



Situation in Estonia



Industry

We don't have big need from the side of the industry to use the animals for product testing:

Pharmacy – practically no needs;

Cosmetics – minor needs;

Chemical industry – traditionally the testing has been performed in other countries.

Restructure of the industry has taken most of the free resources.

If alternative method will be easy and cheap to use the studies could be performed in place



Government

- other priorities at the moment
- Animal Protection Act is giving some regulation about of the use of experimental animals
- In application form for the studies involving animal experimnts is asked for the possibility to use alternatives instead of laboratory animals
- Some needs for the alternatives are driven by law (deadline of 2009 & 2013)

Academy

- Has the biggest potential and interest. Some scientific groups are involved in 3R-related projects
- Alternative methods are used now, this is limited by amount of money and experience.
- Science is driven by traditions in some extent. Therefore, the scientists try to continue their own paths. The overall budget for the science in Estonia is ca 25 M €



Animal Welfare

- No activity on protection of animals used in experiments.
- Some years ago was interested group activists from Veterinary Faculty to use alternatives in teaching students. They have been working in collaboration with EuroNICHE?



Issues in formation of the platform

- It is difficult to cover all possible areas (incl. government, academia, too small industry in terms of international arena)
- We have too few people in Estonia actively involved in laboratory animal science.



Who takes the lead?

- Most probably:
 - Alternatives – toxicologists (Society)
 - Refinement, reduction – Laboratory Animal Science Society related people
- Industry – lack of interest???
- Government – doubtful
- Animal Welfare Organisations - no

