



Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Portugal

The Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Portugal is an initiative proposed by the European Animal Research Association (EARA) in close collaboration with the Portuguese scientific community to promote accurate and up-to-date information about the use of animals in basic and biomedical research.

In June 2018, 16 Portuguese institutions, including Universities and Research Centres, signed a declaration co-ordinated by EARA and the Portuguese Laboratory Animal Sciences Association (SPCAL), on transparency and openness in animal research. Following this declaration, steps were taken to develop it into the current proposal for a Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Portugal. The aim of this Agreement is to improve the Portuguese public's understanding and acceptability of animal research by promoting openness and transparency on this topic.

This approach is based on the previous examples in Europe as the [Concordat on Openness on Animal Research in the UK](#) launched in 2014; the [Transparency Agreement on Animal Research in Spain](#) launched at 2016, and the Statement in support of animal research and a transparent approach in Belgium in 2016.

The Agreement comprises Four Commitments, each underpinned by practical steps that institutions can or may undertake. Exactly how the Commitments are fulfilled will differ between institutions depending on their purpose, their resources and their different legal obligations. The commitments are the following ones:

Commitment 1: We will be clear about when, how and why we use animals in research

Commitment 2: We will enhance our communications with the media and the public about our research using animals

Commitment 3: We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research using animals.

Commitment 4: We will report on progress annually and share our experiences

The signatories of this Agreement are intended to facilitate access to relevant information about animal research models and contribute to public clarification and, consequently, to a conscious and informed position in this debate of general interest.