

The European Partnership on Alternative Approaches to Animal Testing (EPAA)

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The EPAA is an innovative and dynamic approach, as it brings together for the first time in a collaborative manner the European Commission and major companies from seven industry sectors. The partners are committed to accelerate the development, validation and acceptance of alternative approaches over an initial five-year period.

Now in its fourth year, the Partnership currently focuses on 3 areas of delivery where EPAA offers distinctive competence: implementing effective sharing across sectors, reinvigorating 3Rs research and removing barriers to the implementation of 3 Rs.

This is illustrated by several ongoing projects, such as

- reviewing the role of acute toxicity testing across several industry sectors and identifying opportunities for test waiver or improved study design , building on the successful achievement of the pharmaceutical industry,
- testing the feasibility of a huge reduction in animal numbers in reproduction studies based on the experience of the agrochemical sector and applying it to the chemicals sector,
- exploring cutting edge research for new non animal alternative approaches and strategies for safety , more specifically computational chemistry, mathematical modelling, stem cell biology and systems biology.
- Discussing and developing guidance for the validation of complex testing strategies , taking into account the multiplicity and specificity of existing Integrated Testing Strategies in the different industry sectors
- Exploring the dissemination of targeted information on 3Rs activities to young scientists, regulators and 3 Rs methodologies users.

These projects will be outlined as well as the planned future activities.