



BPRC
Biomedical Primate Research Centre
 Rijswijk, The Netherlands
www.bprc.nl



CdP
Centre de Primatology / Université Louis Pasteur
 Strasbourg, France
www-ulp.u-strasbg.fr



DSTL
Defence Science and Technology Laboratory
 Porton Down, United Kingdom
www.dstl.gov.uk



DPZ
German Primate Center
 Göttingen, Germany
www.dpz.eu



INMM
**Instituto di Neurobiologia e Medicina
 Molecolare / Italian National Research Council**
 Rome, Italy
www.cnr.it



NIBSC
**National Institute for Biological Standard
 and Control**
 Potters Bar, United Kingdom
www.nibsc.ac.uk



SMI
Swedish Institute for Infectious Disease Control
 Solna, Sweden
www.smittskyddsinstitutet.se



SdP
**Station de Primatologie
 Centre National de la Recherche Scientific**
 Rousset sur Arc, France
www.cnrs.fr

Contact Information:

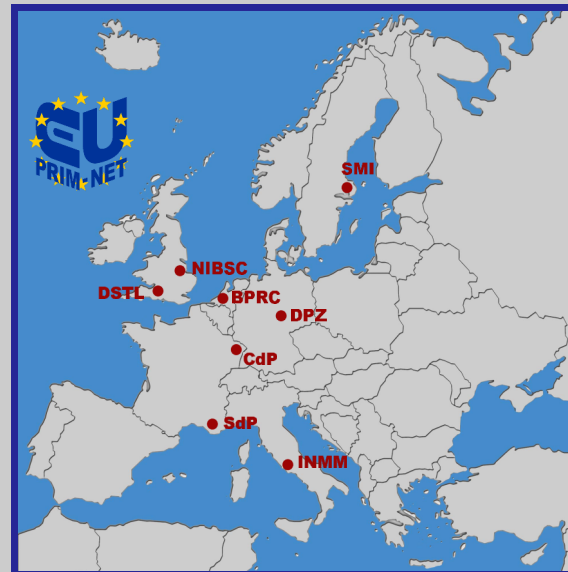
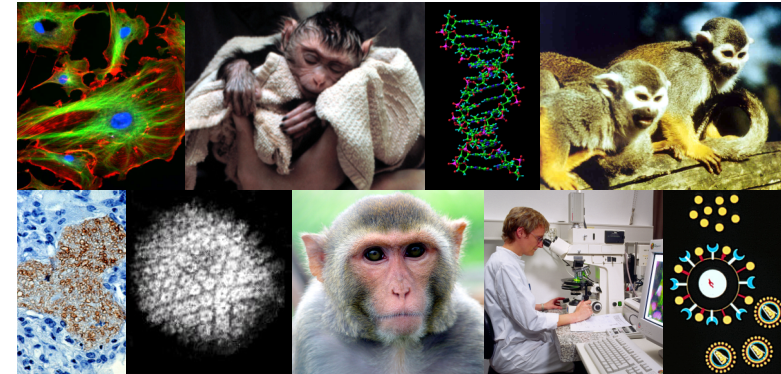
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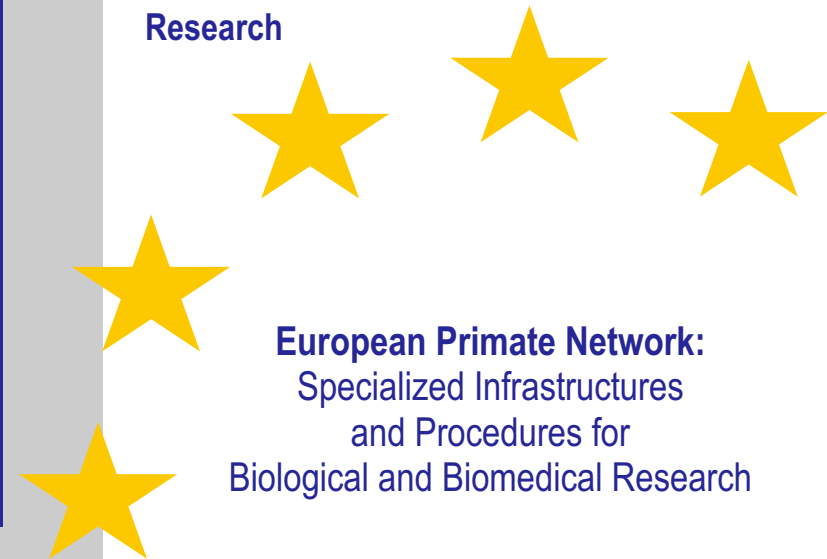
www.euprim-net.eu



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**Networking
 Access
 Research**



**European Primate Network:
 Specialized Infrastructures
 and Procedures for
 Biological and Biomedical Research**

The EUPRIM-Net Project

How closely are primates and humans biologically related? The genetic similarity of non-human primates and humans is the cause of their resemblance in physiognomy and behaviour, in their organ system functions and their nervous systems. Understanding the biology of primates helps us to understand our own biology and has important implications for human medicine. Primate research provides insight into socio-biological evolution and behaviour and provides models for research in genomics and biotechnology for health.

The successful development of new strategies against infectious (e.g. HIV, hepatitis), neurological (Alzheimer's or Parkinson Disease) and metabolic diseases (e.g. diabetes) in humans depends on the availability of living animals or biological material with primate origin. This also holds true for the development of new therapeutics (vaccines, gene therapy) and transplantation research. For that reason non-human primates play a currently irreplaceable role in biological and biomedical research.

Breeding of primates and primate research has to be done under highest ethical standards and is therefore carried out in appropriately equipped facilities. Now, the EU funded EUPRIM-Net links eight European primate centres in order to combine their wide range of biological and biomedical R&D activities, their extensive knowledge and infrastructure resources, as well as their experience in primate housing and breeding.

EUPRIM-Net creates a virtual European Primate Centre for internationally competitive state-of-the-art research and offers European scientists easy access to excellent infrastructures and services. The network will improve basic and applied biological and biomedical research with primates effectively meeting the highest ethical standards.

Project Objectives

The project has the following central objectives:

- Optimization of non-human primate keeping and breeding considering animal welfare and ethical guidelines.
- Development and standardisation of procedures and methods for the use of non-human primates in biomedical research.
- Improved access to non-human primates of high quality and to primate material for biomedical research.
- Development and provision of training courses for researchers and caretakers working with primates.

Animal Welfare

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

Refinement in animal welfare is achieved by improving and standardising methods and techniques used in primate research across Europe as well as by activities focusing on the viral and microbacterial state and the genetic profile of the primates.

Reduction of the number of animals needed for a given scientific project can be met through an improved characterisation and selection of animals.

A central database on the project website giving an overview of availability and providing access to material banks supports the **replacement** of the use of additional primates.



Please visit our website for more information:
www.euprim-net.eu

Project Activities

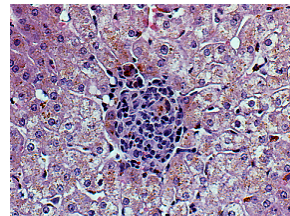
The central project objectives are met through a collection of specific measures provided by several Network Activities, Transnational Access Activities and Joint Research Activities:

Network Activities:

The objective of developing methods and procedures and advance their standardisation across Europe features prominently in the network activities in the form of workshops and specialised training courses for scientists and other staff involved in primate research.

Access Activities:

A biobank provides access to biological material from primates to external users. The collection comprises tissue, DNA, RNA, cDNA, serum, and cell lines from healthy as well as diseased animals. Users or user groups can apply for samples via the EUPRIM-Net website. The activity PRIMOCID offers access to non-human primate models of chronic immune disorders.



Research Activities:

Two research activities focus on the viral and microbacterial state and the genetic profile of the primates bred and housed at the European primate centres as well as those imported. Improving the corresponding characterisation of individual animals is critical particularly for infection studies whose success depends on the availability of animals with a defined viral, microbacterial and genetic status. Telemetric monitoring devices are developed in a third research activity.



The first project period started in April 2006. Initially scheduled for four years, it is intended to expand the network to include even more partners and to exhibit a sustained effect on its infrastructures.