



Workshop on Reduction and Refinement

Combining Excellence in Science and Animal Welfare

Brussels, 4-5 October 2010

Background

Significant effort is being made in developing and validating new alternative methods replacing completely the use of animals. However, important progress has also been made in improving conditions for animals still used in procedures, and to reduce their numbers, whilst increasing scientific validity of animal models whenever they are still required in risk assessment. More emphasis should be placed on the potential of reduction and refinement methods, capable of producing immediate, tangible and significant results in terms of numbers of animals saved, scientific output and animal welfare.

The objective of the workshop is to identify examples in reduction and refinement, that improve the quality of science and animal welfare, and that could be further disseminated and used more widely both within and across industry sectors.

The workshop will also make recommendations on future steps to be taken towards the implementation of “reduction” and “refinement” methods and strategies that could include opportunities for research in the area of refinement and reduction and/or coordination actions (consortia) that could be supported through public and/or private financing schemes.

Format/Programme

One and half day scientific event presenting 6-8 examples from the field of refinement and reduction, including enrichment and care, followed by a structured discussion to reach concrete recommendations on the next steps to be taken towards the use of “non-replacement” methods and strategies.

Examples of original/new approaches and strategies that would benefit from wider dissemination within a sector or across sectors will be identified amongst submissions to the **call for ideas** open at the EPAA website (www.epaa.eu.com). Examples demonstrating an improvement in the scientific quality of the results will be selected.

Target audience:

Participants will be invited from EPAA target audiences: method developers, method users, regulators and policy makers.