



The French Guide for the Animal Welfare Bodies

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felasa2025.eu



The RN-SBEA in brief

- Created in **2019**
- Supported by 3 French associations **AFSTAL**, **Gircor** & **OPAL**
- A **coordination Board** with 6 members :
 - Hervé Pointu et Delphine Denais-Laliève (co-chairs)
 - Kevin Dhondt, Aurélie Eisenmann, Camille Ménard et Karim Mesbah
- A **monthly meeting** (remote)
- A **yearly meeting** (face-to-face)
- **Minutes of meetings** shared with the presidents of the 3 associations (transparency)
- Updated **action plan**



→ **More than 400 AWB members**

What it does for French AWBs ?



Be a clearly identified **source of information** for the **AWB**
(website, documents, guidelines,...)



Coordinate, gather and share **what already exists** (Celphedia, regional AWB networks, IDF AWB network, INRA network, etc.) and to support **initiatives**



Be a place of **exchange** and **sharing of experience and good practices**



Set up **training initiatives** linked in particular to animal welfare and its monitoring



Work on **AWB and Ethics Committee relations** and be an **interlocutor** with official bodies (Ministries Agriculture / Research, private and public organisations,)

Achivements since 2019

- **Regular census** of the French AWBs (including database update)
- **Survey among the French AWBs** with full report and publication in STAL
- **Shared website** with the RN-C2EA (network of Ethics Committees)
- Regular **newsletters** (n = 40)
- **Frequently Asked Questions** (n = 18) - possibility to ask questions by email
- **Practical sheets** (n = 6)
- **Various surveys** on specific topics (own initiative or on request)
- Organization of **5 RN-SBEA conferences** (half-day, before the AFSTAL yearly meeting)
- Presentations of RN-SBEA at **conferences and meetings**



Les réseaux SBEA & C2EA : notre engagement

Qui sommes-nous ?

Les auteurs et contributeurs de ce site sont des acteurs du dispositif d'encadrement éthique de la recherche avec les animaux et compte de leur bien-être, qui agissent dans les structures impliquées au plus proche du terrain que sont les comités d'éthique en ex animal (C2EA) et les structures en charge du bien-être des animaux (SBEA).



The idea !

- AWB was a **new concept for France** in 2013
- **Limited guidelines** in the legislation
 - Minimal composition
 - Input of the Designated vet (variable)
 - Legal missions
 - Records to be kept
- **Only document available : Working document of the EC**



→ But for real : **how to make it work ?**



A true need

- Expressed in the survey : **need for information !**
- Although all the AWB missions are covered, **discrepancies may exist**
 - Between establishments (species, purpose, size)
 - Between AWB missions
- **Need for support and tools**
- **Need for harmonization**
- Managed as a project by Camille and Aurélie

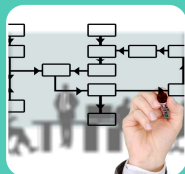


First, the structure



General information

- Accronyms
- Foreword
- Regulations



Organization

- Composition
- Operation
- Stakeholders and Communication
- Training



Missions – for each

- What ?
- Why ?
- How ?



Conclusion and annexes

- Graphs
- Forms (EXAMPLES)
- References



Legal missions of AWB according to French Law

Writing groups

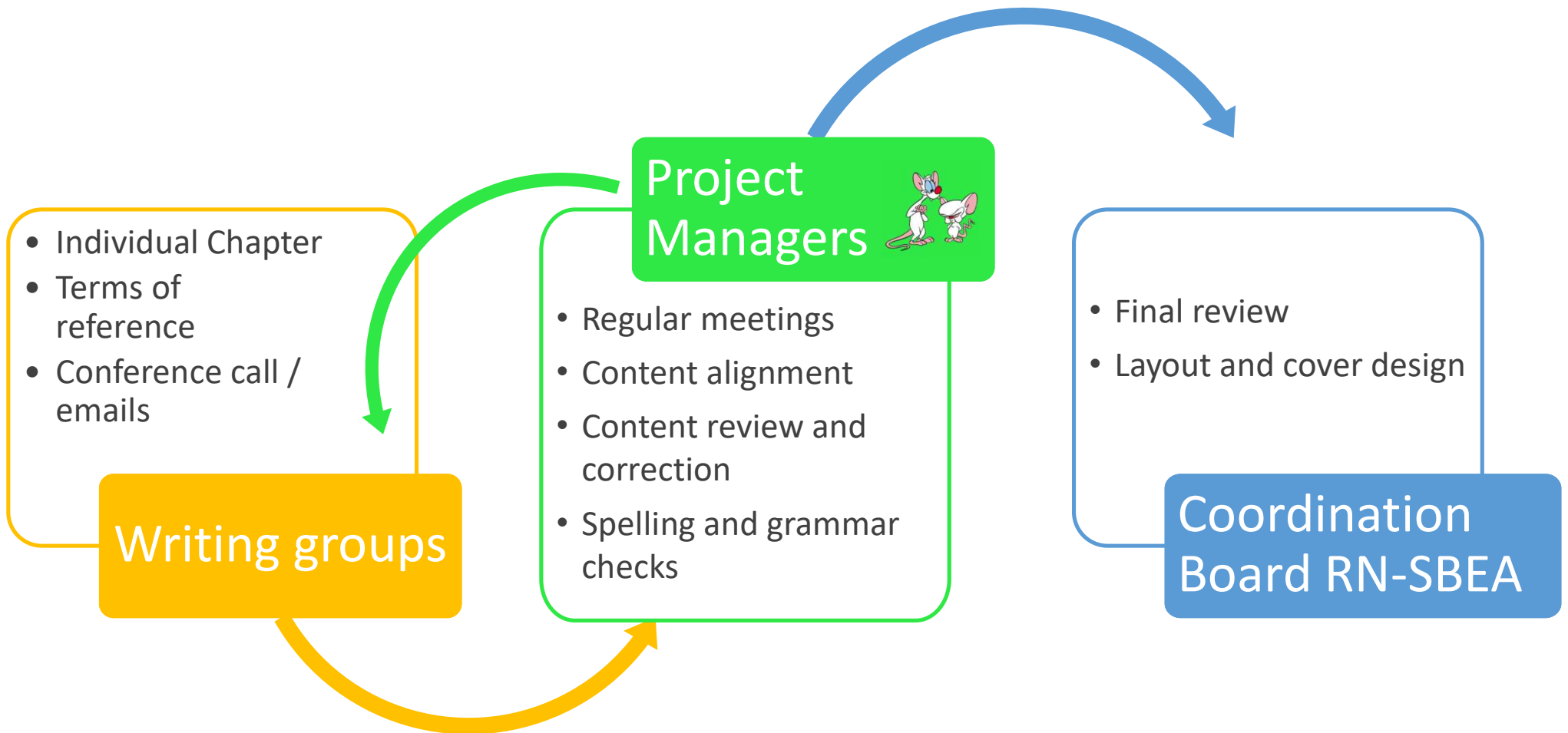
- **11 writing groups** based on the structure
- Each group was led by a member of the Coordination Board
- Each member of the Coordination Board was in charge of 1 or 2 writing groups
- **Input of Vet Inspectors** in some writing groups
- For each group
 - Virtual meetings
 - Shared document
- **Once finalised → sent to the 2 project managers**



Recommendations for the writing groups

- **Avoid being overly prescriptive.** The guide should encourage **flexibility** and **adaptability** rather than impose rigid frameworks.
- **Focus on objectives over methods.** Emphasize the **effectiveness and performance** of an AWB rather than prioritizing specific operational tools or engineering standards.
- **Craft a thoughtful content.** Clearly articulate the purpose and scope of the specific chapter, highlighting the **supportive role of AWB** and acknowledging regulatory expectations—without mandating compliance.
- **Start with openness.** **Don't set too many limits** at the beginning. If you restrict the content too early, the guide might end up unclear and not useful for real situations or user needs.

Writing process



The French Guide for AWB



Les Structures chargées du Bien-Être des Animaux Le Guide



Un guide proposé par le réseau national des SBEA

Ait Arsa Imade
Arnaud Damien
Astruc Aurélia
Athenion Magalie
Autier-Derian Dominique
Balouzat Rachel
Bamba Mandjé
Baudon Marie
Bauer Charlotte
Beyer Helen
Candat Virginie
Ceramon Laura
Chadeuf Gilliane
Chauveau Claire
Codecasa Elisa

Darlot Florence
Degardin Julie
Denais-Laliève Delphine
Dehay Sabrina
Dorel Tiphaine
Dumas François
Eisenmann Aurélie
Fall Papa Babacar
Garrigou Audrey
Gilles Magali
Girard Laura
Gois Angèle
Halgand Isabelle
Jacquot Frédéric
Kasal-Hoc Nathalie

Leal Anaïs
Lecomte Baptiste
Loisel Séverine
Magisson Fanny
Maisonneuve Catherine
Manoury Hélène
Ménard Camille
Mesbah Karim
Metzger Elisabeth
Molina Vila Pablo
Mura Anne-Marie
Nicolas Gaëlle
Pellegrino Séverine
Perez Calvo Estefania
Pointu Hervé

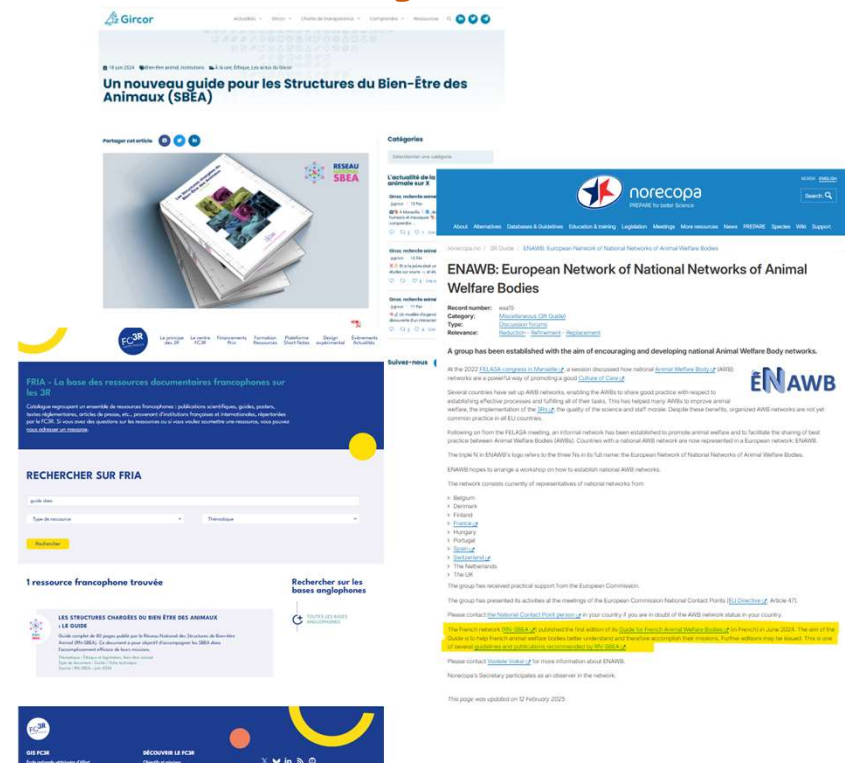
Polrot Mélanie
Rousseau Elodie
Rousseau Valérie
Simon Olivier
Talotta-Guignard
Alexandra
Vincent-Naulleau Silvia
Vollmer Héloïse
Vouillac Caroline
Winner Sophie



<https://tinyurl.com/guideSBEA>

How to spread among the community

- Before official release, the Guide was shared with the Ministry of Research
- **Official release** at the annual RN-SBEA Meeting in Lille in June 2024
- Information included:
 - RN-SBEA Newsletter
 - Gircor Website
 - In FC3R database
 - In Norecopa database
 - Shared with ENAWB



Choice to make the Guide available only online :
Easier to distribute, simpler to update, and more environmentally friendly.

Next steps

Continue updating the Guide

- **Revise** it as needed, based on feedback received
- Add **new appendices** (e.g., practical sheets, document templates)
- Review it regularly to **ensure relevance and accuracy**
- **Enrich it further** with insights gathered from the 2025 survey

Promote the Guide

- **Share** it within the French-speaking community (France and others)
- Disseminate it **across Europe** to exchange ideas with other AWB networks



**Thanks for your
attention
And we will be more
than happy to
exchange during the
FELASA 2025 !**

*Camille, Karim,
Aurélie, Hervé,
Delphine and Kevin*

Thanks :   

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