



**Tierversuche verstehen**  
Eine Informationsinitiative der Wissenschaft

**We got on BOARD**

—

**First steps of the German Transparency Agreement  
on animal research**

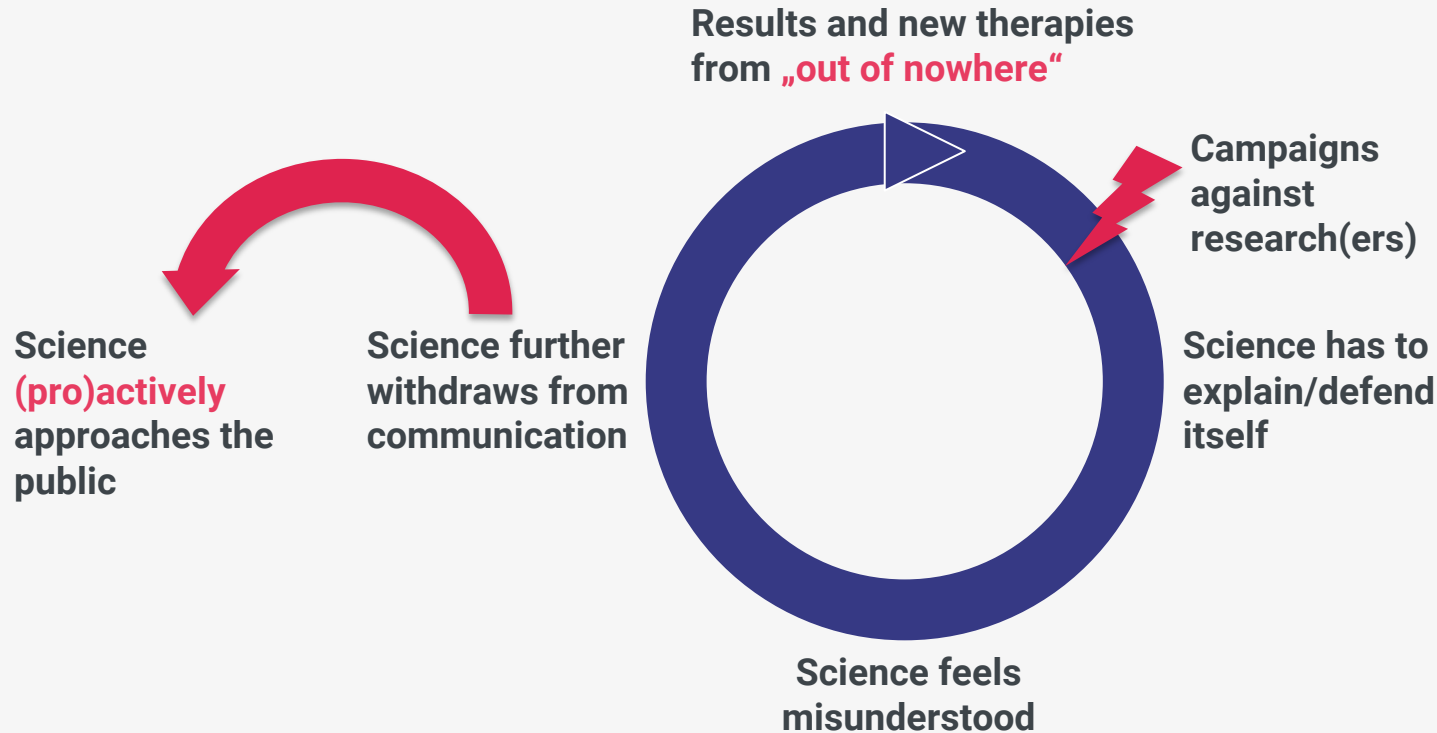
*Roman Stilling  
wissenschaftlicher Referent  
Jena, 10.03.2022*

# The current situation

...a vicious circle



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→ To break this positive feedback loop, efforts from *within* the community are necessary

# The current situation

Public scrutiny is everywhere



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Argument by researchers:  
Proactive communication will  
„wake sleeping dogs“!

But: Do the „dogs actually sleep“?



Database: „Doctors against animal experiments“

<https://www.aerzte-gegen-tierversuche.de/de/projekte/datenbank/2562>

# The current situation

## Public scrutiny is everywhere



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## Non-Technical Summaries (NTS) *Nicht-Technische Projektzusammenfassung (NTP)*

[Home](#) [FAQ](#) [Benutzungshinweise](#) [Rechtliche Grundlagen](#)



### AnimalTestInfo

Datenbank zu Tierversuchsvorhaben in Deutschland

#### Was finden Sie in der Datenbank und wer steht dahinter?

Der Gesetzgeber hat dem Bundesinstitut für Risikobewertung (BfR) den Auftrag erteilt, allgemein verständliche, nichttechnische Projektzusammenfassungen von genehmigten Tierversuchsvorhaben in Deutschland anonym zu veröffentlichen. Die Datenbank



ALURES – ANIMAL USE REPORTING - EU SYSTEM

EU NTS DATABASE ON THE USE OF ANIMALS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES UNDER DIRECTIVE 2010/63/EU

### LIST OF RESULTS

Advanced filtering ▼

Country:

Luxembourg ▼

Title of the project:

EC NTS/RA identifier:

Keyword:

Species:

All ▼

Purpose(s) of the project:

All ▼

Year of publication:

All ▼

Language:

All ▼

EU Submission:

Yes ▼

Clear

Search

Number of entries per page:

50 ▼

Order by column:

(none) ▼



# The current situation

Public scrutiny is everywhere



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## Public and animal research opponents...

- ... have access to and do read **scientific publications**
- ... use or build **databases** (e.g. NTP/NTS)
- ... can navigate **institutional websites**
- ... may have **other sources**

# The current situation

Public scrutiny is everywhere



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Argument by researchers:

Proactive communication will „wake sleeping dogs“!

But: Do the „dogs actually sleep“?

→ **No!**

→ Animal research is not a secret

→ It is impossible to hide

→ No communication is not an option



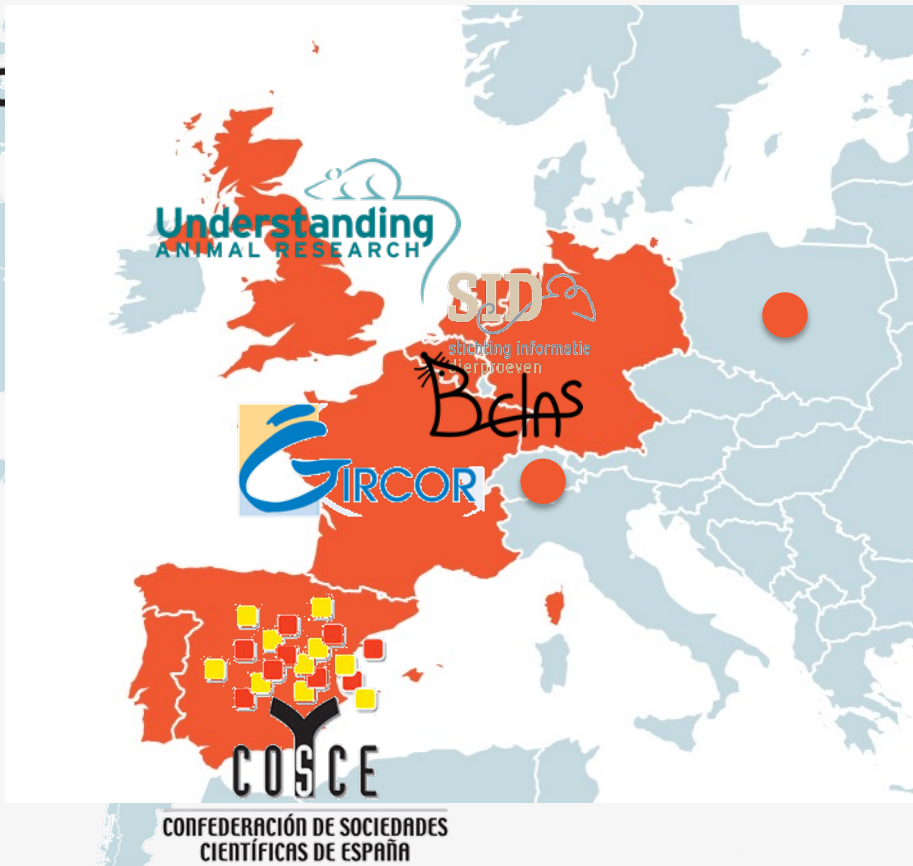
# World-Wide Transparency Initiatives



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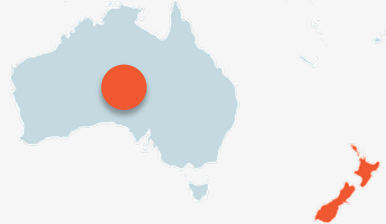
Concordat on C

K launched in 2014



### TRANSPARENCY AGREEMENTS IN:

- Spain launched in 2016
- Portugal launched in 2018
- Belgium launched in 2019
- France launched in 2021
- Germany launched in 2021
- New Zealand launched in 2021
- Netherlands launched in 2021



# “Tierversuche verstehen“



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DAAD



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT



Alexander von Humboldt  
Stiftung / Foundation

Fraunhofer

Leibniz  
Leibniz  
Gemeinschaft

Alliance of  
Science  
Organisations  
in Germany

HRK Hochschulrektorenkonferenz  
Die Stimme der Hochschulen

HELMHOLTZ  
SPITZENFORSCHUNG FÜR  
GROSSE HERAUSFORDERUNGEN

WR

WISSENSCHAFTSRAT

DFG Deutsche  
Forschungsgemeinschaft



Leopoldina  
Nationale Akademie  
der Wissenschaften

Partners (as of March 2021)



Nationale  
Forschungsplattform  
für Zoonosen



Deutsche Hochschulmedizin e.V.



MEDIZINISCHE  
UNIVERSITÄT  
INNSBRUCK



EMBL



Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie,  
Psychosomatik und  
Nervenheilkunde e.V.



# *“Tierversuche verstehen”*

## A self-reflection



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## What we do

- Present opinions and discussion from within the scientific community
- Show “what’s at stake”
- Increase awareness for responsible research (better 3R implementation)
- Improve networking in the community
- Improve public outreach & communication

## What we *don't* do

- Political lobbying
- Political claims/calls
- Propagate a stakeholder opinion
- “brain washing”/“white washing” → not here to convince, but to help think twice

**No substitution for individual communication!**

## Long-term objective

- Achieve an understanding of difficult ethical considerations behind responsible AR
- Promote fact-based, individual opinion making

# „Tierversuche verstehen“

## Elements of communication



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Social Media

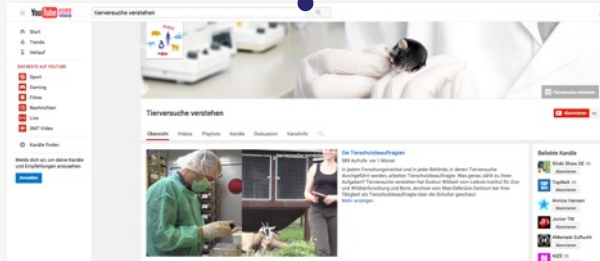
YouTube

Twitter: @TVVde  
(>1600 followers!)

TVV: Tierversuche  
@TVVde

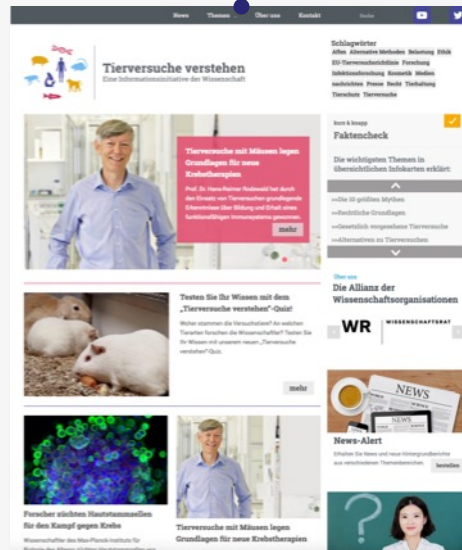
Folgen

Hello, World! tierversuche-verstehen.de informiert ab heute faktenbasiert zum Thema #Tierversuche #FirstTweet



Website

platform

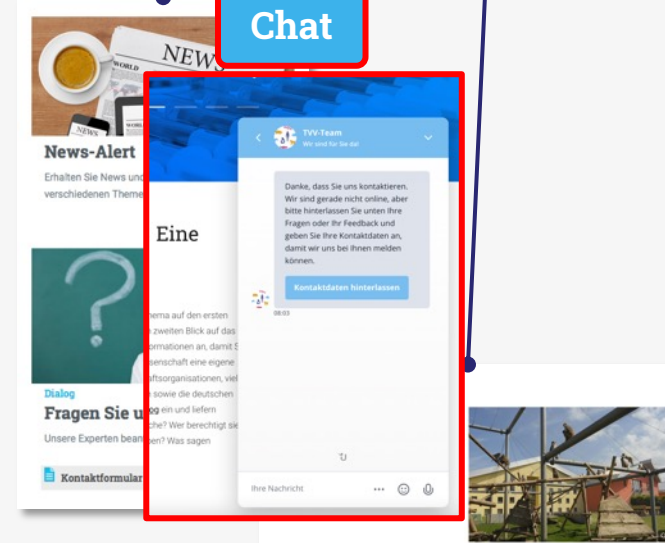


Interaction

News-Alert / Dialogue

Quiz/FAQ

Chat



# „Tierversuche verstehen“

## Elements of communication



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Factsheets & Brochures

Talks and discussions

Discussions & Events

„Kompass  
Tierversuche“

Factsheets

Press  
conferences

Press Statements  
& Interviews

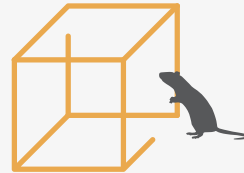
Podcast



Meetings/  
Symposia



# Towards a German Transparency Agreement



Initiative  
Transparente  
Tierversuche

## INITIATIVE TRANSPARENTE TIE

Für die transparente Information und offene  
über Tierversuche in der Forsch



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**DFG** Deu  
For



# A German Transparency Agreement

## Objective 1

### To inform transparently

**We provide the public with broad, target group specific, comprehensible and easily accessible information on animal research.**

The undersigned institution/organisation provides information about when, how and why animals are used in research it supports. The objectives, general conditions and results of the research as well as the harm of the experiments on the laboratory animals, are explained in layman's language.

## Objective 2

### To help shape the public dialogue

**We proactively engage in a dialogue with society and in public reporting on animal research.**

The institution/organisation acknowledges its responsibility for open and proactive, internal and external communication. It reports on the use of animals in its media and public relations work on research topics and promotes exchange with the public through suitable information and discussion formats via appropriate channels and platforms.

# A German Transparency Agreement

## Objective 3

### To share experiences

**We consider communication as a joint task and support each other in this endeavor.**

Active communication is a joint task of all stakeholders. It is based on cooperation, mutual support and regular exchange of experiences.

## Objective 4

### To publicise activities

**We make our activities to promote transparent information and open communication about animal experiments in research easily available and publish up-to-date information via the communication channels of the institution/organisation.**

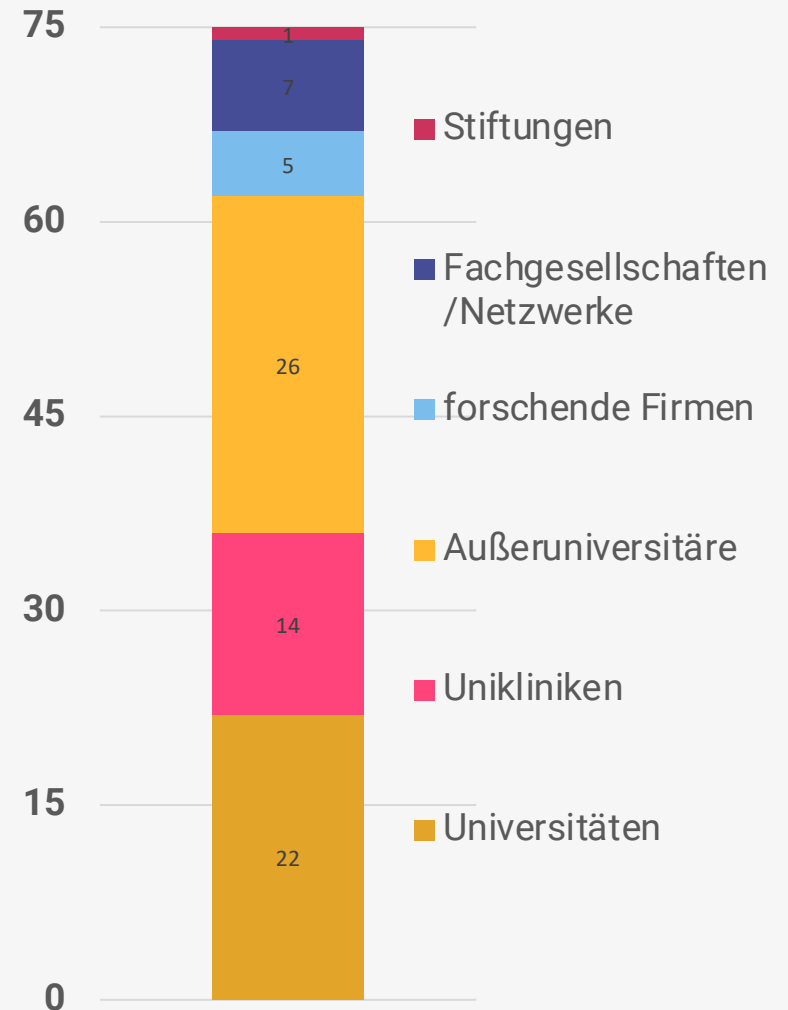
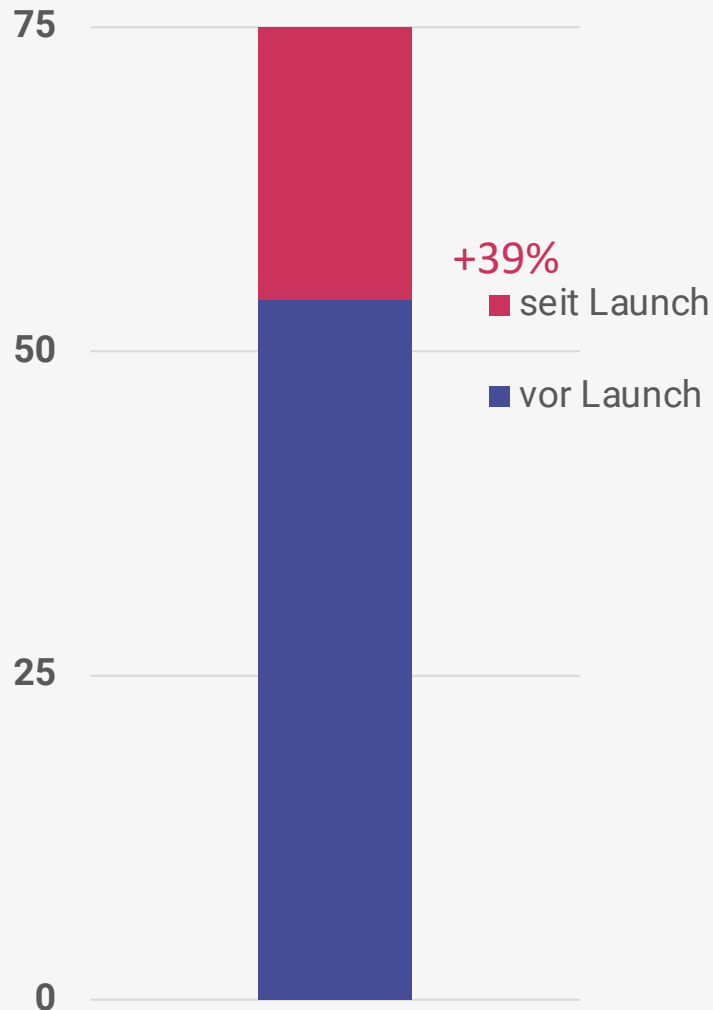
The institution/organisation publicly presents its activities and efforts to promote transparent and open communication across its communication channels (e.g. websites, social media, public publications). This information is up-to-date and easy to find.

# First steps

## Elements of communication



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# First steps

## First Achievements



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- Growing number of signatories
- First-time involvement of private sector
- Opportunity for some institutions to transparency plans in motion
- Triggering internal discussions
- Increasing visibility of animal research
- First workshop on 22.02.2022





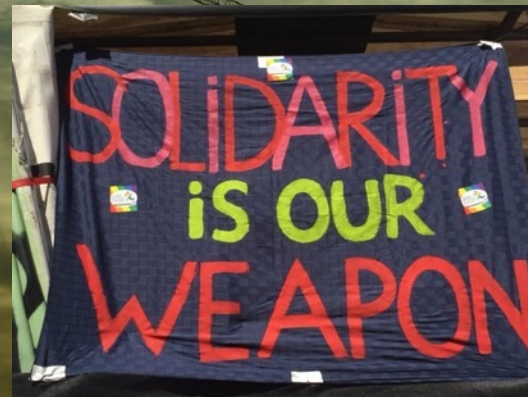
# First steps

## Work in progress



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- Many institutions missing, yet!
- Achieving goals at differential speeds (signature  $\neq$  practice)
- Getting everyone on BOARD is hard
- Fear of being open/exposed
- Public debate still polarised
- TVV seen as replacement for individual efforts
- A lot to learn:



AN ATTACK  
AGAINST  
- One -  
IS AN ATTACK  
AGAINST ALL



# Tierversuche verstehen

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[tierversuche-verstehen.de](http://tierversuche-verstehen.de)

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Follow us on

Twitter: [@TVVde](https://twitter.com/TVVde)

# „Tierversuche verstehen“

What has not yet been achieved?



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- Typical confusion:

Separation of *facts* from *opinions*

→ *Is animal research necessary (to achieve goal X)?*  
(*scientific consensus*)

vs.

→ *Is AR ethical?*  
(*personal opinion, backed up with arguments*)