

October 2015: Abstract of Aiko Sho Nielsens presentation, which concerns the recent project of developing a teaching resource about the Three R's.

Teaching the Three R's - conveying the message to Danish students

Presumably, all students have come across the term 'experimental animals', and may have different attitudes to the subject. However, for most students, it is probably less likely that they possess present-day knowledge of the rules governing animal experiments, or that they have ever heard of the concept of the Three R's.

This project, launched by The Danish 3R-Center, aims to give students in the primary educational system the necessary insight to have a more informed and nuanced discussion about the issue, by providing the teachers and their students with a **digital teaching resource about The Three R's and animal experiments**.

The digital teaching resource was conceived and developed during 2015 in a close collaboration between the Danish 3R-Center and an external consultant, who is a biologist and freelance journalist, and furthermore teaches biology at a Danish Gymnasium (corresponds to senior high school).

The teaching resource comprises quizzes, a video about some current 3R-projects in Denmark, educational articles, a resource room for further reading and group assignments and a teacher's guide.

One of the important targets was to reach the future scientists, who might work with experimental animals down the line, at an early time in their education. For those students, insight into some of the current in vitro and in silico methods which can be used to replace experimental animals, may be of special interest.

But since general education emphasizes the foundation of habits of mind and values that prepare students for success in majors, but also in their personal and professional lives after graduation, the subject of animal experimentation could be of curriculum relevance to all students, not only the science-oriented students.

To account for this, the teaching resource offers not only information about 3R methods, but also a broad introduction to the subject of the Three R's, which considers ethical aspects, legislation, statistics and the history behind the Three R's.

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