

The Infrastructure Project, EUPRIM-Net

The European Primate Network, EUPRIM-Net, is a project supported by the European Union (E.U.) that connects eight European primate centers from six countries: Great Britain, France, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, and Germany. The project links the centers into a network and facilitates a mutual use of existing know-how and resources. EUPRIM-Net provides the conditions for excellent animal welfare and a framework in which research, as well as primate husbandry and breeding, is optimized. The different tasks of the project are divided into three categories: *Network Activities*, *Access Activities* and *Research Activities*. With the different projects within these activities, EUPRIM-Net makes an active contribution to the 3R concept: Refinement, Reduction, and Replacement.

The first project period, supported with 4.77 million Euros from the E.U., started in April, 2006, and spans four years. It was initiated by the Director of the German Primate Center (DPZ), Prof. Stefan Treue, who is now coordinating the project. Besides the tasks and goals described below, the project expects to affiliate with additional suitable European institutes working with primates to expand the network and to sustain its infrastructures.

Network Activities focus on the training and education of the technical and scientific personnel of the eight partner institutes, as well as persons of other institutions interested in the biology and husbandry of primates. In a set of workshops and courses by invited international experts, knowledge about the morphology, physiology and behavior of primates, as well as about ecological aspects of primatology, is conveyed to the scientific community.

Another network activity is concerned with positive reinforcement training of primates. The existing knowledge of the eight partners is gathered and bundled into several workshops in order to subsequently disseminate it in courses for the technical and scientific personnel at the primate centers involved. In this way, the positive reinforcement technique will be propagated as a standard for the daily routine in handling primates.

Optimization and standardization in primate husbandry is the theme of another workshop series. Here,

special attention is paid to health monitoring of primates, especially to finding and establishing standardized research methods for monitoring infections by different viruses, bacteria, and parasites.

Within the scope of *Access Activities*, a database provides European researchers with easy access to a range of biological materials of different nonhuman primate species on the EUPRIM-Net Website at www.euprim-net.eu. The collection includes fixed and frozen tissue, serum and blood samples, as well as a large pool of gene (DNA, RNA, cDNA) and gamete samples. In this way, the distribution of material samples for research purposes can be coordinated efficiently.

Within the different *Research Activities*, the eight European institutes will contribute their expertise in biological and biomedical research on primates. Joint research projects will provide a basis for the optimization and standardization of primate husbandry and breeding on the highest level, as well as disease diagnostics and treatment.

All of the network's activities contribute to the 3R-concept – Refinement, Reduction and Replacement:

- **Refinement** in animal welfare is achieved by improving and standardizing methods and techniques used in primate research across Europe, as well as by activities focusing on the viral and microbial states and the genetic profiles of the primates.
- **Reduction** of the number of animals needed for a given scientific project can be met through an improved characterization and selection of animals.
- The central database on the project Website, which gives an overview of availability and provides access to material banks, permits **Replacement** of some live animals by stored data and specimens.

More information about EUPRIM-Net and its different activities can be found at www.euprim-net.eu; or contact Prof. Stefan Treue (Project Coordinator) or Dr. Ines Lein (Project Management) at EUPRIM-Net, German Primate Center (DPZ), Kellnerweg 4, D-37077 Göttingen, Germany [e-mail: euprim@dpz.eu].

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Grants Available: ASP General Research Small Grants

The American Society of Primatologists invites proposals for general research projects, with preference given to training initiatives, start-up funds, supplementary funding for students, and innovations in animal care and re-

search technology. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$1500, and will be for a period of one year. See www.asp.org/grants/SmallGrants/ASPSmallGrant2007.html. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2007.

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