

Activities undertaken under Article 47 of Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to contribute to the development, validation and promotion of alternative approaches, and dissemination of information thereon at national level

Member State: **SWEDEN**

Time period: **until February 2015**

Submitted by: **Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation**

ACTIVITY	ACTION TAKEN	OBJECTIVE	RESULTS - IMPACT	MONETARY VALUE (where appropriate)
1. Three Rs policy and investment	List any changes in, or amendments to the Three Rs policy (including legislative changes) aimed at promoting and accelerating the development and uptake of alternative approaches. Describe the steps taken to encourage research in this field.			
Policy changes	A government mission was given in May 2011 to the Swedish Board of Agriculture, the Swedish Research Council and Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare at the University of Agricultural Sciences to jointly work out a proposal for the future national work in the area of the 3Rs.	To identify measures to be taken in order to strengthen the area of the 3Rs.	The investigating authorities proposed that a 3Rs centre should be established at the Swedish Board of Agriculture. In February 2014 the Parliament agreed with the government that a 3Rs centre should be established according to the proposal. In November a government mission was given to the Swedish Board of Agriculture to commence	

			the establishment of the 3Rs centre. The Board shall report the results in December 2015.	
Public research investment	<p>Different governmental authorities have been responsible for funding in the area of the 3Rs since the early 1980ies.</p> <p>Since 2009 funding is the responsibility of the Swedish Research Council.</p>	<p>Promoting the development of alternative methods according to the 3Rs.</p> <p>The call for applications for funding is conducted after consultation with the Swedish Board of Agriculture. A 3R relevance is an absolute requirement.</p> <p>www.vr.se</p>	Increase awareness of the 3Rs and contribute to the development of the research area.	About 1.380.000 EUR per year
Private research investment	<p>Swedish Fund for Research Without Animal Experiments</p> <p>www.forskautandjurforsok.se</p>	<p>Promotes the development and validation of replacement alternatives to animal experiments. Grants are awarded annually to research, validation and information projects.</p>		100.000 – 200.000 EUR per year

2. Validation and regulatory acceptance of alternative approaches	List measures taken to validate alternatives which are intended to reduce or eliminate the need for animal use or intended to reduce suffering by application of less painful (more refined) procedures. List measures taken to facilitate and promote regulatory acceptance of alternative approaches.			
EU-NETVAL laboratory membership(s)	Through the PARERE contact point call to laboratories to announce their interest to participate.	Contribute to EU-NETVAL activities.	SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden appointed to be a test facility in EU-NETVAL.	About 212.000 EUR per year to contribute to the participation of Swedish laboratories in validation studies at EU level.
EU-NETVAL task participation	SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden selected to participate in the validation of the AR-CALUX <i>in vitro</i> method.			
PARERE membership and activities within PARERE network	Selection of PARERE member. Swedish Centre for Animal Welfare at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.	PARERE contribution.	The establishment of a national PARERE network to advise the Commission on alternative methods for validation based on their potential to fulfil regulatory needs and acquire recognition.	

3. Promotion of alternative approaches at national level	Describe specific measures taken to promote alternative approaches at national level.			
Communication/ awareness activities and events	A symposium on Refinement; “Animal welfare – Scientific Gain” was arranged by AstraZeneca Safety Assessment, the Karolinska Institute and the Swedish Research Council 2012.	Sharing practical experiences of development and implementation of Refinement in animal experimentation.	The symposium attracted over 120 participants including representatives from Swedish government departments and authorities, universities, animal rights groups, members of regional ethical committees, students, animal house personnel and the general public.	
	Workshop on emerging trends in methods to identify endocrine disruptors, organized by Swetox and the Swedish Chemicals Agency (KemI) 2014.	Establish a national network for endocrine disruptors between regulatory authorities and academia. Dissemination of knowledge of alternative methods for safety assessments of chemicals.	About 70 participants, of which two thirds were representatives from academia.	
	Information meetings on the Directive 2010/63/EU for persons under Article 24 and designated veterinarians (Article	Increase knowledge among responsible persons and designated	Increased awareness on the legislative demands and diversity of the field as well as opportunity	

	25) effected.	veterinarians on the new legislation.	for networking.	
Education and training activities	Preparatory work to this effect in the National Committee for example education of the members in the regional ethical committees and meetings with animal welfare bodies.			
	Support of the EU Platform on Education and training.	Contribute to the initial activities of the Platform with the objective of improving competence of those working with animals with impact on the application of 3Rs.	Enables the dissemination of information on available 3Rs training through the Platform website.	10 400 EUR
Organisations in the field of Three Rs	Start of Swetox, the Swedish Toxicology Sciences Research Institute, in 2014. Specialists with competence in reduction, refinement and replacement of laboratory animals were recruited. www.swetox.se	Facilitate collaboration between 11 Swedish Universities within research and education in the fields of toxicology-related sciences, according to the 3R principles. To develop and validate in silico, in vitro and in vivo alternative methods.	A strong organization for increased 3R awareness and implementation in the toxicology sciences, medical research, regulatory authorities and general public.	