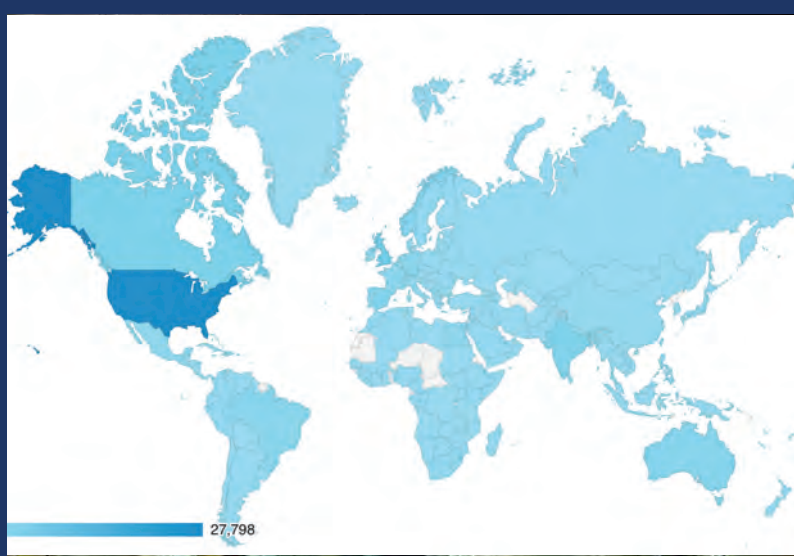
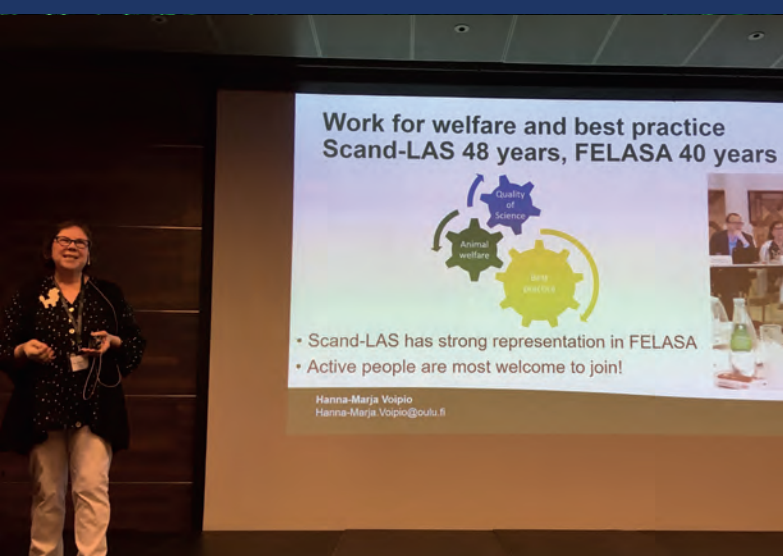
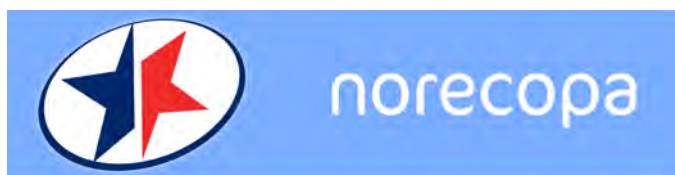




norecopa



# Annual Report for 2018



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## 2018 in a nutshell

Norecopa is a consensus platform working to promote “the 3 R’s” (Replacement, Reduction, Refinement)<sup>1</sup> within animal research in Norway. You can read more about Norecopa's structure and mission in the Appendix to this Report.

Norecopa was 11 years old on 10 October 2018. The organisation has made considerable progress in 2018.

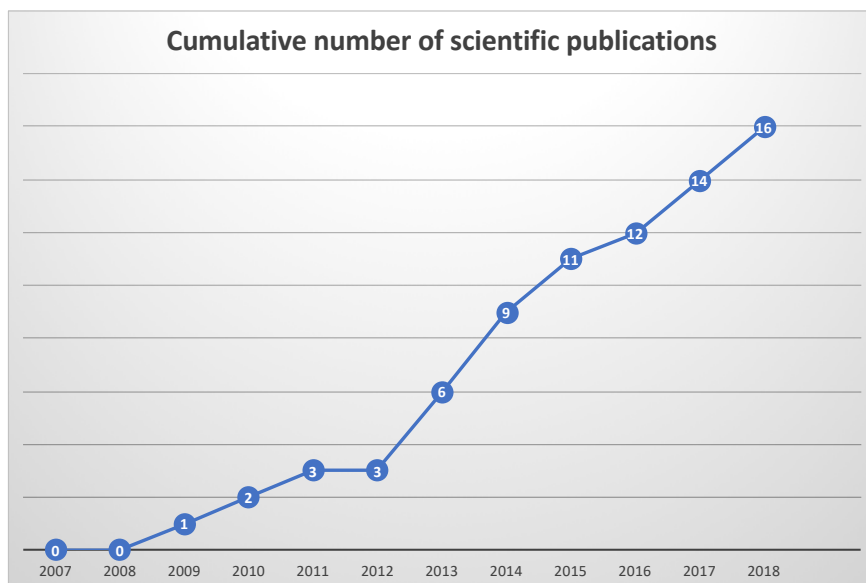
### *What have we achieved?*

Norecopa's most important milestones in 2018 have been:

- A 60% increase in the number of users of Norecopa’s website
- An international workshop on homemade educational materials
- Publication of a consensus document on the use of animals in field experiments
- Further development and promotion of the PREPARE guidelines for planning animal experiments
- Renewed funding of the NORINA and TextBase databases
- The 48th Scand-LAS symposium in Kristiansand, 26-28 April 2018

These milestones are described in the main part of this Report. Other activities are described in the Appendix.

Norecopa has continued to publish scientific papers, in addition to expanding its website:



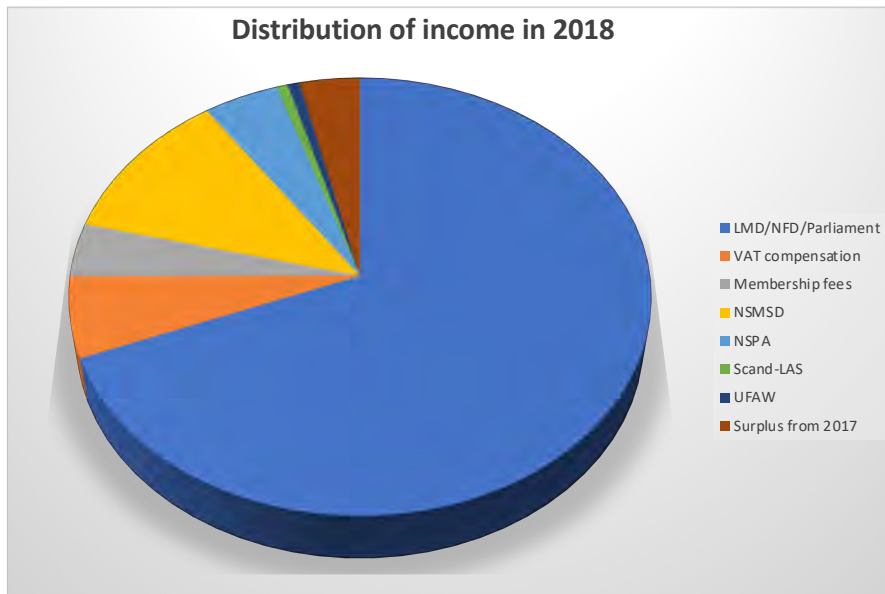
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<sup>1</sup> <https://norecopa.no/alternatives/the-three-rs>

Norecopa's publications are described in more detail in the Appendix.

*Where has the money come from?*

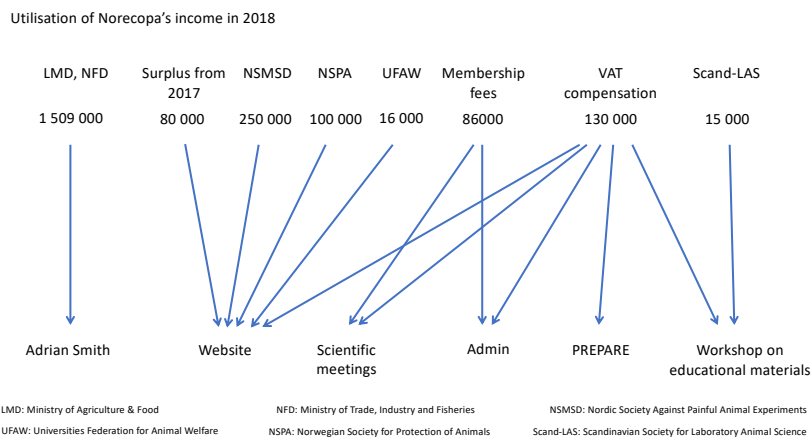
Norecopa receives core funding from two Ministries, which in 2018 financed Norecopa's Secretary in a 100% stilling. The rest of Norecopa's activity was financed by external funds for which Norecopa has applied:



This is described in the Appendix.

*What has the money been used for?*

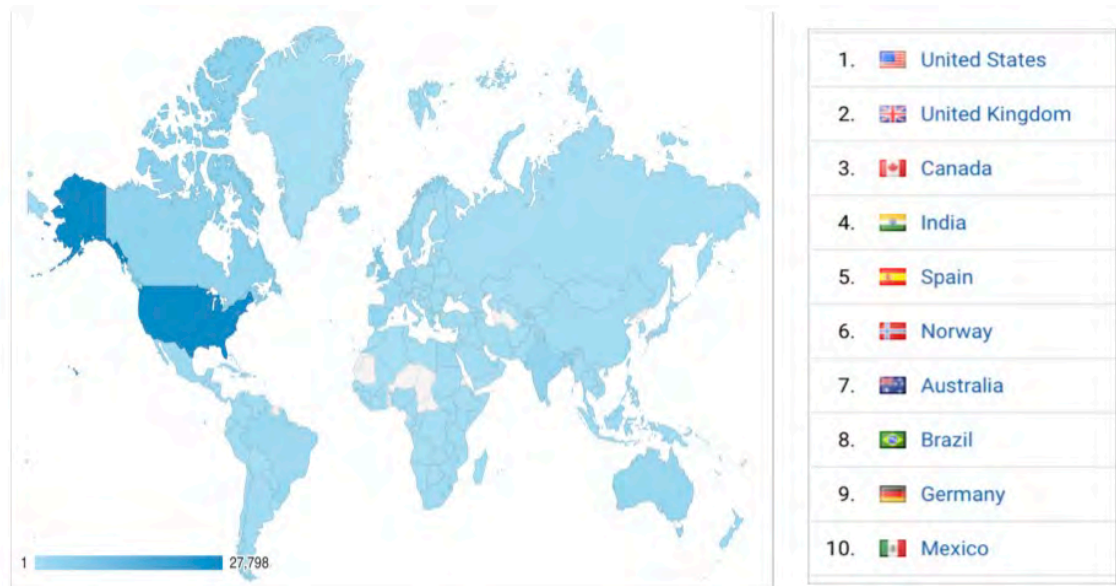
The diagram below gives a rough overview of how Norecopa's income in 2018 was deployed. Norecopa has had one employee in 2018: Adrian Smith is Norecopa's Secretary, and he has worked in a 100% position.



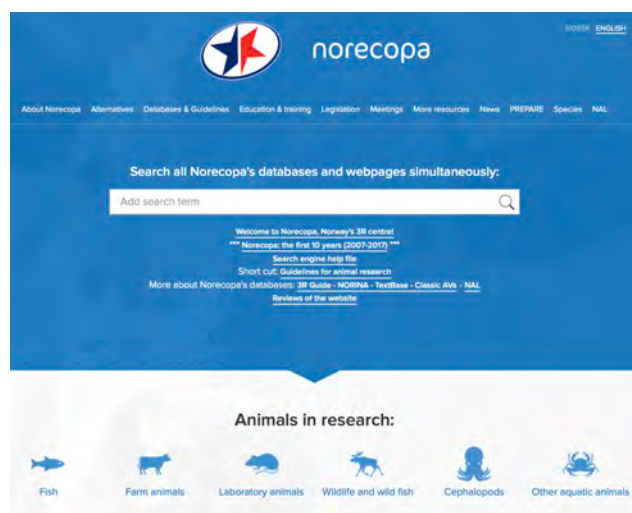
The accounts are described in more detail in the Appendix.

## Milestone: A 60% increase in the number of users of Norecopa's website

The website [norecopa.no](http://norecopa.no) is Norecopa's largest single resource, and is available free of charge for everyone. The statistics for 2018 show that it is in use in most countries of the world:



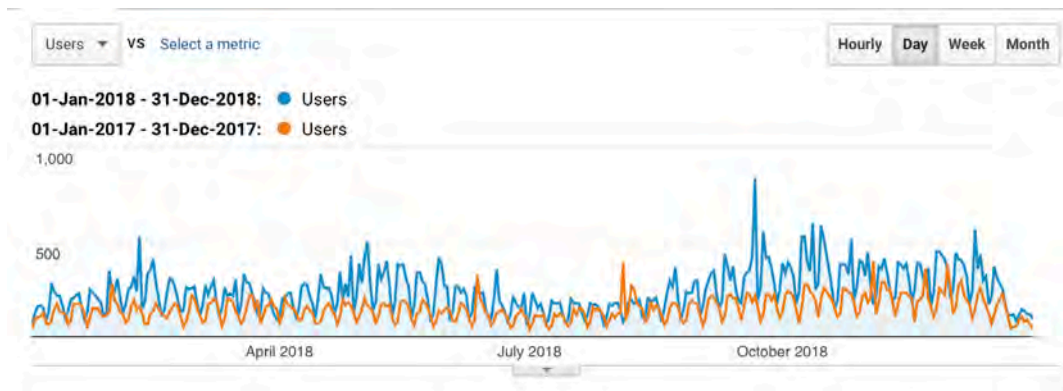
All the material produced by Norecopa is published there, including presentations held at Norecopa's scientific meetings. The website is organised as one large database, which at the end of 2018 had 7,760 entries. We have installed a powerful search engine with our own synonym list and many other functions, to ensure the best possible results when searching.



### *Number of visitors*

Norecopa's current website was launched in June 2016. 2018 is therefore the first year in which figures can be compared with the whole of the previous year. Norecopa uses the

statistical package Google Analytics. In 2018 it registered 175,208 hits on the website, from 76,590 unique visitors. In 2017 the corresponding figures were 133,580 hits and 46,085 visitors, increases of 31% and 66% respectively.



In addition to these visits, files on Norecopa's website have been downloaded over 4,900 times. Approximately one quarter of these downloads were the PREPARE checklist, in a variety of languages.

In 2018 Norecopa's Secretary recorded an 18-minute long web-based presentation, describing the functions of the website<sup>2</sup>.

In addition to the website, Norecopa runs a **closed discussion forum** via email for persons with specific responsibilities for animal research at the country's research animal facilities. This is the only possibility that this group has to discuss matters of interest.

There is more information about the website in the Appendix.

### **Milestone: An international workshop on homemade educational materials**

On 11 April 2018 Norecopa, in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU), arranged a workshop at Adamstua in Oslo. The aim of the workshop was to present possibilities for using homemade materials in teaching and training, to reduce the number of animals, or animal material. Among the presenters were veterinary clinicians from Berlin, Hannover, Copenhagen and the United States. A new section of Norecopa's website was constructed for the workshop, containing the presentations from the meeting, and links to more information about the products which were demonstrated<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://norecopa.no/info>

<sup>3</sup> <https://norecopa.no/education-training/homemade-educational-materials>

There were 17 participants at the meeting. This number was disappointingly low, considering that the date chosen was just before a seminar, at the same venue, organised by the Norwegian Food Safety Authority for persons with specific responsibilities for animal research at the country's research animal facilities.

### **Milestone: Publication of a consensus statement about the use of animals in field studies**

The participants published a consensus statement in 2018 which summarised the conclusions at the fifth in a series of consensus meetings, which Norecopa arranged at Gardermoen in October 2017. The title of the meeting in 2017 was: ***Harmonisation of the Care and Use of Wild and Domestic Mammals and Birds in Field Research***<sup>4</sup>. There has been considerable media interest in field research in recent years, not least in connection with marking of wolves and reindeer.

The participants discussed many of the challenges with conducting animal research in the field, and not least: where is the dividing line between marking for management purposes (which currently does not need special permission as an animal experiment) and animal research?

### **Milestone: the PREPARE guidelines for planning animal experiments**

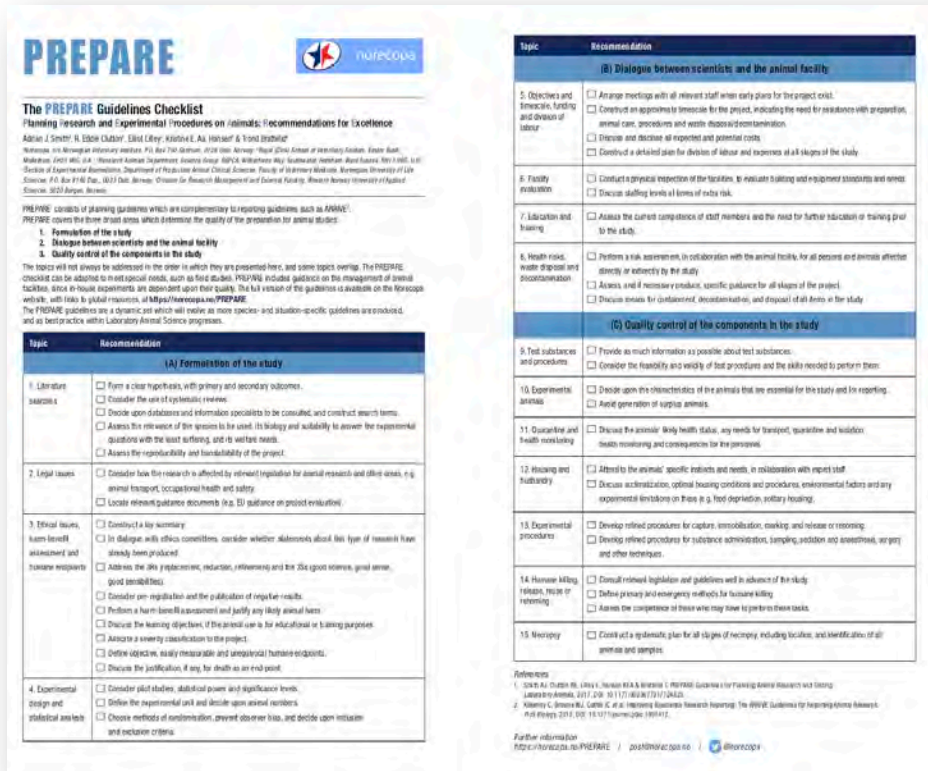
In 2017 Norecopa's guidelines for planning animal experiments, PREPARE (*Planning Research and Experimental Procedures on Animals: Recommendations for Excellence*), were pre-published in the journal *Laboratory Animals*. The manuscript was published in the April issue of the journal in 2018. PREPARE consists of a 15-point checklist, which has been translated into 17 languages, and webpages for each of the 15 topics. The webpages contain links to quality-controlled guidelines, which have been collected from the international laboratory animal science community.

The number of users of Norecopa's website increased by 70% after publication of PREPARE (from April to December 2018), compared to the same period in 2017. The paper is the fourth most cited paper in *Laboratory Animals* during the last three years, and in 2018 it was downloaded 7,464 times from the journal's website, which made it the journal's fourth most downloaded paper.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://norecopa.no/meetings/field-research-2017>





PREPARE has, so far, been endorsed by:

- The Home Office, Great Britain
- The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australia
- The Association for the Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care (AAALAC) International
- Lund University, Sweden
- The Swedish Research Council

Norecopa’s Secretary had a total of 16 oral presentations about PREPARE in 2018, in 11 countries. These were either held as pre-recorded presentations over the Internet (Ireland, Brazil, Canada) or by travelling to the venue (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Ireland, South Korea, Austria, Spain and Finland). In addition, colleagues in the laboratory animal science community held presentations about PREPARE in Britain and Italy, and poster presentations were given in Germany, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The Secretary also lectured on PREPARE and alternatives to animal research on a course for researchers in Tromsø. These presentations are described in more detail in the Appendix.

In addition, a 17-minute presentation of PREPARE has been recorded and published on the internet<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> <https://norecopa.no/prepare/presentation>

## Milestone: Renewed funding of the NORINA and TextBase databases

Norecopa's website includes several databases. Among these are NORINA<sup>6</sup>, which contains information on products which can be used as alternatives or supplements to animals in education and teaching, and TextBase<sup>7</sup>, which contains information on literature within laboratory animal science. In 2018 the Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments (NSMSD) renewed their support of Norecopa for the work of maintaining and updating these databases. In 2018 Norecopa's Secretary has performed this work, but towards the end of the year Norecopa signed a 3-year agreement with the IT company Bitfarm for this purpose. At the end of 2018 NORINA contained information on 3,187 products, while TextBase had 1,738 products.

## Milestone: 48th Scand-LAS symposium in Kristiansand, 26-28 April 2018

In 2018 it was Norway's turn to arrange a symposium for Scand-LAS (Scandinavian Society for Laboratory Animal Science). Board Member Siri Knudsen led the Organising Committee, and Norecopa's Secretary was one of the committee members. The symposium was held in Kristiansand on 26-28 April<sup>8</sup>. The Secretary gave a presentation of PREPARE, and posters about the guidelines and Norecopa's work in general were displayed. The symposium attracted approximately 200 delegates.



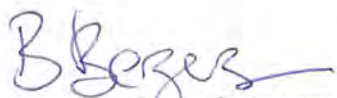
FELASA President, and former Scand-LAS President, Hanna-Marja Voipio, opened the Scand-LAS symposium in Kristiansand on 26 April 2018.

<sup>6</sup> <https://norecopa.no/norina-database>

<sup>7</sup> <https://norecopa.no/textbase-database>

<sup>8</sup> <http://scandlas2018.no>

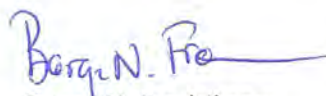
Oslo, March 2019



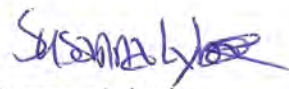
Bente Bergersen  
(Head of the Board)



Siri Knudsen  
(Board Member)



Børge N. Fredriksen  
(Board Member)



Susanna Lybæk  
(Board Member)



Adrian Smith (Secretary)

## Appendix

### 1) About the organisation

#### Norecopa's structure

Norecopa is an independent member organisation, with a Board which represents four of the stakeholders in animal research:

- Regulators
- Industry
- Academia
- Animal welfare organisations

Norecopa is registered in Brønnøysund Register Centre, with its own statutes<sup>9</sup>, and the Annual General Meeting as its highest authority<sup>10</sup>. Norecopa is also a member of the European umbrella organisation for National Consensus Platforms, *ecopa (European Consensus-Platform on Alternatives)*<sup>11</sup>.

Norecopa has an Activity Plan<sup>12</sup> which is approved at the Annual General Meetings.

#### Norecopa's Board and Annual General Meeting

The Board consisted of the following members up until the Annual General Meeting<sup>13</sup> in 2018:

Bente Bergersen (Head of the Board), Norwegian Food Safety Authority

deputy: Johan Teige, Norwegian Food Safety Authority

Børge N. Fredriksen, Pharmaq AS

deputy: Ann Cathrin Einen, MSD Animal Health Innovation

Siri Knudsen, University of Tromsø

deputy: Aurora Brønstad, University of Bergen

Anton Krag, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance

deputy: Harald Small, Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals' Fund for Alternatives

The representatives for regulators and animal welfare organisations were due to be elected. Johan Teige, Anton Krag and Harald Small had informed the Board they they did not wish to stand for re-election in 2018. Deputy Board Member Aurora Brønstad had also informed the Board that she wished to resign.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://norecopa.no/vedtekter>

<sup>10</sup> <https://norecopa.no/no/om-norecopa/årsmøter>

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.ecopa.eu>

<sup>12</sup> <https://norecopa.no/aktivitetsplan>

<sup>13</sup> <https://norecopa.no/styre-og-sekretariat>

Norecopa's Annual General Meeting was held on 12 June 2018 at Adamstua in Oslo. The Annual Report and accounts for 2017, and the Board's budget proposal for 2018 were approved. There were only 4 members eligible to vote at the Meeting, of whom one was a Board Member. Considering that the Annual General Meeting is Norway's highest organ, this number is extremely disappointing.

The Meeting elected Board Members representing the regulators and animal welfare organisations, and a new deputy Board Member for academia.

After the Annual General Meeting, the Board consisted of:

Bente Bergersen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority, (Head of the Board)  
deputy: Gunvor Knudsen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority\*\*  
Børge N. Fredriksen, Pharmaq AS\*  
deputy: Ann Cathrin Einen, MSD Animal Health\*  
Siri Knudsen, University of Tromsø\*  
deputy: Chris Noble, Nofima\*  
Susanna Lybæk, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance\*\*  
deputy: Birgitte Fineid, Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals)\*\*

*\*until 2020 \*\*until 2022*

According to the statutes' paragraph 12, changes to the statutes can only be made by the Board if there is a two-thirds majority for this at two consecutive ordinary Annual General Meetings. Norecopa's Board asked the Meeting to approve a change in the text, such that changes to the statutes can be made if there is a two-thirds majority for this at two consecutive Meetings with at least a 3-month interval. The proposal was approved by the Meeting<sup>14</sup>.

All the documents and minutes from the Meeting are available on Norecopa's website<sup>15</sup>.

Three Board Meetings were held in 2018 (on 13 February, 29 May and 10 October). The minutes of these meetings are available on Norecopa's website<sup>16</sup>.

### **Norecopa's Election Committee**

The Election Committee up until the Annual General Meeting in 2018 consisted of:

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<sup>14</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/8134/referat-årsmøte-120618.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> <https://norecopa.no/arsmoter>

<sup>16</sup> <https://norecopa.no/styrereferater>

- Bjørn Groven, Norwegian Food Safety Authority (leader, representative for the regulators)
- Simon Wadsworth, Cargill Aqua Nutrition (representative for industry)
- Tore Kristiansen, Institute of Marine Research (representative for academia)
- Adeleid Haugen, Norwegian Animal Protection Alliance (representative for animal welfare organisations)

The Board will elect a new Committee before the next election, which is due to be held in 2020.

### **The Secretariat**

Norecopa's secretariat is affiliated to the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, who therefore have responsibility for Norecopa's personnel and accounts. The position as Secretary is located under the Section for Animal Health, Wildlife and Welfare. The Secretary receives support from the Institute's Administration, among other things to issue invoices.

Adrian Smith has been permanently employed as Norecopa's Secretary in a 50% position since 2008. In agreement with Norecopa's Board, he works from home. In 2018 he worked in a 100% position, thanks to a decision by Parliament during the budgetary debate in December 2017.

### **Work conditions, equality and environmental impact**

In 2018 Norecopa had one male employee in a 100% position. He had an agreement with the Norwegian Veterinary Institute permitting him to work from home. Norecopa's Board consists of one man and three women (one of the latter being Head of the Board). No injuries or accidents to the employees were registered in 2018, nor were complaints about the working environment registered. Norecopa does not perform tasks which can cause significantly detrimental effects to the environment.

### **Norecopa's members**

At the end of 2018, 47 institutions or departments had full membership of Norecopa, and 23 private persons were associate members. These figures were 47 and 24, respectively, in 2017. The majority of the large research institutions in Norway are members of Norecopa. The Annual General Meeting in 2018 voted to increase the membership fee for institutions or departments to NOK 2,000, and to retain the same fee of NOK 200 for private persons. The membership fees for private persons has therefore been unchanged since Norecopa was established in 2007.

## **2) Finances**

### **Accounts for 2018**

Norecopa's core funding comes from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Landbruks- og matdepartementet) and from the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries (Nærings- og Fiskeridepartementet). This is provided via funds given to the Veterinary Institute to enable them to carry out tasks for the Government. Since Norecopa was established in 2007, the Ministries have allocated funds for a 50% secretarial position and approx. NOK 200,000 to run the secretariat. In 2018 Parliament decided to allocate a 100% position to Norecopa's secretariat.

The Veterinary Institute runs Norecopa's accounts as a project, which meant that the cost of the secretarial position in 2018 was NOK 1,589,140 (1,237 timer of NOK 1, 220). The Veterinary Institute decided not to allocate funds for running costs to Norecopa in 2018. At the beginning of 2018 Norecopa had, therefore, only its surplus of NOK 80,000 from 2017 for its running costs. Norecopa had to work hard in 2018 to locate income from other sources.

The accounts for 2018 show a surplus of NOK 321,857. This is due to the arrival of external funds late in the year.

The accounts for 2018 were controlled by Norecopa's accountant, Jon Li Tjørsvaag. Norecopa's accounts form part of the Veterinary Institute's accounts, and they are therefore also controlled by the Office of the General Auditor of Norway. The necessary conditions for the continued existence of Norecopa are present.

## Regnskap og budsjett, Norecopa

	Regnskap 2018	Budsjett 2018	Regnskap 2017	Budsjett 2017
<b>Utgifter</b>				
1 Deltagelse på ecopas årsmøte	0,00	0,00	0,00	10 000,00
<b>Drift av sekretariatet</b>				
2 Lønnsutgifter, Adrian Smith	1 509 140,00	1 589 140,00	1 201 000,20	1 138 478,00
3 Lønnsmidler, Karina Smith	0,00	0,00	647 290,80	337 425,00
4 Kontorutgifter	8 465,65	19 156,06	63 068,95	41 946,56
4a Kontorrekvisita	6 673,75		6 866,60	
4b Kjøp og oppgradering av datamaskin og programvare	1 791,90		56 202,35	
4c Utgifter til telefon & bredbånd				
<b>Trykningsutgifter</b>				
5 Materiale til årsmøtet				10 000,00
6 Øvrig informasjonsmateriale	38 960,58	0,00	3 949,16	10 000,00
7 Medlemsavgift ecopa	962,25	900,00	898,55	1 000,00
8 Faglige møter inkl. 10-års jubileum & hefte	90 184,85	7 000,00	165 398,54	80 000,00
<b>Internettider</b>				
9 Utvikling, vedlikehold, lisenser	87 531,40	120 874,69	112 806,40	60 000,00
10 Domeneregistrering	8 601,25	7 670,50	7 670,50	15 000,00
<b>Styremøter &amp; årsmøte</b>				
Reiseutgifter	1 401,12	0,00	23 248,57	28 000,00
11 Årsmøte	1 401,12		23 248,57	20 000,00
12 Heringer og lignende				8 000,00
<b>Beverning</b>				
13 Årsmøte juni	4 331,45	0,00	7 278,90	10 000,00
<b>Øvrig faglig aktivitet</b>				
14 Utdeling av SR, pris	104 998,33	80 398,75	258 779,71	361 000,00
15 Arbeidsmøte om fiskevaksiner			30 000,00	36 000,00
16 Annen	6 750,00			65 000,00
17 Voss				
18 ENRICH-Fish			48 646,30	140 000,00
19 Nye nettsider	60 546,88		82 812,50	100 000,00
20 PREPARE	37 701,45		57 104,84	
21 Konsensusmøte			40 216,07	
<b>Sum utgifter</b>	<b>1 864 576,88</b>	<b>1 825 140,00</b>	<b>2 491 390,28</b>	<b>2 102 849,56</b>
<b>Inntekter</b>				
22 Tildelinger	-1 509 140,00	-1 589 140,00	-1 300 000,00	-1 300 000,00
23 Momskompensasjon	-130 010,00	-110 000,00	-118 814,00	-90 000,00
24 Tilskudd fra Stansent/LAL/SAB/Dyrebeskyttelses Fond/Scand-LAS	-114 685,00		-22 538,88	0,00
25 Tilskudd fra Nordisk Samfunn	-250 000,00		-337 425,00	-337 425,00
26 ENRICH-Fish			-143 352,92	-140 000,00
27 Nye nettsider (Novo Nordisk + NMSD+SAB+LAL+USDA+UFAW)	-16 398,50		-122 003,88	-50 000,00
28 PREPARE			-22 262,73	
29 Medlemsavgift, fullt medlemskap	-82 000,00	-40 000,00	-43 000,00	-40 000,00
30 Medlemsavgift, assosiert medlemskap	-4 200,00	-6 000,00	-4 600,00	-5 000,00
31 Underforbruk fra året før	-80 000,00	-80 000,00	-140 424,56	-140 424,56
<b>Sum inntekter</b>	<b>-2 186 433,50</b>	<b>-1 825 140,00</b>	<b>-2 254 421,97</b>	<b>-2 102 849,56</b>
<b>Resultat</b>	<b>321 856,62</b>	<b>0,00</b>	<b>-236 968,31</b>	<b>0,00</b>

Norecopa's experience is that it is extremely difficult to run an organisation on the 50% position which is provided by the Ministries' core funding. The extra funds provided annually from 2013 onwards by the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Business and Industry (Næringskomitéen) have given Norecopa much greater scope for its activities and room for a 100% secretarial position in 2018.

### External funding in 2018

1. The proposals for the State Budget for 2018 from the Standing Parliamentary Committee for Business and Industry <sup>17</sup> were approved by Parliament, so that Norecopa was allocated a 100% position to the secretariat.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Innstillinger/Stortinget/2017-2018/inns-201718-008s>



2. In 2018 Norecopa signed a 3-year agreement with the Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments<sup>18</sup> (NSMSD) to finance the work of developing the NORINA database<sup>19</sup>.
3. Norecopa applied to the Norwegian Society for Protection of Animals<sup>20</sup> for support to maintain and further develop Norecopa's website, and for publishing material. Norecopa received NOK 100,000 from the Society.
4. Norecopa applied to the Norwegian Gaming and Foundation Authority for compensation for Value Added Tax payments in 2017, and received NOK 130,010 in December 2018, an increase of 9% compared to the previous year.
5. Norecopa applied to UFAW (Universities Federation of Animal Welfare, Great Britain)<sup>21</sup> for funds to incorporate on the website an overview of 3R resources produced with support from the EU. UFAW awarded Norecopa £1,500, which was entered in the accounts as NOK 16,398.
6. Norecopa applied to Scand-LAS (Scandinavian Society for Laboratory Animal Science) for support of an international workshop on homemade educational materials, and received 1,500 euros, which was entered in the accounts as NOK 14,685.
7. Norecopa applied to Architect Finn Rahn's legacy for a total of NOK 370,000 for three projects: to make two animated films, to renew the software for Norecopa's discussion forum, to expand the part of Norecopa's website which describes homemade educational materials. Norecopa received NOK 50,000 for this work.

The funds from Finn Rahn's legacy arrived late in 2018 to be entered into the accounts that year, and they will therefore figure in the accounts for 2019.

Norecopa is extremely grateful to all those who support the organisation.

### **3) Activities designed to achieve Norecopa's aims**

#### **Norecopa's scientific meeting**

Norecopa arranged its annual scientific meeting on Adamstua in Oslo, after the Annual General Meeting, on 12 June 2018.

The meeting consisted of the following presentations:

- *Impressions from Norecopa's international workshop on homemade educational materials*, Adrian Smith, Norecopa
- *How do we ensure good applications for experiments on fish?* Gunvor Knudsen, Norwegian Food Safety Authority

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<sup>18</sup> <http://www.nsmsd.no>

<sup>19</sup> <https://norecopa.no/NORINA>

<sup>20</sup> <http://www.dyrebeskyttelsen.no>

<sup>21</sup> <http://ufaw.org.uk>

The presentations from the meeting are available on Norecopa's website<sup>22</sup>.



Veterinarian Gunvor Knudsen from the Norwegian Food Safety Authority presented their opinion on the quality of applications to conduct experiments on fish, and gave good advice on how these applications can be improved, at the scientific meeting after Norecopa's Annual General Meeting on 12 June 2018.

### **Norecopa's website**

Norecopa has had its own website, <https://norecopa.no>, since February 2008. In addition, the suffices .info, .com, .eu, .net, .org and .cn are registered for the domain name. In 2018 the website has been updated by Norecopa's Secretary. The program Google Analytics is installed to monitor the use of the website.

Norecopa uses two companies, NetLab and Bitfarm, to maintain and expand the website. Norecopa has a support and licensing agreement with Bitfarm. The company Webhuset is used to register Norecopa's domains, and Getonnet to run the discussion forum.

In December 2018 Norecopa entered into an agreement with Bitfarm concerning the work of updating and upgrading the NORINA database, which is part of Norecopa's website. This work is fully financed by funds from NSMSD (Nordic Society Against Painful Animal Experiments).

Norecopa continues to finance the website of the project **ENRICH Fish**, which was concluded in 2017<sup>23</sup>. As more publications from this project are made available, they will be added to the website. The main aim of ENRICH Fish was to improve the environmental conditions during laboratory experiments on Atlantic salmon, which are the most commonly used research animals in Norway. ENRICH Fish was a collaboration between Norecopa, Nofima Tromsø and the Institute of Marine Research, with funds from the Research Council of Norway.

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<sup>22</sup> <https://norecopa.no/arsmoter>

<sup>23</sup> <http://www.enrich-fish.net>

## Norecopa's 3R Prize

Since Norecopa was not allocated running costs in 2018, the Board decided not to award the 3R Prize this year.

## Norecopa's publications in 2018

### *Newsletter*

Since 2008 Norecopa's Secretary has sent electronic newsletters to all members and other interested parties. In 2018 seven newsletters were issued. For the last 2-3 years the number of subscribers has been approximately 1,200. In 2018 Norecopa conducted a complete revision of the subscription list, in compliance with EU's Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). As a result of this, the number of subscribers fell during the summer of 2018 to 533. By the time the final newsletter in 2018 was issued on 14 December, this number had risen again to 608. As a result, very few of the addresses on the mailing list prove to be invalid. The newsletters have been issued in English since June 2017. All of them are archived on Norecopa's website<sup>24</sup>, so that their content is searchable, which increases their value.

### *Scientific papers*

Norecopa's Secretary has published the following scientific papers in 2018:

1. Smith AJ, Clutton RE, Lilley E, Hansen KEA & Brattelid T (2018): PREPARE: guidelines for planning animal research and testing. *Laboratory Animals*, 52(2): 135-141. doi: 10.1177/0023677217724823. The paper has been accessible on the journal's and Norecopa's websites<sup>25</sup> since it was pre-published on 3 August 2017, together with a checklist and comprehensive lists of resources for each topic on the checklist. In 2018 the checklist was translated into another 4 languages, bringing the total up to 18.
2. Knudsen LE, Smith A, Törnqvist E, Forsby A & Tähti H (2018): Nordic Symposium on "Toxicology and Pharmacology without Animal Experiments - will it be possible in the next 10 years?" *Basic & Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/bcpt.13193>. The first version of this paper was published on the internet on 18 Desember 2018, and a revised version will be published in 2019.

In addition to these publications, the Secretary has written chapters for two books which will be published in 2019/2020.

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<sup>24</sup> <https://norecopa.no/news/newsletters>

<sup>25</sup> <https://norecopa.no/PREPARE>

### *Chronicles and newspaper letters*

Norecopa has not had the capacity to write chronicles in 2018. Among other tasks, the consensus statement from the field research meeting, and all the oral presentations of PREPARE, have taken a lot of time.

Norecopa's Secretary and the other co-authors of PREPARE wrote a reply to an Editorial in the journal BMJ entitled *Improving the conduct, reporting and appraisal of animal research*. The reply<sup>26</sup> made the point that guidance on *reporting* animal research cannot in itself improve its quality – which is why the PREPARE guidelines for *planning* animal research were published.

Norecopa's Secretary was interviewed about PREPARE in the magazine *Forskningsetikk* (Research ethics) issued by the national research ethics committees, no. 2-2018,<sup>27</sup> in connection with an article entitled *Tester medisiner basert på dårlige dyrestudier* (Testing medicines based upon poor animal experiments).<sup>28</sup>

### **Participation in scientific meetings**

The following is a list of scientific meetings attended by Norecopa's Secretary (or where others have profiled Norecopa's work) in 2018, in chronological order. Several of Norecopa's Board Members have participated in similar meetings, which are not described in this Report.

1. Norecopa's Secretary presented Norecopa's resources at the *1st Nordic Zebrafish and Medaka Care Workshop* in Oslo on 7 February 2018.
2. Norecopa's Secretary had a poster presentation of PREPARE during the virtual congress entitled *Laboratory Animal Sciences* which was arranged in the internet on 7-8 February 2018.
3. Norecopa's Secretary held a lecture on alternatives to animal research and Norecopa's work on a course for researchers at the University of Tromsø on 12 March.
4. Norecopa's Secretary presented PREPARE on a course for researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm on 20 March 2018.
5. Norecopa's Secretary presented PREPARE at the Norwegian Food Safety Authority's seminar for persons with special responsibility at animal facilities in Oslo on 12 April 2018.
6. Norecopa's Secretary gave an oral presentation of PREPARE during the Scand-LAS symposium in Kristiansand, which was held on 26-28. april 2018. In addition, posters about PREPARE and Norecopa's work were displayed.
7. Norecopa's Secretary presented PREPARE during the annual seminar organised by CCAC (Canadian Council on Animal Care) in Quebec<sup>29</sup> on 5 May 2018. The presentation

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<sup>26</sup> <https://www.bmj.com/content/360/bmj.i4935/rr-0>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.etikkom.no/Aktuelt/Fagbladet-Forskningsetikk/arkiv/2018/2018-2>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.etikkom.no/Aktuelt/Fagbladet-Forskningsetikk/arkiv/2018/2018-2/tester-medisiner-basert-pa-darlige-dyrestudier>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.ccac.ca/en/news-and-events/national-workshops/nw2018>

was pre-recorded. The Secretary joined the meeting by skype after the presentation, to answer questions.

8. Norecopa's Secretary presented PREPARE at the annual meeting of the Irish branch of the Institute of Animal Technology, in Dublin on 23 May 2018.
9. Norecopa's Secretary gave a presentation about PREPARE at the annual meeting of the Danish animal welfare bodies in Copenhagen on 7 June 2018.
10. Norecopa's Secretary lectured on ethics, animal welfare and a Culture of Care at the ESLAV Summer School in Stockholm on 25 June 2018.
11. Norecopa's Secretary presented PREPARE<sup>30</sup> during the *KALAS International Symposium* in Busan, South Korea on 18-21 July 2018
12. Norecopa's Secretary lectured on PREPARE at a course for researchers at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm on 12 September 2018.
13. Norecopa's Secretary held a presentation entitled *Animal Research and Welfare. The Three Rs (Forsøk på dyr og dyrevelferd. De 3 R'er)* at a breakfast seminar arranged by the Research Ethics Committee at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Oslo on 14 September 2018.
14. Norecopa's Secretary held an oral presentation of PREPARE during the *21st European Congress on Alternatives to Animal Testing* (the EUSAAT congress) in Linz, 23-26 September 2018. In addition, he displayed a poster about PREPARE.
15. Norecopa's Secretary pre-recorded a presentation and comments upon the new research ethics guidelines issued by NENT (the National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology), which were launched in Bergen on 26 September 2018.
16. Norecopa's Secretary recorded a presentation about PREPARE which was shown at a seminar arranged by the National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes in Dublin on 4 October 2018.
17. Professor Monica Forni presented PREPARE at the 25th annual congress of the Italian laboratory animal organization AISAL, in Naples on 4-5 October 2018. A summary is to be published in the journal *Comparative Medicine*.
18. Norecopa's Secretary participated in the ESLAV-ECLAM-AAALAC-SECAL conference in Barcelona on 15-16 October 2018<sup>31</sup> and held a presentation about PREPARE.
19. Dr. Anne Zintzsch ensured that posters about PREPARE and Norecopa's work were displayed at the inaugural meeting of the 3R Centre ICAR3R<sup>32</sup> in Giessen on 18-19 October 2018.
20. Norecopa's Secretary recorded a presentation about PREPARE for use at an internal course in the pharmaceutical company TECPAR in Brazil in the end of October 2018.
21. Norecopa's Secretary held a presentation about PREPARE at the annual meeting of Sweden's animal welfare units, organised by the Swedish Board of Agriculture in Stockholm on 15 November 2018. He also displayed a poster about the guidelines.

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<sup>30</sup> <https://norecopa.no/Busan>

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.barcelonacongress2018.com>

<sup>32</sup> <https://norecopa.no/3r-guide/icar3r-interdisciplinary-centre-for-3rs-in-animal-research-giessen>

22. Norecopa's Secretary held a presentation about PREPARE on 19 November 2018 at the Institute of Life Science in Helsinki<sup>33</sup>.
23. Norecopa's Secretary participated in the Swedish Research Council's annual seminar about the use of animals in research, in Stockholm on 7 December 2018, and held a presentation about PREPARE<sup>34</sup>.
24. Senior Scientific Officer Elliot Lilley from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) in Great Britain presented PREPARE at the annual *Animal Science Meeting* in London on 7 December 2018, arranged by the Home Office and Royal Society of Biology. Elliot Lilley is co-author of the PREPARE guidelines.

## Contact meetings

### *Parliament*

Norecopa's Secretary has continued to maintain contact with Parliament, in order to increase the political interest for the 3Rs, and to demonstrate the need for further resources to the work on alternatives to animal experiments.

On 18 October 2018, Board Member Børge N. Fredriksen gave a presentation during the hearing of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for Business and Industry on the Government's budgetary proposal for 2019. The Committee for Business and Industry is the one which handles the part of the budget from which Norecopa's funds come.

On 4 December 2018 the Committee's proposal no. 8 S (2018-2019)<sup>35</sup> was published, and was approved by Parliament on 11 December. The proposal included the following unanimous statement (*our unofficial translation*):

*The Committee refers to the notes from a unanimous Committee in Innst. 8 S (2017–2018) which mentions Norecopa. In agreement with this, the Committee is of the opinion that the financial framework for Norecopa should be maintained at at least the same level as in 2018, and that, within the framework of the Government's proposal for the State budget, sufficient funds should still be secured to finance a 100% position for Norecopa's secretariat, in addition to running costs of NOK 250,000.*

In the Parliamentary debate of 11 December, the Progress Party's agricultural spokesman, Morten Ørsal Johansen, said the following (*our translation*):

*Norecopa, which is placed under the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, does excellent work to reduce animal research and reduce animal suffering in connection with experiments. A*

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<sup>33</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/8170/prepare-helsinki.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/8187/prepare-stockholm-071218.pdf>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.stortinget.no/no/Saker-og-publikasjoner/Publikasjoner/Innstillinger/Stortinget/2018-2019/inns-201819-008s/>

*unanimous Committee agrees that the economic framework for Norecopa should be maintained at, at least, the same level as in 2018. In addition, the Committee believes that sufficient funds should still be secured to finance a 100% position for Norecopa's secretariat, and that they should be given funds for running costs of NOK 250,000 kr. One might well say that Norecopa, at any rate since I joined the Committee (in 2013, ed.), has been the Committee's baby, and the Committee is unanimous about its support of Norecopa.*

#### *The Research Council and NENT*

Norecopa continues to have contact with the Research Council of Norway. In 2018 the Council announced funds for a programme called INFRASTRUKTUR. Norecopa applied for funding to strengthen the secretariat, secure the long-term work of maintaining its database, and to create an electronic system (a Wiki) for sharing information on methods for refining animal experiments. The programme attracted 92 applications for a total of NOK 5,000,000,000. The result of this application will not be known until June 2019.

In September 2018, NENT (the National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology) published new guidelines for the use of animals in research<sup>36</sup>. Norecopa delivered comments on the guidelines when a draft was sent out on a hearing<sup>37</sup>. The PREPARE guidelines are cited as a reference in the guidelines.

#### *The Norwegian Food Safety Authority (Mattilsynet)*

Norecopa has again in 2018 been invited to liaison meetings with the Authority's animal research team. The meetings were held on 15 March and 4 October in Oslo.

Anton Krag (Board Member until the Annual General Meeting in 2018) and Norecopa's Secretary Adrian Smith have been appointed by the Authority as *ad hoc* scientific experts in connection with processing of applications for animal research.

The Secretary has given the Authority advice on how to set up a National Committee for the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes.

### **Collaboration with the other Nordic 3R Centres**

#### *Denmark's 3R-Center*

Norecopa's Secretary has had close contact with the Danish 3R-Center<sup>38</sup> since 2013 when he was elected onto its Board. In 2017 the whole Board was re-elected for 4 more years. The

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<sup>36</sup> <https://www.etikkom.no/forskningsetiske-retningslinjer/etiske-retningslinjer-for-bruk-av-dyr-i-forskning>

<sup>37</sup> <https://norecopa.no/media/8032/norecopa-uttalelse-nent-retningslinjer-081217.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> <http://www.3rcenter.dk>

Board functions also as the Danish National Committee for Laboratory Animals and Alternatives, the creation of which is a requirement under EU's Directive 2010/63. He participates in these meetings as a private individual, not as a representative of Norecopa, but the experience from this work is valuable for Norecopa as well. In 2018 he participated in 4 board meetings in Copenhagen, and in the Annual Meeting of the Danish Animal Welfare Units in Copenhagen on 7 June, where he held a presentation about PREPARE and exhibited a poster about Norecopa's work<sup>39</sup>. He also participated in the Centre's annual 3R Symposium, which was held in Copenhagen on 5-6 November<sup>40</sup> and attracted over 200 delegates. He exhibited two posters at the symposium.

### *Sweden's 3R-Center*

Norecopa's Secretary attended a meeting arranged by Sweden's 3R-Center<sup>41</sup> in Stockholm on 15 December 2018. He was invited to give a presentation entitled *PREPARE before you ARRIVE: How to plan animal experiments*.

Sweden's National Committee for the Protection of Research Animals<sup>42</sup> acts as the Center's Steering Committee.

### **Norecopa in social media**

Norecopa has had a Facebook profile<sup>43</sup> since May 2013. The number of persons who "like" the profile was 600 on 1 January 2018 and by the end of the year the number was 627.

Norecopa opened a Twitter account in 2016 under the name @norecopa, and the Secretary also posts information about Norecopa on his page at LinkedIn.

Activity in social media is not a priority for Norecopa.

### **Other activities in 2018**

Norecopa's secretary has:

- participated in a network about «Culture of Care», which was established after the FELASA congress in Brussels in June 2016. Norecopa's secretary has constructed webpages for the network<sup>44</sup>, and has spent a good deal of time in 2018 updating

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<sup>39</sup> [https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Dyr/dyrevelfaerd/Udvalget\\_for\\_forsoegsdyr\\_og\\_alternativer/Sider/Aarsmoede\\_for\\_dyrevelfaerdsorganerne.aspx](https://www.foedevarestyrelsen.dk/Dyr/dyrevelfaerd/Udvalget_for_forsoegsdyr_og_alternativer/Sider/Aarsmoede_for_dyrevelfaerdsorganerne.aspx)

<sup>40</sup> <https://3rcenter.dk/arrangementer/symposium-2018>

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.jordbruksverket.se/3R>

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.jordbruksverket.se/swedishboardofagriculture/engelskasidor/animals/swedish3rscenter/aboutus/nationalcommittee.4.5593fa9915fcd5f0f543e12b.html>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Norecopa>

<sup>44</sup> <https://norecopa.no/coc>



them. He was co-author of a poster about the network at the Annual Meeting of Danish Animal Welfare Units in Copenhagen on 7 June 2018.

- been elected as a SYRCLE Ambassador in Norway. SYRCLE (*SYstematic Review Center for Laboratory animal Experimentation*)<sup>45</sup> works to further the use of so-called Systematic Reviews of scientific publications. Norecopa's Board Member Aurora Brønstad has been a SYRCLE ambassador in Norway for some time.

### **Cover illustrations**

Bear: Jon M. Arnemo

Others: Norecopa

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<sup>45</sup> <http://syrcle.nl>



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