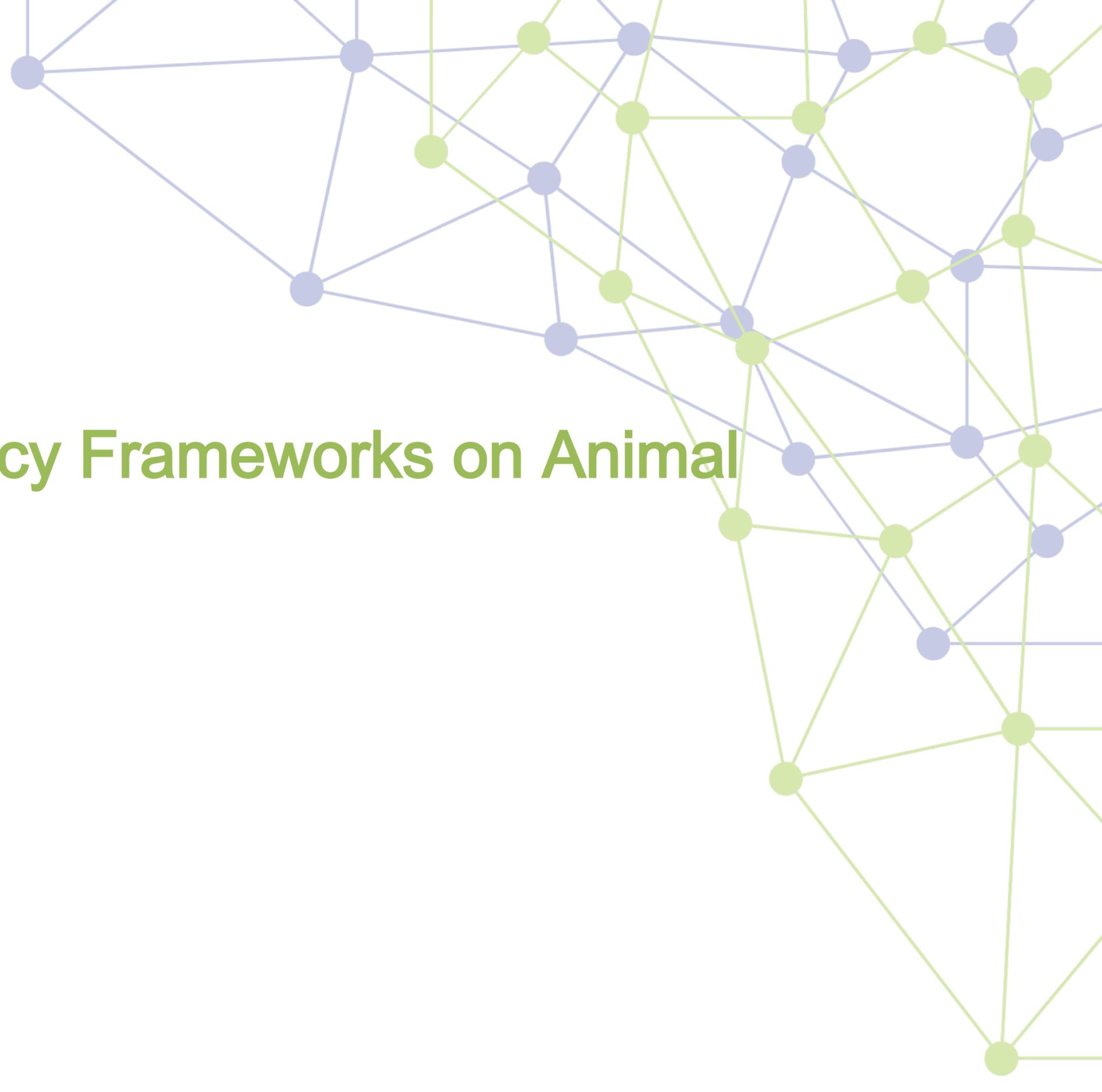




European Animal  
Research Association

# International Transparency Frameworks on Animal Research

Kirk Leech  
Executive Director  
European Animal Research Association



# EARA

EARA is an advocacy and communications organisation

EARA has offices in Brussels, London, and Lisbon

EARA has grown quickly since established in 2014 we now have over 230 institutional members.

EARA became a global organisation in 2021 we now members on five continents

**EARA is the only global advocacy organisation**



# EARA Global Membership February 2026



European Animal  
Research Association

**230 MEMBERS**



[eara.eu](http://eara.eu)

# EARA Canada

 <p>CALAM-ACMAL</p>	 <p>CALAS/ASCAL</p>	 <p>University of Toronto</p>
 <p>Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (The Institute)</p>	 <p>Université Laval</p>	 <p>Queen's University</p>
 <p>Charles River Montreal</p>	 <p>National Institute of Scientific Research</p>	 <p>McMaster University</p>

 <p>Western University</p>	 <p>University of Calgary</p>	 <p>University of Montreal</p>
 <p>University of Alberta</p>	 <p>Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal</p>	



EARA

# Sign up to receive updates from EARA



## EARA News

Welcome to your  
developments in  
research in Europe  
See EARA's [Co](#)

## Research

## Study uses monkey to Covid-19

US researchers  
19 infection in the

issues that affect animal

### Community response to

(ECI), [Save cruelty free cosmetics](#)  
met with the EU Commission.  
the lead in responding to the ECI, it  
Commission, likely before the  
ment. This may then lead to a vote  
formal response and explanation of

ncil (EBC), German Association of  
gy (DGfI), and Confederation of  
mobilise expert opinion to ensure  
information they need to explain  
research is very premature.

tem we have set up an online  
discuss how EARA members and  
scientific opinion in opposition to

### From science to

a briefing, [Tackling antimicrobial](#)  
e briefing suggests that the  
als has dried up, partly because of  
sidered to give a low return on

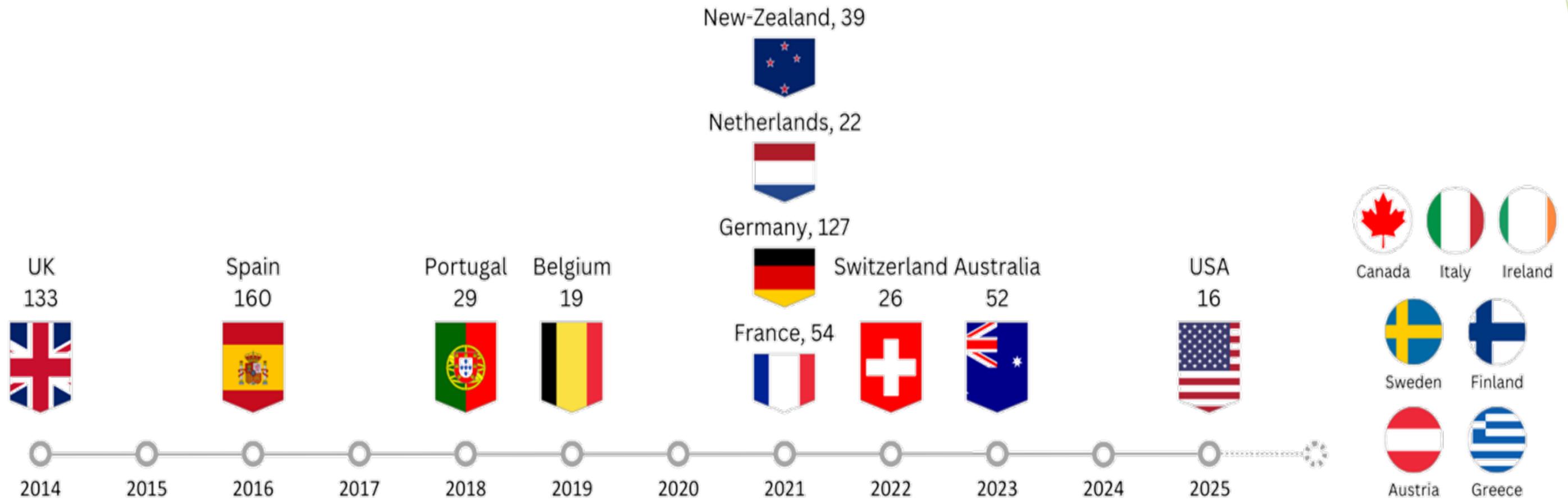
Growing pressure to phase out animal research  
**Often beyond existing scientific knowledge**



# 2014: This is where Europe stood



# Transparency Agreements across the globe



# What is a Transparency Agreement?

- Voluntary agreement, no legal requirements
- Everyone progresses at their own pace and according to their own possibilities and limitations
- Signatories could be
  - Universities and public research institutes
  - Industry (tox, pharma, biotech)
  - Supply chain
  - Funding bodies/medical charities/patient groups

**Transparency Agreement on Animal-Based Science in Canada**

*A national commitment to openness and transparency in animal-based scientific activities*

Providing access to everyone around the overall process, procedures, requirements, scientific needs and limitations, replacement, reduction and refinement, and the national oversight of animal-based scientific activities in Canada is a necessary step towards increasing awareness and understanding around the role of animals in science. This agreement serves to promote greater openness and transparency to achieve this.

Animal-based science in Canada takes place in the context of

- Improving the health of humans and animals
- Protecting the environment
- Educational purposes

In Canada, there is federal and provincial legislation overseeing the humane treatment of animals. The Canadian Council on Animal Care (CCAC) sets national standards for the ethical use and care of animals in science and supports organisations in their openness efforts.

The CCAC encourages the development of a formal transparency initiative amongst institutions and organisations. This transparency agreement proposes the following:

- Commitment 1**  
We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in science.
  - Acknowledging our involvement in animal research
  - Providing accurate descriptions of benefits, harms and limitations
- Commitment 2**  
We will enhance our communications with the public and the media about our use of animals in science.
  - Making relevant details about our animal research accessible to the public
- Commitment 3**  
We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to learn about animal use in science and the CCAC oversight and guidelines.
  - Participating in the public debate on animal-based science
  - Proactively providing the public opportunities to find out more
- Commitment 4**  
We will report on progress annually and share our experiences amongst each other and with the public.
  - Sharing our experiences in the process of increasing openness and transparency
  - Sharing our progress with the public

All signatories agree to the commitments outlined above and will support their implementation to the extent reasonably practicable, given their resources and potential constraints.

# Four commitments

**Commitment 1:** We will be clear about when, how, and why animals are used in research.

**Commitment 2:** We aim for improved communication with the media and the public about animal research.

**Commitment 3:** We will proactively provide opportunities for the public to learn about animal research and the relevant regulations.

**Commitment 4:** We report on our progress and share experiences annually.



**No templates, just principles,  
All agreements have grown**



# Beyond the document...



**The Netherlands**



**Gircor**

**France**



**Belgium**



**swissuniversities**

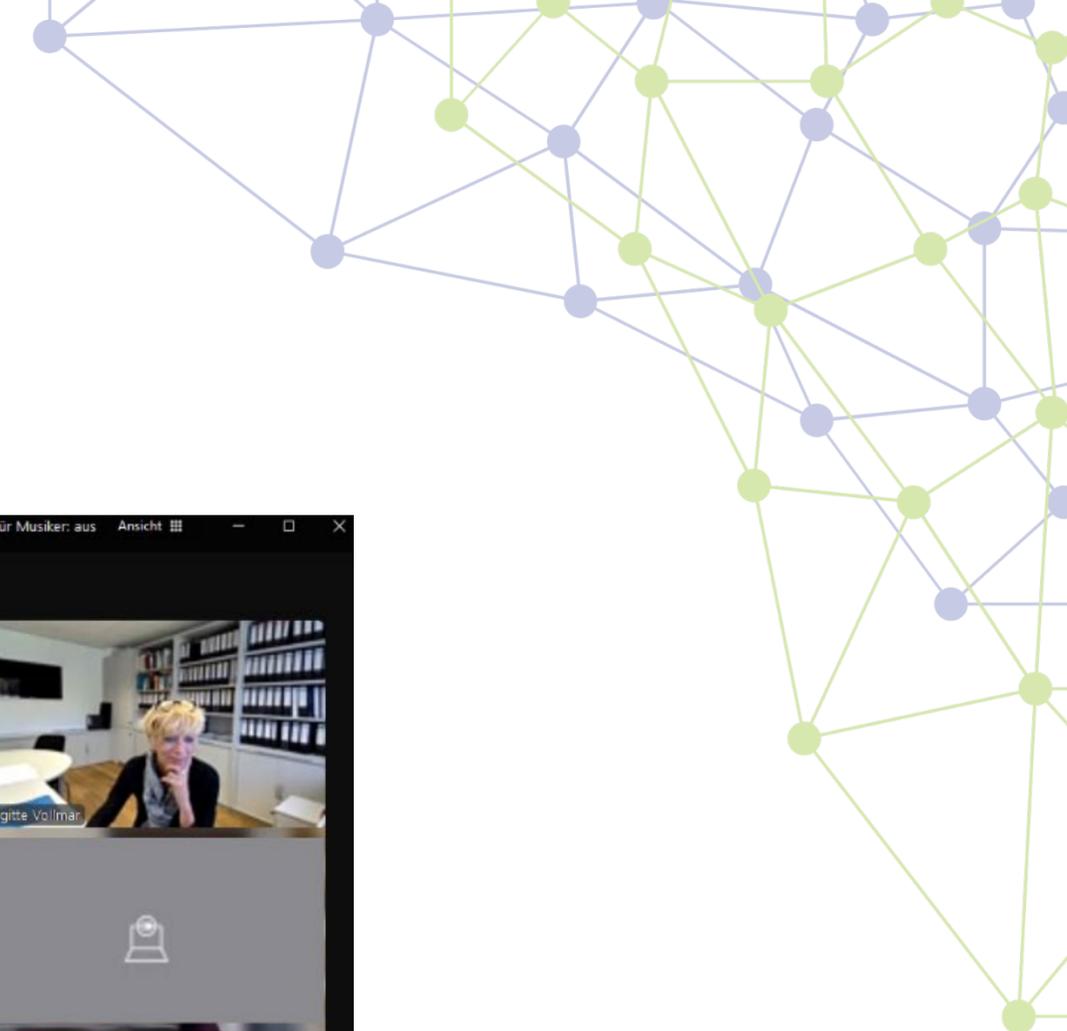
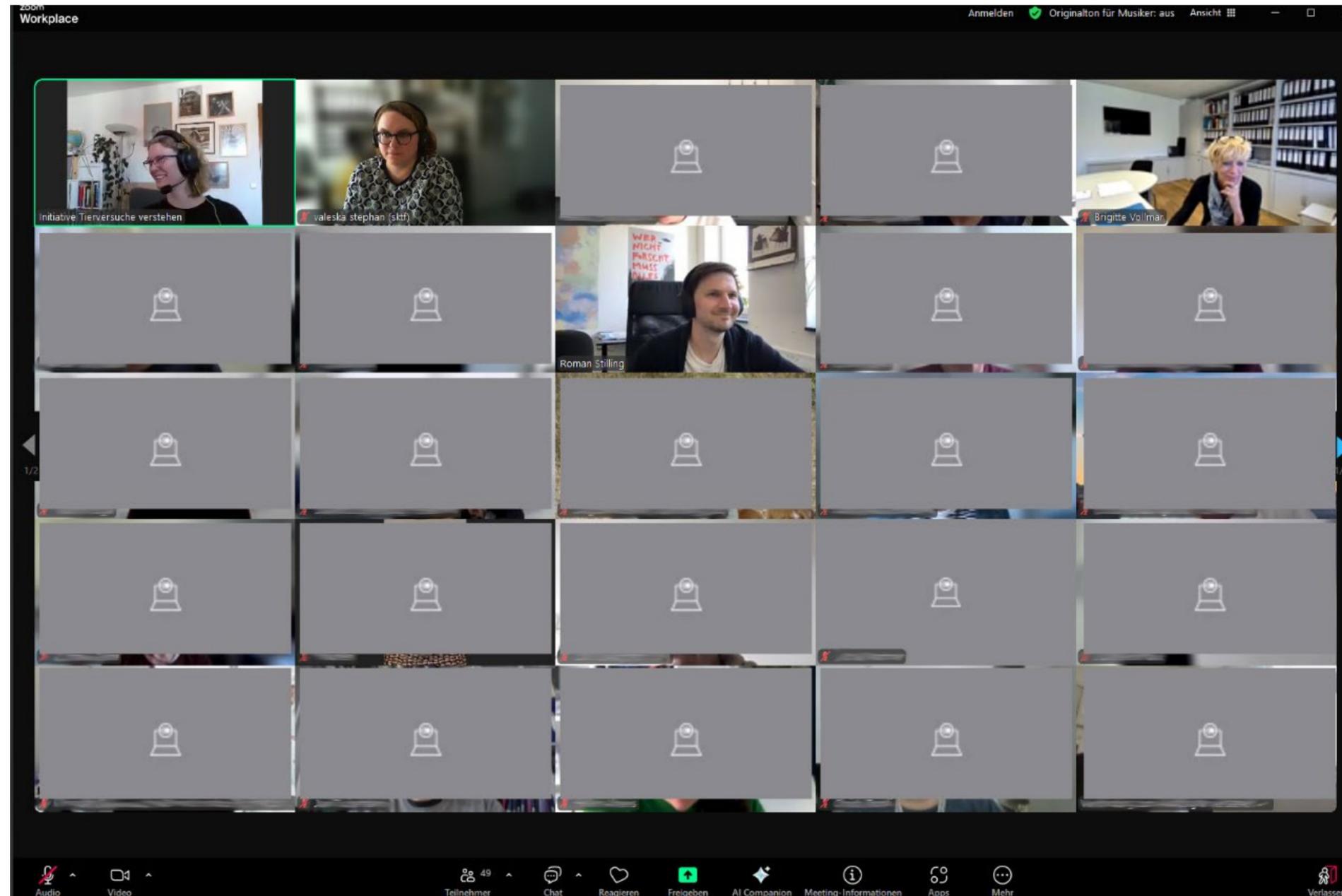
**Switzerland**



**Australia  
New-Zealand**

# Transparency Agreements in practice

## *Sharing experiences*





European Animal  
Research Association

# Transparency Agreements in practice

*New initiatives*

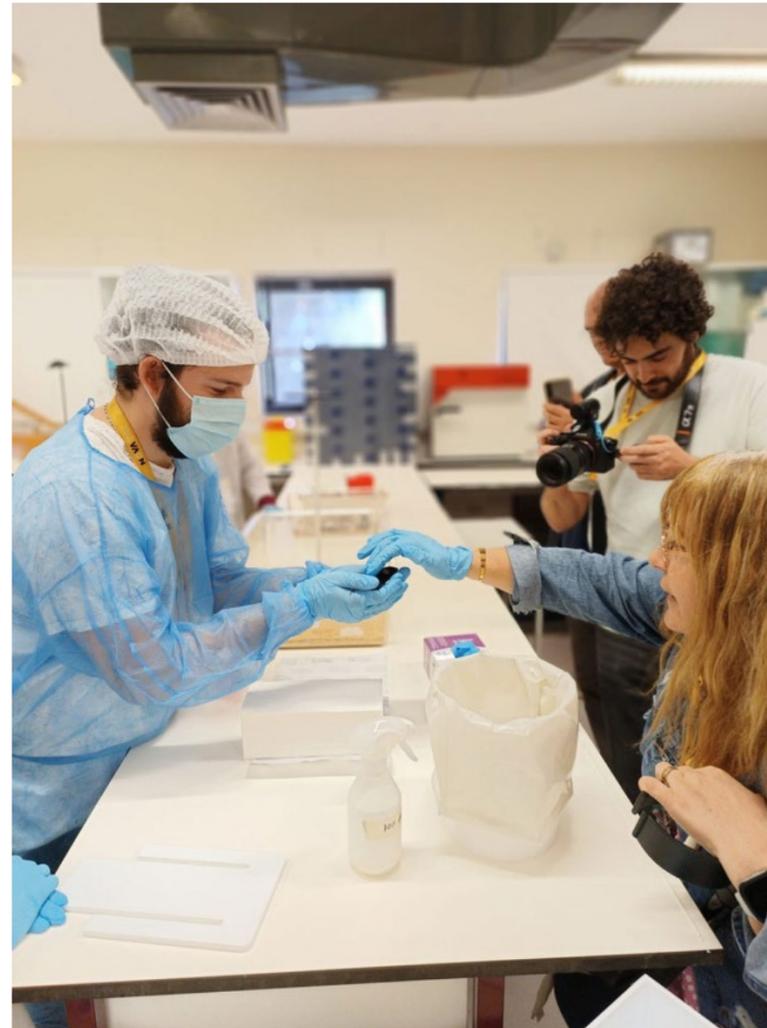
# EARA Patient Discovery Project



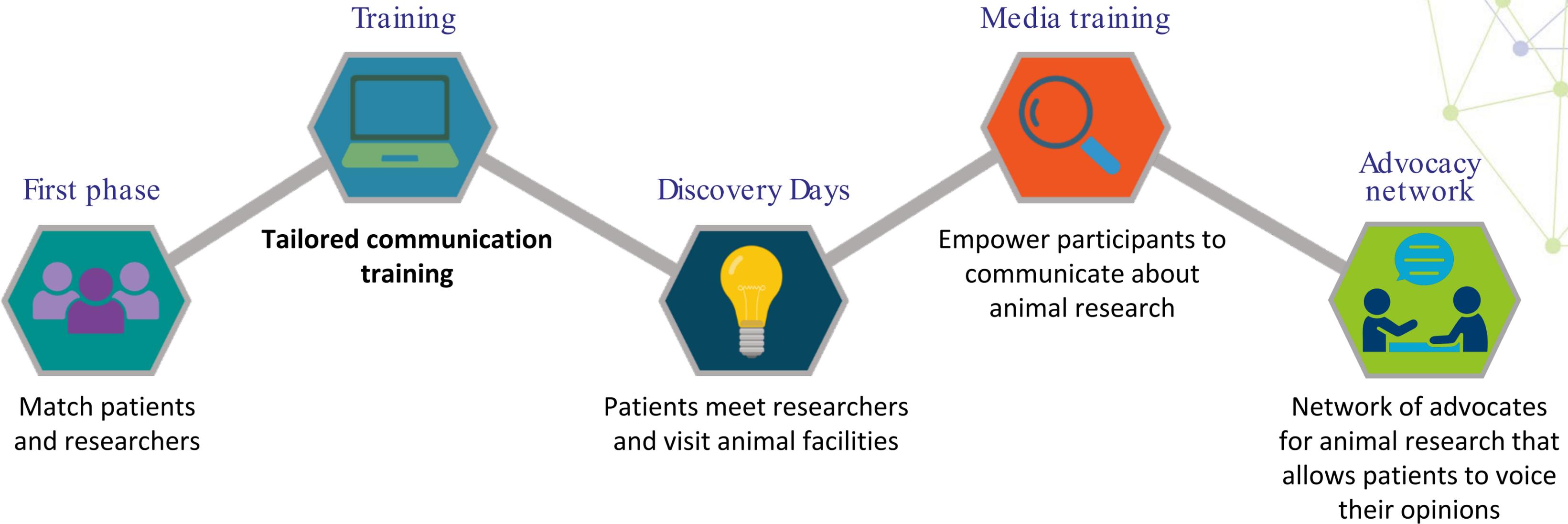
Past (green) and future (blue) Discovery Days.

# Patients as an **'unheard voice'** for communicating animal use in science

- Direct beneficiaries of scientific research that uses animals but often overlooked.
- Create an opportunity to hear the patients' voice and show the importance of biomedical research.
- Engage in two-way conversations that foster mutual understanding of animal research by the society.



# Patient Discovery Project by EARA: Engaging Patients in Animal Research



# Parkinson Discovery Day at Radboud University, Netherlands

“

## **Toolkit to understand Parkinson's disease**

Talks about Parkinson's research using cell models, animal models, toxicology, neurotechnology and imaging techniques



## **Tours at the Radboud University**

Onsite visits to the cell culture lab, the biochemical lab, and the animal facility which has different non-invasive scanner set-ups for behavioral studies with rats and mice



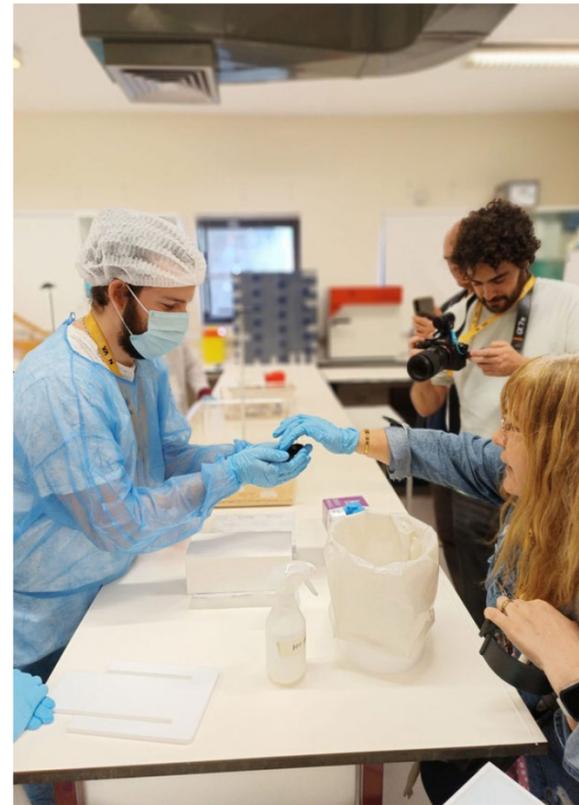
# Diabetes Patients: Nova Medical School, Lisbon Portugal

## **Presentations by scientists**

to explain research on Type 2 Diabetes incorporates animal models, particularly mice and rats

## **Tour of the animal facilities**

and insights on how diabetes is induced in mice and rats by manipulating their diet, welfare measures, behavioural tests, blood glucose measurements, and live-surgical interventions



# Parkinson's Patients Discovery Day at the Dutch Primate Research Centre

## Talks about research methods using primates and its alternatives

Foster a balanced understanding of approaches used to advance brain research and develop new treatments

## Tour of the primate facilities

Attendees were shown the extensive welfare measures, enriched housing and training protocols that help animals participate willingly in research tasks



# Discovery Day with EFNA and Leuven Brain Institute/ KU Leuven

Showcase of the **scientific process in neurological disease research**, from fundamental mechanisms to clinical application:

- **Lab visits** showcasing research in fruit flies, mice and macaques.
- **Animal facility tours** with rodents and non-human primates
- Visit to the **clinical imaging facility**: biomarkers validated in primates and other animals now used in Parkinson's and Alzheimer's patients



# Communications Workshops



ANY  
QUESTIONS  
?

