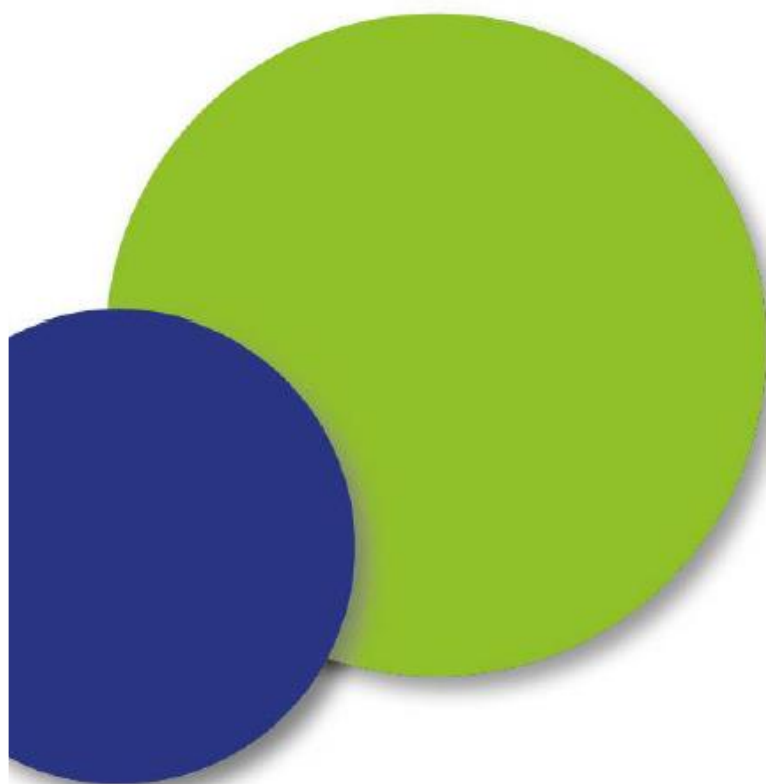




European Animal
Research Association

Transparency agreement on the use of animals in scientific research in Spain

3rd Annual Report





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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2016, the Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain (COSCE) with the assistance of the European Animal Research Association (EARA), proposed in 2016 to the Spanish scientific community [the Transparency Agreement on the use of animals in scientific research in Spain *](#) with the aim of improving the level of understanding by society about the benefits and scope of research with animals.

The Agreement was presented to all Spanish institutions involved with animal research which also includes breeders and suppliers to the sector and also patient associations. COSCE invited all these organisations in the biomedical sector in Spain to sign the Agreement and to voluntarily fulfil its four commitments.

The first three commitments of the Agreement focus on internal and external communication activities related to the use of animals, and the fourth commitment is to publish information on the progress of the Agreement and the share examples of its development.

The Agreement had a very positive reception and was presented in September 2016 with the signature of numerous institutions. Further institutions continue to join, and on the date of publication of this report there are now 140 signatory organisations – making the Spanish Transparency Agreement the largest in Europe.

Complying with the fourth commitment of the Agreement, an annual report was published in 2018 and 2019, and measured and highlighted the progress that had been made by Spanish institutions towards greater openness on the use of animals in research.

The preparation of this third annual report, documenting the openness and transparency of Spanish institutions in 2019, has been carried out, as with the first two, independently by EARA.

Two surveys were drafted with questions related to each of the first three commitments of the Agreement, and sent to a total of 140 institutions. One survey was for institutions that directly use animals and another for institutions that do not use animals, but have some kind of relationship with the scientific community, such as professional associations and newly incorporated patient associations.. Many questions from both surveys are common, but institutions that use animals also answer some questions directly related to the specific use of animals in their research and facilities. The data presented on the fourth commitment corresponds to each institutions own participation in the survey.

The surveys were **completed by 97 institutions, 73** that use animals in research and another **24** other organisations. (Figures 1 and 2 of the Introduction). In 2019, 104 institutions completed the survey, however there has been greater difficulty in obtaining the completed surveys in 2020 probably due

to the Covid-19 pandemic, but the actual impact of the pandemic will not be reflected in the results of this edition, as the period of 2019 is analysed.

This third report describes and analyses the responses obtained in the survey for each of the commitments to the COSCE Agreement, and confirms the continuing trend seen in previous years towards greater transparency..

The clearest evidence of this trend is the publication, by all the signatory institutions to the Agreement, of an institutional declaration on their website explaining the policy on the use of animals in research. The list of institutional declarations is included in Annex II to the [Report](#). Other examples of transparency activities promoted by the Agreement have also been collected, such as visits by students or journalists to some animal user establishments, or numerous proactive media participations. Specific examples of such activities and media relationship are included throughout the Report.

Some **highlights of** the surveys have been:

- **97 institutions** of different types and across the national level have completed the survey.
- **77%** of institutions report on their scientific advances and mention when animals were used in the research.
- Contact between the signatory institutions and the media about animal research has increased from 37% in the last report, to **46%**.
- Two thirds (**68%**) of these institutions have carried out some **activity** with the general public, or intend to carry out some activity in the future
- Half of the institutions surveyed received students or (non-research) staff from another institution at their facilities.

Nevertheless, it is still recognised that there is plenty of room for improvement, as some institutions have still not yet begun to carry out transparency activities beyond their institutional declarations.

The COSCE Transparency Agreement on the use of animals in scientific research in Spain has also had an international impact, and several representatives of the Agreement have been invited to present it at various international forums and congresses during 2020, such as the Congress of the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART), and the first preparatory meetings for such a possible agreement in the United States. Currently the Transparency Agreement is active **in four countries in Europe** (United Kingdom – 2014, Spain – 2016, Portugal – 2018 and Belgium – 2019) and is working on its implementation in many others.

With regard to **the overall assessment of** the third Year of the Transparency Agreement, virtually all of the institutions (96%) that have responded consider it to be an important step for **biomedical research in Spain**.

Most encouragingly, a large majority of institutions now say that they are clear about how to meet the objectives of the three commitments, with just 9% saying they are unclear – in 2018 it was a quarter of the institutions. We intend to contact these institutions immediately to answer their questions. We believe that the case study examples given in this report can help these and other institutions in the implementation of transparency on animal research, and a separate document, included here, with a large number of examples and case studies, has been distributed to the institutions.

In summary, this report shows the effect the COSCE Transparency Agreement has had on improving effective communication of the activities by institutions that conduct animal research in Spain.

We thank all institutions for the time spent responding to the survey during this uncertain period. In next year's report, we expect to see the influence that the pandemic has had on our institutions. The public impact of research into vaccines and treatments has informed society about the use of animal models in their development and we have seen how the media has included frequent mentions of the use of animals. Scientific research has come to the fore in news and the communication of science has become essential to give answers to a world with many questions about an uncertain future during the pandemic.

The survey was conducted during the second and third quarters of 2020 and has **been completed by 97 organizations, 73** of which use animals and **24** that do not use them **directly** (Fig 1. and 2).

* <https://cosce.org/acuerdo-de-transparencia/>

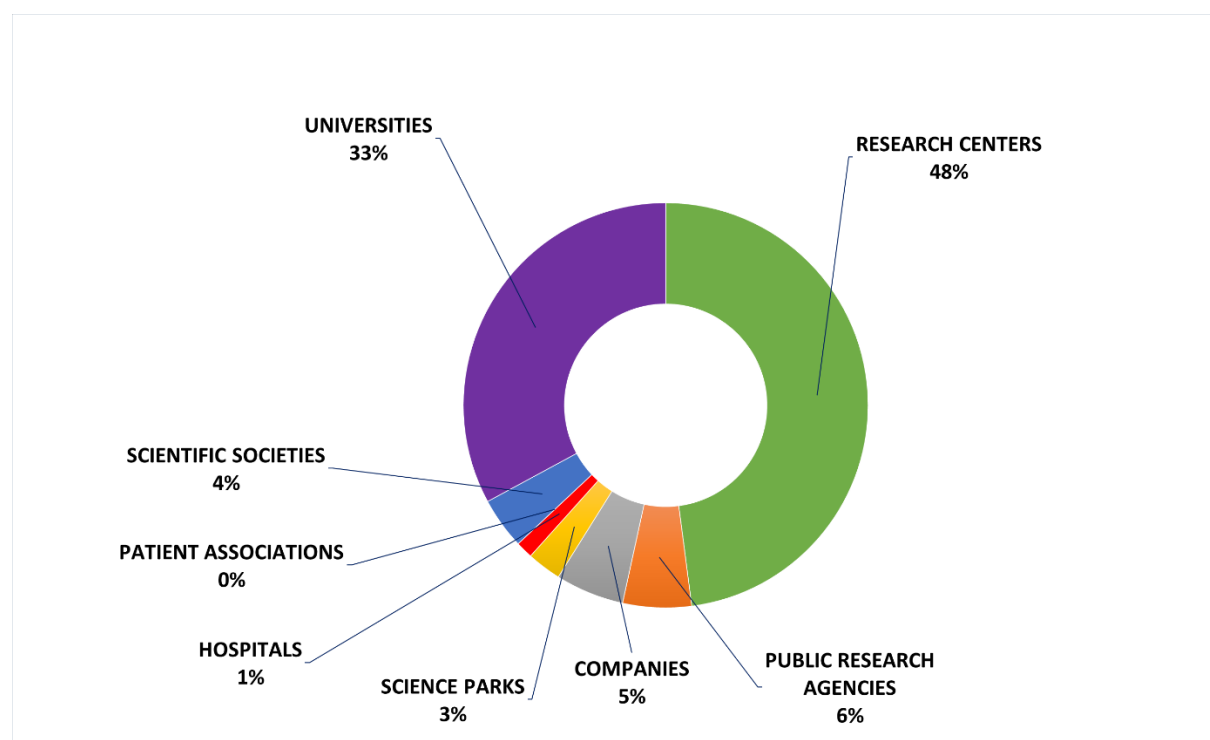


Figure 1. Types of institutions that directly use animals, that responded to the survey

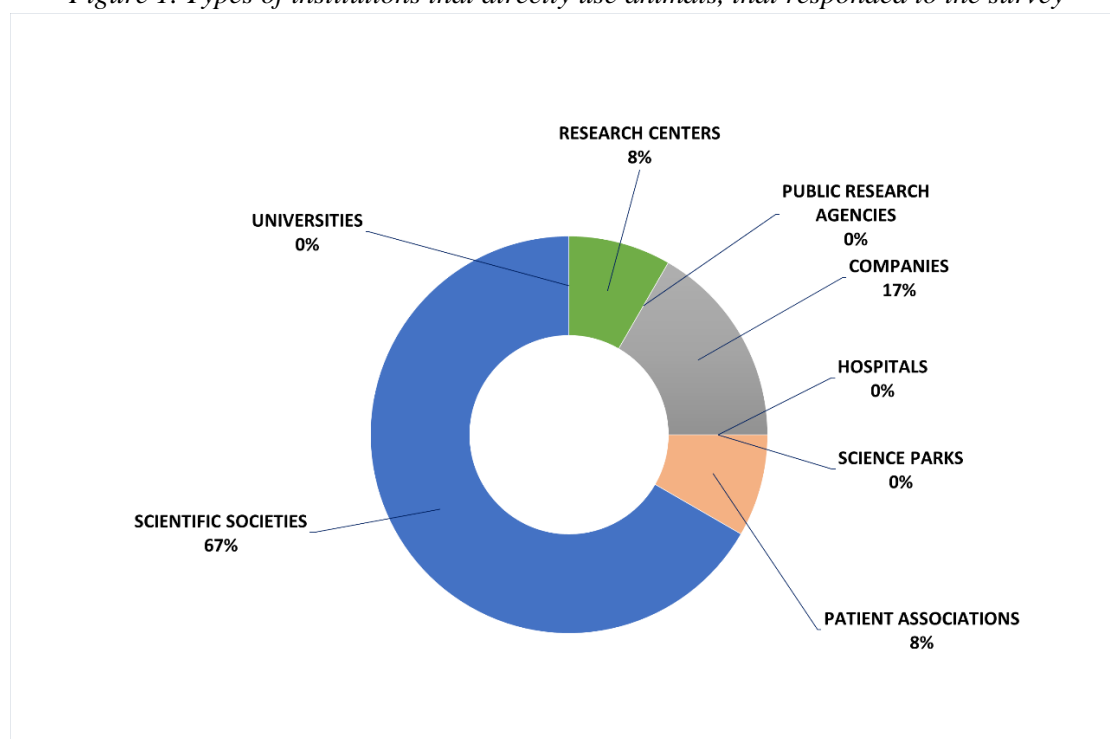


Figure 2. Types of institutions indirectly involved in animal research, that responded to the survey

About the Transparency Agreement

The **COSCE** Transparency Agreement on the use of animals in scientific research in Spain is a voluntary code of good practice that, together with current legislation, provides a framework to promote transparency and communication activities on the use of animals in scientific research.

According to the latest data published by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAPAMA), in 2019 **there were 817,742 uses of animals for scientific and teaching purposes in Spain.*** As we have seen in the face of the emergence of Covid-19, society benefits from the work of scientific institutions that directly or indirectly use animals in biomedical research. COSCE, aware of the need to establish avenues of communication between the scientific community and society on why, when and how animals are used in research, proposed in 2016 a Transparency Agreement in collaboration with the European Animal Research Association (EARA) and the Spanish Society for Laboratory Animal Sciences (SECAL) .

The signatory institutions are essentially committed to:

- Be transparent about when, how and why they use animals in research.
- Improve communication with the media and society.
- Be proactive in promoting events so that society knows about animal research
- Report annually on activities carried out and to share them.

As part of **the fourth** commitment to this Agreement, signatory organisations also undertake to report annually on their progress and share their experiences. To this end, a survey was prepared which was sent to all the member organisations to find out what activities were carried out in 2018 in relation to the Agreement - only institutions that have been a member for at least a year were asked to complete the survey.

To facilitate the survey of some institutions that do not carry out animal research, for example, professional bodies or patient associations, a second adapted survey model has been used. Many questions from both surveys are common, but institutions that use animals also answer some directly related to the use of animals in their projects and facilities.

FOURTH COMMITMENT:

«Report annually on progress and share experiences»

"Monitoring the implementation of this agreement is a key step in promoting its success. This commitment aims to encourage signatories to demonstrate and share their achievements in achieving greater transparency about animal research and improving publicly accessible information."

These are the concrete actions:

- **Report annually on the initiatives undertaken to develop the commitments of this agreement. Share with the other signatory organisations the effectiveness and impact of the strategies adopted. This will be done through a website created and maintained by EARA, which will be responsible for publishing an annual update on the progress made in the transparency of the communication of research with animals in Spain.**
- **Review this agreement and its impact, and ratify or rectify it as necessary, annually after publication"**

*This statistical information is public and accessible [on the MAP website](#) with a data history since 2009



FIRST COMMITMENT:

*«Speak clearly about when,
how and why animals are
used in research»*



The adoption of this commitment ensures that all organisations act responsibly to communicate about the conduct of research with animals at their facilities, both internally, by informing employees, and publicly, through statements on their website or other methods. In addition, that institutions encourage regulated access to facilities to the media, institutional representatives, students, patient groups or organisations on request, provided that security measures allow for it. This is the basic commitment on which the rest of the agreement is based.

The questions in the survey on this commitment have been directed to institutional policies on internal and external communication of scientific activities involving the use of animals. Thanks to the answers obtained, it has been possible to identify the level of activity, which has been very varied.

The current legislation (RD 53/2013 and Directive 2010/63 / EU) already requires [an annual statistical declaration](#) by the institutions to the competent authority on the use of animals, and the inclusion of a non-technical summary of the projects, on how the animals are used, for [publication on the website](#) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, Food and Environment (MAPA).

But the most important thing to demonstrate institutional initiatives in relation to transparency is not legal obligations, but voluntary activities. According to the survey, the most common method of communication **is the publication of news** with scientific advances related to animal research. This method is currently used by **77%** of institutions that use animals and **61%** of those that do not use them.

In addition, other forms of communication that are being established have been identified such as:

- Inclusion on the institutional website of images of animals, or the facilities (53%) of the staff in charge of the animal welfare (27%), or videos of the facilities, or procedures (16%).
- Information on the number and types of animal species used (30%)
- **Seminars** to staff (62% of institutions that work with animals, carry out, or intend to provide them). Many of these seminars correspond to training the necessary staff according to their work with animals, but some focus on transparency. An example was the seminar given at the [Institute of Neurosciences of Alicante](#) in October [2019 on transparency](#) in animal experimentation with the participation of:
 - Kirk Leech, CEO, EARA
 - Dr.A. Carmen Agustín, Neuroscientist, University of Valencia
 - Daniel Mediavilla, Journalist, El País
 - Professor Juan Lerma, CSIC-UMH Neuroscientist
- By email, social networks, courses and or bulletin boards at the entrance of the institution.

In this report we enquired whether the institutions provided information about animal research on their social media platforms.

- Twitter (30%)
- Facebook (14%)
- YouTube (10%)
- LinkedIn (10%)
- Instagram (5%)

One common response from institutions in the survey, as in the previous year, was how they handle external questions related to animal research. Only a few institutions have an established protocol to direct questions to the institution's communication office. Generally the questions are answered by the directly by the person questioned (e.g. the researcher), or are directed to the Ethical Committee of Animal Experimentation, or to the person responsible for the Animal Experimentation Service.

As for collaborations between institutions, 44% state that they have a procedure or intend to provide them in the future to promote support for transparency in **collaborative** research **projects, either** through the Ethics Committee or under the Transparency COSCE Agreement.

The points on which the institutions surveyed considered that transparency had were as follows:

- Freedom and support to speak calmly about animal research
- Other institutions joining the Transparency Agreement
- The visits of different groups to the institutions
- Increased awareness among researchers
- The organisation of talks and conferences on animal research
- Preparation of audiovisual material to improve transparency
- Improvement in the preparation of press releases
- The inclusion of the Agreement in all the presentations by the department

The institutions surveyed have not reported having any problems communicating about their work with experimental animals within the framework of the first commitment. Many express a willingness to carry out more transparency activities and provided some reasons why this was not possible:

- A lack of resources. Researchers need to combine their busy scientific activity with any communications work.
- Institutional bureaucracy can create obstacles.
- Need for more communications and technical support to create audiovisual content.



Some examples of transparency related to the first commitment:

CoSCE's new animal research website

The **COSCE** has renewed its website with all the contents on the Transparency Agreement: reports, affiliated entities, and the activity of the Commission for the Study of the Use of Animals in Scientific Research.



[_Web](#)

Meaningful Science Exhibition

The **Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences (IACS)** in collaboration with Etopia Center for Art and Technology, and have designed this exhibition based on exploring science through the senses. Animal experimentation comprises an important part of the content.



<http://www.iacs.es/ciencia-con-sentido/>



[Audio guide Experimental surgery workshop](#)



[Animal Audio guide](#)

Website of the Advisory Ethics Commission for Animal Experimentation (OEBA)

The University of Zaragoza has on its website a section on animal research with all the information of its OEBA, as well as its facilities.



[_Web](#)

Learn with Danio video: How a fish helps us cure cancer

A video showing what cancer is and how Danio, zebrafish, can help us fight it. .



[_Enlace on the YOUTUBE Channel Ciencia con Danio](#)

CREBA Video: Surgical Facilities and Techniques

CREBA YouTube channel with different videos of its facilities and activities.



[Link to CREBA's YOUTUBE Channel](#)

Animals used for research in Spain in 2019

Article prepared by Lluís Montoliu with analysis of annual statistical data on the use of animals in Spain



[_Web](#)

Charles River's commitment to the development of animal research models



[_Web](#)

Website of the Ethical Committee for Animal Experimentation of the University of Barcelona

New pages and remodeling of the contents, with specific information of statistics on the number of animal uses in its centers.

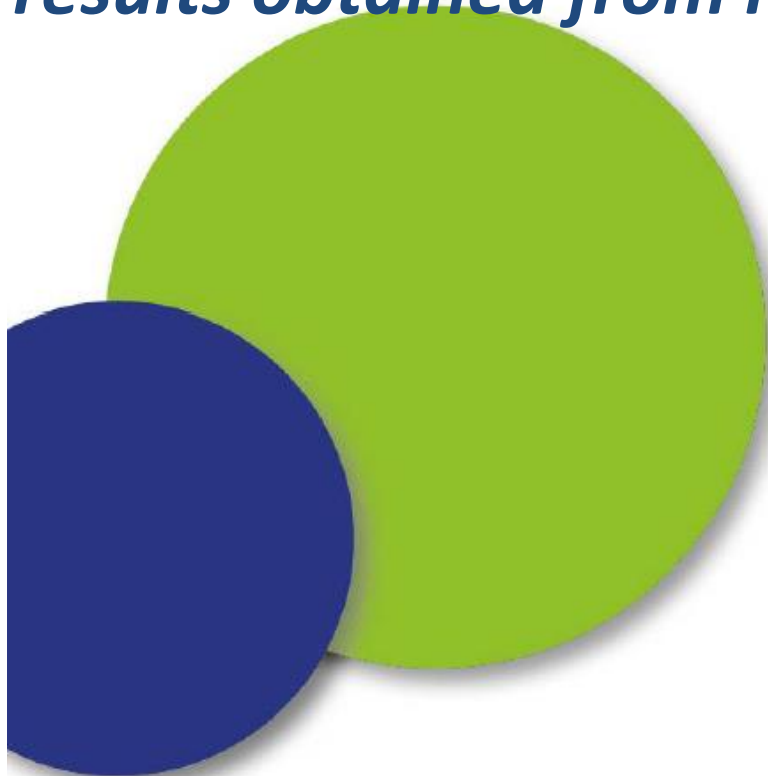


[_Link to animal use statistics from the University of Barcelona](#)



SECOND COMMITMENT

«Providing adequate information to the media and the general public on the conditions under which research is carried out requiring the use of animal models and the results obtained from it»



The aim of this commitment is to ensure that information from the signatory institutions about their use of animals in research is accessible and understandable. This commitment builds on the first, indicating some practical steps that the signatory institutions have to follow to facilitate communication regarding their research conducted with animals. For example, indicating in their communications how animal models have contributed to their research results.

The following concrete actions should be established:

- **Within the first year of signing this agreement, to publish a statement on the institution's website where the policy on the use of animals in research is explained. This will provide clear information about the nature of their participation in animal research in the context of the research being carried out.**
- **Make public the relevant information when a scientific discovery or the development of a product has had a significant role in animal research.**
- **Identify a contact person to provide information on animal research.**
- **Promote the correct and detailed description of all those experiments that involve animal research following international guidelines.**
- **Report what measures are being promoted in each institution to apply the principles of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) and provide examples of progress in meeting these principles.**

The survey questions on this second commitment have gathered more concrete information regarding institutional communication methods around transparency.

One of the most important aspects of the Agreement in general has been the creation by institutions of a statement on their website explaining the policy on the use of animals. Once again, compliance with this requirement has reached 100% by all 140 signatory institutions (100%). The appearance of these institutional declarations has been the clearest and most visible example of transparency (Annex II).

It should also be noted that in EARA's 2020 report on the transparency of EU institutional websites, which was submitted to the European Commission, in European countries where a Transparency Agreement has been developed, such as Spain, the percentage of institutions that have an institutional declaration is clearly higher than in the rest of the EU. More specifically, the study reports that 81% of the websites reviewed in Spain have this declaration, which is the largest percentage in all of Europe, well above countries without such an agreement. This demonstrates the positive impact of the Transparency Agreements, and of the Spanish agreement in particular.

Although 77% of institutions report on their scientific advances and mention when animals were used in the research, 58 % of the institutions surveyed (73 institutions) still do not have a policy to mention the use of animal models in research in the institution's press releases, however 30% are in the process of implementation. This is definitely an area for improvement, as communication with a co-ordinated message helps society's understanding of the subject.

As similarly reported last year only around one in five (18%) of the institutions responding said that they require compliance with any guidelines (e.g. such as ARRIVE) on how to report on the use of animals in research that is published in scientific journals. This shows another possible area for improvement in the communication of research within the scientific community. A [recent international study](#) shows the average figure to be 28%, so Spain would fall below this average. An update to the ARRIVE guide with significant improvements was [released in](#) 2020..

Percie du Sert N, Hurst V, Ahluwalia A, Alam S, Avey MT, Baker M, et al. (2020) **The ARRIVE guidelines 2.0: Updated guidelines for reporting animal research.** PLoS Biol 18(7): e3000410.
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000410>

As explained in the second commitment, the principles adopted by researchers on the use of animals in scientific research are called the 3Rs. Researchers need to demonstrate why there is no alternative and what will be done to minimise the number and suffering of animals used in experiments and trials. With regard to the active **promotion of the 3Rs principles**, the responses of many institutions were very similar to past years and this is an area where we would like to see institutions being more proactive. . To achieve this the most used methods by the institutions are:

- Giving examples through the website of the organisation (29%)
- Examples through other institutional publications (11%)
- Examples provided by other bodies (for example, COSCE, EARA, SECAL) to be shared more widely (52%). This shows that these organisations are significantly helping the signatory institutions.
- Support for the 3Rs and well-being in the sector (debates, awards ceremony) (25%)

Once again there was an increase in the number of institutions working with the media which is a source of great satisfaction. To the question *What relationship has your organisation, researchers or staff had during the last year with the media regarding the use of animals in research?* A majority of institutions have shown some kind of contact, in the following ways:

- Comment to the media about a general topic related to animal research (46%)
- Facilitate access to facilities for the media (28%)
- Interviews or long pieces where the use of animals in research was a key issue (23%)
- Proactive comments to the media about their use of animals in research (19%)
- Panel members for a press conference or an informative exhibition on animal research (11%)
- Reactive comments to the media about their use of animals in research (13%)

As in the first commitment, the institutions did not report on any conflicts or problems in fulfilling this second commitment. Only five of the 97 commented that they have lacked the resources or means to develop a dialogue with the media and the public properly.



Some examples of transparency related to the second commitment:

Transparency webpages at institutions:

- ☑ Universidad Zaragoza <https://portaltransparencia.unizar.es/investigacion-transferencia>
- ☑ Universidad Miguel Hernández <http://oir.umh.es/presentacion/resultados-transparencia-experimentacion-animal/>
- ☑ University of Oviedo <http://eticainvestigacion.uniovi.es/>
- ☑ Complutense University of Madrid <https://www.ucm.es/investigacionanimal/>
- ☑ University of Barcelona <http://www.ub.edu/ceea/ca/etica-i-transparencia>

Links to articles and communications of the affiliated institutions:


NEWS AND ARTICLES

- ☑ [El Pais - Patty Bonet's mutant mouse. The revolutionary CRISPR technique has allowed researcher Lluís Montoliu to reproduce in an animal the genetic condition of this actress with albinism](#)
- ☑ [EFE - Why and why 800,000 animals are used in Spanish laboratories](#)
- ☑ [CSIC- A group of 18 genetic editing experts meet in Madrid to discuss CRISPR applications](#)
- ☑ [El Pais - The use of animals to make cosmetics and other myths that want to be fought with transparency](#)
- ☑ [Muy Interesante - Animal research is becoming more transparent](#)
- ☑ [THE TRADE - New mice for further research](#)
- ☑ [NAVARRA UNIVERSITY - Looking for an effective vaccine to fight Shigellosis](#)
- ☑ [RTVE – Report "Minimum invasion, maximum innovation"](#)
- ☑ <https://www.innovaspain.com/nuevas-vias-farmacologicas-para-el-control-de-la-inflamacion-cerebral-en-enfermos-de-alzheimer/>
- ☑ <https://www.heraldo.es/noticias/aragon/2020/05/01/la-vacuna-contr-la-tuberculosis-de-la-uz- protege-frente-a-la-mayoria-de-cepas-que-causan-la-enfermedad-1372552.html>
- ☑ <https://www.infosalus.com/salud-investigacion/noticia-investigadores-desvelan-otro-posible-origen-enfermedad-vacas-locas-20191217145947.html>
- ☑ <https://www.europapress.es/andalucia/sevilla-00357/noticia-cabimer-entra-top-100-mundial-centros-investigacion-biomedicina-animo-lucro-nature-20190521152221.html>
- ☑ [CSIC researcher Lluís Montoliu reports in Oviedo on responsibility for animal experimentation](#)
- ☑ [Radio Program "Rare Diseases"](#)





Reports

[COSCE reports](#)

2nd EARA study of EU-based websites

-  The study published by the European Animal Research Association (EARA) assessed 1,065 European websites, including 180 Spanish institutional websites, to assess the level of transparency and openness of each institution on its use of animals for scientific purposes. The study found that Spain leads the way in the EU on openness on animal research on institutional websites. [For more information](#)

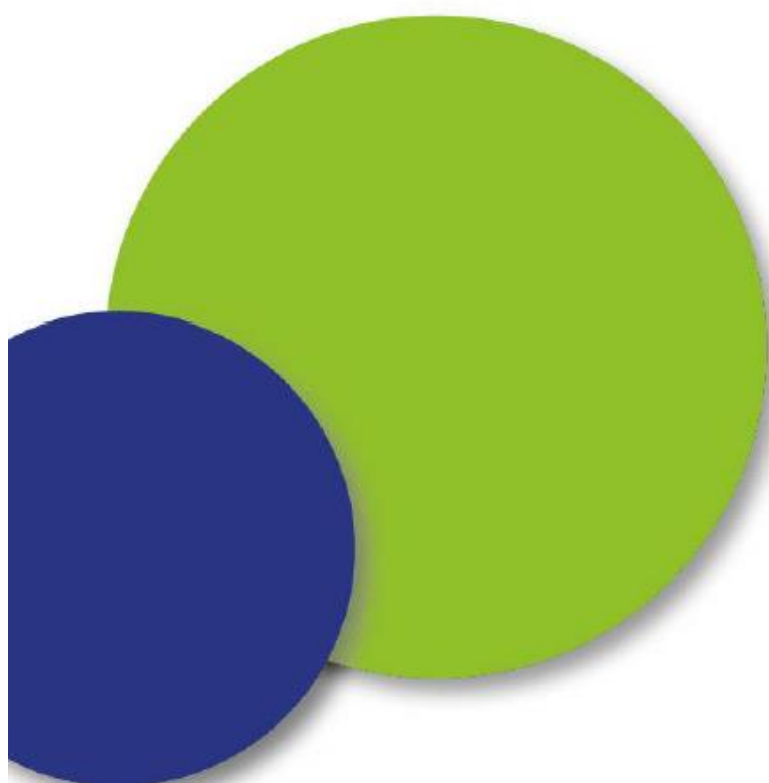
Video

-  [THE TRADE - New mice for further research](#)
-  [THE COUNTRY - Patty Bonet's mutant mouse. The revolutionary CRISPR technique has allowed researcher Lluís Montoliu to reproduce in an animal the genetic condition of this actress with albinism](#)
-  [RTVE – Report "Minimum invasion, maximum innovation"](#)
-  [ARAGON TELEVISION - Precision livestock](#)



THIRD COMMITMENT

«Promote initiatives that generate greater knowledge and understanding in society about the use of animals in scientific research»



This commitment aims to promote greater dialogue with citizens about animal research. It expands on the first two commitments, adding practical information on how signatory institutions can interact with the public. Specifically, the signatories undertake to:

A. Collaborate to provide accessible information to society on the scientific projects and experimental procedures with animals that are carried out, setting out the information in the broad context of the development of the research.

B. Include information on the use of research animals in talks or public events where they participate, if relevant

The most common public activities in which the signatory institutions have participated in have been:

- Talks in institutes or schools (52%)
- Participation in scientific festivals (38%)
- Presentations at local or support events (18%)
- Family days (8%)

In addition, 49% of institutions that use animals confirm that they have received students or non-research staff from other institutions. An example of this openness, the Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences offers on its website a booking form: <http://www.iacs.es/reserva-visitas-instalaciones-iacs/>

Taken together, 43% of the institutions have conducted some public activity directly, or together with, other organizations and 25% intend to carry out some activity in the future.

The types of external visits include:

- Reception to students or (non-research) staff from another institution (49%)
- Open Door Days (24%)
- Visits by a special interest group (16%)
- Visits for politicians, parliamentarians, MEPs (17%)

Many institutions in the survey said they valued this outreach work as it increased public awareness and had led to research staff losing their fear of explaining their research.

In some cases, interesting alternatives to a physical visit are offered, such as a virtual tour for example:

- ☑ [Virtual tour of CIMA's facilities](#)
- ☑ Video of the Institute of Biomedicine of Seville: <https://youtu.be/ZqIDlalsFYc>
- ☑ [Facilities of the National Paraplegic Hospital](#)

Just 5% of institutions say they have not provided access to external staff in their facilities. The most common reason why there are some institutions that do not offer this possibility is that visits can

adversely affect safety measures for animals and/or people. It should be borne in mind that research animals are generally kept in very controlled and standardised sanitary conditions. On the other hand, there are institutions that work with micro-organisms in biosafety conditions in which contact with people should be avoided.

Six institutions said they struggled to implement this third commitment. The reasons given are a lack of resources, of time and of the necessary support.

Some examples of transparency related to the third commitment:

ARTICLES AND EVENTS

- ☑ CABIMER: <http://www.cabimer.es/web3/la-presidenta-del-csic-inaugura-en-sevilla-la-i-jornada-del-dia-internacional-de-la-salud-y-la-seguridad-en-el-trabajo/>
- ☑ UNIVERSITY THE PALMAS DE GRAN CANARIA: https://www.fv.ulpgc.es/?page_id=45
- ☑ CICBIOMAGUNE: <https://www.cicbiomagune.es/outreach/open-days-visits-2020>
- ☑ CCMIJU: https://www.elperiodicoextremadura.com/noticias/caceres/alumnos-garcia-tellez-forman-centro-cirugia_1154183.html
- ☑ CCMIJU: <https://www.ccmijesususon.com/formacion/curso/1173/>
- ☑ IACS: <https://www.iacs.es/instituto-aragones-ciencias-la-salud-promueve-la-ciencia-inclusiva-la-reproduccion-cinco-laboratorios-etopia/>
- ☑ EARA: <https://www.eara.eu/post/free-eara-event-on-openness-in-animal-research-in-spain-this-october?lang=es>
- ☑ EARA: <https://www.eara.eu/post/eara-launches-transparencythursday?lang=es>

Videos

- ☑ SECAL: <https://secal.es/la-experimentacion-animal-da-vida/>
- ☑ CIEMAT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fz4rvexIIH0&version=3&feature=player%5Fembedded&autoplay=1&iv%5Fload%5Fpolicy=3&rel=0>
- ☑ THE ART OF DISCOVERY: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qKNDf4zehmg>
- ☑ UNIVERSITY COMPLUTENSE OF MADRID: <https://www.ucm.es/investigacionanimal/por-que-investigamos-con-animales>

DISCLOSURE MATERIAL

- ☑ SECAL: <https://secal.es/la-historia-mussi-la-importancia-animal-laboratorio/>

Exhibitions

- ☑ SECAL: <https://secal.es/reportaje-area-investigacion-biomedica-con-modelos-animales-del-museo-elder/>

Conclusion

The COSCE Agreement on Transparency on the Use of Animals in Scientific Experimentation in Spain has now consolidated itself as the main tool for the **promotion of transparency activities in Spain**. The first example is in the increase in affiliated institutions, now 140. This third survey has been answered by 97 institutions (68% of those currently affiliated) (104 in 2019 76%, 63 in 2018 53%). While this shows a slight decline, we were pleased to see that so many institutions made the effort to respond, despite the difficulties of communication with some contacts in the institutions due to Covid-19.

The Agreement has led to more and more institutions developing transparency **activities**. At present, all affiliated institutions have an institutional statement on the use of animals in research. These statements range from more or less basic texts to examples that include interviews with researchers, images, or videos. **EARA's report on the transparency of websites** [highlights](#) the fact that Spain **had a higher percentage** (81%) of institutional declarations than elsewhere in the EU - a direct effect of the Agreement. The 2020 report collects examples of a wide variety of transparency activities, among which are:

- Publication of an institutional statement on the use of animals
- Publication of images / videos of facilities / animals / procedures on institutional websites
- Publication of minutes of meetings of an institution's Ethics Committees
- Student visits to the animal facilities and open days
- Specific seminars for staff and / or public
- Development of institutional policies for communication on the use of animals to the public
- Proactive or reactive media engagement
- Specific requirements in the description of animal use in scientific publications
- Giving talks in schools
- Promotion of the 3Rs at the institutional level
- Transparency requirements in collaborations between institutions

One of the positive effects of the Agreement is that with the preparation of these annual reports, the institutions are aware of the different possibilities of carrying out transparency activities and their potential impact, something that historically has not been considered by the scientific community in Spain.

As an example, an institution replies: *"The truth is that by reading the survey we realise that there are many things we can and have not done simply because we have not thought of them. It is a good reference for proposing it in the Animal Welfare Body (OEBA) of the University and is easily practicable. We will."*

It is important to note that almost all affiliated institutions fully accept that the Agreement is an important step for biomedical research in Spain. And in the face of traditional fears of the risks taken

when discussing animal research publicly, the absence of any significant problems or conflicts related **to transparency actions continues to be noted.**

Although this report confirms the consolidation of these activities, there **are clear differences in the progress being made by the** signatory institutions. All have taken the first step, which is the public statement on the use of animals on the institutional website, but the second step, the initiation of other activities, seems more difficult. This second step is to be promoted, as experience is showing that institutions that are starting to walk continue to move more easily.

We continue to encourage all institutions conducting animal research to join the **COSCE Transparency Agreement on the** use of animals in scientific research in Spain, and to those already attached, to initiate, develop or improve activities related to transparency in the use of animals in research.

The implementation of this third report has been made possible by the following persons and associations:

Javier Guillén (AAALAC International; EARA)

Kirk Leech (EARA)

Bob Tolliday (EARA)

Sergi Vila (EARA)

European Animal Research Association

Registered address: Abbey House, 74-76 St John Street, London EC1M 4DZ

☎ +44 (0)20 3675 1245 🌐 www.eara.eu ✉ info@eara.eu 🐦 @The_EARA 📘 in

Company no. 8924697 VAT no. 184 1486 91

ANNEX I

Organizations adhered to the COSCE Transparency Agreement on the use of animals in scientific experimentation in Spain up to the date of publication of this Report.

Link to the permanently updated list:

 <https://cosce.org/entidades-adheridas/>

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ANNEX II

List of Institutions adhering to the COSCE Transparency Agreement on the use of animals in scientific experimentation in Spain, organized by types and with the link to its website and its institutional declaration (December 2020).

New institutions are highlighted in green compared to the previous year.

RESEARCH CENTERS

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
Achucarro	Achucarro Basque Center for Neuroscience	Zamudio, Bizkaia	▶
CABD-CSIC/UPO/JA	Andalusian Center for Developmental Biology	Seville	▶
CABIMER	Andalusian Center for Molecular Biology and Regenerative Medicine	Seville	▶
CBATEG	Center for Animal Biotechnology and Gene Therapy	Barcelona	▶
CBMSO-UAM/CSIC	Center for Molecular Biology "Severo Ochoa"	Madrid	▶
CCMIJU	Jesus Usón Minimal Invasion Surgery Center	Cáceres	▶
CIB-CSIC	Margarita Salas Biological Research Center	Madrid	▶
CIBERER-ISCIII	Center for Biomedical Research in Rare Diseases Network	Madrid	▶
CIC bioGUNE	Cooperative Research Center on Biosciences	Bizkaia	▶
CIC biomaGUNE	Cooperative Research Center on Biomaterials	Guipúzcoa	▶
CIC-USAL/CSIC	Cancer Research Center	Salamanca	▶
CINBIO	Centre for Biomedical Research at the University of Vigo	Vigo	▶
CIPF	Prince Philip Research Center	Valencia	▶
Date	Agri-Food Research and Technology Center of Aragon	Zaragoza	▶
CITA-IVIA	Center for Animal Technology - Valencian Institute of Agricultural Research	Castellón	▶
CNB-CSIC	National Biotechnology Center	Madrid	▶
CNIC-ISCIII	National Center for Cardiovascular Research	Madrid	▶
CNIO-ISCIII	National Cancer Research Center	Madrid	▶
CRAG-CSIC/IRTA/UAB/UB	Agrigenomics Research Center	Barcelona	▶
CRG	Center for Genomic Regulation	Barcelona	▶
EBD-CSIC	Doñana Biological Station	Seville	▶
IACS	Aragonese Institute of Health Sciences	Zaragoza	▶
IBBTEC-CSIC/UNICA	Institute of Biomedicine and Biotechnology of Cantabria	Santander	▶

IBFG-CSIC/USAL	Institute of Functional and Genomic Biology	Salamanca	▶
IBGM-CSIC/Uval	Institute of Molecular Biology and Genetics	Valladolid	▶
IBIMA	Malaga Biomedical Research Institute	Malaga	▶
Ibis	Institute of Biomedicine of Seville	Seville	▶
IBMC-UMH	Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology	Elche, Alicante	▶
IBS. Granada	Biosanitary Research Institute	Grenade	▶
IBV-CSIC	Institute of Biomedicine of Valencia	Valencia	▶
IC-CSIC	Cajal Institute	Madrid	▶
ICMAN-CSIC	Institute of Marine Sciences of Andalusia	Cadiz	▶
Idibaps	August Pi i Sunyer Biomedical Research Institute	Barcelona	▶
IDIBELL	Bellvitge Biomedical Research Institute	Barcelona	▶
IdiPAZ	La Paz University Hospital Research Institute	Madrid	▶
IDISBA	Balearic Islands Health Research Institute Foundation	Palma de Mallorca	▶
IIBm-UAM/CSIC	Institute of Biomedical Research "Alberto Sols"	Madrid	▶
IIM-CSIC	Marine Research Institute	Vigo	▶
IIS-FJD	Jiménez Díaz Foundation Health Research Institute	Madrid	▶
IIS-LaFe	La Fe Institute for Health Research	Valencia	▶
IGTP	Germans Trias and Pujol Research Institute	Badalona, Barcelona	▶
IJC	Institut Josep Carreras	Barcelona	▶
IMIBIC	Maimónides Institute of Biomedical Research of Cordoba	Cordoba	▶
IMIM	Hospital del Mar Institute for Medical Research	Barcelona	▶
INCYL	Institute of Neurosciences of Castile and León	Salamanca	▶
IN-UMH/CSIC	Institute of Neurosciences	Alicante	▶
IPBLN	Institute of Parasitology and Biomedicine "Lopez Neyra"	Grenade	▶
IRB Barcelona	Institute for Research in Biomedicine Barcelona	Barcelona	▶
IRBLleida	Lleida Biomedical Research Institute	Lleida	▶
IRHSP	Institut de Recerca Hospital de Sant Pau	Barcelona	▶

Public Research Agencies

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
ACIS	Axencia de Coñecemento in Saúde (ACIS) - Xunta de Galicia	Santiago de Compostela	▶
Ciemat	Center for Energy, Environmental and Technological Research	Madrid	▶
CSIC	Higher Council for Scientific Research	Madrid	▶
INIA	National Institute of Agricultural and Food Research and Technology	Madrid	▶
Bristling	Institute of Agri-Food Research and Technology	Barcelona	▶

ISCH	Carlos III Institute of Health	Madrid	▶
FIBAO	Foundation for Biosanitary Research of Eastern Andalusia	Grenade	▶

Universities

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
CEXS-UPF	Department of Experimental and Health Sciences (UPF)	Barcelona	▶
UA	University of Alicante	Alicante	▶
UAB	Autonomous University of Barcelona	Barcelona	▶
UAH	University of Alcalá de Henares	Alcalá de Henares, Madrid	▶
UAM	Autonomous University of Madrid	Madrid	▶
UB	University of Barcelona	Barcelona	▶
UBU	University of Burgos	Burgos	▶
UCHCEU	CEU Cardinal Herrera University	Valencia	▶
Uclm	University of Castilla-La Mancha	Royal City	▶
UCM	Complutense University of Madrid	Madrid	▶
UCO	University of Cordoba	Cordoba	▶
Ugr	University of Granada	Grenade	▶
UIB	University of the Balearic Islands	Palma de Mallorca	▶
UJI	Universitat Jaume I de Castellón	Castellón de la Plana	▶
ULE	University of León	Lion	▶
Wool	University of La Laguna	Tenerife	▶
ULPGC	University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	Las Palmas de Gran Canaria	▶
UMH	Miguel Hernandez University	Elche, Alicante	▶
Unav	University of Navarra	Pamplona	▶
UNICAN	University of Cantabria	Santander	▶
UNIOVI	University of Oviedo	Oviedo	▶
UNIZAR	University of Zaragoza	Zaragoza	▶
Unex	University of Extremadura	Badajoz	▶
UPV	Polytechnic University of Valencia	Valencia	▶
UPV/EHU	University of the Basque Country/Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea	Leioa	▶
URJC	King Juan Carlos University	Madrid	▶
US	University of Seville	Seville	▶
Usal	University of Salamanca	Salamanca	▶
USC	University of Santiago de Compostela	Santiago de Compostela	▶
UV	University of Valencia	Valencia	▶
Uvigo	University of Vigo	Vigo	▶

Companies

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
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Animalaria SL	Animalry, Training and Management, SL	Madrid	▶
Learn with Danio	Learn with Danio	Alicante	▶
Charles River Australia	Charles River	San Sebastian	▶
Dynamimed SL	Dynamimed SL	Madrid	▶
Empireo SL	Empireo SL	Madrid	▶
ENVIGO CRS, S.A.U.	ENVIGO CRS, S.A.U.	Barcelona	▶
GSK	GlaxoSmithKline Australia	Madrid	▶
Isoquimen SL	Isoquimen SL	Barcelona	▶
Specipig	Specific Pig SL	Barcelona	▶
The Art of Discovery SL	The Art of Discovery SL	Derio, Bizkaia	▶
Vivotecnia	Vivotecnia	Madrid	▶

Science Parks

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
PCB	Parc Científic de Barcelona	Barcelona	▶
PCM	Madrid Science Park	Madrid	▶
PRBB	Barcelona Biomedical Research Park	Barcelona	▶

Hospitals

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
HNP	National Paraplegic Hospital	Toledo	▶

Patient Associations

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
Sunrise	Albinism Aid Association	Valencia	▶
ASPANION	Aspanion Association Children with Cancer	Valencia	▶
Spring	Spanish Federation of Rare Diseases	Madrid	▶

Scientific societies

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Full name</i>	<i>City</i>	<i>Institutional Declaration</i>
AEGH	Spanish Association of Human Genetics	Madrid	▶
AETOX	Spanish Toxicology Association	Madrid	▶
ASEBIR	Association for the Study of Reproductive Biology	Madrid	▶
CEC	Spanish Brain Council	Madrid	▶
CERU-SRUK	Spanish scientists in the UK	London (UK)	▶
Thighs	Confederation of Scientific Societies of Spain	Madrid	▶

EARA	European Association of Experimental Animals	Madrid	▶
FEBiotec	Spanish Federation of Biotechnologists	Madrid	▶
Row	Spanish Network for the Development of Alternative Methods to Animal Experimentation	Madrid	▶
SAE	Spanish Anatomical Society	Madrid	▶
SBE	Society of Biophysics of Spain	Alicante	▶
SEA	Society of Applied Spectroscopy	Madrid	▶
SEAF	Spanish Society of Physical Anthropology	Bilbao	▶
SEBBM	Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology	Madrid	▶
SEBC	Spanish Society of Cell Biology	Barcelona	▶
SEBD	Spanish Society of Developmental Biology	Alicante	▶
SEBIOT	Spanish Biotechnology Society	Oviedo	▶
SECAL	Spanish Society for Laboratory Animal Sciences	Madrid	▶
SECF	Spanish Society of Physiological Sciences	Seville	▶
SED	Spanish Diabetes Society	Madrid	▶
SEE	Spanish Society of Epidemiology	Barcelona	▶
SEF	Spanish Society of Pharmacology	Valencia	▶
Mon	Spanish Society of Genetics	Madrid	▶
SEHIT	Spanish Society of Histology and Tissue Engineering	Murcia	▶
May be	Spanish Society of Immunology	Barcelona	▶
Without	Spanish Society of Microbiology	Seville	▶
SEMTSI	Spanish Society of Tropical Medicine and International Health	Madrid	▶
SENC	Spanish Society of Neuroscience	Barcelona	▶
SEProt	Spanish Society of Proteomics	Santiago de Compostela	▶
SESBE	Spanish Society of Evolutionary Biology	Valencia	▶
SEV	Spanish Society of Virology	Barcelona	▶
SIC	Iberian Society of Cytometry	Barcelona	▶
SOCEPA	Spanish Society of Parasitology	Madrid	▶

Requirements for acceding to the COSCE agreement for transparency in animal experimentation:

1. A **person responsible for the entity** must expressly state adherence to the Agreement by letter or email (addressed to Margarita del [Val](#) and/or [Lluís Montoliu](#))
2. Prepare an **institutional declaration on animal experimentation** and hang it on an easily accessible site on the entity's website (it is possible to consult all the institutional declarations of the affiliated institutions, on this same website)
3. Identify two persons of the institution (holder and alternate) **as contact personnel** of *the* Agreement in the entity (they will be subscribed to the mailing list of the **Agreement**))

Requirements to stay within the COSCE agreement for transparency in animal experimentation:

1. **Fulfilling** the four commitments of the *Agreement*
2. **Respond annually to** EARA's follow-up survey to monitor compliance with the *Agreement*.

European Animal Research Association

Registered address: Abbey House, 74-76 St John Street, London EC1M 4DZ

 **+44 (0)20 3675 1245**  **www.eara.eu**  **info@eara.eu**  **[@The_EARA](https://twitter.com/The_EARA)**  

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