

European Network of National Animal Welfare Body Networks (ENAWB):



Supporting Collaboration and Culture of Care in Europe

Vootele Voikar

University of Helsinki, Finland



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
LABORATORY ANIMAL CENTRE

HiLIFE
HELSINKI INSTITUTE OF LIFE SCIENCE

Networking

WHY? HOW?

Networks do not run themselves - they require coordination, engagement, and shared purpose

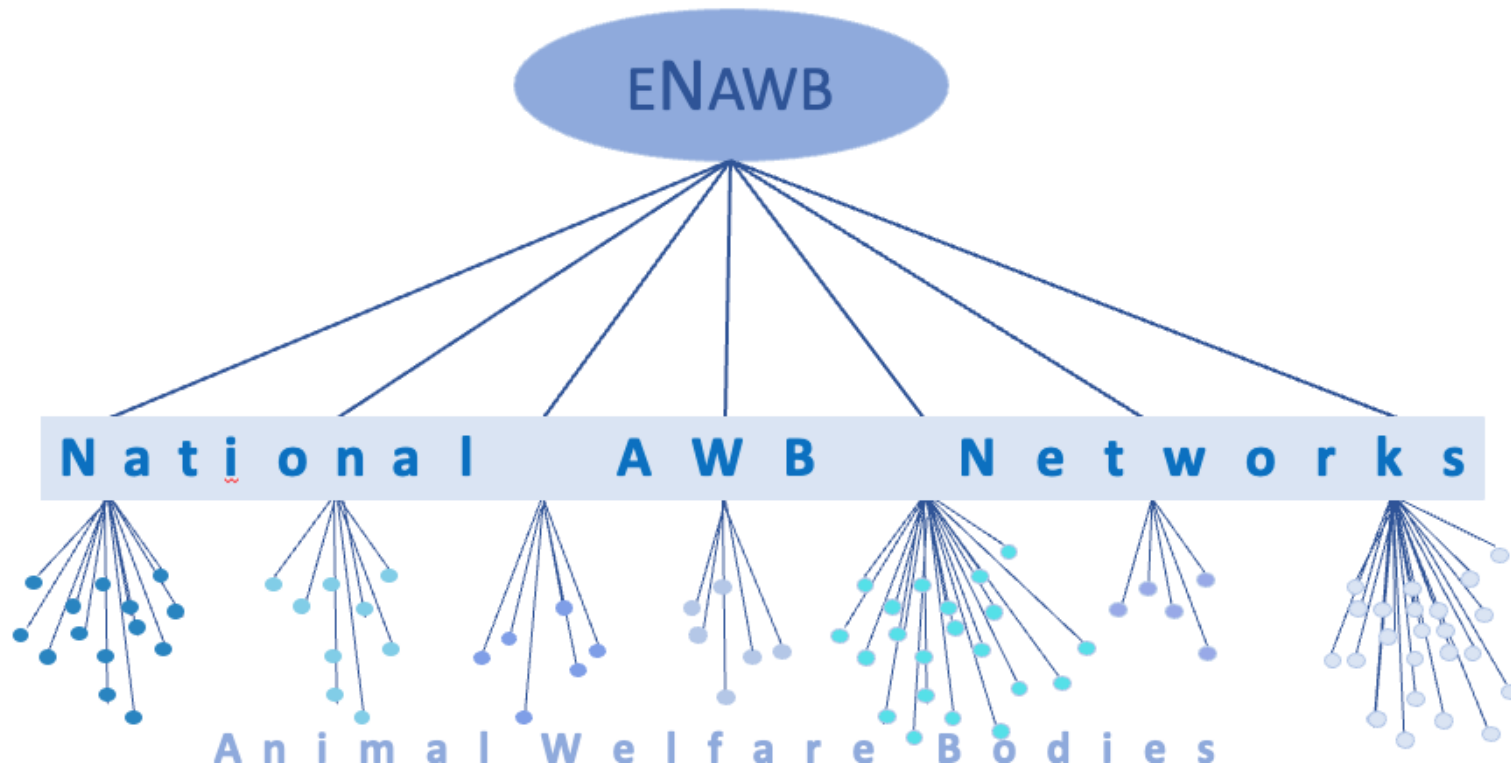
Benefits of Networking:

- Knowledge exchange
- Access to broader expertise
- Collaboration and new projects
- Training and capacity building
- Harmonization of practices
- Cultural change
- Community and peer support
- Greater visibility and policy impact

Successful networking requires:

- Grassroots motivation
- Leadership and a core group
- Active and critical mass of members
- Defined goals, objectives and structure
- Regular communication platform and follow-up
- Shared values and trust
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Funding and visibility

The concept of a European Network of National Networks of Animal Welfare Bodies



“Ensure each breeder, supplier and user sets up an animal welfare body” (Article 26)

At the 2022 [FELASA congress in Marseille](#), a session discussed how national [Animal Welfare Body \(AWB\)](#) networks are a powerful way of promoting a good [Culture of Care](#).

Several countries had set up their AWB networks, enabling them **to share good practice with respect to establishing effective processes and fulfilling all of their tasks.**

This has helped many AWBs to improve animal welfare, the implementation of the [3Rs](#), the quality of the science and staff morale.

ENAWB OBJECTIVES

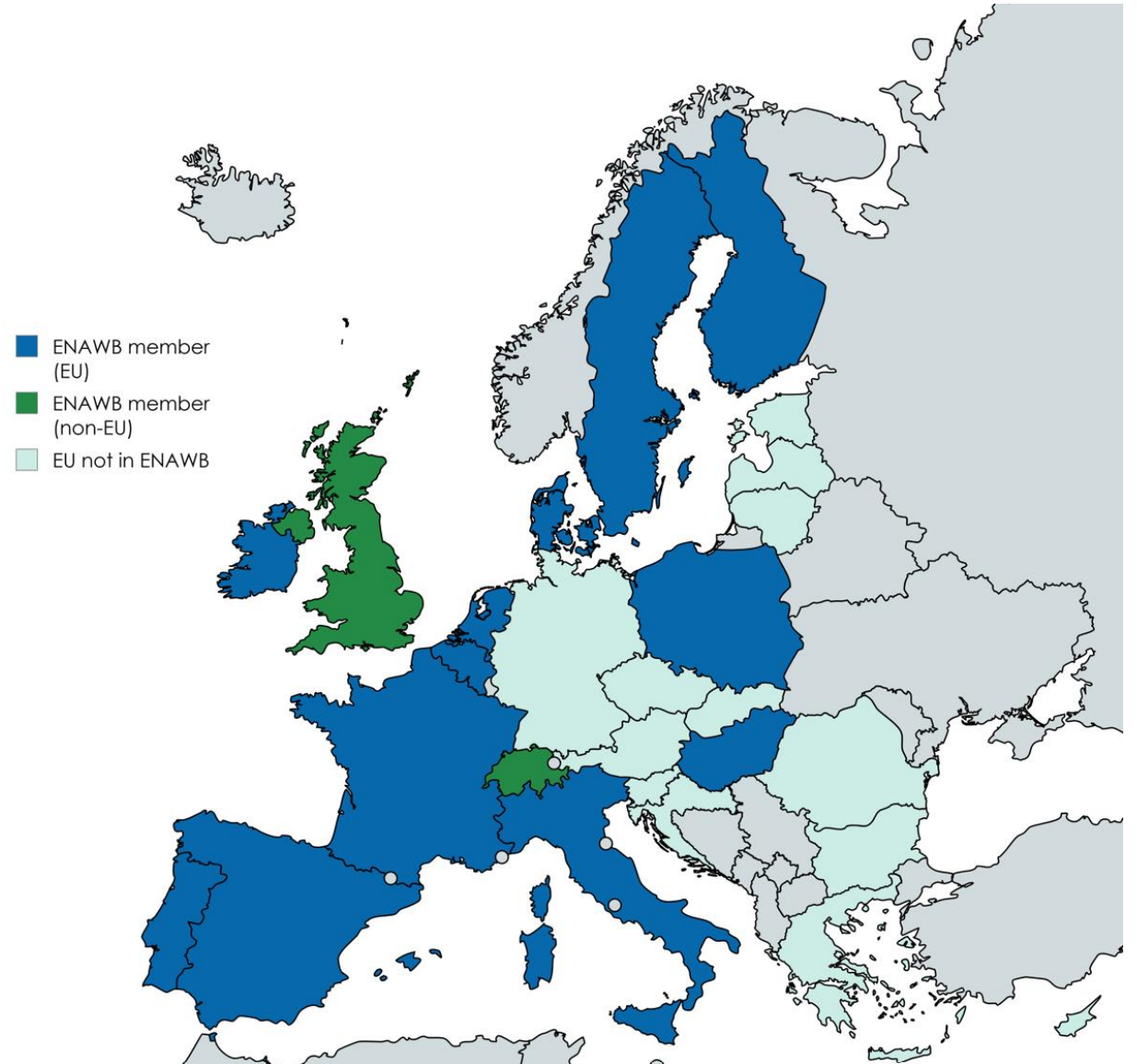
- Help AWBs delivering all their tasks effectively
- Encourage and facilitate establishment of national networks
- Harmonization and alignment of practices and outcomes of AWBs in Europe
- Rapid exchange of information and experiences
- Promote animal welfare and facilitate the sharing of good practices
- To liaise with animal welfare professionals, competent authorities, National Committees and European organizations

Where are we now

The network currently consists of representatives of national networks in 14 countries (seven have joined since 2024)

- Belgium
- Denmark
- France
- Portugal
- Switzerland
- The Netherlands
- The UK

- Finland (joined in 2024)
- Hungary (joined Jan-2025)
- Ireland (joined May-2026)
- Italy (joined Nov-2025)
- Poland (joined Apr-2025)
- Spain (joined in 2024)
- Sweden (joined Sept-2025)



Info & Contact



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ENAWB: European Network of National Networks of Animal Welfare Bodies

norecopa.no/enawb



- Informal network, quarterly meetings online, two contact persons per national network
- Not limited to EU Member States
- The group has presented its activities at the meetings of the European Commission National Contact Points ([EU Directive, Article 47](#))
- Please contact [the National Contact Point person](#) in your country if you are in doubt of the AWB network status in your country
- The French network ([RN-SBEA](#)) published the first edition of its [Guide for French Animal Welfare Bodies](#) (in French) in June 2024. The aim of the Guide is to help French animal welfare bodies better understand and therefore accomplish their missions. Further editions may be issued. This is one of several [guidelines and publications recommended by RN-SBEA](#)
- Please contact VV for more information about ENAWB.
- Norecopa's Secretary participates as an observer in the network.



Animal Welfare Bodies in Europe: A Valuable Partner to Culture of Care

Following the 2010/63 Directive, Animal Welfare Bodies (AWB) were implemented widely in Europe. They have become valuable tool to enhance communication within any breeder, supplier, or user establishment, to promote good care of animals, to provide advice. National networks of AWB have promoted the exchange of experiences with peers with the same responsibilities and facing the same challenges. The help on the harmonization of principles and practices for the benefit of both animals and humans, promoting a true culture of care.

- **15 Years of AWB in Europe**
- **How the National AWB Networks Have Built Together a European Network**
- **RedeORBEA -The Portuguese Animal Welfare Bodies Network. A Sum Greater Than its Parts**
- **The French Guide for the Animal Welfare Bodies**



Directive: **Recital 48**

"There is a need to ensure a coherent approach to project evaluation and review strategies at national level. Member States should establish national committees for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes to give advice to the competent authorities and animal-welfare bodies in order to promote the principles of replacement, reduction and refinement. A network of national committees should play a role in the exchange of best practice at the level of the Union."

Article 49 - National committees for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes

"1. Each Member State shall establish a national committee for the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. It shall advise the competent authorities and animal-welfare bodies on matters dealing with the acquisition, breeding, accommodation, care and use of animals in procedures and ensure sharing of best practice.

2. The national committees referred to in paragraph 1 shall exchange information on the operation of animal-welfare bodies and project evaluation and share best practice within the Union.

Liaising with the network of National Committees (17.3.2026);

Project: Strengthening the connections between the NCs and AWBs
Survey launched in the beginning of June, 2026

News (May-2026)

- **Irish** AWB Network – inaugural meeting 14th April 2026
- **Belgian** Network (BENAWB) organised a workshop “From Aggression to Stereotypes – Practical Approaches to Common Welfare Issues in Laboratory Mice”, at the annual BCLAS meeting (April 22-23, 2026)
- **Portugal** – in December 2025, 10th National ORBEA Symposium, website launched <https://redecorbea.pt/>
- **Poland** – conducted a comprehensive survey among Polish AWB Network members, planning a workshop during PolLASA meeting in September 2026, next network meeting in May
- **Spain** – AWB Network co-organiser of the RSPCA Meeting Focus on Severe Suffering – June 22-23, Madrid; More info <https://nc3rs.org.uk/events/rspca-7th-international-focus-severe-suffering-meeting>
- **Sweden** – digital collaboration platform launched
- **France** – Launch of AWB training workshops (blended approach): first session in Paris at the end of 2025, followed by 3 sessions planned for 2026 in Strasbourg, Montpellier and Nice. April 2026: Launch of a survey among French AWB to gather their feedback on their own functioning. June 2026: 7th annual meeting of RN-SBEA in Reims on the theme “AWB and Emergency Plan”
- **Finland** – Focus on Culture of Care / Careful Stories / Transparency
- Preparing for FELASA-2027 – proposals for a workshop and session to be submitted

**NATIONAL
COMMITTEES**

**COMPETENT
AUTHORITIES**

**Three Rs
Animal Welfare
Culture of Care**

**ANIMAL WELFARE
BODIES
(NETWORK)**

*Culture of Care
Network*

**3R CENTERS
(NETWORK)**

ENAWB

EU₃Rnet

*Culture
care
network*



Thank you!

Gianfranco Di Caro	Italy
Ana Isabel Santos	Portugal
Thomas Steckler	Belgium
Kaat Neckermann	Belgium
Maria Kristina Kiersgaard	Denmark
Kirsten Rosenmay Jacobsen	Denmark
Julia Swan	Finland
Delphine Denais Lalieve	France
Györgyi Szabo	Hungary
Istvan Hernadi	Hungary
Luca Lorenzini	Italy
Witold Zakowski	Poland
Anna Morgunowicz	Poland
Nuno Franco	Portugal
Diana Ramírez	Spain
Isabel Blanco	Spain
Sara Barr	Sweden
Emma Svensk	Sweden
Björn Lex	Switzerland
Michaela Thallmair	Switzerland
Miriam van der Meer	the Netherlands
Sally Robinson	UK
Caroline Chadwick	UK
Laavanya Parthasarathi	Ireland
Alison Reynolds	Ireland
Martin Murphy	Ireland
Susanna Louhimies	EC
Adrian Smith	Norway / Norecopa