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## Annual Report for 2024

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## **About Norecopa**

Norecopa is a National Consensus Platform<sup>1</sup> working to promote “the 3Rs” (**Replacement, Reduction, Refinement**)<sup>2</sup> within animal research. The 3Rs refer to a variety of methods to avoid animal experimentation, or to reduce the burden on animals to an absolute minimum.

Norecopa’s structure and goals are described in greater detail in the Appendix to this Report.

Norecopa’s slogan, which expresses its core goals and values, is:

### ***PREPARE for better Science***

Norecopa turned 17 on 10 October 2024. Even though we did not manage to generate political interest in more resources for 3R work in Norway, the organisation made great strides ahead throughout the year. The progress we made was due, to a large extent, to international interest in Norecopa’s web-based resources.

## ***What have we achieved in 2024?***

Norecopa has, among other things, passed the following milestones in 2024:

1. upgraded and further developed its 10,000-page website
2. hosted a Summer School on Systematic Reviews and Literature Searching
3. held 21 presentations in 11 countries
4. compiled a report about research animal use in Norway in 2018-2023
5. published a detailed chapter about the 3R principle in a new textbook

More details and Norecopa’s other activities are described in the Appendix.

## **Milestone 1: We have upgraded and further developed Norecopa's website**

The [norecopa.no](https://norecopa.no) website is Norecopa’s greatest resource, which is freely available to everyone. The website is organised as a single large database, with over 10,000 individual pages by the end of 2024.

In 2024 Norecopa engaged the Estonian company Thorgate to consider a redesign of the website, and in particular its landing page. A major upgrade of the was completed in August 2024, thanks to generous sponsorship from Novo Nordisk, Scanbur, Aivero and Thorgate. Some of these improvements – such as a new font, upgraded logo and icons, a new header on each webpage and improved newsletter design – are visible, but most are related to the way in which the webpages are edited, displayed and stored. This work was achieved without down-time, thanks to Norecopa's website clone which is used for testing new functionalities. We have also installed a better system for automatic detection of broken links on the site.

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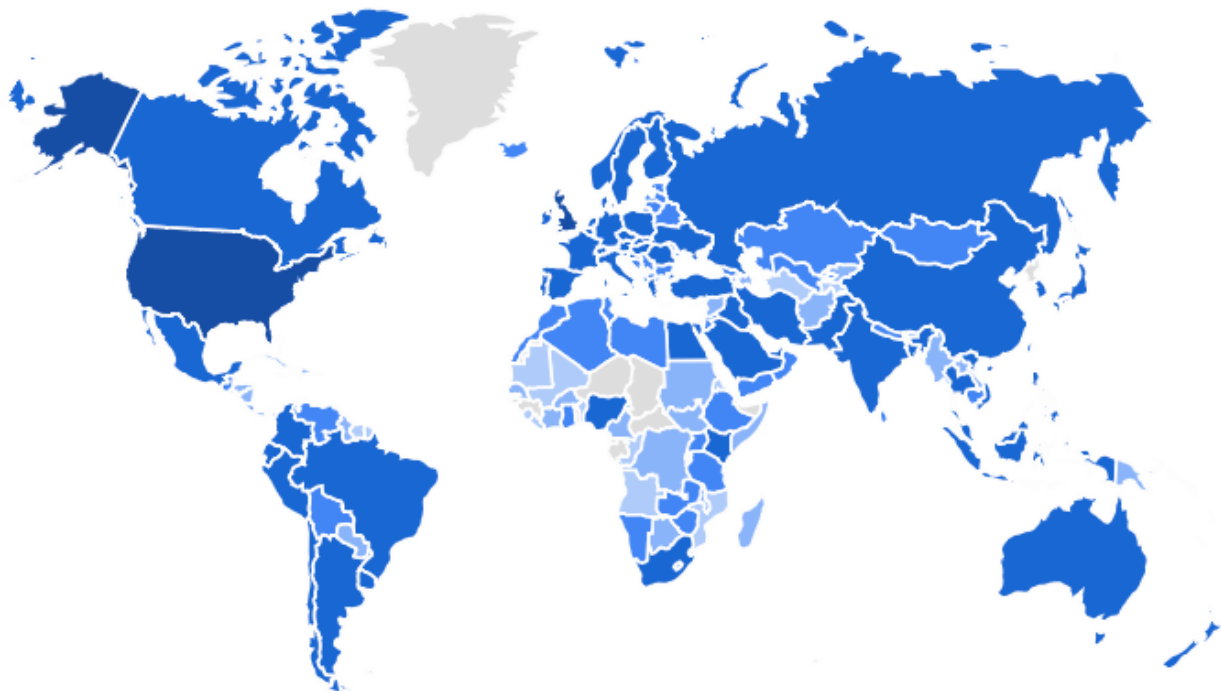
<sup>1</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/consensus>

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

Norecopa's website is driven by software on several external servers in European countries. These share the work between them and take backups, under licence and with company support agreements. The software needs continuous updates, and the system is regularly checked for functionality. Such routine maintenance tasks cost Norecopa at least NOK 100,000 per year. An advantage of Norecopa's solution is that the website is extremely reliable and is virtually never offline. Moreover, upgrades can be tested on a clone of the website, without having to take the site offline.

In September 2024 Norecopa stopped using Matomo to collect site statistics and returned to Google Analytics. Users were also given easier access to the ability to deny the use of optional cookies, which results in an underestimate of the number of visitors to the site. We do not therefore have complete statistics for site use in 2024, but it is estimated that there were approximately 350,000 hits, which is the same as the estimate for 2023 (350,000 hits from approximately 220,000 users). The figures for 2022, using Google Analytics alone, were 343,754 hits from 186,372 unique users. Use of the website by Norecopa's staff (Adrian Smith and Elisabeth Pagels) is not registered by Google Analytics.

The statistics from Google Analytics for the last 4 months of 2024 indicate that the website is in use in most of the world's countries, with the United States and the United Kingdom at the top of the list:



The website contains several established "databases" that require regular updating. Norecopa hires help from Elisabeth Pagels for the updating of two of these: NORINA

(approx. 3,400 pages) and TextBase (approx. 1,800 pages), which provide alternatives to animal use in education, and textbooks about laboratory animal science, respectively. Norecopa's Secretary also invests a lot of time in maintaining the other sections of the website.

Special additions to the site in 2024 included a compilation of international funders of 3R research<sup>3</sup>, and updates to Norecopa's 3R slide deck:

Towards the end of 2022 Norecopa published a comprehensive presentation in PowerPoint, illustrating the development of the 3R principle and the current interpretation of the concept. The presentation consists of some 40 images, which are available to download in PDF format from Norecopa's website: [norecopa.no/3R](https://norecopa.no/3R). *Bona fide* teachers can obtain the PowerPoint file from Norecopa and use it in their teaching. In 2024 the presentation was translated into German and Czech, which are now in addition to English, French and Spanish versions.



**The 3Rs of Russell and Burch:**  
**Replacement, Reduction & Refinement**

**Adrian Smith**  
[adrian.smith@norecopa.no](mailto:adrian.smith@norecopa.no)  
[@adrian\\_3r](#)

With some material from:  
Smith AJ & Richmond J (2024). The Three Rs.  
In: *The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals*. 9<sup>th</sup> edition.  
Richardson CA and Golledge HDR (eds).  
Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Norecopa: PREPARE for better Science

These slides are available at [norecopa.no/3Rs](https://norecopa.no/3Rs)

version 12.03.24



Norecopa also hosts PREPARE (*Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence*), a set of guidelines that help scientists remember all the factors which they should consider when planning experiments which can involve the use of animals. An article about PREPARE was pre-published in 2017 in *Laboratory Animals*, and officially published in 2018. The paper has now been viewed or downloaded over 39,000 times<sup>4</sup>, and was the 4<sup>th</sup> most read paper in the journal in the last 6 months (October 2024-March 2025).

PREPARE consists of a 2-page checklist<sup>5</sup> with 15 main topics, and webpages<sup>6</sup> which explain and expand upon the checklist. Norecopa continually adds links to new resources, as they

<sup>3</sup> <https://norecopa.no/alternatives/funding-3r-research-and-development>

<sup>4</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0023677217724823#core-collateral-metrics>

<sup>5</sup> <https://norecopa.no/PREPARE/prepare-checklist>

<sup>6</sup> <https://norecopa.no/PREPARE>



are published. In 2024 the checklist was translated into Albanian and is now available in a total of 36 languages, including all the EU languages except Lithuanian and Maltese.



Norecopa's PREPARE guidelines can be used as part of a Study Plan for animal research and testing, since the checklist is also available as a fillable Word file<sup>7</sup>. This was demonstrated by Norecopa's Secretary in a webinar on 7 May 2024 entitled *A Practical Guide to Planning, Conducting and Reporting Animal Studies*<sup>8</sup>. The webinar emphasised additionally the importance of a Master Plan, Standard Operating Procedures, Contingency Plans, agreements between the scientists and animal facility, and a harm-benefit assessment.

An increasing number of funders, regulatory authorities, scientific institutions, journals and researchers state publicly that they endorse PREPARE and/or Norecopa's work. These citations are being collected on a dedicated webpage<sup>9</sup>, such as this flow diagram from the University of Bergen<sup>10</sup>:

## Animal research - step by step

This is a flowchart showing important steps in animal research



The Norecopa website also includes an international Webinars and Meetings Calendar for Laboratory Animal Science and related fields<sup>11</sup>. This Calendar is continually updated. In 2024

<sup>7</sup> <https://norecopa.no/PREPARE-Word>

<sup>8</sup> <https://norecopa.no/NRW>

<sup>9</sup> <https://norecopa.no/prepare/endorsements>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.uib.no/en/rg/animalfacility/127426/animal-research-step-step>

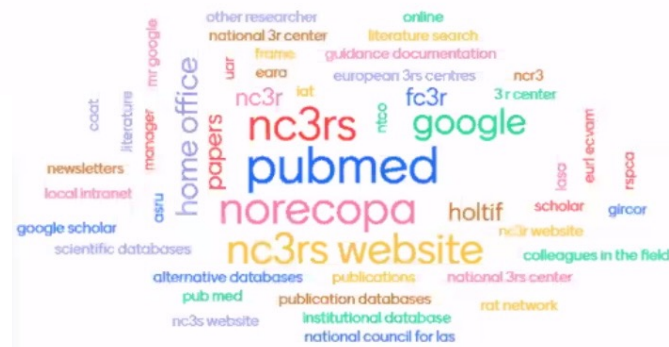
<sup>11</sup> <https://norecopa.no/meetings/webinars-and-meetings-calendar>

there were over 350 entries during the course of the year. Details of previous meetings are archived on a separate page, and links to recorded meetings are made available on another page, where they have also been sorted according to the topics on the PREPARE checklist.

Norecopa's resources are becoming increasingly well known internationally. During a series of webinars organised by the UK organisation NC3Rs on 16 September 2024<sup>12</sup> about *Staying informed on advances in the 3Rs and animal research*, the participants were asked at the beginning of the session to state where they looked for 3Rs resources. The 84 replies were then used to construct a word cloud:

## Where can you go for sources of information?

84 responses



More information about Norecopa's website is available in the Appendix.

### Milestone 2: We hosted an International Summer School on Systematic Reviews and Literature Searching

The international Laboratory Animal Science community has become increasingly concerned about publication bias, the standards of literature searching and the limited use of systematic literature reviews (SR). Several research groups, notably in the Netherlands<sup>13</sup>, Scotland<sup>14</sup> and Switzerland<sup>15</sup>, have been established to provide resources on how to improve current practice in these areas. The value of SRs has been well documented<sup>16,17</sup> and they are an effective way of helping to advance the 3Rs of Russell & Burch<sup>18</sup>.

Norecopa entered into a collaboration with the STRIDE-lab at the University of Zurich to provide a Summer School for early career researchers in Norway. The School was limited to

<sup>12</sup> <https://nc3rs.org.uk/staying-informed-advances-3rs-and-animal-research>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.radboudumc.nl/en/research/departments/anesthesiology/meta-research-team>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ed.ac.uk/clinical-brain-sciences/research/camarades/about-camarades>

<sup>15</sup> <https://camarades.ch>

<sup>16</sup> <https://academic.oup.com/ilarjournal/article/55/3/427/645144>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/3rs-resources/introduction-systematic-reviews>

<sup>18</sup> <https://norecopa.no/3Rs>



a maximum of 20 participants, in order to enable individual tuition, since the aim of the School was not merely to inform them about the need for SRs and more evidence-based research, but also to equip them with the necessary knowledge to conduct their own SRs within their own research areas.

Topics covered included:

- Formulating research questions and protocol registration
- Bibliographic databases and search strings
- Reference management options
- Software for screening and sorting abstracts
- Data extraction from full texts
- Meta-analysis and Risk of Bias assessment

Laboratory Animals Ltd. kindly sponsored this event with 3,000 euros. The School cost (in total) the equivalent of 10,640 euros. The other contributors were Norecopa (3,399 euros), student registration fees (NOK 2,500 per person, a total of 2,724 euros) and sponsorship from Scand-LAS (1,500 euros). Students were asked to organise and pay for their own accommodation – 6 students stayed at the hotel (at a special rate negotiated by Norecopa) while 7 found other accommodation in the city.

There were 13 students from 7 countries (Finland, Germany, Latvia, Switzerland, UK, USA & Norway), three tutors (from Switzerland & Norway) and two online lecturers (Germany & Switzerland). None of the tutors or lecturers received fees for their services, but their travel expenses and accommodation were covered.



The students filled out an evaluation form at the end of the School. Of a possible total of 65 points (5 points per student), the School was rated 64 points.

A School certificate was issued to the participants. The organisers recommended, based on previous experience, that it is awarded 2 ECTS points by local authorities.

### **Milestone 3: Norecopa's Secretary held 21 presentations in 11 countries**

In 2024, Norecopa's resources were presented in the following countries:

***Albania, Argentina, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom & USA***

Of the 21 presentations, 18 took the form of lectures, of which 13 were invited lectures. An overview of these presentations can be found in the Appendix.

In addition, Norecopa paid for a stand at the Scand-LAS symposium in Tampere in May.

#### **Milestone 4: We have compiled a report about the use of animals in Norway in 2018-2023**

Norway is among those countries in Europe that use most animals in research and testing. In our Annual Report for 2023 we describe a presentation of the official data from the regulatory authorities for 2018-2021. The yearly data was combined into one large Excel file, which was then used to produce bar charts and figures showing the major findings, with emphasis on the severity of the procedures and the purpose for which the animals were used. This work was performed by Antoine Champetier, Swiss 3R Competence Center, University of Bern. The work of producing this report was funded by a grant from the Research Fund of the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (*Dyrevernalliansen*)<sup>19</sup>.

Norecopa then applied for further funds from the Fund to perform a closer inspection of the reasons for the trends observed in this preliminary report, which necessitates an analysis of those projects that had the greatest influence on the statistics. Norecopa received a new grant from the Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance, and the official statistics for 2022 and 2023 from the Norwegian regulatory authorities. The data were added to the Excel file for 2018-2021. The bulk of the work of collating this data was performed in 2024, and was ultimately not finished until mid-March 2025, but we have chosen to present it in this Report.

Some of the main findings were:

- On average, Norway used 1.5 million animals per year in this period (range 1 281 595 – 2 008 625), for a total of 3 104 projects.
- There are no consistent trends over the six years for the total number of animals used in Norway, or for the relative occurrence of the four categories of severity.
- Single large projects on fish continue to be the main factor affecting the national statistics, making it difficult to identify real trends. These year-to-year variations were most often related to Atlantic Salmon and its commercial production, especially in relation to the management of lice.
- There were large year-to-year variations in the severity of procedures. These too were driven by very large projects involving salmon and other fish. For laboratory species, the severity of procedures tended on average to be higher for zebra fish than for mice, these two species being the main laboratory species in Norway.

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<sup>19</sup> <https://dyrevern.no>

- The number of mice used for the most severe procedures is small, while the numbers of those used for mild and moderately severe procedures fluctuated, with a tendency during the last three years towards the mild category.
- Batch testing and other regulatory and quality control procedures are among the uses where severity is highest for fish. The statistics for 2021 and the following two years show signs of a decline in absolute numbers, but not of a general decline in severity.
- The vast majority (96%) of the 9 million animals used in Norway in this period were not genetically altered in any way. A total of 332 949 animals were genetically altered without a harmful phenotype, while 54 207 animals exhibited a harmful phenotype. Mice, zebra fish and Atlantic salmon (in that order) dominated the statistics for genetically altered animals.
- There is very limited reuse of research animals in Norway, in keeping with the conditions expressed in both EU and Norwegian legislation.
- The work of studying the use of animals in Norway for scientific purposes should continue, in close collaboration with the scientists, to gain more insight into possibilities for further implementation of the Three Rs (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement).

An Excel file of all the official statistics for the six years covered by this report was sent to the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for their use, and can be updated with future years' data.

The full report (52 pages) can be downloaded from <https://norecopa.no/statistics>

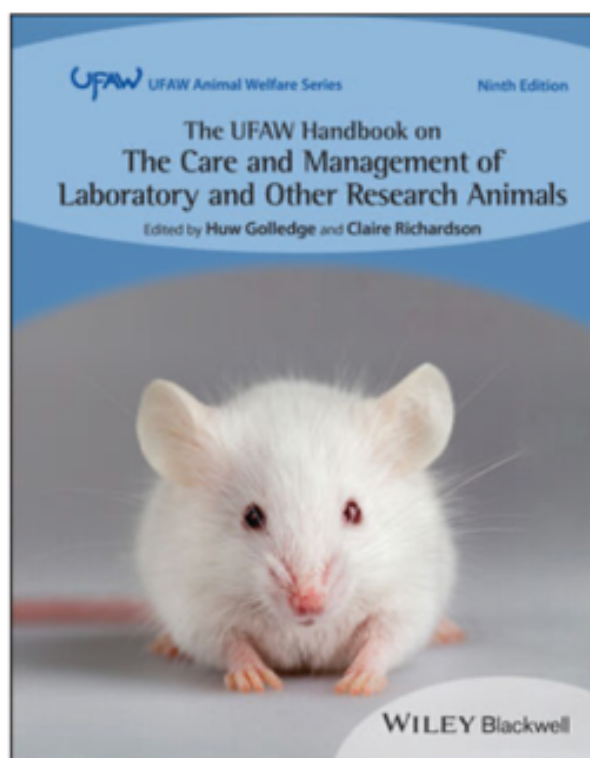
### **Milestone 5: We have published a detailed chapter about the 3R principle in a new textbook**

The UK organisation UFAW (Universities Federation of Animal Welfare) has published a Handbook on the care and management of research animals since 1947. Norecopa's Secretary Adrian Smith was invited in October 2018 to update the chapter in the book on the 3Rs when the ninth edition was to be published. He in turn requested that the author of the excellent chapter in the previous, Jon Richmond, be co-author.

The book was finally published in the Spring of 2024 by Wiley Blackwell<sup>20</sup>.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://norecopa.no/textbase/the-ufaw-handbook-on-the-care-and-management-of-laboratory-and-other-research-animals-9th-edition>



## Other highlights of 2024

Norecopa participates in the network of European 3R centres, EU3Rnet<sup>21</sup>, which is financed by a “COST<sup>22</sup> Action” entitled IMPROVE (“3Rs concepts to improve the quality of biomedical science”). Norecopa’s Secretary attended a physical meeting of the Management Committee and Working Groups in Utrecht on 17-18 June.

Norecopa's Secretary is serving on the Scientific Committee of the next World Congress on Alternatives and Animal Use in the Life Sciences<sup>23</sup>, which will be the 13th Congress, to be held in Rio de Janeiro in August 2025. He has presented at 10 of the previous 12 congresses.

Norecopa has collaborated with FRAME for several years by providing presentations for their annual Training Schools in Experimental Design<sup>24</sup> (which Norecopa hosted in Bergen in 2023). In 2024, Adrian Smith presented (online) at the School that was arranged in Nottingham.

Adrian Smith also presented online at FRAME's course on "3Rs and Ethics by Design Training" for early career researchers on 26 November 2024.

He continues to participate in the working group for FRAME’s courses.

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<sup>21</sup> <https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/eu3rnet>

<sup>22</sup> <https://norecopa.no/COST>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.wc13rio.org/scientific-committee>

<sup>24</sup> <https://frame.org.uk/what-we-do/training-school>

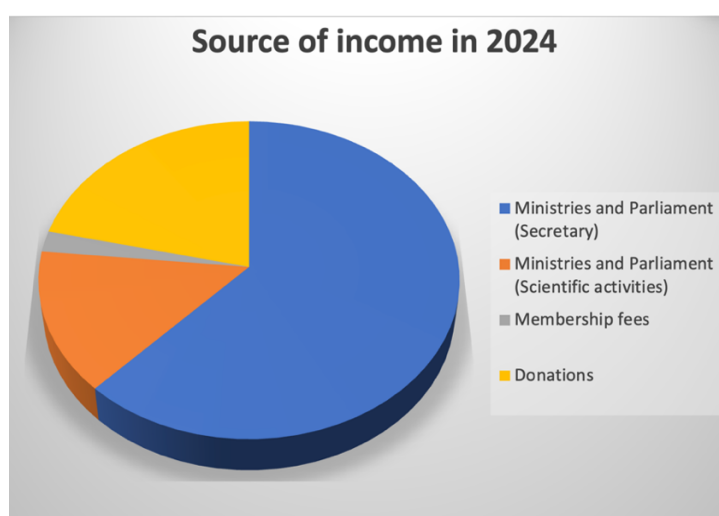
Norecopa has been a Member Organisation of AAALAC International<sup>25</sup> since August 2023. AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that operates voluntary evaluation and accreditation programs for research animal facilities worldwide. Adrian Smith is Norecopa's Member Organisation Delegate until December 2025.

Norecopa's secretary continued to liaise with the leaders of the Nordic Zebrafish Network<sup>26</sup> which Norecopa helped to establish in 2023, and he attends meetings of the Steering Committee as an observer. A 3-day practical course in zebrafish husbandry and techniques, followed by a 2-day networking event, was held at Karolinska Institutet in November 2024<sup>27</sup>.

### ***Where does the money come from?***

Norecopa's core funding comes from the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, as part of the administrative support subsidy (for *forvaltningsstøtte*) allocated to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute. The grant covered the cost of Norecopa's Secretary in a full-time position, leaving NOK 500,000 aside for scientific activities, as in 2023.

The rest of Norecopa's activity was financed by membership fees and external funds for which Norecopa had applied. These are described in the Appendix.



### ***What has the money been used for?***

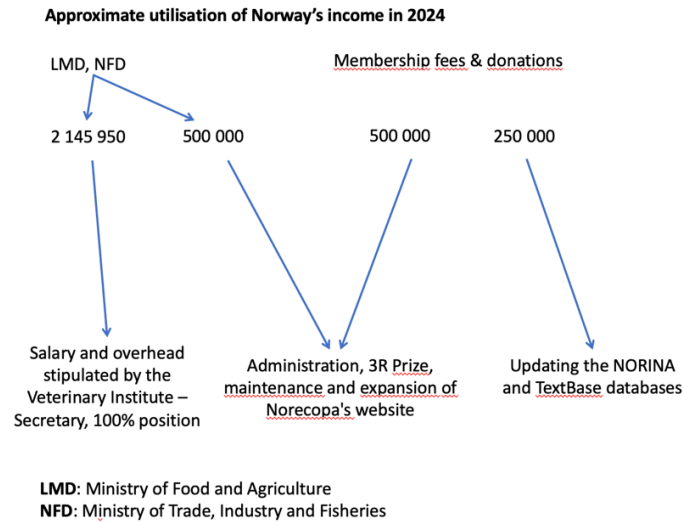
The diagram below shows a rough outline of how Norecopa's income for 2024 was divided among its various work tasks.

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<sup>25</sup> <https://www.aaalac.org>

<sup>26</sup> <https://ki.se/en/research/research-infrastructure-and-environments/core-facilities-for-research/zebrafish-core-facility/the-nordic-zebrafish-network>

<sup>27</sup> <https://ki.se/en/research/research-infrastructure-and-environments/core-facilities-for-research/zebrafish-core-facility/nzn-events-and-news>



Norecopa had one employee in 2024:

Adrian Smith as Norecopa's Secretary, employed in a full-time position. Norecopa paid Elisabeth Pagels on an hourly basis to update parts of the website, in particular the NORINA and TextBase databases.

Less than 3% of Norecopa's income was used for office expenses and the organisation's administration, including legal and consultancy fees.

The accounts are described in greater detail in the Appendix.

Oslo, April 2025



Janette Maria Carlsen  
(Chair of the Board)



Rolf Hetlelid Olsen  
(Board Member)

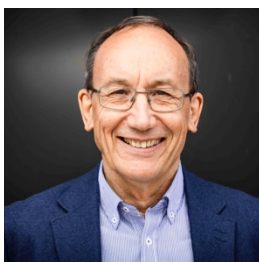


Linda Andersen  
(Board Member)



Åshild Roaldset  
(Board Member)





Adrian Smith (Secretary)

## Appendix

### 1) About the organisation

#### Norecopa's structure and goals

Norecopa is an independent member organisation, with a Board that represents four major stakeholders in animal research and testing:

- regulators
- academia
- industry
- animal welfare organisations

Norecopa is registered in the Brønnøysund Register Centre with its own statutes<sup>28</sup>, and its Annual General Meeting as its supreme governing body<sup>29</sup>.

Moreover, Norecopa is a member of the European umbrella organisation for National Consensus Platforms, *ecopa* (*European Consensus Platform on Alternatives*)<sup>30</sup>. Adrian Smith has been a Board Member of *ecopa* since 8 December 2022.

Norecopa has an Activity Plan<sup>31</sup> which is approved at its Annual General Meetings.

#### Norecopa's Board and Annual Meeting

The 2024 Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting from Bergen on 4 June. There were 19 participants in Bergen and 10 participants via the web. The Annual Report and accounts for 2023, as well as the budget proposal for 2024 and the proposal for the membership fees (no changes since 2021) were all adopted<sup>32</sup>.

Until the Annual Meeting in 2024 the Board consisted of the following:

Chris Noble, Nofima Tromsø, (Board Chair)\*

deputy: Siri Kristine Gåsnes, Norwegian Veterinary Institute\*

Birgitte Fineid, Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals\*\*

deputy: Anton Krag, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance\*\*

Rolf Hetlelid Olsen\*

deputy: Hogne Bleie, Mallard AS\*

Janette Maria Carlsen, Norwegian Veterinary Institute\*\*

deputy: Gunvor Knudsen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority\*\*

\*elected until 2024 \*\*elected until 2026

Anton Krag stepped in as full member of the Board at the end of 2023 since Birgitte Fineid was on leave.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://norecopa.no/vedtekter>

<sup>29</sup> <https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/aarsmoeter>

<sup>30</sup> <http://www.ecopa.eu>

<sup>31</sup> <https://norecopa.no/aktivitetsplan>

<sup>32</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about/annual-meetings>

At the Annual Meeting, the Head of the Board reviewed Norecopa's Activity Plan, which was last amended in 2021 and is valid until 2025. No comments were made.

All members of the Election Committee agreed to continue in their roles until the next election in 2026:

Regulators: Vera Klafstad Rodas, Norwegian Food Safety Authority  
Academia: Hege Løkslett, NINA  
Industry: Renate Johansen, PHARMAQ Analytiq  
Animal welfare: Live Kleveland, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance

Norecopa's 3R Award Committee consisted of the following in 2024:

Regulators: Bjørn Groven, Norwegian Food Safety Authority  
Academia: Adam Lilicrap, NIVA  
Industry: Marie Løvoll, VESO  
Animal welfare: Torill Malmstrøm, Dyreetikk.no

### **Norecopa's 3R prize**

Norecopa's prize for work to advance the 3Rs was awarded directly after the Annual Meeting. The aim of the prize is to increase awareness and use of the 3R principle<sup>33</sup> in research. Special emphasis is placed on advances in research and development which benefit Norwegian conditions. The prize can be awarded for scientific, technical or administrative work, either by an individual or a group<sup>34</sup>.

Norecopa received 3 nominations for its 3R prize<sup>35</sup> in 2024. The prize, which consists of NOK 30,000 and a diploma, was awarded for the 13th time, immediately after the Annual Meeting. The winner was Aurora Brønstad at the University of Bergen, for her 'outstanding work in developing the field of Laboratory Animal Science, improving animal welfare and increasing acceptance of the Three Rs'. Presentations of the nominees<sup>36</sup> and the winners' lecture<sup>37</sup> can be found on Norecopa's website. Researchers in Bergen have now won the Prize for two consecutive years.

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<sup>33</sup> <https://norecopa.no/3rs>

<sup>34</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about/3r-prize>

<sup>35</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/3r-prize>

<sup>36</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/zhapx1gk/3r-pris-presentasjon-040624.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/ogylfnpx/aurora-broenstad-3r-prize.pdf>



Aurora Brønstad, winner of the 3R Prize for 2024, receives the diploma from Norecopa's Secretary  
photo: Norecopa

The following scientific presentations were also given that day:

- *Are 3R Centres making a difference?*<sup>38</sup> (Elliot Lilley, NC3Rs) (video recording<sup>39</sup>)
- *Achieving a good Culture of Care*<sup>40</sup> (Barney Reed, RSPCA)
- *The Nordic Zebrafish Network*<sup>41</sup> (Lars Bräutigam, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm)
- *Working together to end severe suffering*<sup>42</sup> (Barney Reed, RSPCA)
- *Diversity matters - the risk of standardisation*<sup>43</sup> (Natasha Karp, Astrazeneca, UK)

All the documents and minutes from the Annual General Meeting are available on Norecopa's website<sup>44</sup>.

Three Board Meetings were held in 2024: on 9 January, 23 October and 19 December. The minutes have been published on Norecopa's website<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>38</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/n1lkuul4/elliott-lilley-040624.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> <https://vimeo.com/953907352>

<sup>40</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/dzye055g/b-reed-040624-achieving-a-good-culture-of-care.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/ltoihone/lars-brautigam.pdf>

<sup>42</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/nhwfrlqi/b-reed-040624-working-together-to-end-severe-suffering.pdf>

<sup>43</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/p5dn3cj3/natasha-karp-040624.pdf>

<sup>44</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/annual-meetings>

<sup>45</sup> <https://norecopa.no/styrereferater>

## **The Secretariat**

Norecopa's secretariat is affiliated to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, which therefore has administrative responsibility for Norecopa's Secretary and the accounts. The Secretary receives office support from the Institute's Administration, among other things in connection with accounting and issue of invoices.

Adrian Smith has been permanently employed as Norecopa's Secretary since 2008. This was initially a 50% position. In agreement with Norecopa's Board of Directors, he has a permanent home office employment contract with the Norwegian Veterinary Institute. Since a resolution passed by the Norwegian Parliament during the budgetary debate in December 2021, he has worked in a full-time position in 2022. In August 2023 this position was made permanent (with effect from 1 January 2023) by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute. In September 2023 he applied for an extension of his contract past the age of 70 (26 January 2025), until 31 December 2027. This application was first turned down by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, but following an appeal to the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food by Norecopa his tenure was extended to 1 February 2026.

## **Occupational safety and health, equality and environmental impact**

In 2024, Norecopa had one male employee in a full-time position with a home office employment contract from the Norwegian Veterinary Institute.

Norecopa's Board consisted officially of two men and two women until the Annual Meeting in June, but in practice it functioned with three men and one woman in that period due to ill health. After the election at the Annual Meeting, the Board consisted of three women and one man for the remainder of 2024.

No employee injuries or accidents were recorded during the reporting year, nor were there any occupational safety and health complaints filed. Norecopa's operations do not include work tasks that can exert material detrimental impact on the environment.

## **Norecopa's members**

At the end of 2024, 38 institutions or departments were full members of Norecopa, and 18 private persons were associate members. The number of institutions is two less than the previous year, while the number of personal members is unchanged. Almost all major research institutions in Norway are members of Norecopa. No increases in membership fees were adopted during the reporting year. The membership fee for institutions or departments is NOK 2,000 and NOK 200 for private persons. Thus, fees for private persons have remained unchanged since Norecopa was founded in 2007, while institutional fees have not changed since 2018.

## 2) Finances

### 2024 accounts

Norecopa's core funding comes from the budget of the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food, who collaborate with the Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries. It is provided as a grant for administrative aid (*forvaltningsstøtte*), as part of the funds allocated to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute.

In December 2021, the Norwegian Parliament voted to allocate a 100% position to Norecopa's Secretariat for 2022, and since then the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, where the Secretary is employed, has allocated funds for this position. The position is treated by the Institute as a project, which means that the cost of the secretarial position includes an overhead set by the Institute. In 2024 the Institute reviewed their costs for this position in 2023 and 2024 and, after first increasing this from NOK 1,689,775 in 2023 to NOK 2,145,950 in 2024, reduced the amount at the end of the year by NOK 221,136. The Secretary's gross salary increased in 2024 by approx. NOK 27,000, which is considerably less than the increase in overhead from 2023 to 2024.

In addition to covering this cost, the Norwegian Veterinary Institute allocated NOK 500,000 directly to Norecopa as a contribution towards its scientific activities. The rest of Norecopa's activities funded via the Norwegian Veterinary Institute's accounts were financed by membership fees, to the amount of NOK 70,000 in 2024 from institutional members and with donations from Scand-LAS (NOK 17,840), Laboratory Animals Ltd. (NOK 35,311) and Novo Nordisk (NOK 158,170). The accounts for 2024 showed a surplus of NOK 97,816, due to the abovementioned review of the Institute's costs for the secretarial position. This amount is carried over to Norecopa's budget for 2025.

Norecopa has in addition an external bank account with Sparebanken Sør. The account is used for donations that Norecopa receives from external sources and for paying Elisabeth Pagels, who maintains the NORINA and TextBase databases. This account is monitored by an independent accounting firm (SALDO Regnskap, Risør). In 2024, donations that were placed in this account came from the Nordic Society Against Painful Experiments on Animals (NSMSD<sup>46</sup>, NOK 100,000), Pharmaq (NOK 40,000), Charles River (NOK 16,740), FRAME (NOK 13,000), and Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge (NOK 250,000). At the end of 2024 the balance in the account stood at NOK 529,490. This includes NOK 100,000 which were all earmarked for the ongoing project on the statistics of animal use in Norway.

Norecopa has been contacted by several who wish to support the organisation with a one-off payment, instead of - or in addition to - an annual subscription. To this end, we have set up payment by Vipps (no. 889149), which may be used by Norwegians registered for this service.

Norecopa's full accounts (both at the Veterinary Institute and in Sparebanken Sør) were audited by Norecopa's auditor, Jon Li Tjørsvaag, at the level of supporting documents, and

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.nsmsd.no>



the audit report is available on Norecopa's website<sup>47</sup>. Norecopa's funding allocated by the Parliament is part of the Norwegian Veterinary Institute's accounts, which means that it is subject to the oversight of the Office of the General Auditor of Norway. The necessary conditions for the going concern of Norecopa are present.

Regnskap og budsjett, Norecopa

Udgifter	Regnskab 2024	Budget 2024	Regnskab 2023
1) Oplagsgåben på regnskab årsmødet	8,95	0,00	8,95
2) Gåst af arbejdsforret			
3) Indtægter og udgifter til arbejdsforretningen (Arbejds forret)	2 145 810,00	2 145 810,00	4 888 715,00
4) Indtægter og udgifter til arbejdsforret	30 454,00	0 000,00	0 000,00
5) Indtægter og udgifter	10 839,38	10 839,38	10 844,00
6) Indtægter og udgifter	8 514,77	8 514,77	7 519,00
7) Gåst af arbejdsforret	8 559,24	12 000,00	11 140,00
8) Indtægter og udgifter			
9) Indtægter og udgifter	0,00	0 000,00	
10) Indtægter og udgifter	2 278,31	20 000,00	17 632,00
11) Indtægter og udgifter			
12) Indtægter og udgifter	1 735,51	2 000,00	1 790,00
13) Indtægter og udgifter	501 265,62	140 000,00	118 309,00
14) Indtægter			
15) Indtægter og udgifter	264 784,78	160 000,00	163 842,00
16) Indtægter og udgifter	263 469,89	160 000,00	163 842,00
17) Indtægter og udgifter	10 385,43	10 000,00	0 000,00
18) Indtægter og udgifter			
19) Indtægter og udgifter	20 000,00	8 000,00	5 717,00
20) Indtægter og udgifter	20 000,00	8 000,00	5 717,00
21) Indtægter og udgifter	4 481,35	1 000,00	0,00
22) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
23) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
24) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
25) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
26) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
27) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
28) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
29) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
30) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
31) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
32) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
33) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
34) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
35) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
36) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
37) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
38) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
39) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
40) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
41) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
42) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
43) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
44) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
45) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
46) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
47) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
48) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
49) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
50) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
51) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
52) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
53) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
54) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
55) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
56) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
57) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
58) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
59) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
60) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
61) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
62) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
63) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
64) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
65) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
66) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
67) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
68) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
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73) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
74) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
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80) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
81) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
82) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
83) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
84) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
85) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
86) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
87) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
88) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
89) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
90) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
91) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
92) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
93) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
94) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
95) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
96) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
97) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
98) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
99) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
100) Indtægter og udgifter	10 000,00	20 000,00	10 000,00
Sum udgifter	3 015 050,04	2 787 500,00	2 245 582,40
Indtægter			
21) Indtægter	2 845 550,00	2 845 550,00	2 189 775,00
22) Indtægter og udgifter			
23) Indtægter og udgifter	-17 045,70	0,00	0,00
24) Indtægter og udgifter	-31 850,14	0,00	0,00
25) Indtægter og udgifter			
26) Indtægter og udgifter			
27) Indtægter og udgifter	-180 210,20	0,00	-96 000,00
28) Indtægter og udgifter			
29) Indtægter og udgifter	48 000,00	-34 000,00	-74 000,00
30) Indtægter og udgifter	0,00	-2 480,00	-2 480,00
31) Indtægter og udgifter	58 554,61	58 554,61	25 888,90
32) Indtægter og udgifter	-345 274,29	-345 274,29	-367 833,00
Sum indtægter	-2 891 728,29	-2 787 500,00	-2 297 307,10
Indtægter og udgifter			
Indtægter og udgifter	221 136,85	0,00	10 210,00
Resultat	97 816,06	0,00	68 000,00

\*Resultatet fra 2023 i 2024-regnskapet (C61) var 68.004,65 ifølge en epost fra seksjonsleder Bente Midthjell 8. oktober 2024, hvilket gir et resultat for 2024 på 123.320,65. Men resultatet ble endret til 97.816 da Vls regnskap ble avsluttet. Derfor er det satt inn korreksjoner (C64).

Differansen mellom resultatet for 2022 i regnskapet for 2023 (25888) og det virkelige resultatet (12088) skyldes også endringer gjort i Vls regnskap, ifølge epost av Bente Midthjell 3. april 2024

## Donorkonto

I tillegg til disse midlene opprettet Norecopa i 2019 en konto i Sparebanken Sør. Kontoen brukes til å ta i mot donasjoner, honorarer o.l. til Norecopa.

Ved inngangen av 2024 var det følgende beløp på kontoen:

- 1) 100 473 kr til oppdatering av NORINA-databasen
- 2) 100 000 kr fra Dyrevemmelisens Forskningsfond
- 3) 90 465 kr fra diverse kilder
- 4) 44 831 i refusjon av medgått tid til forskningsprosjektet Welfare Severity

Ved utgangen av 2024 var det følgende belap på kontoen:

- 1) 18 473 til oppdatering av NORFRA-databasen
- 2) 100 000 kr fra Dyrevemmelighetsens Forskningsfond
- 3) 12 966 kr fra forskningsprosjektet Welfare Severity
- 4) 250 000 kr fra Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge (donasjon)
- 5) 86 740 kr fra ulike gaver og medlemskontingent
- 6) 91 310 kr fra diverse kilder (ubrukte midler fra 2023 minus utgifter til Summer School i 2024)

## Erklæring for regnskapet til Norecna for 2024

Jeg har gjennomgått regnskapet til Norecopa for 2024 og har ikke funnet noe å utsette på det oppsatte regnskapet.

Oslo 6. mars 2025

Jon Li Tjessvaag

<sup>47</sup> <https://norecopa.no/no/om-oss/regnskap>

In Norecopa's experience, it was extremely difficult to run the organisation effectively with the 50% position that was originally covered by the Ministry's grant when Norecopa was founded. The fact that Norecopa had a full-time secretarial position and NOK 500,000 for operating costs in 2024 gave the organisation the necessary leeway for achieving the milestones described in the first part of this Report.

### **Overview of external funding in 2024**

1. The Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments<sup>48</sup> (NSMSD) continues to support the work of further developing the NORINA database<sup>49</sup> by donating considerable amounts to Norecopa. In 2024 this amounted to a total of NOK 100,000. The funds were deposited in the donor account and are used to pay the fees of Elisabeth Pagels.
2. Novo Nordisk contributed DKK 110,000 (NOK 158,170) to a major upgrade of Norecopa's website.
3. Two donations were received towards the Summer School in Bergen: NOK 35,311 from Laboratory Animals Ltd. and NOK 17,840 from Scand-LAS. Participants paid NOK 2,500 each, which amounted to a total of NOK 31,865. The accounts for the School show that it cost Norecopa the net amount of NOK 39,765.
4. The Norwegian Society for Animal Protection (Dyrebeskyttelsen) donated NOK 250,000 to the running costs of Norecopa.
5. The UK organisation FRAME donated NOK 13,000; Charles River donated 1,500 euros (NOK 17,840) and Pharmaq donated NOK 40,000 to Norecopa.
6. Norecopa's members contributed a total of NOK 72,600 in membership fees and donations from institutions and private persons, an increase of NOK 4,000 compared to 2023.

Norecopa is extremely grateful for all of this aid, which amounted to a total of NOK 736.456 in 2024.

### ***3) Activities designed to further Norecopa's goals***

#### **EU3Rnet: the Network of European 3R centres**

Norecopa participates in a network of European 3R centres, referred to as *EU3Rnet*<sup>50</sup>, which was established in 2019. EU3Rnet runs a COST Action<sup>51</sup>, called IMPROVE<sup>52</sup>, which is meant to finance the building of the network of 3R centres in Europe. Norecopa's Secretary

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<sup>48</sup> <http://www.nsmsd.no>

<sup>49</sup> <https://norecopa.no/NORINA>

<sup>50</sup> <https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/eu3rnet>

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.cost.eu/about/about-cost>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21139>

participated in physical meetings of IMPROVE in Utrecht in June, and in Linz at the EUSAAT congress in September, as well as in several online working group meetings.

In Utrecht, Adrian Smith attended two meetings in Utrecht in June. The first was a meeting of the Management Committee and Working Groups of IMPROVE. Immediately after this, Utrecht University arranged a one-day symposium<sup>53</sup> entitled *The 3Rs and NAMs: All-inclusive?*, where over 200 participants discussed the challenges of improving dialogue between those whose work focuses on the 3Rs within animal facilities, and those who work on New Approach Methodologies and who therefore do not necessarily have much contact with the animal research community.

The 2024 EUSAAT congress was held in Linz, Austria on 18-20 August<sup>54</sup>. The day before, IMPROVE held a workshop and networking meeting<sup>55</sup>. Adrian Smith participated physically in both these events.

At EUSAAT he served on the Scientific Committee, had a poster about Norecopa<sup>56</sup>, oral presentations on a Culture of Care<sup>57</sup> and quality assurance in animal research<sup>58</sup>, and a mentoring session for young scientists on career development. In addition, as Board Member he was on the jury for two Young Scientist Travel Awards of 250 euros each from the umbrella organisation for European National Consensus Platforms, *ecopa* (of which Norecopa is a member)<sup>59</sup>, based on the abstracts of their oral presentations at the congress.



The Congress programme<sup>60</sup> featured many high-level presentations on aspects of all three Rs.

Until EU3Rnet obtains its own website, Norecopa's webpage<sup>61</sup> functions as an overview of all European 3R centres.

## **PREPARE guidelines for planning animal research and testing**

In 2024, the PREPARE checklist was translated into one further language, Albanian. By the end of the year, the PREPARE checklist was therefore available in a total of 36

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<sup>53</sup> <https://www.uu.nl/agenda/the-3rs-and-nams-all-inclusive>

<sup>54</sup> <https://eusaat.eu/eusaat-congress/24th-edition/congress-2024>

<sup>55</sup> <https://cost-improve.eu/event/3rs-centres-workshop>

<sup>56</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/2szhkbqj/norecopa-prepare-for-better-science-poster-eusaat24.pdf>

<sup>57</sup> <https://norecopa.no/coc-EUSAAT>

<sup>58</sup> <https://norecopa.no/quality>

<sup>59</sup> <https://ecopa.eu>

<sup>60</sup> [https://proceedings.altex.org/?2024\\_02](https://proceedings.altex.org/?2024_02)

<sup>61</sup> <https://norecopa.no/global3r>

languages. Norecopa thanks its colleagues in these countries for their invaluable help with the translations.

The original article about PREPARE has now been read and/or downloaded from the journal website more than 39,000 times from its publication in 2017<sup>62</sup> and until the end of 2024, of which approx. 6,000 times during the reporting year.

PREPARE is also mentioned in the annual report of *Concordat on Openness on Animal Research* for 2024<sup>63</sup>. This is a statement signed by more than 120 research institutions in the UK. 43 institutions declared that they were using PREPARE to support the ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal testing. 32% of signatories state that they endorse and actively support both PREPARE and ARRIVE. 37 of 76 research signatories state that they require that their scientists use PREPARE.

In 2024 the UK regulatory authority (ASRU) released the second edition of its guidance for those applying to conduct animal research<sup>64</sup>. The guidance cites two of Norecopa's resources: the 3R Guide database<sup>65</sup> and the PREPARE planning guidelines.

### **Presentations of Norecopa's resources at scientific meetings**

Norecopa's Secretary held the following presentations in 2024:

1. *PREPARE and ARRIVE: How can we improve both our scientific output and animal welfare?*<sup>66</sup> Invited lecturer on a course for Master students, Karolinska Institutet, 26 January
2. *The Role of the 3Rs in Planning Animal Experimentation: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement*<sup>67</sup>. Invited lecture, University of Basel, 18 March\*
3. *The PREPARE guidelines: for better science*<sup>68</sup>. Invited lecture at the FRAME Training School, Bergen, 29 March\*
4. *PREPARE for Better Science: A Practical Guide to Available Resources*<sup>69</sup>. Invited webinar for the Finnish 3R centre FIN3R, 2 April
5. *PREPARE for Better Science: A Practical Guide to Available Resources*<sup>70</sup>, Invited lecture for the FRAME & University of Nottingham Training School in Experimental Design, Nottingham, 19 April

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<sup>62</sup> <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/metrics/10.1177/0023677217724823>

<sup>63</sup> <https://concordatopenness.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/00-UAR-Concordat-2024-Digital.pdf>

<sup>64</sup>

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65cb31ff103de2000eb8f33f/Guidance+Notes+for+Project+Licence+Applications.pdf>

<sup>65</sup> <https://norecopa.no/databases-guidelines/3r-guide-database>

<sup>66</sup> <https://norecopa.no/260124>

<sup>67</sup> <https://norecopa.no/Basel>

<sup>68</sup> <https://norecopa.no/290323>

<sup>69</sup> <https://norecopa.no/020424>

<sup>70</sup> <https://norecopa.no/190424>

6. *The PREPARE and ARRIVE Guidelines*<sup>71</sup>, Invited lecturer on a course for researchers at Karolinska Institutet, 24 April
7. *NORINA: Models and simulators that can replace (or supplement) the use of live animals in education*<sup>72</sup>, Invited lecture for Copenhagen University, 24 April
8. *A Practical Guide to Planning, Conducting and Reporting Animal Studies*<sup>73</sup>, Invited lecture for the 3R Competence Network NRW, 7 May
9. Norecopa had a stand at the Scand-LAS Symposium in Tampere, 21-24 May\*
10. PREPARE for Better Science: poster presentation at a meeting organised by the Utrecht 3Rs Centre, 17 June\*
11. *The PREPARE guidelines: for better Science*<sup>74</sup>. Lecture on the Summer School on Systematic Reviews of Animal Studies, co-hosted by Norecopa, Bergen, 20 August\*
12. *PREPARE: A Practical Guide to Planning and Conducting Animal Experiments*<sup>75</sup>. Invited lecture for scientists in Argentina, 29 August
13. *Norecopa: Norway's National Consensus-Platform, working to advance all the three R's: Replacement, Reduction and Refinement*. Presentation at the COST-IMPROVE meeting, Linz, 17 September\*
14. *Culture of Care: where are the resources I need to improve conditions at my workplace?*<sup>76</sup> Presentation at the EUSAAT congress, Linz, 18-20 September\*
15. *Quality, fast, cheap: choose two. Practical advice on how to conduct better Science*<sup>77</sup> Presentation at the EUSAAT congress, Linz, 18-20 September\*
16. *Norecopa: PREPARE for Better Science*. Poster presentation at the EUSAAT congress, Linz, 18-20 September\*
17. *Norecopa: PREPARE for Better Science*. Poster presentation at the Danish 3R-Center's Annual Symposium, Copenhagen, 4-5 November\*
18. *Bruk av en Refinement Wiki for å øke kommunikasjon*.<sup>78</sup> Invited lecture for the annual meeting of the Norwegian National Committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes (*Forsøksdyrkomitéen*), 21 November\*
19. *Improving Our Scientific Output and Animal Welfare? the PREPARE Guidelines for Planning Animal Studies*<sup>79</sup>. Invited lecture on the University of Nottingham/FRAME course for early career researchers, 28 November
20. *Norecopa og de 3 R'ene: Replacement, Reduction og Refinement av dyreforsk*<sup>80</sup>, Invited lecture at ILAB, Bergen, 28 November\*
21. *The Three-Finger Method of Scruffing Rodents*, international webinar for animal technicians, 3 December
22. *Improving Our Scientific Output and Animal Welfare? The PREPARE Guidelines for Planning Animal Studies*<sup>81</sup>. Invited lecture for Albanian researchers, 6 December

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<sup>71</sup> <https://norecopa.no/240424>

<sup>72</sup> <https://norecopa.no/SUND>

<sup>73</sup> <https://norecopa.no/NRW>

<sup>74</sup> <https://norecopa.no/200824>

<sup>75</sup> <https://norecopa.no/Argentina>

<sup>76</sup> <https://norecopa.no/coc-EUSAAT>

<sup>77</sup> <https://norecopa.no/quality>

<sup>78</sup> <https://norecopa.no/211124>

<sup>79</sup> <https://norecopa.no/281123>

<sup>80</sup> <https://norecopa.no/ILAB>

<sup>81</sup> <https://norecopa.no/Albania>

Apart from meetings marked with an asterisk (\*), participation in meetings was online.

In addition to these meetings, Norecopa's secretary participated in an online international meeting on 15 October organised by the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes (Forsøksdyrkomiteén) entitled *Sharing information on 3Rs and Best Practice in Wild Bird Research*<sup>82</sup>.

Since Norecopa was founded in 2007, Norecopa's secretary has:

- Authored or co-authored 31 papers
- Held 233 presentations

A geographical overview is available on Norecopa's website<sup>83</sup>.

The site also features links to presentations from Norecopa's meetings<sup>84</sup> and many of the presentations<sup>85</sup>.

### Further development of Norecopa's website

Norecopa has had its own website, <https://norecopa.no>, since February 2008. In addition, the suffices .info, .com, .eu, .net, .org og .cn are registered for the domain name, to avoid these being used by others.

Norecopa uses Bitfarm in Kristiansand to maintain and develop the website. Norecopa has an operating and maintenance agreement with the company. The company Webhuset is used to register Norecopa's domains, and Getonnet provided the software for a discussion forum run by Norecopa until it was shut down in September 2024 (see below).

In September 2024 Norecopa replaced Matomo with Google Analytics for analysis of site users. This makes it difficult to compare site use in 2024 with previous years. In addition, users have the option to deny cookies which allow Norecopa to track them, so the actual use of the website is difficult to assess, but it is in the region of 350,000 hits per year. The registered number of hits for the 4-month period from installation of Google Analytics in the beginning of September until 31 December 2024 was 114,000.

Norecopa's website contains several databases. These include NORINA<sup>86</sup>, which holds information on products that can replace or supplement the use of animals in education and training, and TextBase<sup>87</sup>, which contains information on literature within laboratory animal science. In 2024, the Nordic Society Against Painful Experiments on Animals (NSMSD) continued to support the work of maintaining and further developing these databases. Most of the work on updating NORINA and TextBase in 2024 was done by Elisabeth Pagels

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<sup>82</sup> <https://www.forsoksdyrkomiteen.no/sharing-information-on-3rs-and-best-practice-in-wild-bird-research>

<sup>83</sup> <https://norecopa.no/global3r#members=&ints=Presentations%20by%20Norecopa>

<sup>84</sup> <https://norecopa.no/meetings>

<sup>85</sup> <https://norecopa.no/meetings/presentations>

<sup>86</sup> <https://norecopa.no/norina-database>

<sup>87</sup> <https://norecopa.no/textbase-database>



(employed by Bitfarm, Kristiansand). The work this year largely consisted of deleting information about old products that are no longer available and adding information about new products. Thus, the total number of entries in the databases is a product of these two processes. At the end of 2024, NORINA contained information about approx. 3,400 products, whereas TextBase had some 1,800 entries. These net figures are slightly higher than those in 2023.

A new addition in 2024 was the creation of a webpage<sup>88</sup> describing the acronyms “NAMs and NATs”, which are used increasingly (and sometimes confusingly) to describe non-animal methods.

In addition to the website, Norecopa has for the whole of its existence run a closed discussion forum by email for those with special responsibility for the country’s animal research facilities. As of today’s date, this forum has been the only channel whereby this group can discuss matters of common interest. In 2024, the forum had 45 members, as in 2023. Norecopa closed down this service in September 2024 due to lack of interest in it.

Norecopa continues to fund the operation of the website of the ENRICH Fish project<sup>89</sup>, which was officially ended in 2017.

### **Further development of Norecopa’s Refinement Wiki**

In collaboration with colleagues in Norway and abroad, Norecopa has expanded its user-managed website (*Refinement Wiki*, [wiki.norecopa.no](http://wiki.norecopa.no)) that was launched in 2020. At the end of 2024, there were 74 topics in the Wiki.

### **Contact meetings**

#### **The Parliament and the Ministries**

Norecopa's Secretary participated as usual in the annual budgetary hearing on 17 October organised by the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Business and Industry (*Næringskomitéen*), and presented Norecopa's views on the budget for 2025 (speech<sup>90</sup> and written statement<sup>91</sup>, in Norwegian).

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<sup>88</sup> <https://norecopa.no/nams-and-nats>

<sup>89</sup> <https://norecopa.no/fish/projects/enrich-fish>

<sup>90</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/201lz2qy/tale-til-naeringskomitéen-171024.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/ui1loi3f/norecopa-notat-naeringskomitéen-2024.pdf>



It is this Committee that deals with the budget chapter for the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, which is where the government subsidy to Norecopa comes from.

### ***Work to establish a physical 3R centre in Norway***

Norecopa continues to liaise with Members of Parliament and staff at the relevant Ministries to increase awareness of the need for a larger, physical 3R centre in Norway.

In 2024 this work centered around the plans of the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food to produce a Report on Animal Welfare (Dyrevelferdsmeldingen<sup>92</sup>), which was eventually presented in Parliament on their last day of work before the Christmas recess, 20 December 2024. This Report, the first one of its kind since the Report in 2003 which led to the foundation of Norecopa<sup>93</sup>, covers all aspects of animal use in Norway, including their use in science. The Report contained a section on Norecopa and concluded that the establishment of a National 3R centre should be investigated, discussing the roles of Norecopa and the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes, in this connection.

More information about these events is available in Norwegian on Norecopa's website<sup>94</sup>.

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

Norecopa's Secretary has had sporadic contact with the National Committee for the Protection of Animals used for Scientific Purposes during the year, in order to discuss matters of common interest. He attended the Committee's meeting for Animal Welfare

<sup>92</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/norge-skal-ha-dyrevelferd-i-verdenstoppen/id3080624>

<sup>93</sup> <https://norecopa.no/about/history>

<sup>94</sup> <https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/politisk-aktivitet>

Organisations in Oslo on 21 November.

### **Projects funded by the Norwegian Research Council**

Norecopa's Secretary is part of two projects funded by the Norwegian Research Council:

- A project led by the Institute of Marine Research and titled WELFARE SEVERITY (Frameworks for classifying the welfare of farmed Atlantic salmon based upon the principles of severity assessment)<sup>95</sup>
- A project led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) titled SPHERTOX (Hepatic 3D spheroids: the next generation of testing in toxicology)<sup>96</sup>

### **Other activities during 2024**

Norecopa's Secretary has:

1. participated in the International Culture of Care Network, which was established after the FELASA congress in June 2016. He also maintains the website of the Network on Norecopa's platform ([norecopa.no/coc](https://norecopa.no/coc)).
2. been a Board Member of *ecopa* since 8 December 2022. During the reporting year, he has also assisted with *ecopa*'s website and participated in the General Assembly on 31 May, which was held online.

### **Norecopa's publications during 2024**

#### ***Newsletters***

Norecopa's Secretary published seven electronic English-language newsletters in 2024. All of these are archived on Norecopa's website<sup>97</sup> and their content is searchable, which increases their value. The number of subscribers increased by 7% in 2024: from approximately 1,420 subscribers to the first newsletter on 26 February to approximately 1,520 subscribers to the last newsletter on 20 December. The exact number of active subscribers is slightly lower than this, since some subscriber accounts were inactive or returned error messages (some of which were probably false).

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<sup>95</sup> <https://norecopa.no/species/fish/projects/severity-assessment-and-salmon-welfare>

<sup>96</sup> <https://norecopa.no/species/fish/projects/sphertox>

<sup>97</sup> <https://norecopa.no/news/newsletters>



## Publications

Norecopa's Secretary was co-author of the following publications in 2024:

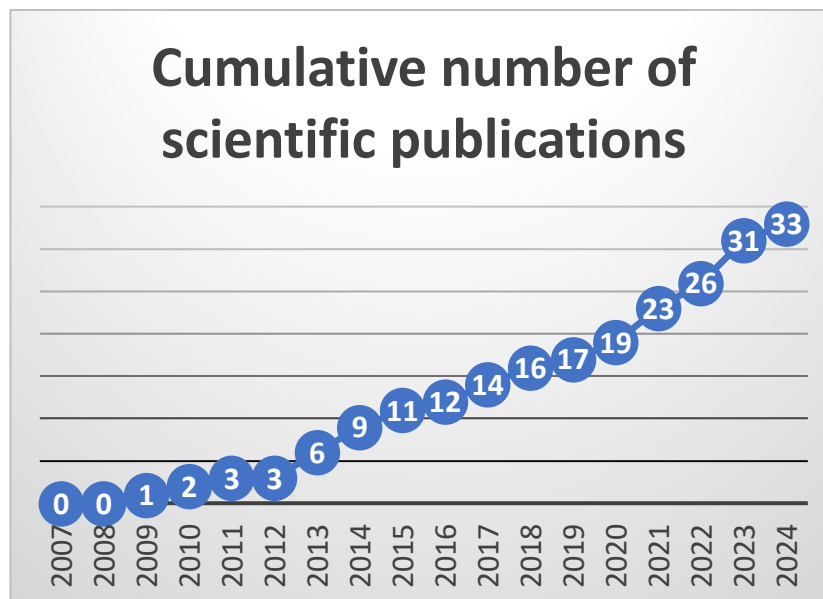
1. Smith AJ & Richmond J (2024): The Three Rs. In: *The UFAW Handbook on the Care and Management of Laboratory and Other Research Animals*, 9<sup>th</sup> Edition. Wiley-Blackwell.<sup>98</sup>  
First published in 1947, and replacing the 8th Edition from 2010, this 1000-page handbook consists of two parts: 17 general chapters and then 33 species-specific chapters covering mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibia, fish, cephalopods and decapods, written by a total of over 100 authors. Part 1 includes chapters on experimental and facility design, and many aspects of animal welfare.
2. Smith AJ (2024): Veien til konsensus om dyreforsøk: på tide å snakke om elefanten i rommet? *Norsk veterinærtidsskrift*, 136(3): 144-147.
3. Smith (2024): Editorial: In Musculoskeletal Research, Too Many Animals are Being Harmed for Too Small a Return. Letter to the Editor in: *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research*, 482: 896-898.

Adrian Smith was also interviewed by the author of an article about European 3R centres, Charlotte Harrison, for the Nature journal *Lab Animal*<sup>99</sup>. The article included interviews with seven representatives of 3R centres worldwide. The interviews describe some of the

<sup>98</sup> <https://norecopa.no/no/textbase/the-ufaw-handbook-on-the-care-and-management-of-laboratory-and-other-research-animals-9th-edition>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41684-024-01396-1>

challenges in creating 3R centres and filling the needs of local scientists, as well as some of their success stories.



## Opinion pieces and other articles

Norecopa did not publish opinion pieces in 2024.

## Norecopa and social media

Norecopa has a brochure describing the organisation and its activities. This can be downloaded as pdf files in English<sup>100</sup> and Norwegian<sup>101</sup> and can be used freely.



<sup>100</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/cpgprhp5/norecopa-brochure.pdf>

<sup>101</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/p0jhcurq/norecopa-brosjyre.pdf>

## **Norecopa in social media**

Norecopa does not have sufficient resources to play a very active role within social media.

Approximately 770 persons follow Norecopa's Facebook profile, the same as in 2023.<sup>102</sup>

Norecopa has a LinkedIn page with 170 followers<sup>103</sup>, and Adrian Smith also posts information about Norecopa on his own LinkedIn page which has 1,600 connections<sup>104</sup>.

Norecopa has not used Twitter/X in 2024. Adrian Smith has his own account with 760 followers, where the majority of posts deal with Norecopa, but he does not use this regularly.

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<sup>102</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Norecopa>

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/23545108>

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/in/adrian-smith-bb567b5a>



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