Animal experiments or humane alternatives: awareness raising campaign in Belarus

Tatsiana Hlinkina, Anastasiya Poyanena, Ludmila Loginovskaya

Center for the Ethical Attitude Towards Nature (ECOetika),
Belarusian Medical Academy of Postgraduate Education (BelMAPGE)
The first steps of alternatives implementation in Belarus

In 2002, BSMU became the first humane university in the post-Soviet space.

Tatsiana Morozkina, Professor of the Department of Biochemistry

Belarusian State Medical University (BSMU)
The first steps of alternatives implementation in Belarus

Inna Merkulova, Associate Professor of the Department of Ecological Medicine and Radiobiology

International Sakharov Environmental Institute of Belarusian State University (ISEI BSU)
Alternatives to animal experiments in the focus of social activism

Youth volunteer initiative "EcoUni"

"Person. Ecology. Bioethics" - training program for high school students
Collaboration with authoritative Belarusian scientists and professors

Tatsiana Mishatkina, Professor of the Philosophy Department of ISEI BSU

The first handbook on Bioethics in Belarus, 2003
Lectures at Belarusian universities

Francisk Skorina Gomel State University

Mogilev State A. Kuleshov University
Organization of the seminar in Minsk

The International Scientific-practical seminar "Humane education of biomedical specialists", Minsk, 2006

Nick Jukes (InterNICHE), Elena Marueva (Vita Animal Rights Center)

Conference Proceedings
Seminar results

Replacement of animal experiments with alternatives:

- Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno (GRSU);
- Grodno State Medical University (GRSMU);
- Grodno State Agrarian University (GGAU);
- Department of Human and Animals Physiology of Belarusian State University, Minsk (BSU).
Organization of the conference in Minsk

The Republican Scientific-Practical Conference "Global Bioethics in a Social Dimension", Minsk, 2015
Conference results

Replacement of animal experiments with alternatives:

• Department of Agroecology of Belarusian State Academy of Agriculture, Gorki (BSAA).
More than 50% of universities departments in Belarus have abandoned animal experiments in the education and replaced them with alternatives.
Monitoring of biomedical research and toxicological testing in Belarus, 2016-2018

Identified problems:

- cosmetics is still tested on animals;
- there is no statistics of the animal use in biomedical research, education and toxicological testing;
- ethical expertise of scientific projects, when experiments on animals are planned, is not mandatory;
- ethical committees work not in all research institutions and universities;
- lack of the national law to support the implementation of alternatives.
Project "Animal experiments or humane alternatives: awareness raising campaign in Belarus"

The aim: to inform the Belarusian people about the problem of animal experiments and possibilities of alternatives application in education, science and toxicological testing.
Public opinion survey among high school students

Target group: high school students of the life sciences profile, 460 persons.

What do you think about the animal use in experiments?

- 33.5%: animal experiments are useless and their results are irrelevant when transferred to humans
- 33.5%: animal experiments are necessary
- 17.6%: had never thought about that problem before
- 15.4%: own answers
Public opinion survey among high school students

Should students of life sciences universities do experiments on animals in education?

- 62.5% no, because it is inhumane
- 19.1% yes, because it is necessary
- 12.1% found it difficult to answer
- 6.3% own answers
Training module "Alternatives to animal experiments in science and education"

- for high school students of the life sciences profile;
- 3 lessons x 54 schools, gymnasiums, lyceums.
On-line quiz on Bioethics

24 test tasks, 6 cases.
Republican contest of creative works "190 words for the protection of laboratory animals"

4 nominations: "Poster", "Picture", "Essay / Story" and "Poem".
Winners award ceremony
Information campaign in the media

- publications on news portals and websites;
- articles in newspapers and journals;
- rubrics in social media;
- E-Newsletter "Animal experiments and humane alternatives".
Print publications

Brochure "What everyone should know about the animal use in experiments"

Leaflets

Poster
Print publications

Book "190 words for the protection of laboratory animals"
Project results

- 5 partners
- 54 educational establishments
- 460 respondents
- 36 publications in media
- 80 creative works
- 109 participants of online quiz
- 34 translations from English into Russian
- 97 publications in social media
Express our gratitude:
Thank you for attention!