# Headline Report for Eurogroup for Animals

Eurogroup for Animals – Use of animals in research, testing and education

Classified: Public

## Introduction

Across Europe, more than 10 million animals each year are used in laboratories or research and testing procedures that can cause them agonizing pain and suffering[[1]](#footnote-1). The animals used in such procedures includes mice, fish, rats, guinea pigs, rabbits, cats, dogs, and monkeys[[2]](#footnote-2).

Tests on animals for cosmetics products and their ingredients have been banned in the EU since 2009[[3]](#footnote-3), and a ban on the sale within the EU of animal-tested cosmetics products and ingredients was fully implemented in March 2013[[4]](#footnote-4). These bans – contained within the Cosmetics Regulation – were designed to ensure that animals do not suffer for the purpose of developing or marketing cosmetics and their ingredients, and that science without animal testing is used to assure safety. Yet, despite the bans, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) supported by the European Commission and the ECHA Board of Appeal, continues to demand new tests on animals for chemicals used as cosmetics ingredients under the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) Regulation. This policy – which they now apply even to chemicals used exclusively in cosmetics – “erodes the bans and goes against the intention of legislators in creating them: that animals no longer suffer and die for the sake of cosmetics”[[5]](#footnote-5).

Bringing together and representing the voices of its eighty-five member organisations across Europe, Eurogroup has focused on animal welfare and advocacy for the past forty-two years. The organisation calls on the European Commission to coordinate, together with Member States, a concrete plan to accelerate the transition to non-animal testing[[6]](#footnote-6). While earlier this year the organisation spearheaded the ECI Cruelty Free Cosmetics petition, attracting 1.4 million signatures[[7]](#footnote-7).

Eurogroup for Animals commissioned Savanta to conduct research across 10 countries to gauge public views towards animal testing in science, research, and education.   
  
Findings from this research demonstrate that the majority of citizens across 10 EU markets think the use of animals in such circumstances is a concern, and that they call for the transition to an animal free process.

## Methodology

Eurogroup for Animals commissioned Savanta who interviewed 10,706 adults online from 27th October to 8th November 2022 across 10 countries: Germany, France, Norway, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland. Data were weighted in each country to be nationally representative by age, gender and region.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Country** | **Sample size** |
| Germany | 1063 |
| France | 1092 |
| Norway | 1048 |
| Spain | 1044 |
| Italy | 1027 |
| Belgium | 1084 |
| Netherlands | 1078 |
| Denmark | 1097 |
| Sweden | 1068 |
| Switzerland | 1105 |

### Guidelines for the public use of survey results

Savanta is a member of the British Polling Counciland abides by its rules. This commits us to the highest standards of transparency.

The BPC’s rules state that all data and research findings made on the basis of surveys conducted by member organisations that enter the public domain must include reference to the following:

* The company conducting the research (Savanta)
* The client commissioning the survey
* Dates of interviewing
* Method of obtaining the interviews (e.g. in-person, post, telephone, internet)
* The universe effectively represented (all adults, voters etc.)
* The percentages upon which conclusions are based
* Size of the sample and geographic coverage.

Published references (such as a press release) should also show a web address where full data tables may be viewed, and they should also show the complete wording of questions upon which any data that has entered the public domain are based.

**All press releases or other publications must be checked with Savanta ComRes before use. Savanta ComRes requires 48 hours to check a press release unless otherwise agreed.**

## Headline results

* Seven in ten (71%) agree that they are very concerned about the use of animals in scientific research, testing and education. Of that, half (35%) say they strongly agree with the statement.
* Three quarters (75%) agree that more needs to be done to accelerate the full replacement of animal experiments in scientific research, testing and education. Four in ten (39%) strongly agree with the statement and just six percent strongly disagree.
* The same proportion (75%) believe that the the European Union should develop a coordinated strategy to transition to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals (or that Norway’s/Switzerland’s Government should commit to transitioning to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals).Almost one in ten (8%) of respondents stated they didn’t know, which suggests there is room to educate the public further.
* Three in four (74%) also agree that the European Union, Norway and Switzerlandshould be a global leader in moving towards science and innovation without the use of animals. Almost one in ten (8%) stated they didn’t know, which again suggests there is room to further educate the public on the problems with using animals in science.

### Country differences

* Adults from Germany (84%), Italy (84%) and Spain (81%) are the most likely to agree with the statement that the European Union and its member states should develop a coordinated strategy to transition to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals.
* Eight in ten Germans are very concerned about the use of animals in scientific research, testing, and education (80%). This is the highest of any country. On the other hand, Danes are significantly less likely to be very concerned about the matter (65%), the lowest of the countries polled.
* Adults from the Italy are most likely to say that more needs to be done to accelerate the full replacement of animal experiments in scientific research, testing, and education (82%). Italians are also most likely to agree that The European Union / Norway / Switzerland should be a global leader in moving towards science and innovation without the use of animals (84%).
* Out of the countries tested, those from the Norway are *least* likely to agree with these two statements:
  + Norway’s government should commit to transitioning to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals / the European Commission and its member states should develop a coordinated strategy to transition to scientific research, testing, and education (64%)
  + Norway / Switzerland / The European Union should be a global leader in moving towards science and innovation without the use of animals (64%)
* In all four statements it is Switzerland who have the highest percentage *disagreeing* with the statements out of any country. The reason that Denmark and/ or Norway often had a lower percentage who *agree* is because both countries had the most who selected ‘Don’t Know’. This suggests these is potential for Eurogroup to further educate the adults in both countries on the topics.

*Q1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. I am very concerned about the use of animals in scientific research, testing, and education.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *% of adults who say* | *NET: Agree* | *NET: Disagree* | *Don't know* |
| **Total** | 71% | 23% | 6% |
| Germany | 80% | 16% | 4% |
| Italy | 79% | 17% | 4% |
| Spain | 76% | 21% | 3% |
| France | 74% | 21% | 5% |
| Belgium | 71% | 23% | 6% |
| Netherlands | 71% | 25% | 5% |
| Sweden | 70% | 24% | 6% |
| Switzerland | 66% | 29% | 4% |
| Norway | 65% | 26% | 10% |
| Denmark | 61% | 28% | 11% |

*Base: All respondents (n=10706), France (n=1092), Germany (n= 1,063), Norway (n= 1,048), Spain (n =1,044), Italy (n= 1,027), Belgium (n= 1,084), Netherlands (n= 1,078), Denmark (n= 1,097), Sweden (n=1068), Switzerland (n=1105).*

*Q2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. More needs to be done to accelerate the full replacement of animal experiments in scientific research, testing, and education*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *% of adults who say* | *NET: Agree* | *NET: Disagree* | *Don't know* |
| **Total** | 75% | 18% | 7% |
| Italy | 82% | 13% | 5% |
| Germany | 81% | 14% | 6% |
| Spain | 78% | 17% | 5% |
| Belgium | 77% | 17% | 7% |
| Netherlands | 77% | 18% | 5% |
| France | 75% | 17% | 7% |
| Sweden | 73% | 20% | 7% |
| Switzerland | 71% | 24% | 5% |
| Norway | 67% | 22% | 11% |
| Denmark | 66% | 22% | 13% |

*Base: All respondents (n=10706), France (n=1092), Germany (n= 1,063), Norway (n= 1,048), Spain (n =1,044), Italy (n= 1,027), Belgium (n= 1,084), Netherlands (n= 1,078), Denmark (n= 1,097), Sweden (n=1068), Switzerland (n=1105).*

*Q3. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. The European Commission and its Member States should develop a coordinated strategy to transition to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals. (*Norway’s Government should commit to transitioning to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals; Switzerland’s Government should commit to transitioning to scientific research, testing, and education without the use of animals)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *% of adults who say* | *NET: Agree* | *NET: Disagree* | *Don't know* |
| **Total** | 75% | 18% | 8% |
| Germany | 84% | 10% | 7% |
| Italy | 84% | 12% | 4% |
| Spain | 81% | 15% | 5% |
| France | 78% | 15% | 7% |
| Belgium | 77% | 16% | 8% |
| Sweden | 73% | 19% | 8% |
| Netherlands | 71% | 21% | 8% |
| Denmark | 69% | 19% | 12% |
| Switzerland | 68% | 27% | 6% |
| Norway | 64% | 23% | 13% |

*Base: All respondents (n=10706), France (n=1092), Germany (n= 1,063), Norway (n= 1,048), Spain (n =1,044), Italy (n= 1,027), Belgium (n= 1,084), Netherlands (n= 1,078), Denmark (n= 1,097), Sweden (n=1068), Switzerland (n=1105).*

*Q4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement. Norway / Switzerland / The European Union should be a global leader in moving towards science and innovation without the use of animals.*

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *% of adults who say* | *NET: Agree* | *NET: Disagree* | *Don't know* |
| **Total** | 74% | 19% | 8% |
| Italy | 84% | 12% | 4% |
| Spain | 82% | 15% | 3% |
| Germany | 79% | 15% | 6% |
| France | 74% | 18% | 8% |
| Belgium | 74% | 19% | 7% |
| Sweden | 71% | 20% | 9% |
| Denmark | 70% | 18% | 11% |
| Netherlands | 69% | 23% | 7% |
| Switzerland | 68% | 24% | 8% |
| Norway | 64% | 22% | 13% |

*Base: All respondents (n=10706), France (n=1092), Germany (n= 1,063), Norway (n= 1,048), Spain (n =1,044), Italy (n= 1,027), Belgium (n= 1,084), Netherlands (n= 1,078), Denmark (n= 1,097), Sweden (n=1068), Switzerland (n=1105).*

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1. 2019 report on the statistics on the use of animals for scientific purposes in the Member

   States of the European Union in 2015-2017 - <https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/com-2020-16-f1-en-main-part-1.pdf> - Pg. 4. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.hsi.org/news-media/about/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/sectors/cosmetics/ban-animal-testing_en#:~:text=The%20testing%20ban%20on%20finished,applies%20since%2011%20March%202009>. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP\_13\_210 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/news/its-time-take-action-animals-laboratories [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://www.eurogroupforanimals.org/news/european-commission-disregards-wishes-european-parliament-failing-take-concrete-steps-phase [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. <https://eci.ec.europa.eu/019/public/#/screen/home/disabled> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)