



European Animal
Research Association

Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium

First Annual Evaluation Report

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1. Executive Summary

The Belgian declaration to be more transparent about animal research in 2016 was the foundation for the Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium, signed in 2020. Since 2019, the biomedical community in Belgium has been committed to adopting a clearer, more open, and transparent approach to the use of animals in research.

The Transparency Agreement is a proposal by the European Animal Research Association (EARA) in collaboration with the Belgian Council for Laboratory Animal Science (BCLAS), and the Belgian scientific community. It aims to improve the information available to the public and the media on the use of animals in biomedical research in Belgium.

The implementation of the Agreement is based on four commitments, the first three of which refer to the promotion and improvement of internal and external communications by the signatory institutions, and the last of which refers to the sharing of experiences and results.

This is the first evaluation report of the Transparency Agreement in Belgium, which aims to highlight how the signatory institutions have implemented the agreed commitments and identify the areas where more guidance and support are needed. This report is published on the same day as [#BOARD22](#), on the 16th of June 2022.

It was prepared based on a survey completed by 13 of the 17 institutions involved in the initiative and reviews the progress made on openness (see also Annex III - List of signatories to the Agreement 20) up until February 2022. Unfortunately, Covid-19 hampered explicit efforts for the implementation of the agreement.

Some of the results to be highlighted from the feedback on the implementation of the Agreement include:

- The survey revealed that virtually all but one of the institutions have a publicly accessible statement on the institution's website, which explains the institution's involvement with animal research.
- The vast majority of respondents or 85% (11/13)¹, reported newsletters and internal publications or communications in their institutions, or talks and presentations about the use of animals in research to promote internal communication.
- 69% (9/13) mentioned the activities organised to encourage more public discussion on animal research.
- Just under half of the respondents or 46% (6/13) stated that they include research summaries on their websites, as a proactive way of sharing information.

Several institutions applied additional good communication practices which could serve as examples to other signatories to further increase transparency:

- Around a third of respondents (36%) provide images of the animals used in their research.
- One respondent includes non-technical summaries of authorised projects made available to the public on its website.

¹ % Of the respondents (number of respondents/ 13 institutions)

- Two of the signatories participated in, or organised meetings and events, to facilitate partnerships and ensure openness around animal research.
- The most used social media platform was LinkedIn (31%, 4/13), followed by Twitter (23%, 3/13). Just two institutions use Facebook, and none reported using Instagram.

Overall, the results show that institutions are taking the first steps towards a commitment to creating opportunities for the public to access information on the use of animals in research. There is still potential to provide a higher level of transparency. For instance, the respondents indicated that they still see opportunities to make more information available on institutional websites which might be done for instance via the publication of non-technical summaries, images and/or videos, and statistical data on the number and type of animals used in research are also areas that could see improvement in the future.

The form and speed of implementation of all commitments varies, of course, from institution to institution, and all of them have started from different levels of openness and transparency. Although this is not a conditioning factor, one aspect highlighted in the survey was the lack of knowledge of this agreement at the institutional level. This report therefore also includes some suggestions for improving the implementation of the agreement between the signatories.

1.1. Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium

The Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium is an initiative by EARA, in collaboration with the Belgian scientific community, to promote information to the public on the use of animals in biomedical research. In April 2016, 22 Belgian organisations involved with life science research signed a Declaration on Openness on Animal Research, co-ordinated by the European Animal Research Association (EARA) and the Belgian Council for Laboratory Animal Science (BCLAS). Following this Declaration, steps were taken to develop it into the current Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium, signed in December 2020 (see Annex III) by 17 institutions (see also Annex III - List of signatories to the Agreement 20).

This initiative is based on previous examples from around Europe such as the Dutch code of transparency on animal testing in 2008, the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK](#) launched in 2014; the Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in [Spain](#), launched in 2016, and the [Portuguese Agreement](#) launched in 2018. There are now [seven](#) such agreements in Europe.

The Agreement comprises four Commitments:

- **Commitment 1:**
We will be clear about when, how, and why we use animals in research.
- **Commitment 2:**
We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research in Belgium using animals.
- **Commitment 3:**
We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals and the regulations that govern it.
- **Commitment 4:**
We will report on progress annually and share our experiences.

1.2. About this Report

This is the first evaluation report of the Transparency Agreement in Belgium, which aims to highlight how the signatory institutions have implemented the agreed commitments and identify the areas where more guidance and support are needed.

The information and results presented are based on the responses of the signatories to an online evaluation survey. The survey was sent to 17 institutions involved in this initiative and the responses were collected between January and February 2022: 13 institutions involved in the Transparency Agreement responded to the survey.

By completing the survey, the respondents **fulfilled the fourth** commitment of the Transparency Agreement, whereby the institutions undertake to report on their progress in compliance with the agreement and to share their experiences.

1.3. Signatories of the Agreement in Belgium

The institutions that are respondents to the Transparency Agreement are universities (59%, 10/17), commercial biopharmaceutical companies (24%, 4/17) and research institutes (17%, 4/17) (*Figure 1*).

Signatories who carry out animal experimentation on their premises correspond to 88% (15/17), while 12% (2/17) provide only support for animal research.

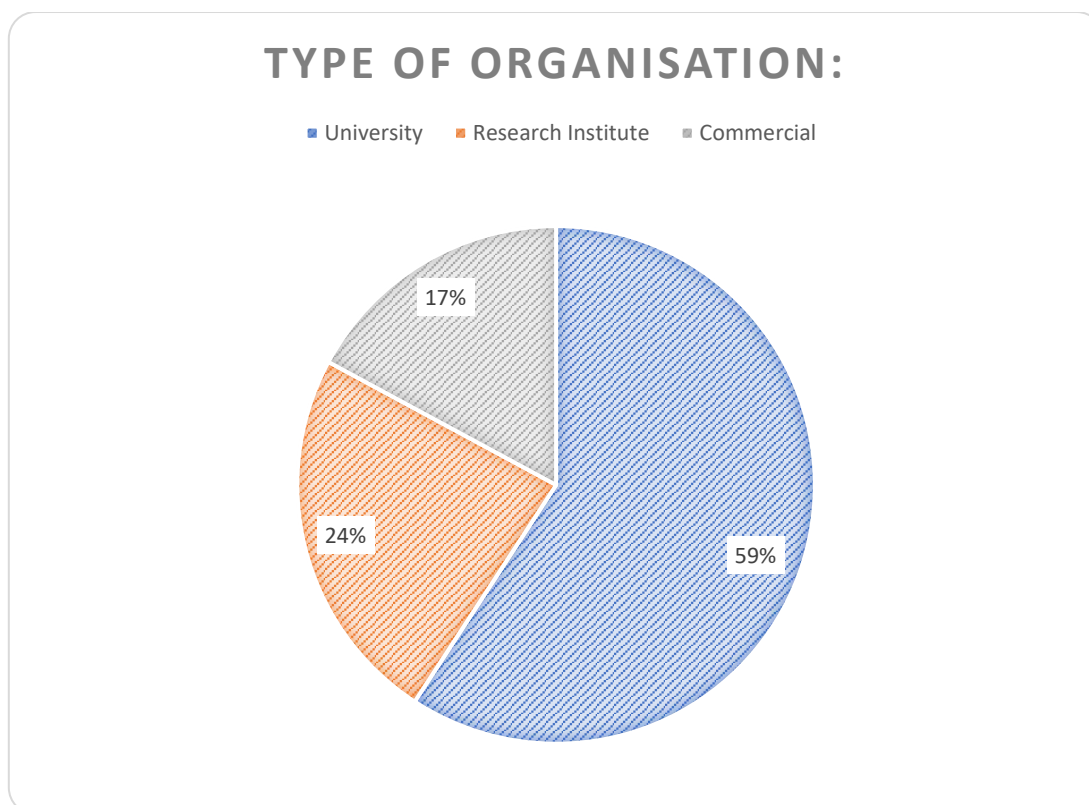


FIGURE 1 – TYPES OF SIGNATORY INSTITUTION OF THE TRANSPARENCY AGREEMENT ON ANIMAL RESEARCH IN BELGIUM

2. COMMITMENT 1:

We will be clear about when, how, and why we use animals in research.

This commitment aims to ensure that all institutions recognise, both internally and externally, that they, or their staff members, carry out or fund animal research. It also seeks to ensure that organisations are transparent about the use of animals in their work.

Regarding actions to promote **internal communication**, 85% (11/13) of the respondents reported newsletters and internal publications, or communications within their institutions, about the animals that are used, or mentioned talks and presentations about the use of animals in research. Two of the institutions provide open invitations to attend animal welfare meetings.

In the process of recruiting new employees, 69% (9/13) of the respondents said they made explicit mention of the animal research conducted at the institution. For employees not involved in animal research, opportunities to visit facilities were reported by just over half of the respondents. Participation in or provision of taught courses on animal research or ethics for students was reported to be 69% (9/13).

Other ways to clearly communicate on the use of animals in research internally are dedicated webpages, Be Open About Animal Research Day ([BOARD21](#)), Biomedical Research Awareness Day ([BRAD](#)), visits to the animal facilities, and talks and courses. This was reported to be 38% (5/13).

Regarding actions to promote **external communication** on the use of animals in research the results are described in the graph below (*Figure 2*).

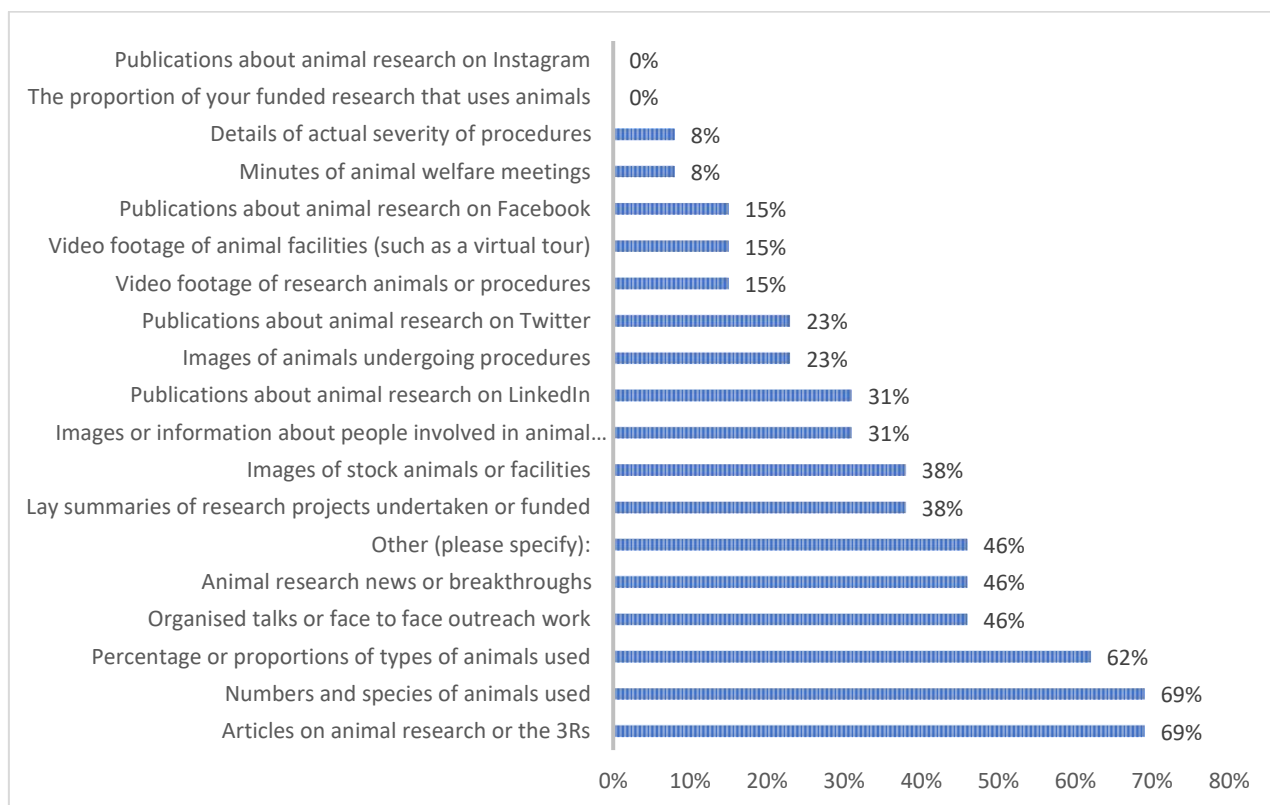


FIGURE 2 - EXTERNAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE INSTITUTIONS

2.1. Publishing statistics

The institutions mentioned mostly the numbers and species of animals used (69%, 9/13), together with articles on animal research, or the 3Rs (69%, 9/13), followed by the percentage, or proportions of types of animals used (62%, 8/13). Animal research news or breakthroughs make up 46% (6/13), together with organised talks or face-to-face outreach work which is also 46% (6/13).

According to [the most recent statistics for Belgium \(2020\)](#), a total of 437,275 animals were used in Belgium, of which 58% were mice, followed by 16% rabbits and 9% domestic fowl (*Figure 3*).

EU Statistical Data of all uses of animals

Member State: Belgium			Year: 2020		
All uses of animals by species			Origin as registered at the first use		
Animal Species	Number of uses	Percentage	Place of Birth	Number of uses	Percentage
Mice	251,913	57.61%	Animals born in the EU at a registered breeder	406,266	93.59%
Rats	13,760	3.15%	Animals born in the EU but not at a registered breeder	24,707	5.69%
Guinea-Pigs	11,656	2.67%	Animals born in rest of Europe	345	0.08%
Hamsters (Syrian)	2,985	0.68%	Animals born in rest of world	2,761	0.64%
Hamsters (Chinese)			Total uses	434,079	100.00%
Mongolian gerbil	14	0.00%			
Other rodents	213	0.05%			
Rabbits	70,761	16.18%			
Cats	253	0.06%			
Dogs	1,519	0.35%			
Ferrets					
Other carnivores					
Horses, donkeys and cross-breeds	199	0.05%			
Pigs	5,767	1.32%			
Goats	69	0.02%			
Sheep	503	0.12%			
Cattle	2,329	0.53%			
Prosimians					
Marmoset and tamarins					
Cynomolgus monkey					
Rhesus monkey	36	0.01%			
Vervets (Chlorocebus spp.)					
Baboons					
Squirrel monkey					
Other species of Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecoidea)					
Other species of New World Monkeys (Ceboidae)					
Apes					
Other mammals	110	0.03%			
Domestic fowl	41,115	9.40%			
Other birds	4,831	1.10%			
Reptiles	105	0.02%			
Rana					
Xenopus	957	0.22%			
Other amphibians	54	0.01%			
Zebra fish	22,804	5.22%			
Other fish	5,322	1.22%			
Cephalopods					
Total uses	437,275	100.00%			

NHP Source (origin)	Number of uses	Percentage
Animals born at a registered breeder within EU	4	66.67%
Animals born in rest of Europe		
Animals born in Asia		
Animals born in America	2	33.33%
Animals born in Africa		
Animals born elsewhere		
Total uses	6	100.00%

NHP Generation	Number of uses	Percentage
F0		
F1		
F2 or greater	6	100.00%
Self-sustaining colony		
Total uses	6	100.00%

FIGURE 3 - EU STATISTICAL DATA OF ALL USES IN ANIMALS IN BELGIUM

Going back to the data of the respondents, lay summaries of research projects are published on the website of 38% (5/13) of the respondents. Minutes of animal welfare meetings that have been shared publicly is 8% (1/13). Just one of the respondents includes details of the actual severity of the procedures that are used.

Successful implementations of the first commitment were answered with a clear YES by 92% (12/13) of the institutions. Examples include:

- Lecture at the seniors University,
- [Video guidance for TV Limburg](#),
- Annual reports,
- Websites on animal experimentation (e.g., www.dierproeven.vub.be, <https://vib.be/why-animal-research-necessary>, ...),
- Internal seminars,
- Posters,
- Newsletters, ...

2.2. Images, videos, and social media

An important component in the openness and transparency on the use of animals in research is the sharing of self-made images and videos on the official websites of the institutions. This is usually the place where the public seeks more information about animal models developed to study a particular topic.

Less than half of the respondents of the Transparency Agreement provide images and/or videos on their websites. Mostly images that have been shared with the public are images of stock animals or facilities (38%, 5/13), information about people involved in animal research (31%, 4/13) and of actual animals undergoing procedures (23%, 3/13). Video footage of research animals or procedures and footage of animal facilities like a virtual tour are less common, with two institutions providing these.

Regarding social media, LinkedIn seems to be the preferred platform with 31% (4/13), followed by Twitter with 23% (3/13) and Facebook with 15% (2/13). None of the institutions report to use Instagram.

2.3. Other information

46% (6/13) of the respondents publicly share other information, including information about the different animal models that are used, public summaries of research funded by e.g. FWO (*Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek* aka Fund for Scientific Research), a friends and family day, research information along walking routes, papers, scientific congresses, etc.

In addition to the publication of statistical data by Member States being one of the requirements of the [Directive 2010/63/EU](#), the non-technical summaries of research projects are also published [by the EU](#). The purpose of these abstracts is to publicly share information about studies that use animals in an objective and clear way, in a language that is accessible to the public.

According to Article 43 of Directive 2010/63/EU non-technical summaries of research projects should include the harms and benefits envisaged and the number and types of animals to be

used, as well as a demonstration of compliance with the *replacement, reduction, and refinement* requirement (3Rs).

In the evaluation questionnaire, 46% (6/13) of the signatory institutions stated that they include research summaries on their websites (*Figure 4*). Of which 38% (5/13) has lay summaries written for the website and 8% (1/13) has reproduced non-technical summaries.

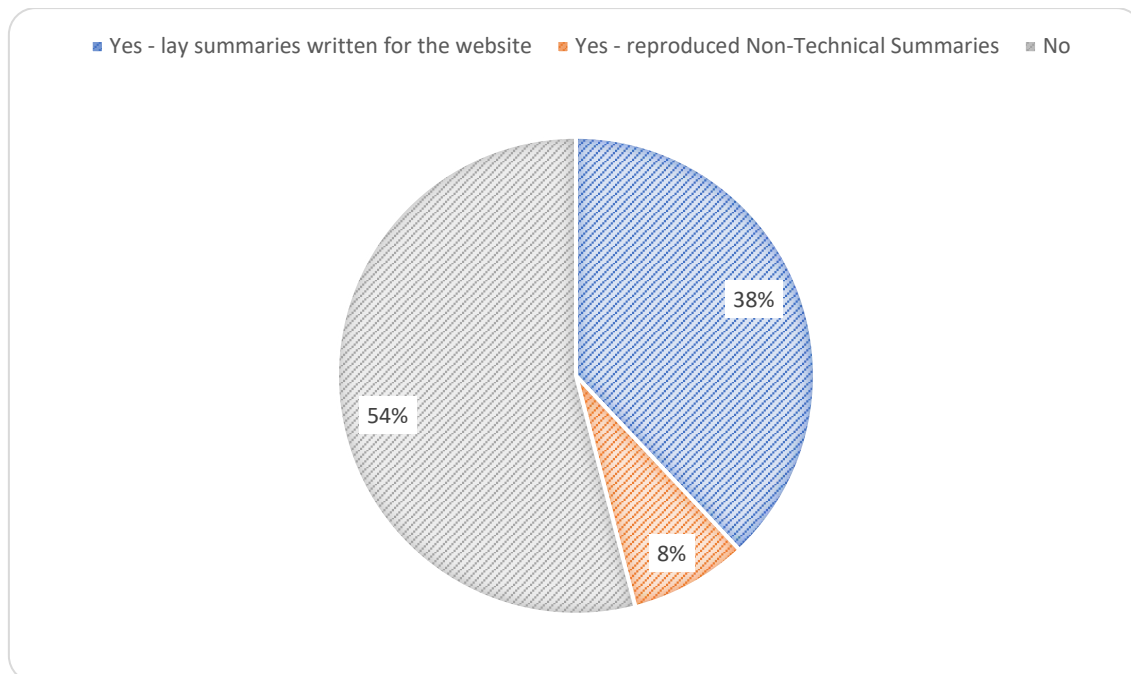


FIGURE 4 – RESEARCH SUMMARIES AVAILABLE ON THE WEBSITES OF THE SIGNATORY INSTITUTIONS TO THE TRANSPARENCY AGREEMENT

The first commitment of the Transparency Agreement also includes the adoption of an open approach to communicating animal research in collaborative projects and partnerships, which means sharing knowledge and experiences with other partners.

In the survey, 15% (2/13) of the respondents participated in or organised meetings and events to facilitate partnerships and ensure openness around animal research. Guidance for staff to encourage openness when working in partnership is provided by 23% (3/13) of the respondents.

In the survey, 38% (5/13) of the respondents said they attended and/or held meetings and events to ensure openness and transparency on animal research, however, 62% (8/13) of the institutions mentioned that no meetings or events like this were held. Two (15%) of the institutions have a policy in place outlining requirements around openness on animal research when working in partnership.

The strategies mentioned by the institutions involved in the Transparency Agreement to answer questions (either from internal and/or external sources) about the use of animal models in their research, are based on transparency and openness; on the collaboration between the coordinators of animal facilities and communication offices; and with the institutional ethics committees or advisory bodies on animal ethics.

When asked if there are barriers to the implementation of this commitment, half of the institutions answered said 'yes' there were and the other half no. The main causes given were fear of public exposure, possible reprisals by activists and confidentiality reasons.

3. COMMITMENT 2:

We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research in Belgium using animals.

The purpose of this Commitment is to ensure that relevant details on the involvement of signatories in animal research are easily accessible to the public. It is based on the practical steps, outlined in Commitment 1, that organizations can or should take to improve their communication around animal research.

Since the implementation of the Transparency Agreement, the main forms of communication with the media have included interviews or long-form pieces in which the use of animals in research have been mentioned (54%, 7/13), and reactive comments to the media regarding the institutions' own use of animals in research (31%, 4/13). Participation as panel member for a press-conference or briefing on animal research was done by 23% (3/13) of the respondents. Comments and quotes on general issues related to animal research comprised of 15% (2/13). Giving media access to animal facilities and proactively commenting to the media on the use of own animals in research was done by one institution for each respectively.

One of the institutions said it had refused to respond to requests from journalists to answer questions on the use of animals in research. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic some events and requests were also denied.

Regarding the opportunities for communication training for scientists, staff or students who wanted to communicate about their animal research, 62% (8/13) of the institutions said that this is available, while those institutions which do not offer this type of training said they have a spokesperson (*Figure 5*).

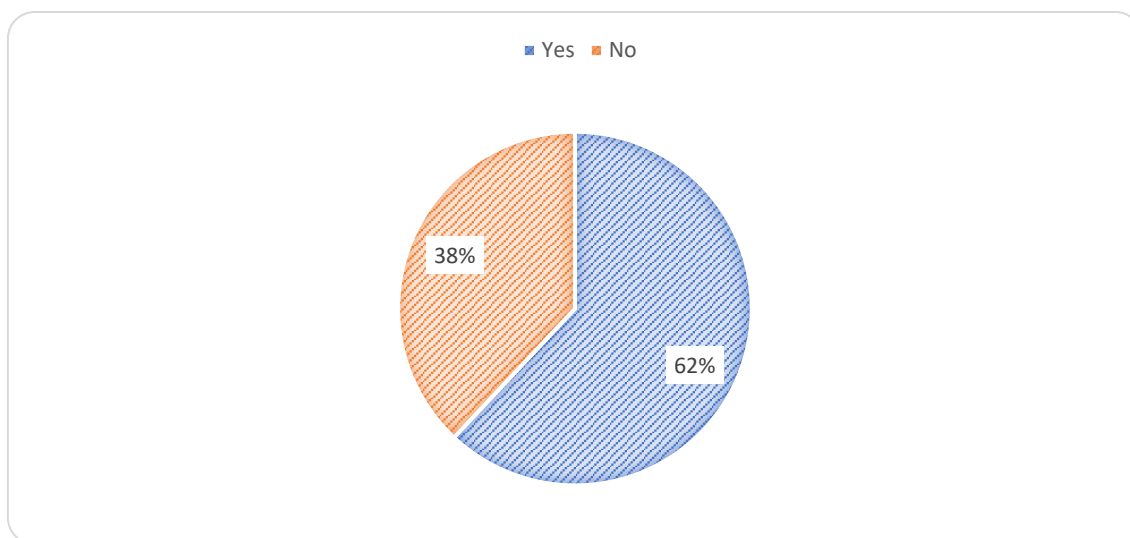


FIGURE 5 - THE TRAINING OFFER FOR RESEARCHERS, STAFF OR STUDENTS WHO WISH TO COMMUNICATE THEIR WORK WITH ANIMAL MODELS

Communication on the use of animals in research also includes communicating on replacement, reduction, and refinement principles. These principles consist of:

- **Replacement:**
Use of methods which avoid or replace the use of animals.
- **Reduction:**
Use of methods which minimize the number of animals used per experiment.
- **Refinement:**
Methods which minimize animal suffering and improve welfare.

To promote better communication on the 3Rs, 62% (8/13) of the respondents reported examples on their websites, followed by examples provided by associations like EARA and BCLAS) with other initiatives including participation in the [RE-PLACE initiative](#), conference posters, visits to animal facilities, which were done by six institutions. Debates and awards were another example given, with 38% (5/13), and through other publications by 15% (2/13) (Figure 6).

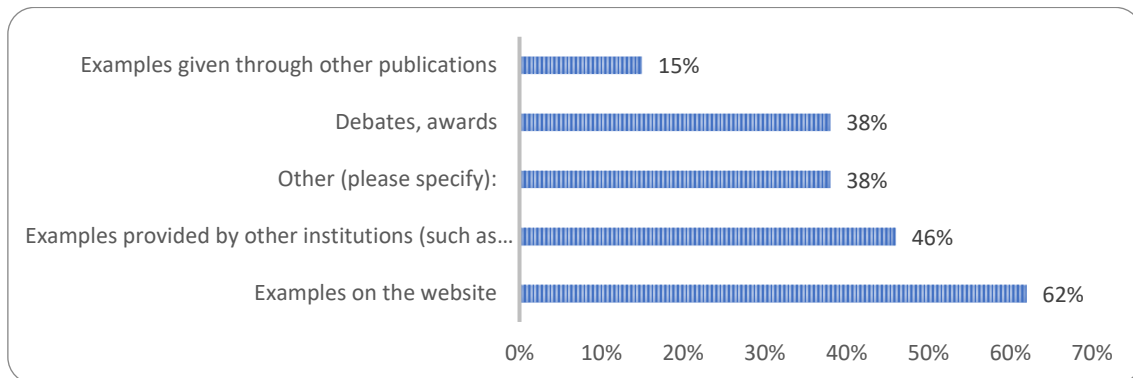


FIGURE 6 - FORMS OF COMMUNICATION ON THE 3RS PRINCIPLES BY THE SIGNATORY INSTITUTIONS

One of the mandatory requirements of the Transparency Agreement is the placement of a publicly accessible statement on the institution's website, which explains the institution's involvement with animal research. The survey revealed that nearly all the institutions, that completed the survey (12/13), have the declaration available.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 hampered explicit efforts for the implementation of the second commitment of the agreement. As well as the management of expectations between the scientific community and journalists, and a lack of training in communication were given as reasons. The fear to disclose confidential information, and fear to attract the attention of animal right activists were also mentioned as obstacles.

For communication practices that the signatory institutions intend to apply in the future, the main suggestions are:

- Conducting workshops in communication.
- Inclusion of non-technical summaries of authorised projects.
- Promotion of internal communication (e.g., official contact person for animal research, and internal meetings).
- Making educational videos (for instance, to show how animals are raised and kept in the facilities).
- Improvement of the information available on the website (to include a position statement).
- Inclusion of illustrative activities of research events (e.g., Open Days).
- Approach the societal perspective on animal research in the pre-graduate training.

4. COMMITMENT 3:

We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals and the regulations that govern it.

This Commitment aims to encourage more public discussion in Belgium on animal research. It is based on Commitments 1 and 2 suggesting ways in which signatories can proactively engage - directly and indirectly - with the public, in addition to providing more information.

The most common activities reported by the respondents for the fulfillment of the third commitment were the activities organised by partner bodies such as EARA and BCLAS (69%, 9/13); engagements with local schools, open days, and science festivals (38%, 5/13) (Figure 7).

Among the advice and support provided to those involved in these initiatives, the respondents mentioned the following topics:

- Researchers are encouraged to talk about animal research when the corresponding research projects are discussed in the media.
- Staff will always explain the ethics and legal oversight and will inform people about the 3R principle (for example by explaining that organs of animals are reused for educational/research purposes after a non-recovery project).
- Covid-19 pandemic caused such initiatives to stall in 2020 and 2021.
- Training of employees before they participate in activities with the public.

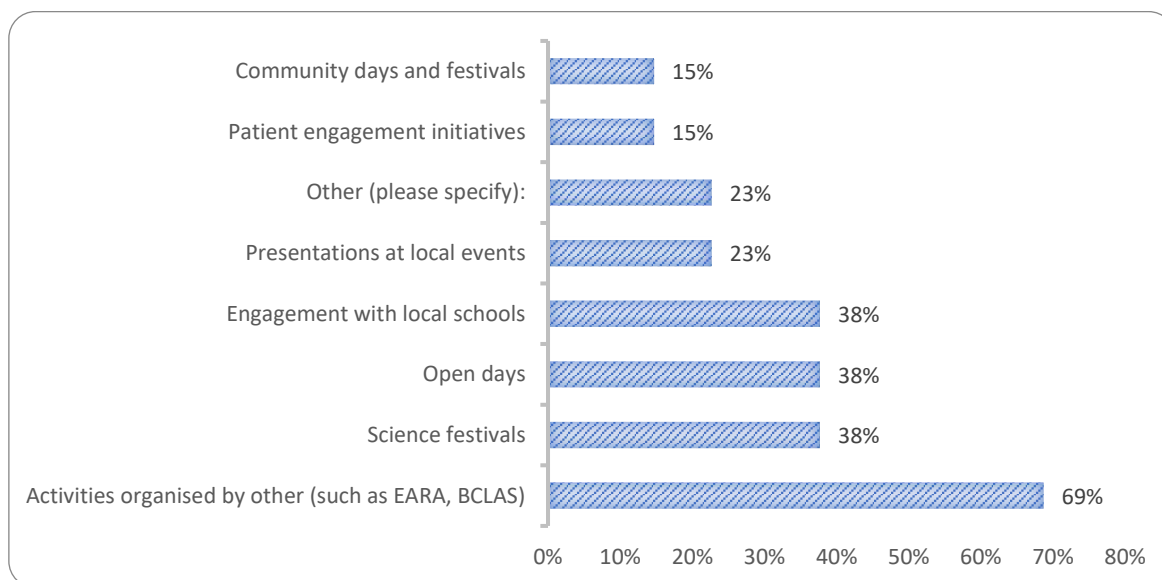


FIGURE 7 - ACTIVITIES IN WHICH INSTITUTIONS HAVE PARTICIPATED SINCE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRANSPARENCY AGREEMENT

Most of the respondents (85%, 11/13) gave access to their animal facilities to external visitors, including groups of patients, seniors, and students, while one institution specifically organised a visit for politicians. When animal safety and welfare measures did not allow for visits, 23% (3/13) of the respondents offered alternatives such as the recording and making images of the animal facilities available.

Only one institution declined requests to visit their animal facilities for safety and well-being reasons, and for the past pandemic-related situation.

As the main barriers to the implementation of this commitment (69%, 9/13), the institutions highlighted the importance of measures to keep pathogens out of the animal facility, security concerns, the pandemic, time, and availability to organise the activities and tours.

5. Conclusions and challenges ahead

The Transparency Agreement on Animal Research demonstrates the ongoing desire of the Belgian scientific community to encourage society to be more informed about the use of animals in science in a voluntary but coordinated way.

Thirteen signatories gave *feedback* on the implementation of the agreement in their institutions, reinforcing their involvement with this initiative.

Openness and transparency can be a slow process, but it is one that will eventually translate into concrete actions and knowledge sharing with the public. In the long term the implementation of these commitments by the biomedical sector can make a decisive difference in political decisions, and in national and international strategies on animal research.

The results of this first evaluation report show the effort and dedication by the signatory institutions to achieve these aims.

All institutions agreed that the Transparency Agreement is important for biomedical research in Belgium, and 92% (12/13) believe that the implementation of this more open approach on the use of animals in research can lead to real changes in their institutions. The institutions state that it is a motivation to be continually working on openness and to be thinking of new ways to implement the different commitments coupled to this transparency agreement. However, there was also a belief that too many scientists still think it is better to be discreet than to be transparent. This has stimulated the signatory organisations to increase their transparency even further and make concrete actions, and apply them in practice, even if there is still push back and reluctance for some quarters.

One of the requirements for institutions (within one year) to be part of the Agreement is to provide a recognisable position statement on their involvement with animal research. Only one institution has not met this requirement yet. EARA can work with this signatory to assist it in the drafting of their website declaration, however if this requirement is not met, the advice would be for the institution to step down from the Transparency Agreement, until the day comes when it has met the requirement.

The information available on institutional websites, including the publication of non-technical summaries of authorised projects, images and/or videos, and statistical data on the number and type of animals used in research are also area that could see improvement in the future.

The form and speed of implementation of all commitments varies, of course, from institution to institution, and all of them have started from different levels of openness and transparency. Although this is not a conditioning factor, one aspect highlighted in the survey was the lack of knowledge of this agreement at the institutional level.

Suggestions for improving the implementation of the Transparency Agreement in Belgium have been given by some institutions, including:

- Key persons such as communication people and researchers should get more actively involved. Often now the contact persons of the agreement are lab animal experts or facility managers, rather than researchers or communications staff.
- Organise a day with all research managers in the signatory organisations (e.g., vice-rectors of research of universities), with researchers using animals to make them understand the importance of transparency to safeguard research in biological, veterinary and biomedical sciences.
- To inform politicians, including (Belgian) MEPs, who otherwise would only receive information from activists.
- Include the agreement and the 4 commitments in the (re)training in laboratory animal science.
- Increase co-ordinated communication between the Belgian EARA partners.

6. Next steps

As future challenges for the continuous improvement of the implementation of the Agreement in Belgium, the following areas stand out:

- **Increasing the number of signatory institutions**, including different institutions such as medical charities that fund animal research. The growth of the agreement at the national level will give more visibility to this issue and will highlight the strength of the biomedical sector in Belgium.
- Promoting further **joint initiatives** where members of the Agreement can be united in the message to be shared, such as in the publication of new statistical data on the use of animals in research. In this way it is more likely that the debate on animal research will be balanced, and that the voice of the scientific community is heard at times when communication with the public has never been more critical.
- Creating **more opportunities to help signatory institutions meet the agreement's commitments**, such as more social media activities ([#TransparencyThursday](#), [#LetsTalkSciComm](#), and [Get on BOARD](#)).

Annex I - Examples of implementation of commitments

Examples provided by the signatories to demonstrate the implementation of the Commitment of the Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Belgium

Presence in the media:

- Article in popular TV magazine (Dag Allemaal), **KU Leuven**

Lectures & posters:

- Lecture at the senioren universiteit, **UHasselt**
- Contributor to public hearing about animal experimentation in Flemish parliament, **KU Leuven, VUB, Janssen**
- “Universiteit Vlaanderen” where researchers talk how animals can help in biomedical research (<https://www.universiteitvanvlaanderen.be/college/hoe-kunnen-muizen-helpen-om-kanker-te-bestrijden>), **VUB**
- Guest speaker at Ghent University, **Sanofi Ghent**
- Gatherings with politicians and Flanders Bio regarding the Phase out strategy, **Sanofi Ghent**
- Provide information boards (with info about our research) in the animal facilities. Those boards can be read by visitors, **ILVO**
- Yearly presentations for students with more information about research at ILVO and specifically about laboratory animal science, **ILVO**
- Several examples of 3R applications provided and published in the EFPIA 3Rs brochure, **UCB Biopharma SRL, Janssen**
- 3R award organised in 2021, **UCB Biopharma SRL**
- Animal Welfare Officer (AWO) made presentations in a secondary school on animal ethics and experimentation, as well as in a high school in 2019 (Francisco Ferrer school in Brussels), **UCB Biopharma SRL**
- Posters and presentation about 3R initiative in international congress (e.g. poster at 11th World congress of alternatives, at Pharmalab congress, ...), **GSK**
- Courses at universities/higher education institutions, **GSK**
- Several University of Antwerp researchers participated in the Pint of Science festival, **UAntwerp**
- Proefkot: activity for primary and secondary school students (there was a session on zebrafish embryos), **UAntwerp**

Tours & site visits:

- Tours for external companies, university students and interest groups were/will be organized. The Royal College of Surgeons of England confirmed center accreditation after visiting our center, **Orsi Academy**
- Guided visit by parliamentarians of 1 political party, **KU Leuven**
- In 2022 proactively invited members of the Flemish Parliament, **Universiteit Gent**
- Visit of secondary school students who come to do internships in our laboratories, **ULB**
- Student internships, Friends and Family Day, **Sanofi Ghent**

- Open Door Days, **ILVO**
- Guided access has been given to the facilities of certain research groups upon request, **UAntwerp**
- Organised tours in our new animal facility for all staff working with animals, but also for family of our animal caretakers. The new facility was however not populated with animals, as that would be difficult with safety measures, **VUB**
- Organise twice a year a visit of the animal facility for the IACUC. External members of the IACUC are participating to those visits, **GSK**

Statements on the use of animals in research on a publicly accessible website:

- <https://www.uhasselt.be/Dierproefbeleid>
- <https://www.orsi-online.com/training-models-regulation>
- <https://www.ugent.be/nl/onderzoek/maatschappij/dierproeven/visie.htm>
- <https://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/corefacilities/research-involving-laboratory-animals/vision>
- <https://dierproeven.vub.be/nl/visie>
- <https://www.sanofi.com/en/our-responsibility/documents-center/ethics-and-transparency>
- <https://ilvo.vlaanderen.be/nl/transparantie-over-dierenproeven>
- <https://www.uantwerpen.be/dierproeven>
- <https://www.janssen.com/belgium/working-together-to-decrease-animal-testing>
- <https://vib.be/why-animal-research-necessary>
- https://vib.be/sites/default/files/vib_dossier_dierproeven_EN_2018_1107_LR_0.pdf
- <https://www.ucb.com/our-company/Animal-welfare>
- <https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/research-and-development/our-use-of-animals/>

Projects published on the websites of the institutions

- <https://www.uhasselt.be/nl/instituten/biomed/nieuws/een-op-de-drie-kankerpatienten-krijgt-na-chemo-hartproblemen>, **UHasselt**
- <https://www.orsi-online.com/news>, **Orsi Academy**
- https://biblio.ugent.be/publication?q=year+%3E+2010&q=external+exact+0&sort=publicationstatus.desc&sort=year.desc&subject=Biology+and+Life+Sciences&publication_status=published, **Ugent**
- <https://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/corefacilities/research-involving-laboratory-animals/research-involving-laboratory-animals/research-laboratory-animals>, **KU Leuven**
- <https://dierproeven.vub.be/nl/onderzoeksdomeinen>, **VUB**
- <https://www.sanofi.com/en/science-and-innovation/research-and-development>, **Sanofi**
- <https://ilvo.vlaanderen.be/nl/onderzoeksprojecten>, **ILVO**
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- <https://www.gsk.com/en-gb/research-and-development/research/>, **GSK**

Non-technical summaries of authorized projects

- <https://gbiomed.kuleuven.be/english/corefacilities/research-involving-laboratory-animals/scientific-research-involving-laboratory-animals>, **KU Leuven**
- <https://dierproeven.vub.be/nl/onderzoeksdomeinen>, **VUB**
- <https://www.sanofi.be/nl/over-ons/wetenschap-en-innovatie>, **Sanofi**
- <https://ilvo.vlaanderen.be/nl/dossiers>, **ILVO**
- <https://www.uantwerpen.be/nl/projecten/dierproeven/onderzoek/studies-met-proefdieren/>, **UAntwerpen**

Be Open About Animal Research Day 2021 (#BOARD21)

- [A statement](#) and a [case study](#) on its commitment to openness about animal research, **Ugent**
- [A video](#) on Instagram was posted, **Orsi Academy**
- A detailed [message of support](#) for the campaign, **INBO**
- A [Facebook page](#) promoting the Transparency Agreement, **Umons**
- A [dedicated webpage](#) explaining the role of animal research in the institution's studies, **VIB**

Annex II - Logos of the Signatories of the Agreement 2020

sanofi



ILVO
Instituut voor Landbouw-,
Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek

janssen

PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF
Johnson & Johnson

KU LEUVEN



Universiteit
Antwerpen



ucb Inspired by patients.
Driven by science.

ULB UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES



VUB VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
BRUSSEL

UCLouvain

UMONS
Université de Mons



INSTITUUT
NATUUR- EN
BOSONDERZOEK



Vlaanderen
is wetenschap

Annex III - List of signatories to the Agreement 2020

Institution	Full Name	City
GSK	GlaxoSmithKline	Wavre
ILVO	Instituut voor Landbouw-, Visserij- en Voedingsonderzoek	Melle
INBO	Instituut voor Natuur- en Bosonderzoek	Brussel
Janssen	Janssen Pharmaceutica	Beerse
KU Leuven	Katholieke Universiteit Leuven	Leuven
Orsi Academy	Orsi Academy	Melle
Sanofi Ghent	Sanofi Ghent	Zwijnaarde (Gent)
UAntwerpen	Universiteit Antwerpen	Antwerpen
UCB Biopharma SRL	Union Chimique Belge	Brussel
UCLouvain	Université catholique de Louvain	Ottignies-Louvain-la-Neuve
UGent	Universiteit Gent	Gent
UHasselt	Universiteit Hasselt	Hasselt
ULB	Université Libre de Bruxelles	Brussel
ULiège	Université de Liège	Luik
UMONS	Université de Mons	Bergen
VIB	Vlaams Instituut voor Biotechnologie	Gent
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel	Elsene