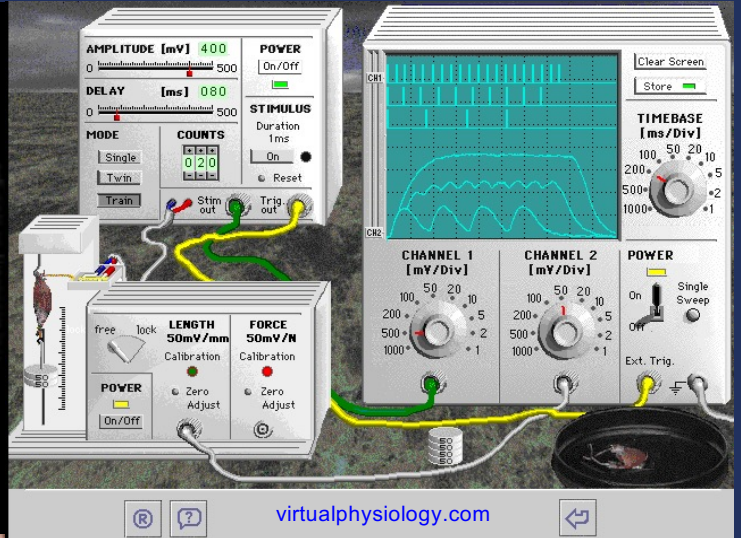


norecopa



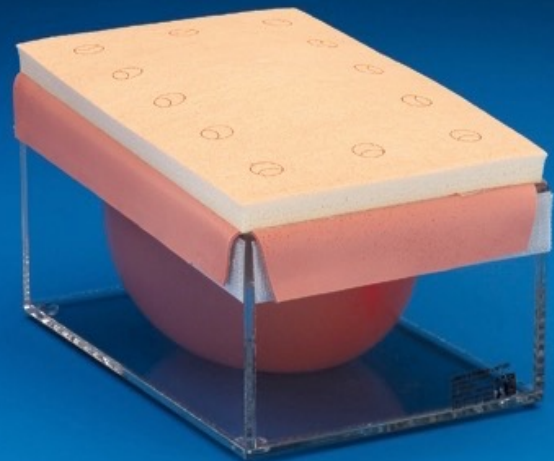
3dglasshorse.com



virtualphysiology.com



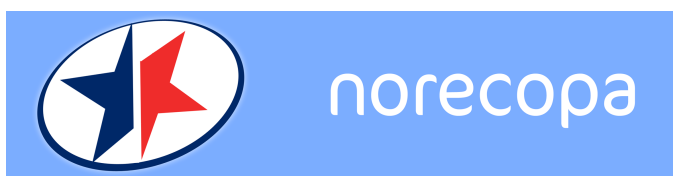
rescuecritters.com



limbsandthings.com

Annual Report for 2020

Norecopa



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Annual Report for 2020

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Norecopa could not arrange a physical meeting in 2020 because of the pandemic. Those matters which, according to Norecopa's statutes, had to be raised were therefore presented to members in electronic form. These were the membership fees, approval of Norecopa's Activity Plan, Annual Report and accounts for 2019, and election of Board members for research and industry. 14

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 Scientific papers..... 19

 Norecopa's Secretary published the following scientific papers in 2020: 19

 1. Smith AJ. Guidelines for planning and conducting high-quality research and testing on animals. Laboratory Animal Research, 36(21)..... 19

 2. Utne-Palm, AC & Smith AJ. Fish as Laboratory Animals. In: The Welfare of Fish. Springer Nature, ISBN 978-3-030-41675-1. p. 375-400..... 19

 Chronicles and newspaper letters 19

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2020 in a nutshell

About Norecopa

Norecopa is a consensus platform¹ working to promote “the 3 R’s” (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)² within animal research. Norecopa's structure and mission are described in more detail in the Appendix to this Report.

In 2019 Norecopa’s Board approved a slogan to express its core aims and values in one concise statement:

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

Norecopa was 13 years old on 10 October 2020. The organisation has made considerable progress in 2020, despite the fact that the pandemic has resulted in changes to many meetings. This progress is for a large part due to the fact that Norecopa is well represented on the Internet.

What have we achieved?

Norecopa's most important milestones in 2020 have been:

- launch of a Refinement Wiki
- further development of Norecopa's website
- embedding yet another dataset from the EU Commission in Norecopa's website
- international promotion of the PREPARE guidelines
- further development of webpages for the European Network of 3R Centres and for the International Culture of Care Network

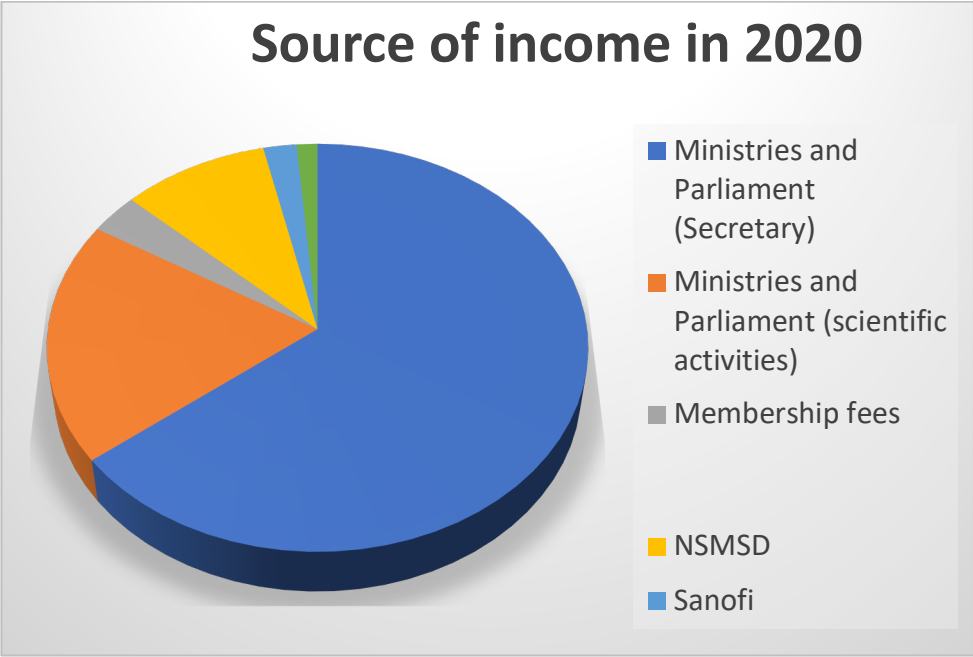
These milestones are described briefly in the main part of this Report. More details and Norecopa's additional activities are described in the Appendix.

Where has the money come from?

Norecopa receives core funding from two Ministries, which in 2020 financed Norecopa’s Secretary in a 100% position, as they did in 2019. In addition, Parliament allocated NOK 250,000 directly to Norecopa as a contribution towards its scientific activities. The rest of Norecopa’s activity was financed by membership fees and funds for which Norecopa had applied. More details are to be found in the Appendix.

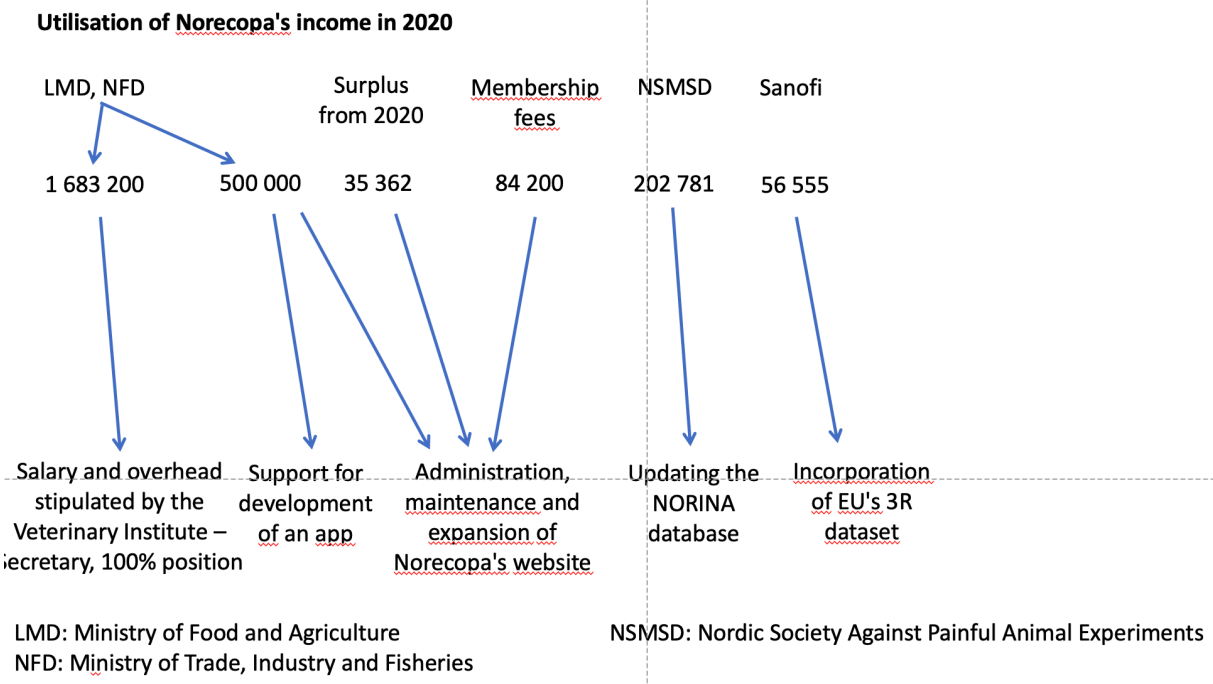
¹ <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/consensus>

² <https://norecopa.no/alternatives/the-three-rs>



What has the money been used for?

The diagram below indicates how Norecopa's income was deployed in 2020. Norecopa had one employee in 2020: Adrian Smith is Norecopa’s Secretary, and he has worked in a 100% position. In addition, Norecopa has paid Elisabeth Pagels an hourly rate to update the NORINA database³.



³ <https://norecopa.no/NORINA>

Of Norecopa's total income from Parliament and other sources, only 0.5% was used for office expenses and administration of the organisation, including legal and consultancy fees. The accounts are described in more detail in the Appendix.

Milestone: We launched a Refinement Wiki

In 2019 Norecopa began to prepare the task of installing software needed to run a Wiki⁴. An application for support was sent to the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance's Research Fund⁵. Norecopa was granted NOK 62,500 kr for this purpose at the end of 2019. The work of building and testing the Wiki took place in the Winter of 2019, and the Refinement Wik was formally launched in the middle of March 2020 (wiki.norecopa.no). This event was unfortunately dominated by developments in the pandemic, which has so far resulted in a smaller number of Wikipages than originally hoped for. The Wiki has, however, received much praise and is expected to increase in size over time.

Milestone: We further developed Norecopa's website

The website norecopa.no is Norecopa's largest single resource, and is available free of charge. The website contains, among other things, several databases which were established in the 1990's, and which therefore need to be updated regularly. Norecopa pays an assistant to update one of these databases (NORINA), which consists of approximately 3,000 pages. Norecopa's Secretary also spends much time on maintenance of the website. In 2020, information on old resources has been removed, and new products added. The Secretary has also published new resources collected from his international network.

The website is driven by several programs on different external servers, with individual licences and support agreements. These programs have to be updated, and their performance controlled, regularly. These routine maintenance tasks cost Norecopa at least NOK 100,000 per year.

Thanks to these investments, the website has proved to be extremely reliable, and its international popularity continues to increase. The website had 300,693 hits (from 133,773 unique users) in 2020. These are increases of 19% and 17%, respectively, in relation to 2019. There is more information about Norecopa's website in the Appendix.

⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wiki>

⁵ <https://dyrevern.no/dyrevern/the-norwegian-animal-protection-fund>

Milestone: We embedded yet another dataset from the EU Commission in Norecopa's website

In 2020 Norecopa embedded yet another set of data of 3R resources from the EU Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) in its website. The resources, which were collected by the JRC between June and September 2018, give an overview of courses in Laboratory Animal Science and the 3Rs principle, at all levels from High School to University, and for training of personnel who will be using research animals. The inventory holds over 550 resources. By embedding it in Norecopa's website, it may be searched simultaneously with Norecopa's other resources, and then filters can be applied to the search results to reduce the number of hits. Norecopa is extremely grateful to Sanofi who sponsored this work with 5000 euros.

Milestone: We promoted the PREPARE guidelines internationally

Norecopa's guidelines for planning animal experiments, PREPARE (*Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence*), were pre-published in the journal *Laboratory Animals* in 2017, and appeared in the April issue of the journal in 2018⁶. This paper has been viewed or downloaded over 16,700 times from the journal's website since it was published and up until the end of 2020⁷. It has also been cited 70 times in scientific papers.

PREPARE includes a 15-point checklist. This was translated into two additional languages in 2020, bringing the total number up to 23 by the end of the year.

In 2019 Norecopa produced a short cartoon film illustrating the rationale behind the use of PREPARE⁸. In 2020 Norecopa added optional subtitles in several languages to the film. There is more information about this in the Appendix.

Norecopa's Secretary held a total of 18 oral presentations about PREPARE and planning of animal experiments in 2020, in 13 countries, the majority as online events. The number of endorsements of PREPARE by organisations and institutions continued to increase in 2020⁹.

The Appendix contains more information about these developments.

Milestone: We further developed webpages for the European Network of 3R Centres and for the International Culture of Care Network

A network of European 3R Centres was established in 2019, as the result of an initiative during the EUSAAT Congress in Linz in 2018. The network has been given the provisional name of EU3Rnet. In 2020 the network delivered an application for a COST Action to finance future activities.

⁶ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0023677217724823>

⁷ <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/metrics/10.1177/0023677217724823>

⁸ <https://norecopa.no/prepare/film>

⁹ <https://norecopa.no/PREPARE/endorsements>

On behalf of the network, Norecopa has constructed an interactive map of European 3R Centres, with links to descriptions of each Centre¹⁰. More details of this collaboration, and of the International Culture of Care Network, are available in the Appendix.

Oslo, March 2021

Bente Bergersen
(Head of the Board)

Chris Noble
(Board Member)

Kristian Straume-Lie
(Board Member)

Susanna Lybæk
(Board Member)

Adrian Smith (Secretary)

¹⁰ <https://norecopa.no/3REurope>

Appendix

1) About the organisation

Norecopa's structure and plan

Norecopa is an independent member organisation, registered in Brønnøysund Register Centre, with its own statutes¹¹, and the Annual General Meeting as its highest authority¹².

Norecopa's Board represents four major stakeholders in animal research and testing:

- Regulators
- Industry
- Academia
- Animal welfare organisations

Norecopa is also a member of the European umbrella organisation for National Consensus Platforms, *ecopa (European Consensus-Platform on Alternatives)*¹³.

Norecopa has an Activity Plan¹⁴ which is approved at the Annual General Meetings. The plan was not updated in 2020.

Norecopa's Board and Annual General Meeting

In 2020 Norecopa's Annual General Meeting had to be replaced with electronic voting because of the pandemic. The Annual Report and accounts for 2019, and the Board's budget proposal for 2020, were approved. Norecopa only received 6 electronic votes. Considering that the Annual General Meeting is Norecopa's highest organ, this number is extremely disappointing.

Board Members for industry and research were elected in 2020, after which the Board consisted of the following Members:

Bente Bergersen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, (Head of the Board)**

deputy: Gunvor Knudsen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority*

Kristian Straume-Lie, Biomark**

deputy: Ingebjørg O. Sævareid, Salmon Group*

Chris Noble, Nofima**

deputy: Siri Kristine Gåsnes, Norwegian Veterinary Institute*

Susanna Lybæk, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance*

deputy: Birgitte Fineid, Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals**

*until 2022 **until 2024

¹¹ <https://norecopa.no/vedtekter>

¹² <https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/årsmøter>

¹³ <http://www.ecopa.eu>

¹⁴ <https://norecopa.no/aktivitetsplan>

All the documents and minutes from the Meeting are available on Norecopa's website¹⁵.

Three Board Meetings were held in 2020 (on 17 February, 4 May and 22 September). The minutes of these meetings are available on Norecopa's website¹⁶.

Norecopa's Election Committee

The Election Committee was chosen for a two-year period at the Annual General Meeting in 2019, and consists of:

- Dag Atle Tuft, Norwegian Food Safety Authority (representative for the regulators)
- Trygve Poppe, Pharmaq AS (representative for industry)
- Marianne Waldum Furnes, NTNU (representative for academia)
- Adeleid Haugen, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (representative for animal welfare organisations)

The Secretariat

Norecopa's secretariat is affiliated to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, who therefore have responsibility for Norecopa's personnel and accounts. The position as Secretary is located under the Section for Animal Health, Wildlife and Welfare. The Secretary receives support from the Institute's Administration, among other things to issue invoices.

Adrian Smith has been permanently employed as Norecopa's Secretary in a 50% position since 2008. In agreement with Norecopa's Board, he works from home. In 2020 he worked in a 100% position, thanks to a decision by Parliament during the budgetary debate in December 2019.

Work conditions, equality and environmental impact

In 2020 Norecopa had one male employee in a 100% position. He had an agreement with the Norwegian Veterinary Institute permitting him to work from home. Norecopa's Board consists of two men and two women (one of the latter being Head of the Board). No injuries or accidents to the employees were registered in 2020, nor were complaints about the working environment registered. Norecopa does not perform tasks which can cause significantly detrimental effects to the environment.

¹⁵ <https://norecopa.no/arsmoter>

¹⁶ <https://norecopa.no/styrereferater>

Norecopa's members

At the end of 2020, 40 institutions or departments were full members of Norecopa, and 21 private persons were associate members. Both these figures are two less than in 2019. The majority of the large research institutions in Norway are members of Norecopa. No increases in fees were made in 2020. The membership fee is NOK 2,000 for institutions or departments, and NOK 200 for private persons. The fees for private persons have been unchanged since Norecopa was founded in 2007.

2) Finances

Accounts for 2020

Norecopa's core funding comes from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Landbruks- og matdepartementet) and from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (Nærings- og Fiskeridepartementet). This is provided via funds given to the Veterinary Institute to enable them to carry out tasks for the Government. In December 2019 Parliament voted to allocate a 100% position to Norecopa's secretariat in 2020. The Veterinary Institute runs Norecopa's accounts as a project, which meant that the cost of the secretarial position was stipulated by them to be NOK 1,683,200 in 2020. This amount covers not only the Secretary's salary, but also the Institute's overhead for the position.

In addition to covering this cost, Parliament allocated NOK 500,000 directly to Norecopa as a contribution towards its scientific activities. The rest of Norecopa's activity in 2020 was financed by membership fees and funds for which Norecopa has applied from external sources. For the fiscal year of 2020 these external contributions amounted to a total of NOK 676,117. This includes a surplus of NOK 35,362 from 2019. The accounts for 2020 show a deficit of NOK 50,190 which was carried over to 2021.

In addition to the accounts within the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Norecopa has a bank account in Sparebanken Sør, for the receipt and use of donated funds from external sources. This account is monitored by an independent accounting company (Saldo Regnskap, Risør). The purpose of the account is to ensure that any surplus from such donations is carried over to the following year in its entirety. In 2020 this bank account received NOK 250,000 from the Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments (NSMSD)¹⁷ for updating the NORINA database. At the end of 2020 this account had a surplus of NOK 301,840.

¹⁷ <https://www.nsmsd.no>

Regnskap og budsjett, Norecopa				
Utgifter	Regnskap 2020	Budsjett 2020	Regnskap 2019	Budsjett 2019
1 Deltagelse på ecopas årsmøte		10 000,00	0,00	10 000,00
Drift av sekretariatet				
2 Bokførte utgifter til sekretærstillingen (Adrian Smith)	1 683 200,00	1 683 200,00	1 590 040,00	1 590 040,00
3 Bokførte utgifter til konsulent (NORINA)	0,00	0,00	138 609,39	0,00
4 Kontorutgifter	5 700,00	14 417,00	24 723,82	22 814,00
4a Kontorrekvisita	481,00	9 417,00	7 245,00	17 814,00
4b Kjøp og oppgradering av datamaskin og programvare	5 219,00	5 000,00	17 478,82	5 000,00
Trykningsutgifter				
5 Materiale til årsmøtet	0,00	0,00	5 000,00	5 000,00
6 Øvrig informasjonsmateriale	0,00	20 000,00	74 050,86	100 000,00
7 Medlemsavgift ecopa	1 062,66	1 000,00	982,43	1 000,00
8 Faglige møter	40 993,40	50 000,00	117 667,80	7 000,00
Nettsider				
9 Lisenser og supportavtaler	80 706,32	100 000,00	78 973,84	319 273,00
10 Videreutvikling og reparasjoner av nettsidene	429 937,51	282 200,00	183 062,52	
11 Domenerregistrering	7 368,20	10 000,00	8 481,25	7 670,00
Styremøter & årsmøte				
12 Reiseutgifter	0,00	20 000,00	28 058,69	15 000,00
12 Arsmøte (gjesteforelesere og Norecopas personale)	0,00	10 000,00	27 350,73	10 000,00
13 Hørringer og lignende	0,00	10 000,00	868,96	5 000,00
14 Bevertning	0,00	7 000,00	6 927,92	5 000,00
14 Arsmøte / annet møte (hvis det er mulig å arrangere det)	0,00	7 000,00	6 927,92	
Øvrig faglig aktivitet	160 539,80	261 500,00	150 254,00	580 500,00
15 Utdeling av 3R pris	0,00	31 000,00	30 949,58	30 000,00
16 Annet faglig arbeid inkl. fiskeapp (+ utgifter til advokat og regnskapskontor)	156 864,80	220 000,00	45 330,29	150 000,00
17 Oppdatering av NORINA	0,00	0,00	290 000,00	290 000,00
18 ENRICH-Fish	0,00	500,00	402,50	500,00
19 Oppgradering av nettsidene	lagt til pkt. 10 overfor	lagt til pkt. 10 overfor	71 484,38	100 000,00
20 PREPARE	3 675,00	10 000,00	2 078,28	50 000,00
21 Konsensusmøte	0,00	0,00		
Sum utgifter uten midlene til sekretærstillingen	726 307,89	776 117,00	811 792,52	
Refusjoner i forbindelse med innleverte foredrag ikke bokført overfor	0,00	0,00	-18 946,80	
Sum utgifter	2 409 507,89	2 459 317,00	2 382 885,72	2 658 297,00
Inntekter				
22 Tildelinger	-2 183 200,00	-2 183 200,00	-1 840 040,00	-1 840 040,00
23 Medlemsavgifter	0,00	-100 000,00	-122 152,00	-110 000,00
24 Tilskudd fra Sianens/LAL/SAB/Dyrebeskyttelsesens Fond/Scand-LAS	0,00	0,00	-50 000,00	
25 Tilskudd fra Nordisk Samfunn	0,00	0,00	0,00	-250 000,00
26 ENRICH-Fish	0,00	0,00		
27 Novo Nordisk + NSMSD + BAB + LAL + USDA + UFAW + Rahns + Sanofi	-56 555,00	-56 555,00		-50 000,00
28 PREPARE	0,00	0,00		
29 Medlemsavgift, fullt medlemskap	-80 000,00	-80 000,00	-80 000,00	-82 000,00
30 Medlemsavgift, assosiert medlemskap	-4 200,00	-4 200,00	-4 200,00	-4 400,00
31 Underforbruk fra året før	-35 362,00	-35 362,00	-321 856,62	-321 857,00
Sum inntekter	-2 359 317,00	-2 459 317,00	-2 418 248,62	-2 658 297,00
Resultat	-50 190,89	0,00	35 362,90	0,00

I tillegg til disse midlene opprettet Norecopa i 2019 en konto i Sparebanken Sør, administrert av Saldo Regnskap, Riser, jf. det reviderte regnskapet for 2019: <https://norecopa.no/media/8413/resulter/regnskap-2019.pdf>
Kontoen brukes til å ta i mot donasjoner til Norecopa.
Ved inngangen av 2020 var det kr 211.195 på denne kontoen, som er øremerket oppdatering av NORINA-databasen.
I 2020 ble denne kontoen styrket med kr 250.000 til dette formålet, i henhold til en avtale for 2017-2020 med Nordisk Samfunn Mot Smertevoldende Dyreforsøk

Utgifter til NORINA-prosjektet i 2020

januar	22 500,00
februar	10 265,63
mars	22 500,00
april	14 906,25
mai	21 093,75
juni	20 250,00
august	22 500,00
september	22 500,00
oktober	6 609,38
november	21 656,25
desember	18 000,00
sum	202 781,26

Kontoen i Sparebanken ble styrket med disse beløpene i 2020:
Tilskudd fra Nordisk Samfunns Fond 250 000,00
Refinement Award fra Charles River/Johns Hopkins Univ 45 294,46 (personlig pris til Adrian Smith)
Honorar for artikkel i det sør-koreanske forsøksdyrtidsskrift 8 607,13 (artikkel skrevet av Adrian Smith)
Se forevrig årsregnskapet fra SALDO Regnskap AS

Resultat i 2020: 301 840,00

Erklæring for regnskapet til Norecopa for 2020
Jeg har gjennomgått regnskapet for 2020 og har ikke funnet noe å utsette på det oppsatte regnskap.

Oslo 12.3.2021


Jon Li Tjørsvaag

The accounts for 2020 were controlled by Norecopa's accountant, Jon Li Tjørsvaag¹⁸. Norecopa's funds from Parliament form part of the Veterinary Institute's accounts, and they are therefore also controlled by the Office of the General Auditor of Norway. The necessary conditions for the continued existence of Norecopa are present.

In Norecopa's experience it is extremely difficult to run an effective organisation on the 50% position which was initially provided by the Ministries. Extra funds have been provided

¹⁸ <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/accounts>

annually, from 2013 onwards, by the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Business and Industry (Næringskomitéen). These have given Norecopa much greater scope for its activities. The fact that Norecopa had a full-time secretarial position and NOK 250,000 for running costs in 2020 gave the Norecopa the necessary room to achieve the milestones described in the first part of this Report.

Summary of external funding in 2020

1. The proposals for the State Budget for 2020 from the Standing Parliamentary Committee for Business and Industry¹⁹ were approved by Parliament, so that Norecopa was allocated a 100% secretarial position and NOK 500,000 towards its activities.
2. In 2018 Norecopa signed a 3-year agreement with the Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments²⁰ (NSMSD) to finance the work of maintaining and developing the NORINA database²¹. This agreement is for NOK 250,000 per year up to and including 2020.
3. Norecopa received 5,000 euros from Sanofi to embed a dataset from the EU Commission in the website, as described above.
4. Norecopa applied to the Norwegian Gaming and Foundation Authority for compensation for Value Added Tax payments in 2019. During the course of 2020 Norecopa was informed that its accounts are no longer eligible for VAT. This led to a misunderstanding which in turn led to a revised application for VAT compensation being sent. Norecopa received NOK 7,225 kr in compensation in 2020 for expenses related to its external bank account, while the compensation for expenses on the main account arrived so late in the year that they were registered in the accounts for 2021.
5. Norecopa's members contributed a total of NOK 84,200 in membership fees.

Norecopa is extremely grateful to all those who support the organisation.

3) Activities designed to achieve Norecopa's aims

Norecopa's website

Norecopa has had its own website, <https://norecopa.no>, since February 2008. In addition, the suffices .info, .com, .eu, .net, .org and .cn are registered for the domain name. In 2020 the website has largely been updated by Norecopa's Secretary and (in the case of the NORINA

¹⁹ <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Innstillinger/Stortinget/2017-2018/inns-201718-008s>

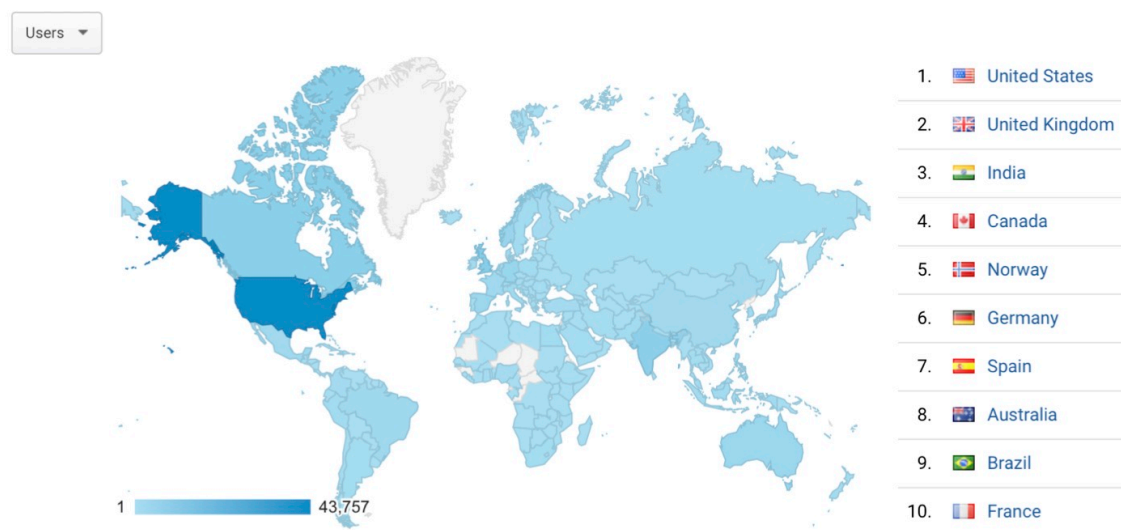
²⁰ <http://www.nsmsd.no>

²¹ <https://norecopa.no/NORINA>

database) by Elisabeth Pagels (Bitfarm AS). The program Google Analytics is installed to monitor the use of the website.

Norecopa uses two companies, NetLab and Bitfarm, to maintain and expand the website. Norecopa has a support and licensing agreement with Bitfarm. The company Webhuset is used to register Norecopa's domains, and Getonnet provides the software for the discussion forum run by Norecopa (see below).

The statistics for 2020 show that the website is in use in most countries of the world:



According to Google Analytics there were 300,693 hits on the website in 2020, from 133,773 unique visitors who came from the majority of the world's countries. The equivalent figures in 2019 were 252,481 hits and 114 696 unique visitors, increases of 19% and 17%, respectively. This continues a trend of increases in the use of the website, although the increases were slightly less than the figures from 2018 to 2019 (increases of 44% and 50%, respectively).

In addition to these visits, files were downloaded from Norecopa's website 5,600 times, an increase of 500 compared to 2019.

Norecopa's website includes several databases. Among these are NORINA²², which contains information on products which can be used as alternatives or supplements to animals in education and teaching, and TextBase²³, which contains information on literature within laboratory animal science. In 2018 the Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments

²² <https://norecopa.no/norina-database>

²³ <https://norecopa.no/textbase-database>

(NSMSD) renewed their support of Norecopa for the work of maintaining and updating these databases. In 2020, most of the work of updating the NORINA database has been performed by Elisabeth Pagels, in accordance with a 3-year agreement with the IT company Bitfarm which was signed at the end of 2018. Much of the work in 2020 has involved removal of old records about products which are no longer available, and the addition of new records. The total number of records in the databases is therefore a product of these two processes. At the end of 2020 NORINA contained information on approximately 3,000 products, while TextBase had approximately 1,500 records.

In addition to the website, Norecopa runs a **closed discussion forum** via email for persons with specific responsibilities for animal research at the country's research animal facilities. This is the only possibility that this group has to discuss matters of interest. In 2020 the list had 44 members.

Norecopa continues to finance the website of the project **ENRICH Fish**²⁴, which was concluded in 2017. The main aim of ENRICH Fish was to improve the environmental conditions during laboratory experiments on Atlantic salmon, which are the most commonly used research animals in Norway. ENRICH Fish was a collaboration between Norecopa, Nofima Tromsø and the Institute of Marine Research, with funds from the Research Council of Norway.

Norecopa's AGM and scientific meeting

Norecopa could not arrange a physical meeting in 2020 because of the pandemic. Those matters which, according to Norecopa's statutes, had to be raised were therefore presented to members in electronic form. These were the membership fees, approval of Norecopa's Activity Plan, Annual Report and accounts for 2019, and election of Board members for research and industry.

The PREPARE guidelines for planning animal research and testing

A steadily increasing number of institutions have endorsed the PREPARE guidelines. Norecopa maintains an updated overview of these²⁵.

In 2020 Norecopa's Secretary held a total of 13 presentations about PREPARE and planning animal experiments, in 8 countries. He participated in physical meetings in Estonia, Germany and Sweden before the pandemic developed dramatically. In addition, he exhibited 5 posters on virtual events in Germany, the UK and USA. He was booked to lecture on alternatives to animal experiments on a course for researchers in Tromsø on 9 March, but cancelled the trip because of the pandemic.

²⁴<https://norecopa.no/fish/projects/enrich-fish>

²⁵ <https://norecopa.no/prepare/endorsements>

In 2019 Norecopa produced a 3-minute whiteboard film explaining the purpose of the PREPARE guidelines. In 2020 optional subtitles were added, in 8 languages (Catalan, English, Farsi, French, German, Portuguese and Spanish)²⁶. Optional English subtitles were also added to the version of the film on Norecopa's Facebook page²⁷.

The PREPARE checklist was translated into Arabic and Farsi in 2020. By the end of 2020 the checklist was therefore available in 23 languages. In addition, the Korean translation was improved. We are grateful to our colleagues in these countries for invaluable help.

Støtte til utvikling av en app til bruk i fiskeforsøk

In 2020 Norecopa provided financial support to a working group who are developing an app based on software which is currently used to monitor fish health in the commercial fish farming industry²⁸. The purpose of the app is to measure the clinical state of fish during experiments. This will make it possible to compare the state of the fish with the approval given by the authorities for the experiment. The app will be particularly useful for deciding when to invoke the humane endpoints which have been set for a study. Norecopa supported this project with NOK 150,000 in 2020.

Norecopa's 3R Prize

In 2020 only one nomination was received for Norecopa's 3R Prize²⁹, despite the fact that the deadline was extended from 15 March to 15 June. The Board decided therefore not to award the Prize in 2020, and the prizemoney (NOK 30,000) was put towards the contribution which Norecopa made to development of the app described in the previous section.

An interactive map of European 3R Centres

Norecopa participates in a network of European 3R Centres, EU3Rnet. Norecopa has constructed an interactive map of the centres, with links to webpages describing each centre³⁰.

Participation in other scientific meetings

Norecopa was represented at the following scientific meetings in 2020. All of these were virtual meetings after 1 March, due to the pandemic:

²⁶ <https://vimeo.com/358069203>

²⁷ <https://www.facebook.com/Norecopa/videos/3087708787944200>

²⁸ <https://forskning.no/app-dyreforsok-dyrevelferd/har-forsoksfisken-det-bra/1769512>

²⁹ <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/3r-prize>

³⁰ <https://norecopa.no/3REurope>

1. REWARD/EQUATOR conference, Berlin 20-22 February; with a poster about Norecopa's work: *Norecopa - PREPARING for better science*.
2. Building bridges between the world of traditional lab animal science and environmental research: better science and improved animal welfare. SETAC Europe 30th Annual Meeting, 2 May (oral presentation)
3. Laboratory Sciences Virtual Event (Lab Roots), 14 May; with a poster about Norecopa entitled *Norecopa - PREPARING for better science*.
4. Improving animal welfare and scientific quality³¹, UFAW's symposium *Recent advances in animal welfare science VII*, 30 June - 1 July; two oral presentations and a poster entitled *Norecopa: PREPARING for better science*.
5. UFAW/RSPCA Rodent Meeting, 7 October; with a poster entitled *Three fingers better than two? A proposal for refinement of the traditional method of scruffing*.
6. Guidelines for improving the quality and validity of animal research. Reproducibility, Replicability and Trust. Wellcome conference, 11 September.

In addition Adrian Smith held the following invited lectures:

1. *Design of animal studies: Increasing reproducibility and animal welfare*. ISAE Nordic-Baltic Winter Meeting, Tartu 28-30 January.
2. Planning animal experiments, for students at Karolinska Institutet, on three occasions: 20 January, 3 March and 1 September.
3. A webinar on *Guidelines for improving the quality of animal research and testing: an overview*³², arranged by Karolinska Institutet on 21 October.
4. *Design of animal studies: the PREPARE guidelines*³³, 7th Annual 3Rs Symposium (arranged by CAAT, Baltimore), 4-5 June 2020.
5. *The Refinement Wiki and the International Culture of Care Network*³⁴, 7th Annual 3Rs Symposium (arranged by CAAT, Baltimore), 4-5 June.
6. A webinar on *How to plan studies well*. Arranged by Responsible Research, 9 September.
7. *How to plan studies well*³⁵. Presentation at the unConference 2020, University of Copenhagen, 30 October.
8. A presentation of Norecopa's work for the Norwegian Council for Animal Ethics, 23 September.
9. *Planning preclinical in vivo studies: some practical suggestions*³⁶ for the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, 8 October.

³¹ <https://norecopa.no/UFAW>

³² <https://norecopa.no/Guidelines>

³³ <https://norecopa.no/CAAT-1>

³⁴ <https://norecopa.no/CAAT-2>

³⁵ <https://norecopa.no/CBMR>

³⁶ <https://norecopa.no/Planning>

10. *Alternative approaches: drivers and visions; the National 3R Centre perspective*³⁷.
EPAA Annual Conference, 10 November.

Contact meetings

Parliament

Norecopa's Secretary has continued to maintain contact with Members of Parliament, in order to increase the political interest for the 3Rs, and to demonstrate the need for further resources to the work on alternatives to animal experiments.

On 15 October 2020, Norecopa's Secretary held a presentation³⁸ and submitted a memorandum³⁹ during a hearing on the Government's budgetary proposal for 2021 arranged by the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Business and Industry. This Committee is the one which discusses the part of the budget from which Norecopa's funds come.

The National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes

Norecopa's Secretary had regular contact with the National Committee⁴⁰ in 2020 to discuss items of mutual interest. Norecopa and the Committee arranged three meetings in November 2020 for animal welfare bodies working with, respectively, rodents, wild animals and fish. Descriptions of these meetings are available on the Committee's website⁴¹. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss topical problems with planning and conducting animal experiments. A total of 120 people participated in the meetings.

Collaboration with the other Nordic 3R Centres

Denmark's 3R-Center

Norecopa's Secretary has had close contact with the Danish 3R-Center⁴² since 2013 when he was elected onto its Board. In 2017 the entire Board was re-elected for 4 more years. The Board functions also as the Danish National Committee for Laboratory Animals and Alternatives. He participates in these meetings as a private individual, not as a representative of Norecopa, but the experience from this work is valuable for Norecopa as well. In 2020 he participated in 5 Board meetings, all of which were virtual meetings except for the first one in February.

³⁷ <https://norecopa.no/EPAA>

³⁸ <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Hva-skjer-pa-Stortinget/Videoarkiv/Arkiv-TV-sendinger/?mbid=/2020/H264-full/N-202/10/15/N-202-20201015-101057.mp4&msid=3080&dateid=10004461> (51:20 inn i opptaket)

³⁹ <https://norecopa.no/media/9083/norecopa-notat-næringskomitéen-2020.pdf>

⁴⁰ <https://norecopa.no/legislation/norway/nasjonal-komite-om-beskyttelse-av-dyr-som-brukes-i-forskning>

⁴¹ <https://www.forsoksdyrkomiteen.no/oppsummering-av-forsoksdyrkomiteens-nettmoter-med-dyrevelferdsenhetene>

⁴² <http://www.3rcenter.dk>

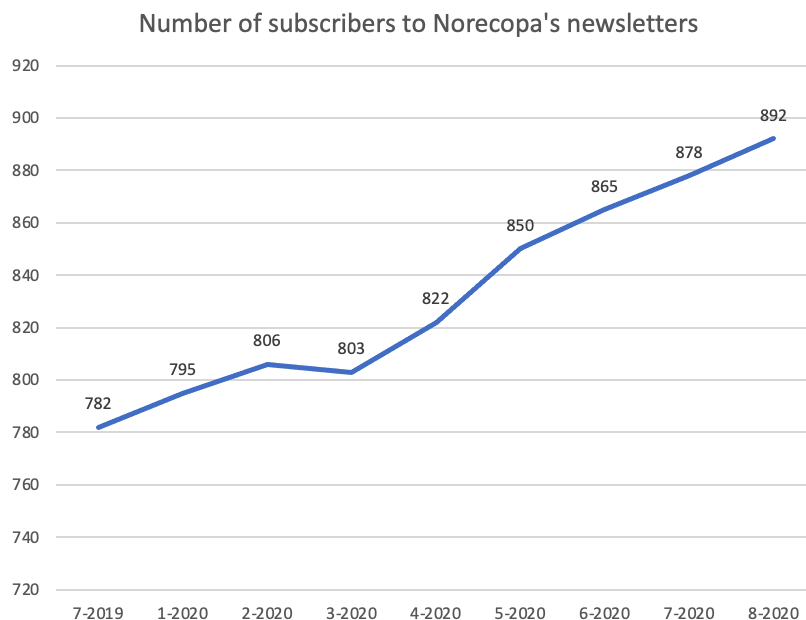
Other activities in 2020

1. Norecopa's Secretary has participated in a network about "Culture of Care", which was established after the FELASA congress in Brussels in June 2016. Norecopa's secretary has constructed the website for the network, which lies on Norecopa's domain⁴³, and has spent time in 2020 on updating it.
2. Norecopa's Secretary is part of a Working Group which in 2019 started the task of providing advice on updating the Guidance Document on how to complete an ethics self-assessment when applying for funds from the Horizon 2020 programme⁴⁴. This work continued in 2020 and the guidance is expected to be published in 2021.

Norecopa's publications in 2020

Newsletter

Since 2008 Norecopa's Secretary has sent electronic newsletters to all members and other interested parties. In 2020 eight newsletters were issued. The newsletters have been published in English since June 2017. All of them are archived on Norecopa's website⁴⁵, so that their content is searchable, which increases their value. The number of subscribers increased by over 20% in 2020, from 736 at the beginning of the year to 892 subscribers in December 2020.



⁴³<https://norecopa.no/coc>

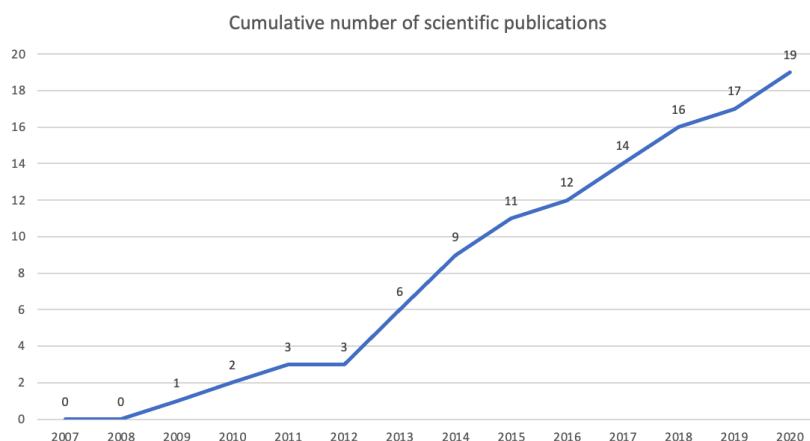
⁴⁴http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/data/ref/h2020/grants_manual/hi/ethics/h2020_hi_ethics-self-assess_en.pdf

⁴⁵ <https://norecopa.no/news/newsletters>

Scientific papers

Norecopa's Secretary published the following scientific papers in 2020:

1. Smith AJ. Guidelines for planning and conducting high-quality research and testing on animals. *Laboratory Animal Research*, 36(21).⁴⁶
2. Utne-Palm, AC & Smith AJ. *Fish as Laboratory Animals*. In: The Welfare of Fish. Springer Nature, ISBN 978-3-030-41675-1. p. 375-400⁴⁷.



Adrian Smith has also written an article about Norecopa and PREPARE for the December number of the magazine issued by Ellegaard Göttingen Minipigs. Norecopa was given permission to distribute the article as a separate pdf file after publication⁴⁸.

Chronicles and newspaper letters

Adrian Smith published a blog in the journal PLoS ONE, entitled *Collaboration on the road to better preclinical research*⁴⁹.

Norecopa and social media

Norecopa has had a Facebook profile⁵⁰ since May 2013. The profile had 669 followers at the beginning of January 2020. By the end of the year this number had risen to 691. Norecopa has used Twitter more than Facebook in 2020. Norecopa opened a Twitter account in 2016 under the name @norecopa⁵¹. This account received 94,000 impressions in 2020. The Secretary also posts information about Norecopa on LinkedIn page⁵².

⁴⁶ <https://labanimres.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s42826-020-00054-0>

⁴⁷ <https://norecopa.no/textbase/the-welfare-of-fish>

⁴⁸ <https://norecopa.no/ellegaard>

⁴⁹ <https://everyone.plos.org/2020/10/06/prepare>

⁵⁰ <https://www.facebook.com/Norecopa>

⁵¹ <https://twitter.com/norecopa>

⁵² <https://www.linkedin.com/in/adrian-smith-bb567b5a>

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