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# EUPRIM-NET: TRAINING LABORATORY MONKEYS

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## REASONS WHY

### ETHICAL

Training involves humane animal care. It gives the animal choice and a measure of control over the environment, which are important factors in stress management.

**COOPERATION RATHER THAN COERCION**

### PRACTICAL

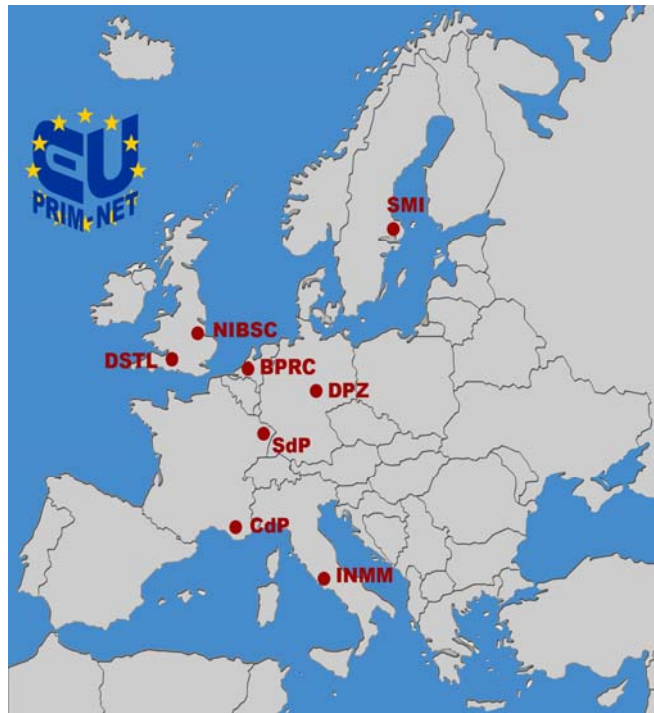
We have developed a 7-level training education including lectures, work-shops, demonstrations and written exams. How behaviours are trained is described in detail in shaping plans.

**CLARITY RATHER THAN CHAOS**

### SCIENTIFIC

We study training effects in order to convince researchers that training of their animals is worth the effort and might actually improve their research.

**ACCEPTANCE RATHER THAN ARGUMENT**



DPZ	
BPRC	
SMI	
NIBSC	
DSTL	
INMM	
CdP	
SdP	

## WHAT IS IT?

**European Primate Network:**  
Specialized infrastructures, procedures for biological and biomedical research

### PROJECTS

- 3 Access Activities
- 3 Joint Research Activities
- 3 Network Activities
  - Organisation and standardisation of primate husbandry, breeding and their use in experiments
  - Courses on general primate biology and primate husbandry, nutrition and handling
  - Implementation of positive reinforcement training methods for primates

*Example of shaping plan*

**TARGET TRAINING**

M1 – classical conditioning  
 M2 – animal touches target  
 M3 – touch on cue, latency < 5 s  
 M4 – generalization  
 M5 – transfer to new trainer  
 M6 – stimulus control  
 M7 – fluency

*See handout for details*

**EXAMPLE OF SCIENTIFIC PROJECTS**

*Time invested to train different behaviours*

*Effects of training on physiology and behaviour*

*Factors influencing trainability*

## OBJECTIVES

### EDUCATION

We organize workshops, introductory and advanced training lectures, problem-solving discussions and observational learning by allowing novice trainers to observe an experienced trainer during training.

### TRAINING SOPs

We produce Standard Operating Procedures (detailed written instructions) about how training should be done.

### IMPLEMENTATION

All participating facilities have agreed to implement training in at least one project. Husbandry training is the main focus.

### PRODUCTION OF A VIDEO

Within the next 6 months we intend to produce a DVD showing some of the potential benefits of training laboratory monkeys to cooperate in husbandry situations and other procedures.

### RESEARCH

We will present the results of our research efforts in international conferences and peer-reviewed journals.

### OUTREACH

In the last two years of this four-year-project, we will approach other primate laboratories in Europe and offer to share our knowledge and expertise.

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[www.euprim-net.eu](http://www.euprim-net.eu)

