

A close-up photograph of a white mouse with red eyes, perched on a clear plastic ramp. The mouse is looking upwards and to the right. In the background, another white mouse is visible on a similar ramp. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue.

## ICLAS in the global field of LAS

### European Directive harmonizes the use of Laboratory Animals

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# What is ICLAS?



ICLAS (International Council for Laboratory Animal Science) is a scientific organization dedicated to **advancing human and animal health** by promoting the **ethical care and use of animals in research worldwide**

<https://iclas.org/>



ICLAS is present across the World

Join ICLAS for the advancement of laboratory animal science and welfare

[More info](#)



Laboratory Animal Quality Network

An ICLAS program to promote the monitoring of health and genetic quality in mouse and rat colonies

[More info](#)



Grants Program, Education & training

ICLAS Grants Program and Education opportunities in laboratory animal science

[More info](#)



ICLAS News

Information on recent ICLAS activities and events

[More info](#)

# ICLAS Aims



60+ Years experience

100+ members

40+ nations represented

ICLAS was founded in 1956

- By UNESCO, CIOMS (Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences) ja UIBS (International Union of Biological Sciences)
- To find out problems caused by the use of living animals in research and develop the use globally

Updated aims for today's work 2023

- Promote ethical principles, scientific responsibilities, and animal welfare in research and education
- Advance collaboration within the global Laboratory Animal Science community
- Advocate for the advancement of Laboratory Animal Science in developing countries and regions
- Be a global resource for Laboratory Animal Science knowledge and best practices

# ICLAS Regional committees

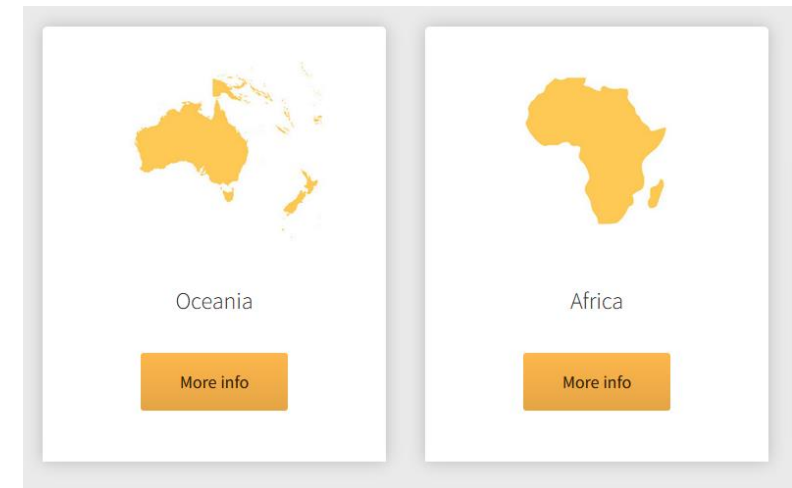
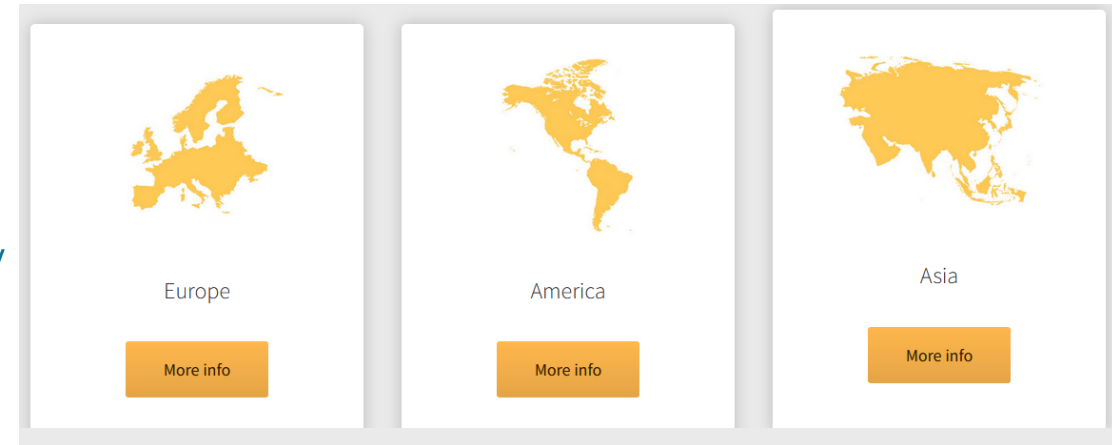
ICLAS promotes best practices in the use of laboratory animal science – like many other associations – but globally

Active work is done in regional committees - Differences between countries and regions

## Our mission

Work to engage countries in their region to participate in

- The development of **animal ethics bodies**
- The **refinement** of their animal care and use standards
- **Training opportunities** for individuals working in Laboratory Animal Science
- **Networking and knowledge exchange** opportunities within the region and internationally
- **Openness and transparency** also in communication with public



# Collaborating, networking and harmonizing in practice

Scholarship and Grant programmes  
for education and training

FELASA-ICLAS liaison body

Co-operation with member  
associations

Laboratory Animal Quality Network

Performance Evaluation Program for Diagnostic  
Laboratories (PEP)

Genetic Quality Monitoring Program (GQMP)

**Infoday “Advancing Laboratory Animal Science Legislation in  
Georgia”**

[HOME](#) > [EVENTS](#) > [INFODAY “ADVANCING LABORATORY ANIMAL SCIENCE LEGISLATION IN GEORGIA”](#) >



# A starting point of info-day

- Many enquiries during the years from individual LAS people who would like to develop welfare of laboratory animals and quality of science in their countries – and need help with legislation
- Variation in LA legislation and guidelines between continents and countries
  - Specific legislation and guidelines for animals used in research
  - Experimental animals are included in general animal legislation
  - No legislation but guidelines are in use, like the NRC Guide for the Care and use of Experimental animals, or EU Directive, or the Australian Code
  - Experimental animals are not covered by legislation, neither there are any guidelines for their use

Laboratory Animals;  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-849880-4.00001-5>  
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## Laboratory Animals

Regulations and Recommendations for the  
Care and Use of Animals in Research

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Second Edition

Edited by  
Javier Guillén



ACADEMIC PRESS  
An imprint of Elsevier

	REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS AND MAJOR GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS	INVOLVED	EXECUTIVE BODIES
<b>EU</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Directive 2010/63/EU on Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes, 2010</li> <li>○ National legislation</li> <li>○ European Convention for the Protection of Vertebrate Animals Used for Experimental and Other Scientific Purposes; ETS 123, 1986, 22 countries ratified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ ETPLAS</li> <li>○ FELASA</li> <li>○ National LASAs</li> <li>○ ICLAS</li> </ul>	Project authorisation boards
<b>USA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Animal Welfare Act Regulations</li> <li>○ PHS (Public Health Service) policy on Humane Care and Use of Laboratory Animals</li> <li>○ Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals</li> <li>○ Local regulations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ NIH Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare</li> <li>○ AAALAC</li> <li>○ AALAS</li> <li>○ ICLAS</li> </ul>	Institutional animal care and use committee (IACUC)

GEORGIA: 'Synthesis report v1.2.: Identification and setting of scientific priorities in Georgia'

# European Union– full harmonising Directive

## The EU aims to

- Harmonise legislation to promote EU competitiveness and innovation
- Improve animal welfare and establish the “Three Rs principle” (replacement, reduction and refinement) in all animal use and care
- Improve transparency

**A final goal** is full replacement of all animals used for scientific and educational purposes **BUT**

- Studies that still need to be carried out on animals must be done in the way aiming to improve the welfare animals





# Key elements of the Directive

## What is an animal experiment?

### Animals under the directive

- Using or breeding live vertebrates or cephalopods (octopuses) for scientific and educational purposes
- Breeding such animals for the supply of their organs or tissues for scientific or educational purposes
- Foetal forms of mammals at the last third of their normal development

### Minimum experimental procedure

- Needle puncture or similar suffering



# Key elements of the Directive

## A project licence for every experiment

- Facility license: all facilities involved breeding and use of laboratory animals
- A project licence is needed for every animal experiment
- Project authorisation board evaluates an application in detail, approves the application and grants the licence
- Together with the application form, there is a **non-technical summary** for the public
  - Aim – animals – harm to animals – 3Rs
  - These summaries are published on EU websites
- Research with wild animals needs the same licences
  - Using wild animals is strictly regulated
    - Wild mammals, fish, birds







## Key elements of the Directive

# Severity classification and statistics

- Pain, stress and distress of the procedures are assessed beforehand and classified as
  - Non-recovery
  - Mild
  - Moderate
  - Severe
- After the experiment there will be the **actual severity classification – to each individual animal** and in some cases retrospective assessment
- Use of animals in each class is reported to EU and published – transparency for public

# Who is allowed to do animal experiments?

- Only persons who are competent are allowed to work with laboratory animals
- People have different roles in the use of animals and must be educated for those roles
  - Carrying out procedures, designing projects, taking care of animals, killing animals
- Procedures can be done only after proper training
- Mandatory to maintain the competence



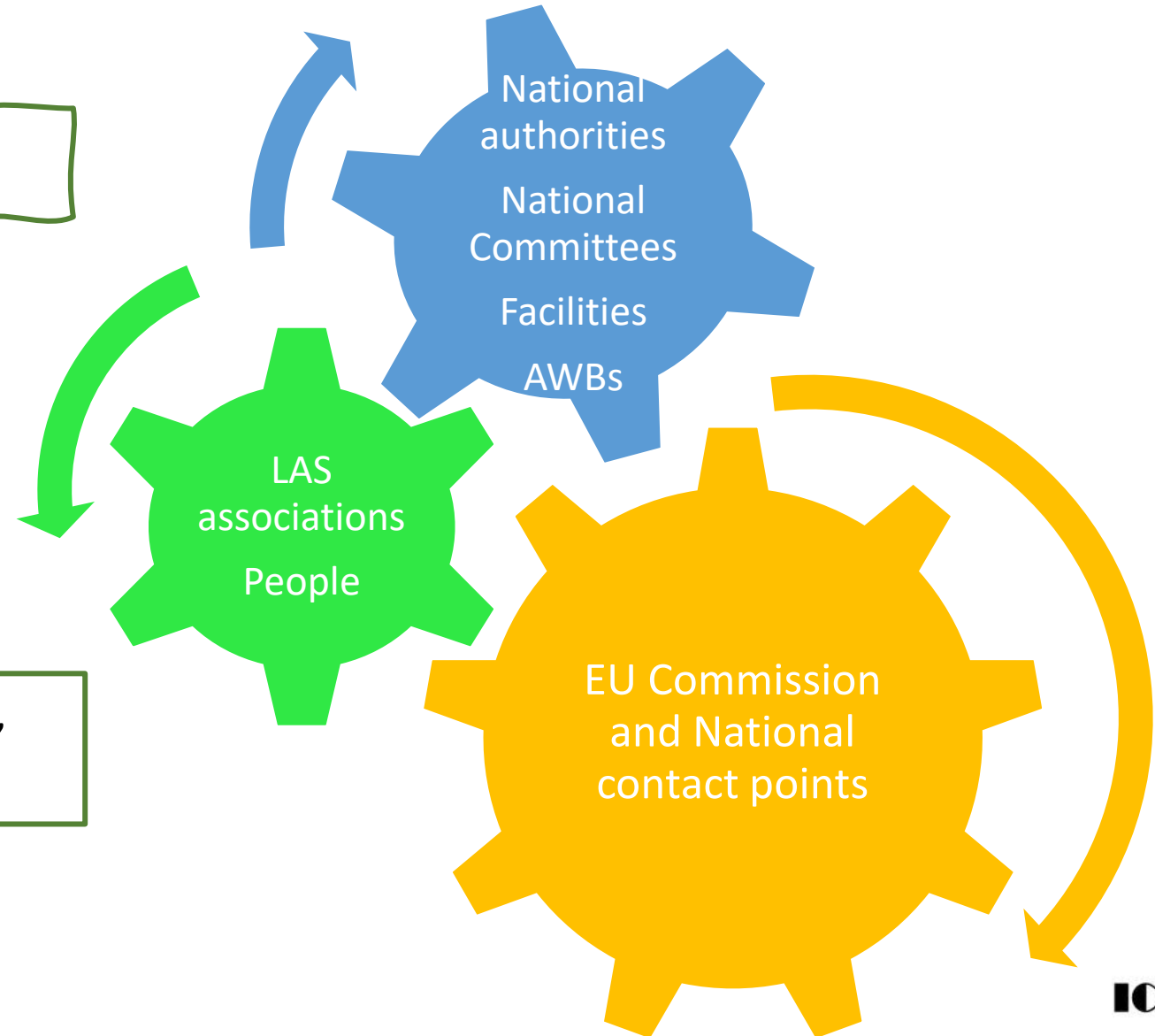


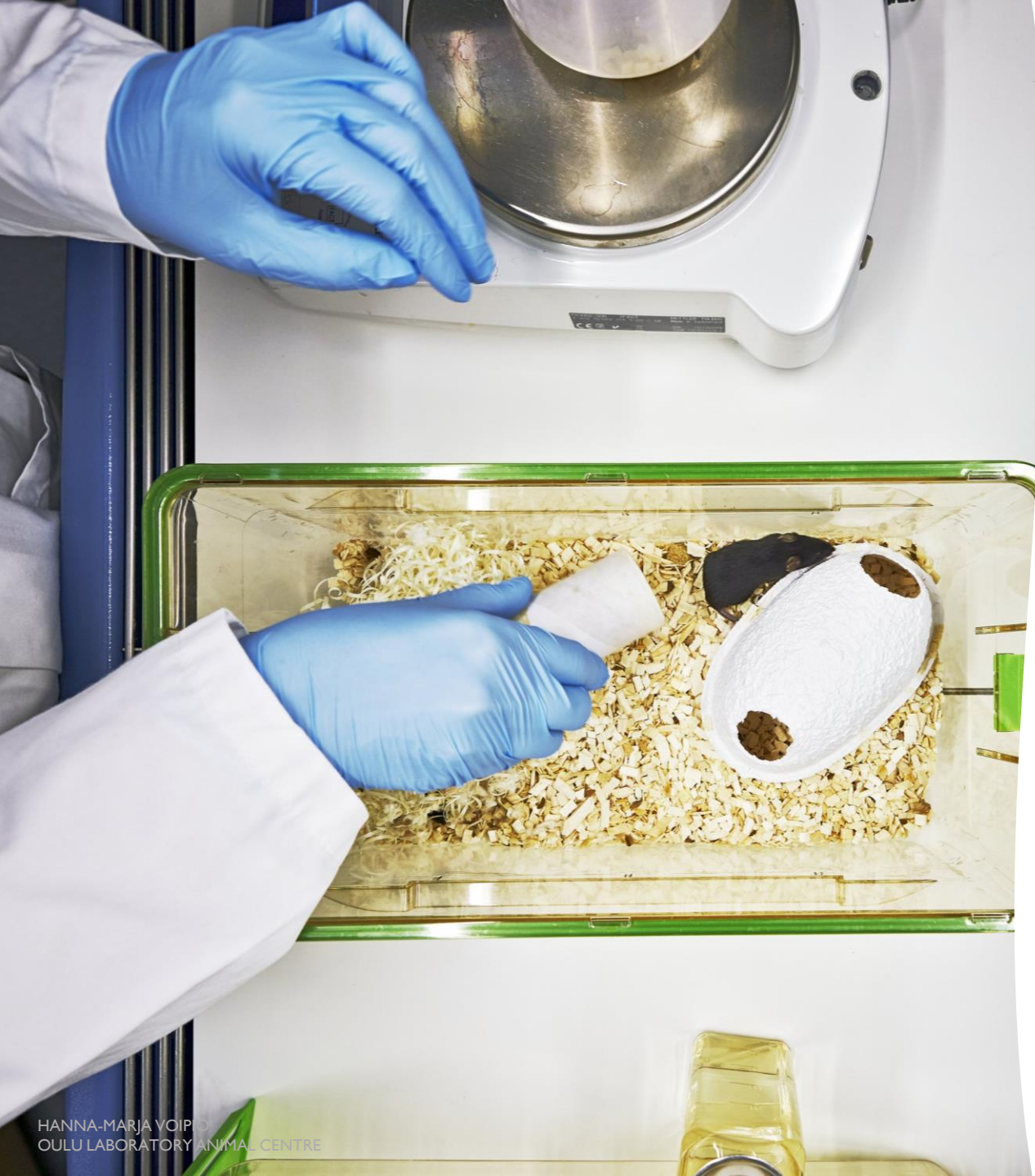
# Many stakeholders involved

Recommendations

Implementation/enforcement  
in practical level

Initiatives, comments,  
feed back





## Challenges: More work? Money? Cultural differences?

- Do facilities and equipment need updating?
- How to set up the evaluation of experiments – what type of authorization committees?
- Detailed statistics in animal use and procedures – in individual animal level – a lot of work?
- How to get designated veterinarians, how to organise education for people to get mandatory competencies?
  
- Some EU countries started without any animal legislation – but all have been able to implement the Directive
  
- Changes are slow and some initiatives have not been successful: all EU countries involved in decision making

# What is the benefit?

Harmonisation – reproducibility of results and quality of research  
Animal welfare – reproducibility of results and quality of research  
Number of animals needed decreases

International networking  
Publishing in international journals  
Funding opportunities increase

Transparency and openness

# Future aspects

## ICLAS organising tailor-made info-days and discussions



- ICLAS together with a local association and a possible umbrella organisation, like GALAS and FELASA
  - If no local association, with active people working with laboratory animals
- Programme will be tailor-made based on the need of each country
- Based on the result of the discussions in info-days, ICLAS would be happy to collaborate with creation of legislation as needed



