

ZEBET as a National Body for the Alternative Methods – the Industry Perspective

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In a survey conducted in 2007 companies from different sectors collated the expectations with respect to ZEBET, the German national focal point for alternative methods. The companies voicing their standpoint in that survey are active in the cosmetics, detergents, pharmaceuticals, agro-chemicals and general industrial chemicals sector.

The role of ZEBET as a platform for information exchange and for the bundling of research activities in the field of alternative methods and for the dissemination of established methods is highly acknowledged. Industry indeed sees the need for ZEBET as a national focal point for alternative approaches. The scope for “alternatives” should go beyond sole experimental approaches but should also encompass assessment concepts. Especially tools such as weight-of-evidence-approaches and exposure driven testing strategies (e.g. Threshold of Toxicological concern) are promising concepts for the reduction of animal experiments in the context of the REACH and CLP regulation and last not least with respect to the testing ban for cosmetic ingredients. Our challenge is the need of over 40 million experimental animals for the execution of REACH. Only with generally accepted assessment concepts this huge figure can be substantially reduced. Industry encourages ZEBET to be a future key player in this area.