



EARA Strategic Plan 2023 - 2028

1. EARA vision and mission

***Our vision:** animal research is understood by society as still a critical part of the scientific process, leading to an informed and beneficial climate for innovation and progress for the benefit of human and animal and environmental health.*

***Our mission:** to be the leading voice in Europe for organisations that use animals for scientific purposes and to ensure that all stakeholders are informed and understand the use of animals for as long as it is needed.*

2. EARA 2023-2028 strategy and objectives

Objective 1 - Establish EARA as the leading and trusted voice in Europe representing organisations that use and breed animals for scientific purposes.

- deployment of an EARA member of staff in Brussels who will lead EARA policy and regulatory activities. The objective is to monitor and anticipate relevant developments in Brussels and EU Member States, in particular any review of EU Directive 2010/63.
- respond in a collaborative coalition to regulatory and legislative proposals to review the use of, breeding of, and transport of animals used for scientific purposes in Europe, and to ensure that any new regulations and proposals meet both life science or environmental research and animal welfare needs.
- maintain a dialogue and co-operate with European stakeholders active in the use of animals for scientific purposes. Liaise as appropriate with national bodies.
- support the creation and co-ordination of an informal, but influential grouping of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) to help relevant stakeholders strengthen the development of a more balanced



understanding of the use of animals for scientific purposes in the European Parliament.

- ensure that in the run up to EU Parliament election campaigns EARA will seek to co-ordinate the education of MEPs and the media on the potential impact on future medical advances of the election of politically-driven opponents of animals used for scientific purposes.
- Seek active engagement with other organisations created to evaluate and improve knowledge of Non-Animal Methods (NAMs) in scientific research.

Objective 2 – Drive the efforts to respond to the growing political pressure and campaigns seeking the premature end of the use of animals for scientific purposes

- develop and communicate robust policy positions, based on scientific evidence, that will outline where it is feasible through scientific innovation to transition towards the use of NAMs and where that transition has already been made.
- showcase where current scientific knowledge means that, in the near future, the transition to NAMs is unlikely and highlight the risks to human and animal health and research of a premature end of animals used for scientific purposes.
- assist our members and the sector in its response to the growing political narrative that seeks to present the use of animals in scientific research as old-fashioned, conservative and not relevant to human and animal health, and to show that innovation is central to scientific research.
- increase the understanding that it is currently not possible to protect the health and welfare of companion, farm and wild animals without using animals from the same species.
- co-ordinate working groups of scientific expertise to allow EARA to speak and collaborate with all stakeholders.
- liaise directly with non-European stakeholders to ensure that we share best practice and alert each other to regional regulatory and political issues that will impact on our global membership.

European Animal Research Association

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Objective 3 – Drive cultural change, focusing on Institutional policies and practices, on how organizations communicate to the public about their use of animals for scientific purposes

- work with the Commission to improve transparency on the use of animals in research.
- establish further Transparency Agreements on Animal Research (TA).
- hold an annual international conference showcasing best practice on communicating the use of animals in scientific research
- be the voice of European institutions using animals for scientific purposes and to expand our influence globally.
- communicate on the progress away from animal research through the implementation of the 3Rs principles continuously.
- see a broadening and deepening of membership in Europe and continue to accept members globally.
- seek additional funding from stakeholders for distinct communication campaign opportunities when they arise.

Objective 4 - Support and lead efforts to maintain a conducive operating environment for the use of animals in scientific research in Europe

- help co-ordinate a response to significant challenges to the transport of research animals.
- be the key body representing institutions that use animals for scientific purposes and is proactively engaged in regulatory discussion at the European level.
- represent the biomedical and life sciences European sector, where appropriate, at meetings of global bodies and inter-governmental agencies and work closely with advocacy partners.
- position EARA as the European association leading engagement and communications on the supply and use of non-human primates (NHP) and dogs in research.

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- help the Commission and other significant stakeholders to understand that the role of NHPs and dogs in research is still critical and to create pan-European networks of researchers

Objective 5 - Ensure that EARA has the resources and operational resilience to meet current and future demands on the association

- establish a firm financial base for the association allowing us to meet the future operational activity of EARA.
- protect EARA from cyber threats and ensure the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of its data and systems.
- ensure that any surplus operating income accrued is managed to the benefit of EARA membership.
- improve current employees' existing competencies and skills and develop new ones to support and help deliver EARA goals.
- increase the overall collective scientific competence of EARA staff.

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