



STRATEGY FOR 2017 - 2020

National Consensus Platforms (2017):

- [Fincopa](http://www.fincopa.fi) – Finnish National Consensus Platform for Alternatives (www.fincopa.fi)
- [Francopa](#) – French Platform for the Development of Alternative Methods in Testing ([description](#))
- [IPAM](#) – Italian Platform on Alternative Methods (website under construction. ([Facebook page](#)))
- [Norecopa](#) – Norway's Consensus-Platform for Replacement, Reduction and Refinement of Animal Experiments
- [REMA](#) – Spanish Network for the Development of Alternative Methods
- [SET](#) – German Foundation for the Promotion of Alternate and Complementary Methods to Reduce Animal Testing

Associate Members (2017)

- [ROCAM](#) - Romanian Center for Alternative Test Methods (organisation, Associate Member)
- Kandarova Helena, Slovak Republic (personal Associate Member)
- Knudsen Lisbeth E, Denmark (personal Associate Member)
- Vanparys Philippe, Belgium (personal Associate Member)

Table of Index

1.1.	About <i>ecopa</i>	2
1.2.	Mission	3
1.3.	Vision	3
1.4.	Strategic goals	3
1.5.	Short-term goals.....	4
1.6.	Long-term goals.....	4
1.7.	Action plan for 2017-2020.....	4
	a. GA and <i>ecopa</i> workshops.....	4
	b. Sponsorship of young scientists to participate in 3R workshops and meetings	4
1.8.	<i>Ecopa</i> 's finances	4
1.9.	Increases in 3R platforms and Associate Members	5
1.10.	<i>ecopa</i> Grant funding Procedures	5

1.1. About *ecopa*

The organisation's name is the European Consensus-Platform on Alternatives (*ecopa*), www.ecopa.eu.

ecopa is an international not-for-profit association founded in accordance with Title III of the Belgian Law of 27 June 1921 regarding not-for-profit associations, international associations and foundations, modified by the law of 2 May 2002 (articles 46-58).

ecopa is a self-owned independent legal person with non-personal and limited responsibility for debt, set up for an undefined period.

Established on 10 November 2002

ecopa represents, as a minimum, all the following stakeholders:

- Government and regulatory authorities
- Academia
- Industry
- Animal protection and welfare organisations

The primary aim of *ecopa* is to promote use of “the three Rs” (*Replacement, Reduction, Refinement*) in laboratory animals used for scientific purposes in Europe. *ecopa* shall therefore contribute to increased knowledge within

1. Replacement of animal experiments by non-animal approaches
2. Reduction of the number of animals used in experiments
3. Refinement of animal experiments to reduce suffering, increase animal welfare and increase the value of the experiments

ecopa shall strive for consensus between the stakeholders in attempting to achieve its goals.

ecopa may participate or become a member of other institutions, organisations or networks whose aims are in accordance with this Article.

The Statutes are published on <http://www.ecopa.eu>

1.2. Mission

ecopa's activities employ the four pillars of academia, animal protection and welfare organisation, industry, and government and regulatory authorities. *ecopa* aims to decrease the use and increase the welfare of laboratory animals.

1.3. Vision

The 3R principle (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement) should be a central part of biomedical research and regulatory testing. *ecopa* strives to achieve full 3R implementation.

1.4. Strategic goals

In line with the 2010/63/EU Directive on the use of laboratory animals for scientific purposes, the ultimate goal is that all animal experiments will be phased out. However, in some cases such as research involving complex endpoints (e.g. reproductive, developmental and systemic toxicity) *in vivo* studies may still be necessary. These *in vivo* studies should be performed in compliance with the principles of Reduction and Refinement to ensure the wellbeing of laboratory animals, and the use of as few animals as necessary. New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) integrating advanced *in vitro*, *in silico* and *in chemico* tools should be developed and included in testing strategies to increase our understanding of toxicity mechanisms in humans and the risks to the environment. The same goal applies to biomedical research. *ecopa*'s strategic goals apply to all areas where animals are used for scientific or regulatory purposes.

The specific goals of *ecopa* are as follows:

1.5. Short-term goals

- An *ecopa* workshop organised every year
- Financial support annually to young scientists in the form of travel grants for participation in international meetings and workshops (the prerequisite is an oral presentation or poster). Section 1.12 below describes the process.

1.6. Long-term goals

- *ecopa* disseminates knowledge of the 3Rs by means of international meetings, EU projects and work by individual stakeholders
- *ecopa* is invited as a stakeholder to events designed to advance the 3Rs, by organisations such as ECHA, EFSA, EMA and EURL ECVAM

1.7. Action plan for 2017-2020

a. GA and *ecopa* workshops

- GA and scientific meeting in 2017: Finland, 14-16 June 2017
- GA and scientific meeting in 2018: France
- GA and scientific meeting in 2019: vacant
- GA and scientific meeting in 2020: vacant

b. Sponsorship of young scientists to participate in 3R workshops and meetings

- 2017: congress in Helsinki (Finland) (1800 euros)
- 2017: 4 PhD registrations (350 euros each; in total 1400 euros) for the *ecopa*-SCCT-CAAT academy workshop in Helsinki (Finland).

1.8. *Ecopa*'s finances

a. Resources

ecopa is funded by membership fees, surplus from its workshops and support from sponsors. In addition, *ecopa* has three possible sources of income:

- Requesting *ad-hoc* funding from specific stakeholders to organise thematic workshops or write consensus reports. The amount for industry should be higher than for the other sectors.
- Submitting proposals for EU funding
- Profits from scientific meetings at which *ecopa* organises its General Assembly.

b. Expenses

ecopa's expenses consist of efforts to promote its activities and to advance the 3Rs. These efforts include the organization of meetings, sponsoring workshops and support to young scientists.

1.9. Increases in 3R platforms and Associate Members

Since *ecopa* was established, several new 3R centres have been created: the Danish 3R Center, ROCAM, Walcopa and the Swedish 3R center. Others have closed down: the 3R Research Foundation in Switzerland, the Dutch national centre, BPAM and DACOPA. *ecopa* should encourage new 3R centres to join *ecopa* as Associate Members.

ecopa should encourage the establishment of new 3R National Consensus Platforms (for example in Bulgaria, Poland and Portugal) and raise interest for Associate Membership.

1.10. *ecopa* Grant funding Procedures

Grants can be given to young scientists (max. 30 years old) who wish to participate in a congress devoted to research on the 3Rs, and more specifically towards Replacement of animal testing. The process for giving grants to young scientists is as follows:

1. The organizer of a congress has to ask the President of *ecopa* whether the congress falls within *ecopa's* grant criteria.
2. On approval by the Board of *ecopa*, the congress organizer must announce publicly the possibility of receiving an *ecopa* grant.
3. A prerequisite for an applicant to receive a grant is that he/she will send an abstract of the work for oral or poster presentation at the congress.
4. The organizer collects all grant applications and the scientific committee makes, on the basis of the abstracts, a selection of maximum 6 applicants.
5. The abstracts of these applicants, together with their curriculum vitae and budget proposals shall be sent to the President of *ecopa* with a recommendation letter signed by the Chair and two other members of the organizing committee of the congress. This letter should give their reasons for choosing the candidates and an order of priority.
6. The Board of *ecopa* will award grants to 1-3 applicants. The amount of the grant is normally 500 Euros per person, but the Board can increase the grant if warranted.
7. To receive the grant the applicant shall send *ecopa's* Treasurer an A4 copy of the poster or, in the case of oral presentations, the title, and in addition papers documenting registration fees and travel expenses. If the travel expenses and

registration fees are less than the value of the grant, the applicant will receive the actual cost for participation in the meeting.

Approved by the Board of *ecopa* on 18 December 2017.