

EUROPEAN PRIMATE-NETWORK (EURPRIM-NET): CHALLENGES AND POSSIBILITIES

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EUPRIM-Net is a network of eight European Primate Centres funded by the EU Commission that is aiming at supporting research on and with primates at internationally competitive state-of-the-art level while complying with the highest ethical standards.

Thanks to the wide range of biological and biomedical research activities at the centres, extensive knowledge and infrastructure resources exist. EUPRIM-Net combines this knowledge in a virtual European Primate Centre, improving basic and applied biological and biomedical research with primates as well as housing and breeding conditions for primates. The network aims at developing and standardising procedures and methods for the use, housing and breeding of non-human primates, and offers European scientists easy access to excellent infrastructures and services, e.g. by providing and developing training courses for researchers and caretakers working with primates. A biobank provides access to biological material (tissue, DNA, RNA, cDNA, serum) from primates to external users.

With the EUPRIM-Net follow-up project the consortium pursues a stronger focus on the following overarching core objectives:

- advancing the 3Rs (refinement, reduction, replacement) in primate research.
- developing, refining and ensuring best practice in primate research
- extending the network in Europe to include commercial partners and extend the network to include non-European primate centres to insure a global sharing of available resources

Kyoto University Primate Research Institute is considered a valuable collaboration partner with Japan having a history of primate research reaching far back into the last century thus offering great experience in primate research, breeding and keeping.

Keywords: Primate Network, 3R Concept, Animal Welfare, Best practice