, coordination mechanisms and the separation of responsibilities of competent authorities (i.e., for research support, laboratory animal welfare and chemicals management). Countries with national strategies (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK) are skewed towards the higher end of the spending distribution. These 6 countries account for over €25 million i.e., >80% of the overall total of national spending identified. Most countries have national consensus platforms. These should help to both stimulate stakeholder consultation and further national spending on alternatives research.

%	19	69	12	0
Response	No specific allocation for alternatives	Specific allocation for alternatives	Alternatives supported indirectly	Not known/No responses

Provision of public funds for alternatives research



Reported public funds for alternatives research in European countries: The largest contributions came from the UK (€14.4 million) and Germany with (€4.6 million). The total across the 16 countries is €30 million. This compares with an FP6 total of €80 million across five years for 13 projects actively involving ECVAM.



Relative importance of allocation of public funds for alternatives research in different European countries: Countries with national strategies (France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and UK) are skewed towards the higher end of the spending distribution. These 6 countries account for over €25 million i.e., >80% of the total.

%	50	12	19	9
Response	No policy	Policy to avoid co-funding	Policy to provide matched funding	Not known/No responses

Mechanism to match EU funding for alternatives research

%	63	37	0
Response	No national strategy	Existing national strategy	Not known/No responses

National strategy for alternatives research

%	63	31	0	6	0
Response	Not applicable as no strategy policy	All 3Rs	Reduction & Replacement	Replacement	Not known/No responses

Focus of national strategy for alternatives research

%	6	6	0	50	38
Response	No priority setting	Institution	Regional	National	Not known/No responses

Level of coordination of research priority setting

%	6	25	50	19
Response	No	Partial	All partners	Not known/No responses

Extent of stakeholder consultation in research priority setting

%	56	13	31
Response	No preference	Preference	Not known/No responses

Explicit project magnitude preference for public funding

%	31	50	19
Response	No limits (up to 100%)	Limit	Not known/No responses

Project funding limits regarding alternatives

%	0	19	44	37
Response	No	Between institutions only	Via agencies or platforms	Not known/No responses

Co-operation and co-ordination in alternatives research

%	6	94	0
Response	No national platform exists	National platform exists	Not known/No responses

Existence of national consensus platforms

%	44	37	19
Response	Separate	Overlap	Not known/No responses

Separation of competent authority responsibility for animal welfare procedures and chemical management

Acknowledgements: This project was carried out under the aegis of the Eurogroup for Animals and ecopa with the support of P&G. The cooperation of all the respondents is gratefully acknowledged. It is hoped that the results of this survey will assist both the European Commission and EU member states in better planning and cooperation in 3R alternatives research.

ecopa information: <http://www.ecopa.eu>

Eurogroup information: <http://www.eurogroupforanimals.org>

Contact: k.reid@eurogroupforanimals.org