

TVV Workshop

Thursday, March 27, 2025
12:30 - 13:30, Lecture Hall 102

Animal research in Europe: How can neuroscience shape upcoming developments?

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Neuroscience is one of the research fields most dependent on animal models. However, ongoing developments, especially in Europe, are increasing pressure on the scientific community to reduce or even eliminate the use of animals, contributing to growing uncertainty. The recent European Citizens' Initiative exposed the (neuro)scientific community's former lack of engagement and transparency, which has made it somewhat complacent and defensive and consequently ill-prepared to respond to this pressure.

Recently, however, international organisations are taking the issue more seriously and are collaborating to communicate more proactively with the public and policy makers about the necessity, regulation, and conditions of animal use in research.

Effective communication crucially depends on information provided by and visibility of all stakeholders in order to shape a well-informed and meaningful debate beyond academia. Thus, open and transparent communication on animal-based research from within the scientific community is essential.

This workshop provides background and updates on key national and international developments in animal research, highlighting activities of European stakeholders. Outreach and advocacy organisations such as the international European Animal Research Association (EARA) as well as neuroscience-focused institutions such as FENS or the European Brain Council foster openness and shape the public debate. We review existing initiatives – such as national Transparency Agreements – while exploring future actions, challenges, and opportunities for the neuroscience community, offering a forum for discussion.



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