

FIN3R Board Meeting

October 8th, 2024, 11-12.30, Zoom

Participants: Marianna Norring, Reetta Hintala, Eero Lehtonen, Johanna Englund, Satu Kuure, Johanna Åhlgren, Anna Vallius, Hajnalka Nadai, Vootele Voikar, Tommaso Serchi, Brian Mphande, Sarka Lehtonen, Mikko Airavaara, Sara Sladakovic

Agenda:

1. **Meeting Minutes Approval** – August: meeting minutes were accepted without any objections.
2. **Past and Future Activities:**
 - **Replacement team:** a successful replacement graduate course was organized in August, in Kuopio, with Sarka Lehtonen as the main organizer. There were 65 participants on site. After the two days of lectures, visits to the local companies (e.g. Experimentica) were done, providing the understanding of how replacement methods are used outside the academia. The feedback was excellent, and similar courses will also be organized in the future. The replacement team is also involved in the organization of the upcoming Finnish 3Rs Symposium in Oulu.
 - **Reduction team:** A one-and-a-half-day seminar in Helsinki covering comprehensive models was organized. There were 95 participants, and the discussion was focused mainly on the scientific findings of different models of animal use. However, insights into how replacement and refinement are contributing were also acknowledged. Preparation for the Annual Symposium is on the way and in good shape. Registrations are already open, but there are still places left in the workshop. Around 50 registrants have already signed up. More advertisement and distribution of information is needed. The program includes workshops on November 4th on Power Analysis and on November 5th on Experimental Design. The lectures start in the afternoon on November 5th. FIN3R Board meeting takes place on November 5th, at 16h, after the program of the Symposium is done. A dinner for the speakers is organized for November 5th at 19h, and board members are invited to join. Requests regarding the participation and food requirements during the dinner will be collected after the meeting. The Organizing Committee will select the oral presentations soon, otherwise, the program is finalized. All the speakers, but one, will be present on-site during the event. The talks will be recorded and available on the website after the event either for all registrants or for everyone, depending on the approval of the speaker. An email for the board to distribute among their networks will be sent shortly by Reetta.
 - **Refinement:** the most important activity is the upcoming meeting – Do the numbers count, of the Finnish Animal Welfare Network in Tampere on October 24th. The program will focus on statistics and surplus animals. Presentations will be given by people from academia, and Susanna Louhimies, from the European Commission. Anna will help about the catering for this event
Webinars are still ongoing. Today there is a session dedicated to the French 3R's. From the initiative from TOKES, a seminar about the culture of care will be held. Vootele and Hajnalka will present there in April 2025, focusing on the ways how it is implemented and promoted.

European Animal Welfare Network meeting is being held quarterly. During the September and October meetings with the national contact points were held. Vootele will present at the Danish 3R Symposium and will meet with the other Nordic 3R centers.

- **Coordination:** An update will be given during the next meeting.
- 3. **Finances:** no big changes in the budget, and all the activities can proceed as planned.
- 4. **TOKES update:**
 - In April, there will be a Culture of Care seminar that Vootele has discussed previously.
 - A seminar about pain relief in tattooing has been held, with 37 participants sharing their thoughts and experiences on the topic. The feedback was unified – more education is needed. Therefore, some of the follow-up activities will be organized in 2025.
 - The workgroup on financing the small 3R projects aims to have a seminar next year. The leader of the group is Emrah Yarkin.
 - The workgroup on replacement training has prepared a survey about the replacement methods training in Finland, aiming to assess the current situation and how it can be improved. The potential outcome of their work can be organization of the recurring events focusing on the replacement training.
 - The information group is just starting the organization of their work, and establishing the scope of responsibility. They will share tasks with FIN3R and Animal Welfare Center.
 - The 3Rs monitoring group is planning the work further, tracking the progress of TOKES, and data on animal use. There will be a possibility to create a new team to investigate the surplus of the animals.
- 5. **Other issues** - the newsletter and meeting scheduling:
 - The newsletter will be published at the end of November, and each R group should send their contribution to it by Friday, November 15th.
 - There will be two more meetings until the end of the year – during the Symposium (November 5th) and on November 25th, as per the regular schedule. The topic of the first meeting will be focused on the activities for the year 2024, while during the second meeting plans for the next year will be drafted. A more detailed agenda will follow soon.
 - Advertisements of the Annual Symposium should be more emphasized. The information is not easy to find on the website's 'News' page, therefore a new page will be created to help in this regard. In addition to the current Symposium, short notes from the previous one will be available there as well. As well, an additional issue of the newsletter will be prepared and distributed before the registrations for the Symposium are closed.
 - The page needs restructuring. Each member of the board will prepare a list of things that need to be changed and based on that will be resources and the possibilities of the website.
 - Possibilities to collaborate with Tokes and its information team will be investigated.

The meeting was adjourned at 12.07. The next meeting is scheduled for November 5th, 2024.