

MEMBER STATE NARRATIVE 2015 (Version 2 – 7 november 2018)

1. General information on any changes in trends observed since the previous reporting period.

Compared to 2014 (660.261 animals used), there is a decrease of 14,18% in the number of animals used for scientific purposes in 2015 (566.603 animals used).

2. Information on significant increase or decrease in use animals in any of the specific areas and analysis of the reasons thereof.

The use of animals in the specific areas is similar to the figures of 2014.

3. Information on any changes in trends in actual severities and analysis of the reasons thereof.

In 2015 more animals were reported in the ‘severe’ category [2014: severe (14.82%), moderate (28.23%), mild (53.02%) and non-recovery (3.93%); 2015: severe (17.09%), moderate (21.70%), mild (56.19%) and non-recovery (5.02%)]. This trend is mostly due to a better reporting of the actual severities by the users and stricter controls by the ethical committees and the government.

4. Particular efforts to promote the principle of replacement, reduction and refinement and its impacts on statistics if any.

- Funding of research projects for the development of alternative toxicity tests
- Collaboration with the university board to promote the development and promotion of alternative methods.
- Collaboration between the different regions and other member states to promote the 3R principle.

5. Further breakdown on the use of "other" categories if a significant proportion of animal use is reported under this category.

40.67% of the fishes are reported under the “other” category. They are mostly *Clarias gariepinus* and *Dicentrarchus labrax*. 36.67% of the amphibians reported under the “other” category are *Salamandridae* (in order of importance: *Lissotriton helveticus*, *Ichthyosaura alpestris*, *Salamandra salamandra*) and *Ranidae* (in order of importance: *Lithobates catesbeianus*, *Litoria caerulea*, *Alytes obstetrican*). 18.10% of the birds are reported under the “other” category. They are mostly *Paridae*, *Fringillidae*, *Passeridae*, *Coturnix*, *Meleagrididae*, *Estrildida* and *Laridae*.

16.25% of the regulatory routine production – toxicity and safety testing reported as “other” concern immunogenicity and psychopharmacology tests.

6. Details on cases where the 'severe' classification is exceeded, whether pre-authorized or not, covering the species, numbers, whether prior exemption was authorized, the details of the use and the reasons why 'severe' classification was exceeded.

There were no exceeding of the 'severe' classification reported in 2015.