

BMBF Funding Priority “Replacement Methods of Animal Experiments”

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The BMBF funding measure “Replacement Methods of Animal Experiments” aims to support research projects that focus on the research and development of alternative methods to replace, reduce or refine existing animal tests according to the 3R principle. The program invites to apply for projects that range over fundamental to application-oriented research and extend to the regulatory area. Applicants are invited to submit projects outlines semi-annual (15th of March and September, respectively).

Since the beginning of the funding initiative in 1984 the BMBF provided approximately 100 million Euros to support nearly 360 research projects, thereby increasing the budgets year after year. Furthermore BMBF provides an extra budget of twelve million Euros to support nine basic research projects in the field of imaging technology development to replace and refine animal tests. These and other efforts resulted in Germany to be at the forefront of providing finances for research projects following the 3R principle Europe wide.

Central aim of the BMBF initiative is to implement the results efficiently, thus, to significantly reduce animal tests and fix the alternate procedures in the relevant practices, guidelines and directives. The Centre for Documentation and Evaluation of Alternatives to Animal Experiments (ZEBET) actively contributed to the success of various projects and accompanied the initiative comprehensively. Current examples of projects sponsored by the BMBF and achieved results towards the implementation of alternative testing procedures are to be highlighted during the talk.