norecopa

Annual Report for 2025

Norecopa

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Annual Report for 2025

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About Norecopa

Norecopa is a National Consensus Platform[1] working to promote all **"the 3Rs" (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)**[2] within animal research. The 3Rs refer to a variety of methods to avoid animal experimentation, or to reduce the number of animals and the burden on them 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 18 on 10 October 2025. The year was a key milestone for Norecopa's efforts to raise political awareness of the need for resources to establish a nationwide 3R centre. During the debate on the Government's proposals for the budget for 2026, Parliament voted to allocate NOK 6 million extra to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute (where Norecopa is located), to strengthen work on the 3Rs. It remains to be seen how the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, who administer the budget of the Institute in more detail, give further directions for this work.

The use of Norecopa's webpages increased markedly in 2025, especially in the Autumn. This seems to be linked to a large increase in data traffic from Singapore and Kina. This is probably caused by traffic to data centres that handle requests from Artificial Intelligence applications for material about animal research and testing. The Norecopa website currently receives about 1,000 hits per day.

Norecopa continued to lobby for more resources to 3R activities. Among other events, Norecopa's Secretary was interviewed on National News about this on 6 April[3].

[1] https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/consensus
[2] https://norecopa.no/alternatives/the-three-rs
[3] https://tv.nrk.no/serie/dagsrevyen-21/sesong/202504/episode/NNFA21040625

What have we achieved in 2025?

These are five of the milestones which Norecopa has achieved in 2025:

1. Norecopa co-hosted and sponsored a meeting of the International Culture of Care Network[4] at the FELASA Congress in Athens.
2. Adrian Smith served on the Scientific Committee of the 13th World Congress on Animal Use in the Life Sciences and Alternatives, in Rio de Janeiro
3. Adrian Smith held 15 presentations i 8 countries
4. Norecopa won the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture's annual 3R prize of 20,000 euros
5. Norecopa awarded its annual 3R Prize to scientists from the University of Oslo

Details of Norecopa's other activities are given in the Appendix.

Milestone 1: Norecopa co-hosted and sponsored a meeting of the International Culture of Care Network during the FELASA Congress in Athens in June

Norecopa sponsored this event with 3,000 euros for rent of the meeting room, and also funded production of 1,000 stickers bearing the Network's logo. These will be distributed by Network members at meetings to promote the Network's website, which is hosted by Norecopa: https://norecopa.no/coc
The meeting was also attended by representatives of ENAWB (European Network of Animal Welfare Body Networks). Norecopa also hosts the website of this network: https://norecopa.no/ENAWB

In addition, Norecopa's Secretary held two oral presentations during the Congress (see the Appendix).

Participants at the International Culture of Care Network meeting in Athens

[4] https://norecopa.no/coc

Milestone 2: Adrian Smith served on the Scientific Committee of the 13th World Congress on Animal Use in the Life Sciences and Alternatives in Rio de Janeiro

Norecopa's Secretary was elected to the Scientific Committee of this Congress[5] and took an active part in planning the scientific programme. He had already participated physically in ten of the twelve previous Congresses[6], starting with the first one in Baltimore in 1993 where the NORINA database[7] was presented. Due to ill health around the time of the Congress, he had to cancel his physical attendance, but he delivered two pre-recorded lectures which were played back on the day (see the Appendix).

Milestone 3: Adrian Smith held 15 presentations in 8 countries

In 2025, Norecopa's resources were presented in the following countries (those with an asterisk were virtual presentations):
Brazil, Denmark, Finland*, Germany, Greece, Norway, Sweden* and the United Kingdom**

in 2025, 14 of the 15 were oral presentations, and 8 were by invitation.
An overview of these presentations can be found in the Appendix.

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

- Authored or co-authored 34 papers
- Held 248 presentations in 35 countries:

Albania, Argentina*, Australia*, Austria, Belgium, Brazil*, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong*, India*, Ireland, Iran*, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Nigeria*, Norway, Portugal*, Romenia*, Slovenia, Sri Lanka*, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and USA*

*virtual presentations

A geographical overview is available on Norecopa's website[8]. There are also links to presentations from Norecopa's own meetings[9] and an overview of the presentations mentioned in the Annual Reports[10].

[5] https://www.wc13rio.org/scientific-committee
[6] https://norecopa.no/events/world-congresses
[7] https://norecopa.no/NORINA
[8] https://norecopa.no/global3r#members=&ints=Presentations%20by%20Norecopa
[9] https://norecopa.no/meetings
[10] https://norecopa.no/meetings/presentations

Milestone 4: Norecopa won the German Ministry of Food and Agriculture's 3R Prize

Norecopa was awarded the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture's annual Animal Welfare Research Prize within the category "Social and civic commitment in the field of laboratory animals". The award, presented by the Parliamentary State Secretary Dr. Orphelia Nick, consisted of a diploma, a commemorative glass tablet and 20,000 euros. The ceremony took place in Berlin on 22 April. An award was also made at the event to Professor Hans Clevers (Roche Research) for outstanding research within replacement and reduction of animal use. A recording of the event is available online[11].

Norecopa was awarded the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture's annual Animal Welfare Research Prize

Milestone 5: Norecopa awarded its 3R prize to scientists at the University of Oslo

The aim of Norecopa's 3R Prize is to increase awareness and use of the 3R principle[12] 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[13]. Norecopa received only one nomination for the 2025 prize[14], but the external Prize Committee considered it highly worthy of the award[15].

The prize, which consists of NOK 30,000 and a diploma, was awarded for the 14th time, immediately after the Annual Meeting on 20 May. The winners were Mathias Busek,

[11] https://www.bmleh.de/EN/topics/animals/animal-health/animal-protection-research-prize-25.html
[12] https://norecopa.no/3rs
[13] https://norecopa.no/about/3r-prize
[14] https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/3r-prize
[15] https://norecopa.no/media/vkhhxubn/3rs-prize-committee-conclusion-2025.pdf

Aleksandra Aizenshtadt and Stian Kogler at the University of Oslo, for their outstanding work at the University's interdisciplinary Hybrid Technology Hub.

The prizewinners were praised for their outstanding work in creating advanced systems that simulate disease, replicate complex organ interactions, and accurately measure how drugs are metabolized. These innovations not only replace animal testing but also enhance the predictive power and ethical standards of biomedical research. Their efforts include advanced lab-grown models such as organoids (miniature organs grown from human cells) and organ-on-chip systems. The prizewinners' lecture[16] can be found on Norecopa's website.

Mathias Busek, Aleksandra Aizenshtadt and Stian Kogler, winners of the 3R Prize for 2025
photo: Norecopa

Other highlights of 2025

Norecopa participates in the network of European 3R centres, EU3Rnet[17], which is financed by a "COST[18] Action" entitled IMPROVE (*"3Rs concepts to improve the quality of biomedical science"*).

Norecopa has collaborated with FRAME (now known as *Replacing Animal Research*) for several years by providing presentations for their annual Training Schools in Experimental

[16] https://norecopa.no/media/ok2npb40/kogler-200525.pdf
[17] https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/eu3rnet
[18] https://norecopa.no/COST

Design[19] - which Norecopa hosted in Bergen in 2023. In 2025, Adrian Smith presented (online) at the School that was arranged in Dublin in June[20].

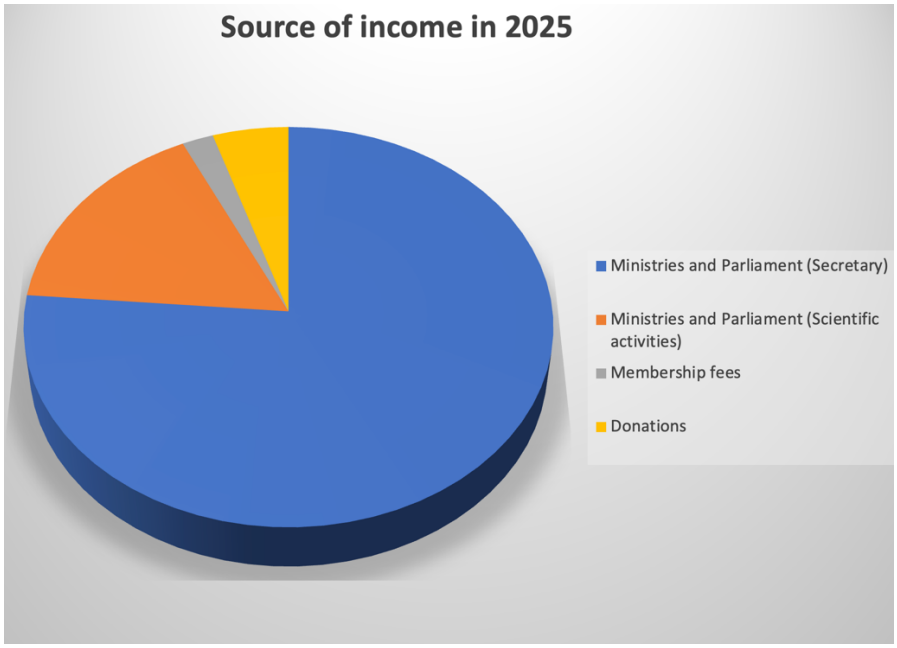
Norecopa has been a Member Organisation of AAALAC International[21] since August 2023. AAALAC International is a private, nonprofit organization that operates voluntary evaluation and accreditation programs for research animal facilities worldwide. Adrian Smith is Norecopa's Member Organisation Delegate.

Norecopa's secretary continued to liaise with the leaders of the Nordic Zebrafish Network[22] which Norecopa helped to establish in 2023. A 3-day practical course in zebrafish husbandry and techniques, followed by a 2-day networking event, was held at Karolinska Institutet in November 2025[23].

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, with NOK 500,000 for scientific activities, as in 2024.

The rest of Norecopa's activity in 2025 was financed by membership fees and donations. These are described in the Appendix.



[19] https://replacinganimalresearch.org.uk/for-scientists/training-school/
[20] https://norecopa.no/130625
[21] https://www.aaalac.org
[22] https://ki.se/en/research/research-infrastructure-and-environments/core-facilities-for-research/zebrafish-core-facility/the-nordic-zebrafish-network
[23] 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 2025: 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 4% of Norecopa's income from the State 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.

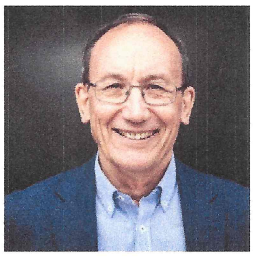
Oslo, March 2026

Janette Maria Carlsen
(Chair of the Board)

Rolf Hetlelid Olsen
(Board Member)

Linda Andersen
(Board Member)

Karianne Muri
(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[24], and its Annual General Meeting as its supreme governing body[25].

Moreover, Norecopa is a member of the European umbrella organisation for National Consensus Platforms, *ecopa (European Consensus Platform on Alternatives)*[26]. Adrian Smith has been a Board Member of *ecopa* since 8 December 2022.

On 2 December the General Assembly of *ecopa* decided to close down the organisation in 2026, due to an unsustainable financial situation. This will not affect Norecopa's name, logo or mandate to collaborate with all stakeholder groups, but will entail minor changes in the statutes.

Norecopa has an Activity Plan[27] which is approved at its Annual General Meetings.

Norecopa's Board and Annual Meeting

The 2025 Meeting was held as a hybrid meeting from Oslo on 20 May. There were 7 participants in Oslo and 11 participants online. The Annual Report and accounts for 2024, as well as the budget proposal for 2025 and the proposal for the membership fees (no changes since 2021) were all adopted[28].

There were no planned changes to the Board in 2025, but Åshild Roaldset (representative for animal welfare) had requested to relinquish her position. Karianne Muri (Norwegian Veterinary Institute) was chosen in her place. She took up a new position, at the Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals, from August 2025.

[24] https://norecopa.no/vedtekter
[25] https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/aarsmoeter
[26] http://www.ecopa.eu
[27] https://norecopa.no/aktivitetsplan
[28] https://norecopa.no/about/annual-meetings

The Board consisted therefore of the following from 20 May:

Linda Andersen, Stiftelsen ILAB, Bergen*
deputy: Ewa Harasimczuk, Norwegian Veterinary Institute*
Karianne Muri, Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals**
deputy: Anton Krag, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance**
Rolf Hetlelid Olsen*, PHARMAQ
deputy: Tone Sundal Haganes, Vaxxinova*
Janette Maria Carlsen (Board Chair), Norwegian Food Safety Authority**
deputy: Gunvor Knudsen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority**

**elected until 2028 **elected until 2026*

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. Bearing in mind that Norecopa's future role may be changed in the wake of the decisions that will be made in connection with the potential creation of a 3R centre, the Board recommended to the Assembly that Norecopa's Activity Plan should remain unchanged for the next year. There were no objections to this.

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 2025:
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 was awarded directly after the Annual Meeting.
The following scientific presentations were also given that day:

- Dyrevelferdsmeldingen – og hva som har skjedd etterpå (Adrian Smith)[29]
- The rise of 3R centres in Europe (Winfried Neuhaus, Vienna)[30]
- Nordic Zebrafish Network – an update (Lars Bräutigam, Karolinska Institutet)[31]
- Norges bruk av forsøksdyr: hvordan går det? (Adrian Smith)[32]
- The use of animals in neuroscience (Ingvild Bjerke, Penn State University)[33]

[29] https://norecopa.no/media/5ecdj3ts/dyrevelferdsmeldingen-200525.pdf
[30] https://norecopa.no/media/biujsjxu/eu3rnet.pdf
[31] https://norecopa.no/media/oozcnbir/the-nordic-zebrafish-network.pdf
[32] https://norecopa.no/media/gw3joznk/statistikk-bruk-av-forsoeksdyr.pdf
[33] https://norecopa.no/media/mj4jt0m0/bjerke-200525.pdf

All the documents and minutes from the Annual General Meeting are available on Norecopa's website[34].

Three Board Meetings were held in 2025: on 7 January, 4 April and 15 October. The minutes have been published on Norecopa's website[35].

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 and then again by the Veterinary Institute to 31 December 2026.

Occupational safety and health, equality and environmental impact

In 2025, 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 of one man and three women until the Annual Meeting in June, and the same composition after the election at the Annual Meeting.

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 2025, 38 institutions or departments were full members of Norecopa, and 15 private persons were associate members. The number of institutions is the same as the

[34] https://norecopa.no/about-norecopa/annual-meetings
[35] https://norecopa.no/styrereferater

previous year, while the number of personal members is three less than in 2024. 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

2025 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 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 65,050 in 2025 from institutional members. The accounts for 2025 showed a surplus of NOK 93,452, due to an unexpected review of the Institute's costs for the secretarial position. This amount is carried over to Norecopa's budget for 2026.

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 2025, an unsolicited donation of $15,000 from Charles River Laboratories was placed in this account. At the end of 2025 the balance in the account stood at NOK 785,364, compared to NOK 529,490 in December 2024.

Norecopa has set up the possibility of payment by Vipps (no. 889149). All individual memberhip subscriptions were paid by this method in 2025, which avoided the production of a large number of invoices.

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 the audit report is available on Norecopa's website[36]. Norecopa's funding allocated by the

[36] https://norecopa.no/no/om-oss/regnskap

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

		Regnskap 2025	Budsjett 2025	Regnskap 2024
Utgifter				
1	**Deltagelse på ecopas årsmøte**	6 628,34	0,00	0,00
	Drift av sekretariatet			
2	Bokførte utgifter til sekretærstillingen (Adrian Smith)	2 293 200,00	2 293 200,00	2 145 950,00
3	Bokførte utgifter til konsulent	5 513,60	8 000,00	32 404,40
4	Kontorutgifter	11 005,73	14 816,00	16 020,36
4a	Kontorrekvisita	239,80	6 816,00	9 553,77
4b	Kjøp og oppgradering av datamaskin og programvare	10 765,93	8 000,00	6 466,59
	Trykningsutgifter			
5	Materiale til årsmøtet	0,00	5 000,00	0,00
6	Øvrig informasjonsmateriale	4 939,20	8 000,00	2 229,91
7	**Medlemsavgift ecopa**	1 747,55	2 000,00	1 731,53
8	**Faglige møter og reiser**	109 256,30	140 000,00	101 385,62
	Nettsider			
9	Lisenser og supportavtaler	211 575,52	220 000,00	200 761,78
10	Videreutvikling og reparasjoner av nettsidene	223 125,00	100 000,00	309 466,69
11	Domeneregistrering	12 945,75	12 000,00	10 289,43
	Styremøter, årsmøte, høringer			
	Summen reiseutgifter:	14 568,97	30 000,00	26 590,65
12	Årsmøte (gjesteforelesere og Norecopas personale)	1 989,40	22 000,00	20 139,30
13	Høringer og lignende	12 579,57	8 000,00	6 451,35
	Bevertning	3 193,00	10 000,00	19 000,00
14	Årsmøte / annet møte	3 193,00	10 000,00	19 000,00
	Øvrig faglig aktivitet	93 188,26	121 000,00	149 219,67
15	Utdeling av 3R pris	794,00	31 000,00	30 670,33
16	Annet faglig arbeid:	91 212,50	90 000,00	117 367,58
16a	FishENDS-Dig			
16b	PREPARE for fiskeforskere (2022: jubileumsmøte)			
16c	Øvrige utgifter (2022: ACURET; 2023: AAALAC+stat rapport; 2024: Summer School)			117 367,58
17	Oppdatering av NORINA			
18	ENRICH-Fish			
19	Oppgradering av nettsidene	*legt til pkt. 10 ovenfor*	*legt til pkt. 10 ovenfor*	*legt til pkt. 10 ovenfor*
20	PREPARE	1 181,76		1 181,76
21	Konsensusmøte			
	Sum utgifter uten midlene til sekretærstillingen	697 687,22	670 816,00	869 100,04
	Refusjoner i forbindelse med inviterte foredrag ikke bokført ovenfor			
Sum utgifter		2 990 887,22	2 964 016,00	3 016 050,04
Inntekter				
22	**Tildelinger**	-2 793 200,00	-2 793 200,00	-2 645 950,00
23	Momskompensasjon			
24	Tilskudd fra Stiansen/LAL/SAB/Dyrebeskyttelsens Fond/Scand-LAS			-17 840,70
25	Overføringer fra donorkonto			-31 865,14
26	ENRICH-Fish			
27	Novo Nordisk + NSMSD+SAB+LAL+USDA+UFAW+ Rahms+Sanofi+Scanbur+B Reed			-196 078,20
28	PREPARE			
29	**Medlemsavgift, fullt medlemskap**	-62 000,00	-70 000,00	-68 000,00
30	**Medlemsavgift, assosiert medlemskap**	0,00	-3 000,00	0,00
31	**Resultatet fra året før**	-97 816,00	-97 816,00	68 004,65
32	**Sum inntekter utenom stillingen**	-159 816,00	-170 816,00	-245 779,39
Sum inntekter		-2 953 016,00	-2 964 016,00	-2 891 729,39
	korreksjon av stillingskostnadene foretatt av VI vårets slutt	131 323,22		221 136,65
Resultat		93 452,00	0,00	97 816,00

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 til 2025 var det følgende beløp på kontoen:
kode 10: kr. 18.473 til oppdatering av NORINA-databasen
kode 30: kr. 100.000 fra Dyrevernalliansens Forskningsfond
kode 40: kr. 12.966 fra forskningsprosjektet Welfare Severity
kode 50: 250.000 fra Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge (donasjon)
kode 60: kr. 56.740 fra ulike gaver og medlemskontingent
kode 99: kr. 91.509 fra diverse kilder
tilsammen: kr. 529.688

Ved utgangen av 2025 var det følgende beløp på kontoen:
kode 10: kr. 18.473 kr til oppdatering av NORINA-databasen *(ubrukt i 2025)*
kode 30: kr. 0 fra Dyrevernalliansens Forskningsfond (oppdrag fullført i 2025)
kode 40: kr. 12.966 fra forskningsprosjektet Welfare Severity *(ubrukt i 2025)*
kode 50: kr. 250.000 fra Dyrebeskyttelsen Norge *(ubrukt i 2025)*
kode 60: kr 350.104 fra ulike gaver og medlemskontingent
kode 99: kr 1.257 fra diverse kilder

Dette utgjør en samlet ***nettoøkning*** i 2025 i forhold til 2024 på **kr. 255.676:**

tilsammen: kr. 785.364 (se bankutskriften fra Sparebanken)

Erklæring for regnskapet til Norecopa for 2025
Jeg har gjennomgått regnskapet for 2025 og har ikke funnet noe å utsette på det oppsatte regnskap.

Oslo 23.03.2026

Jon Li Tjørsvaag

In Norecopa's experience, and as we have pointed out for 18 years, 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 2025 gave the organisation the necessary leeway for achieving the milestones described in the first part of this Report.

Overview of external funding in 2025

1. Charles River Laboratories donated $15,000 to the work of Norecopa.
2. Norecopa's members contributed a total of NOK 65,050 in membership fees from institutions and private persons, a decrease of approx. NOK 6,000 compared to 2024.

Norecopa is extremely grateful for all of this support.

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*[37], which was established in 2019. EU3Rnet runs a COST Action[38], called IMPROVE[39], which is meant to finance the building of the network of 3R centres in Europe.

PREPARE guidelines for planning animal research and testing

The PREPARE checklist was translated into Lithuanian in 2025. It is now available in a total of 37 languages. A version in Hebrew was in preparation. Norecopa thanks its colleagues in these countries for their invaluable help with the translations.

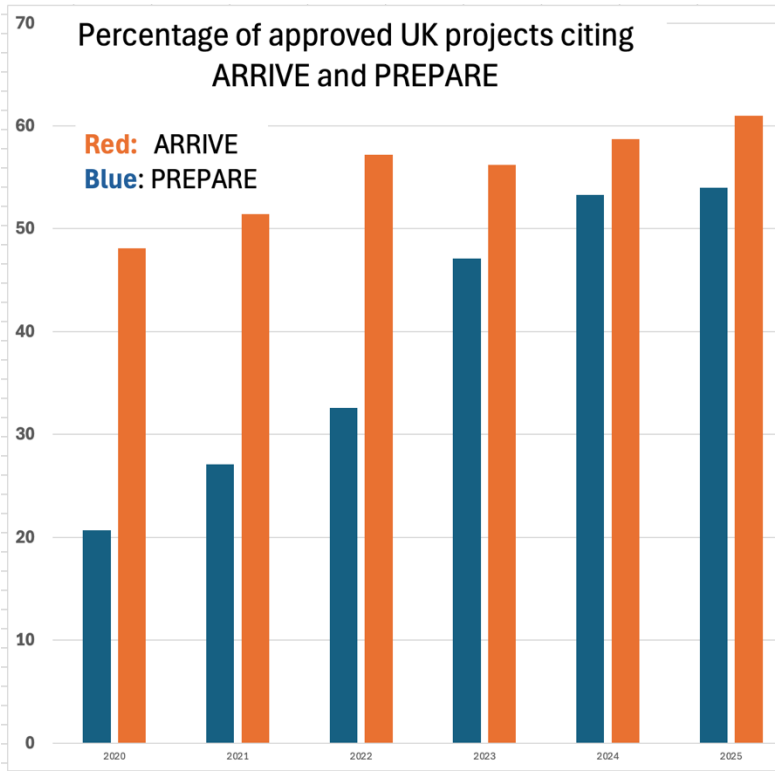
The original article about PREPARE has now been read and/or downloaded from the journal website more than 42,000 times from its publication in 2017[40] and until the end of 2025, of which approx. 3,500 times are during the reporting year.

PREPARE is also mentioned in the annual report of *Concordat on Openness on Animal Research* for 2025[41] published by the UK organisation *Understanding Animal Research*[42]. This is a statement signed by more than 120 research institutions in the UK. 43 institutions declared

[37] https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/eu3rnet
[38] https://www.cost.eu/about/about-cost
[39] https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21139
[40] https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/metrics/10.1177/0023677217724823
[41] https://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk/application/files/4117/6476/5126/UAR_Concordat_report_2025_Digital.pdf
[42] https://www.understandinganimalresearch.org.uk

that they were using PREPARE to support the ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal testing. 37% of signatories state that they endorse and actively support both PREPARE and ARRIVE, an increase of 5 percentage points from 2024.

In 2025 the UK regulatory authorities continued to publish Non-Technical Summaries of approved projects. Norecopa analysed these, to see the extent of citations of the PREPARE planning guidelines (published in 2018) and the UK-based ARRIVE guidelines for reporting animal experiments (2010, revised in 2020). There has been a very satisfactory uptake of PREPARE, as shown on this figure:



Presentations of Norecopa's resources at scientific meetings

Norecopa's Secretary held the following presentations in 2025:

1. A guided tour of the Norecopa website[43]. FIN3R webinar, 4 February*
2. Innlegg om forsøksdyr[44]. Dyrevernalliansen seminar, Oslo, 5 February
3. Resources for AWERBs on assessing replacement available on the Norecopa website[45]. Animals in Science Committee workshop, London, 2 April*
4. Culture of Care – and status on Norwegian 3Rs initiatives[46]. Bergen, 8 April

[43] https://vimeo.com/1053518017
[44] https://norecopa.no/050225 and https://vimeo.com/1053771832
[45] https://norecopa.no/ASC
[46] https://norecopa.no/CR-Bergen

5. Animal Protection Research Prize for social and civic engagement in the field of laboratory animals: Thank you from Norecopa![47] Prizewinner speech at the Germany Ministry of Agriculture's seminar, Berlin, 22 April
6. Dyrevelferdsmeldingen – og hva som har skjedd etterpå[48]. Norecopa's Annual Meeting, 20 May
7. Norges bruk av forsøksdyr: Hvordan går det?[49] Norecopa's Annual Meeting, 20 May
8. PREPARE for Better Science: A practical guide to improving animal research and testing[50]. Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, 22 May*
9. The Norecopa website: The Path to Better Science: Resources from Norecopa[51]. IACLAM Day, Athens, 1 June
10. The Norecopa website: A Guided Tour of Global 3R Resources[52]. FELASA Congress, Athens, 2-5 June
11. 3Rs in the European landscape[53]. Presentation at the seminar "Advancing the 3Rs in Europe – Challenges, Opportunities, and Best Practices" organised by Bundesministerium für Forschung, Technologie und Raumfart and Bundesnetzwerk 3R, Berlin, 24 June*
12. The Path to Better Science: Practical advice on implementing the 3Rs and related principles in animal research[54]. 13th World Congress on Animal Use in the Life Sciences and Alternatives, Rio de Janeiro, 31 August – 4 September*
13. 3R alternatives in the education and training of scientists and lab animal personnel[55]. 13th World Congress on Animal Use in the Life Sciences and Alternatives, Rio de Janeiro, 31 August – 4 September*
14. PREPARE for Better Science[56]. Poster presentation, Danish 3R-Center's annual symposium, Copenhagen, 12-13 November
15. Ressurser om Replacement på Norecopas nettsider[57]. Seminar for Norway's Animal Welfare Bodies arranged by the National Committee, Gardermoen, 20 November

Meetings marked with an asterisk (*) were by virtual participation.

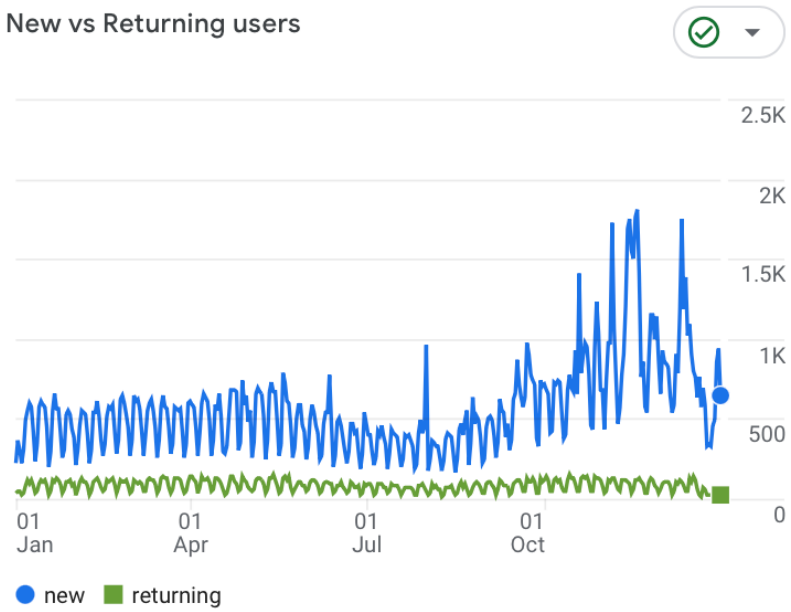
Further development of Norecopa's website

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

[47] https://norecopa.no/220425
[48] https://norecopa.no/media/5ecdj3ts/dyrevelferdsmeldingen-200525.pdf
[49] https://norecopa.no/media/gw3joznk/statistikk-bruk-av-forsoeksdyr.pdf
[50] https://norecopa.no/KI-220525
[51] https://norecopa.no/Path
[52] https://norecopa.no/Tour
[53] https://norecopa.no/240625
[54] https://norecopa.no/WC13-Path and https://vimeo.com/1115389971
[55] https://norecopa.no/WC13-Education and https://vimeo.com/1116139778
[56] https://norecopa.no/media/2szhkbqj/norecopa-prepare-for-better-science-poster-eusaat24.pdf
[57] https://norecopa.no/erstatte

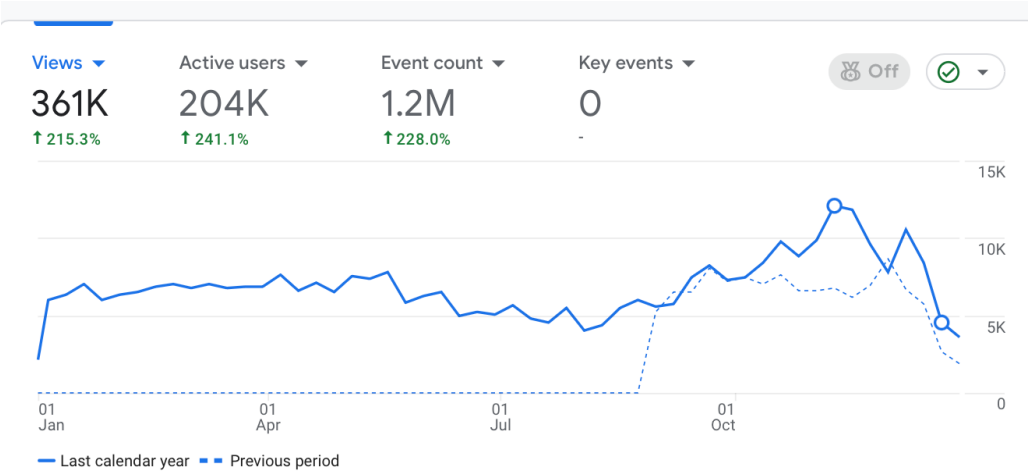
Norecopa uses Bitfarm in Kristiansand to maintain and develop the website. Norecopa has an operating and maintenance agreement with the company. The company Webhuset is used to register Norecopa's domains.

In September 2024 Norecopa replaced Matomo with Google Analytics for analysis of site users. This makes it difficult to compare site use in 2025 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 currently at least 360,000 hits per year. The registered number of hits for the 4-month period from installation of Google Analytics in the beginning of September 2024 until 31 December 2024 was 114,000. The traffic from Norecopa's Secretary and Elisabeth Pagels is automatically excluded from Google Analytics.



Traffic on norecopa.no in 2025

The statistics for 2025 show a large increase in traffic during the Autumn of 2025 compared with the first half of the year. According to Google Analytics, much of this traffic came from sites in China and Singapore. This is likely to be traffic from data centres, answering questions posed to AI applications. This traffic is also evident at the end of 2024 (stippled line) after installation of Google Analytics in September:



Norecopa's website contains several databases. These include NORINA[58], which holds information on products that can replace or supplement the use of animals in education and training, and TextBase[59], which contains information on literature within laboratory animal science. Most of the work on updating NORINA and TextBase in 2025 was done by Elisabeth Pagels (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 2025, NORINA contained information about approx. 3,500 products, whereas TextBase had some 2,100 entries. These net figures are slightly higher than those in 2024.

Norecopa continued to fund the operation of the website of the ENRICH Fish project[60] until April 2025, when it was finally decided to close down the site, in collaboration with the project leader. The project was officially ended in 2017.

Norecopa's Refinement Wiki

In collaboration with colleagues in Norway and abroad, Norecopa has maintained its user-managed website *(Refinement Wiki,* wiki.norecopa.no*)* that was launched in 2020. At the end of 2025, 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 21 October organised by the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Business and Industry (*Næringskomitéen*), and presented Norecopa's views on the budget for 2026 (the speech[61]

[58] https://norecopa.no/norina-database
[59] https://norecopa.no/textbase-database
[60] https://norecopa.no/fish/projects/enrich-fish
[61] https://vimeo.com/1129834261

and written statement[62], are available in Norwegian).

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 2025 this work centered around the Norwegian Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Report on Animal Welfare (Dyrevelferdsmeldingen[63]), which was eventually presented to Parliament on their last day of work before the Christmas recess in 2024. This Report, the first one of its kind since the Report in 2003 which led to the foundation of Norecopa[64], 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.

The Report concluded that the Government will 'evaluate how the work of reduction, refinement and replacement of research animals (3R) can be organised, including how the resources in existing structures such as the National Committee and Norecopa can be utilised better by organising them in a national 3R Centre. The report will include a closer assessment of the economic and administrative impacts of the possible establishment of a 3R center in Norway' - Norecopa's translation of the original text:

Regjeringen vil utrede hvordan arbeidet med reduksjon, forbedring og erstatning av forsøksdyr (3R) kan organiseres, herunder om ressursene i eksisterende strukturer som Forsøksdyrkomitéen og Norecopa kan utnyttes bedre ved organisering i et nasjonalt 3R-senter. I utredningen vil det gjøres en nærmere vurdering av økonomiske og administrative virkninger ved en eventuell

[62] https://norecopa.no/media/ahxh5nc5/norecopa-notat-naeringskomit%C3%A9en-211025.pdf
[63] https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/norge-skal-ha-dyrevelferd-i-verdenstoppen/id3080624
[64] https://norecopa.no/about/history

etablering av et 3R-senter i Norge.

Norecopa was invited to an internal hearing in the Ministry on 4 November about this matter. This was the last communication on the matter with Norecopa in 2025.

More information about these events is available in Norwegian on Norecopa's website[65].

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 Organisations at Gardermoen on 21 November, where the theme was Replacement, and he held a presentation on Norecopa's resources in this area[66].

Projects funded by the Norwegian Research Council

Norecopa's Secretary is part of a project funded by the Norwegian Research Council and led by the Institute of Marine Research entitled WELFARE SEVERITY (Frameworks for classifying the welfare of farmed Atlantic salmon based upon the principles of severity assessment)[67].

Other activities during 2025

Norecopa's Secretary has 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 two General Assemblies, held on 31 May (virtual attendance) and on 2 December (physical attendance in Bologna). At the Assembly in December a final decision was taken to close down *ecopa* in 2026, due to an unsustainable financial situation. The remaining assets of the organisation will be used to award travel grants to early career researchers. Adrian Smith has been tasked with migrating key material from *ecopa*'s website to Norecopa's website[68] before the domain is closed down.

Norecopa's Secretary participated in Dyrevernalliansen's breakfast seminar on 5 February about the new Government Report on Animal Welfare (Meld. St. 8 (2024-2025) Dyrevelferd) and gave a presentation in Norwegian on its relationship to research animals[69].

[65] https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/politisk-aktivitet
[66] https://norecopa.no/erstatte
[67] https://norecopa.no/species/fish/projects/severity-assessment-and-salmon-welfare
[68] https://norecopa.no/ecopa
[69] https://norecopa.no/media/srklbep4/norecopa-050225.pdf

Norecopa's publications during 2025

Newsletters

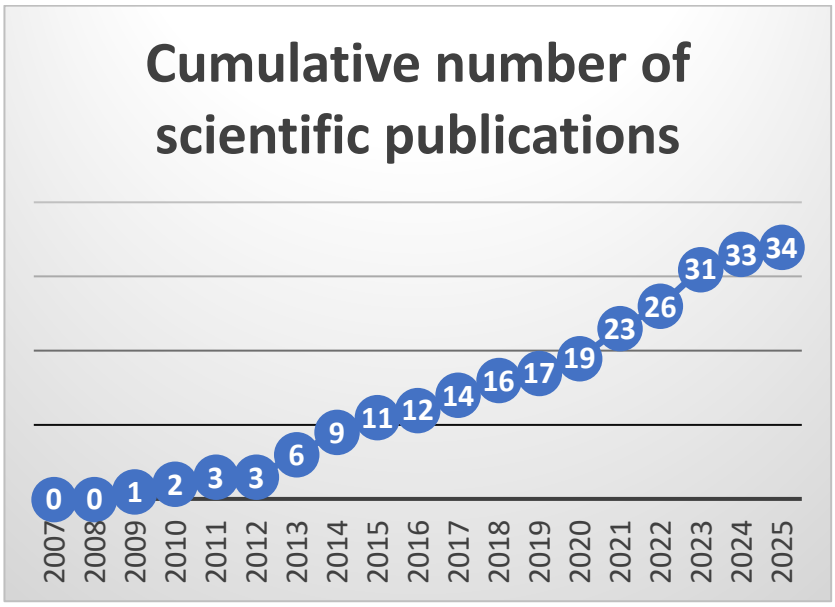
Norecopa's Secretary published six detailed electronic English-language newsletters in 2025. All of these are archived on Norecopa's website[70] and their content is searchable, which increases their value. The number of subscribers increased by 7% in 2025, from approximately 1,534 subscribers to the first newsletter on 20 February to 1,599 subscribers to the last newsletter on 17 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, however, were probably false.

Publications

Norecopa's Secretary was co-author of several papers under production in 2025, but only one of these was published that year (under Open Access):

Noble *et al.* (2025): Welfare Indicators for Aquaculture Research: Toolboxes for Five Farmed European Fish Species. *Reviews in Aquaculture*, 18(1), e70109[71].

[70] https://norecopa.no/news/newsletters
[71] https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/raq.70109



Opinion pieces and other articles

Norecopa's Secretary published an opinion piece in Norwegian in the 2025 issue of *Dyrenes Stemme*, the annual magazine for members of Dyrebeskyttelsen Oslo & Omegn - Dyrenes Hus, entitled *Hvorfor er det ikke større politiske interesse for alternativer til dyreforsøk I Norge?*

Norecopa and social media

Norecopa has a brochure describing the organisation and its activities. This can be downloaded as pdf files in English[72] and Norwegian[73] and can be used freely. It has not, however, been updated recently.

[72] https://norecopa.no/media/cpgprhp5/norecopa-brochure.pdf
[73] 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 2024.[74] This page is not frequently updated.

Norecopa has a LinkedIn page with 500 followers[75], and Adrian Smith also posts information about Norecopa on his own LinkedIn page which has 1,900 followers[76].

Norecopa has not used Twitter/X or other social media in 2025.

[74] https://www.facebook.com/Norecopa
[75] https://www.linkedin.com/company/23545108
[76] https://www.linkedin.com/in/adrian-smith-bb567b5a

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