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Current status of the RE-Place database comprising expertise on the use of NAMs in Belgium

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"New Approach Methodologies" (NAMs) **avoid the direct use of live animals** and thus **contribute to the overall replacement of animal testing**. NAMs include both methods based on new technologies such as computer modelling, organ-on-chip and many others, as well as more 'conventional' methods that aim to improve the understanding of toxic or biologic effects.

Due to the fast progress in the development and use of NAMs, (young) scientists can struggle to find **relevant and up-to-date information**. There is thus a clear **need to centralize the available knowledge on NAMs.**

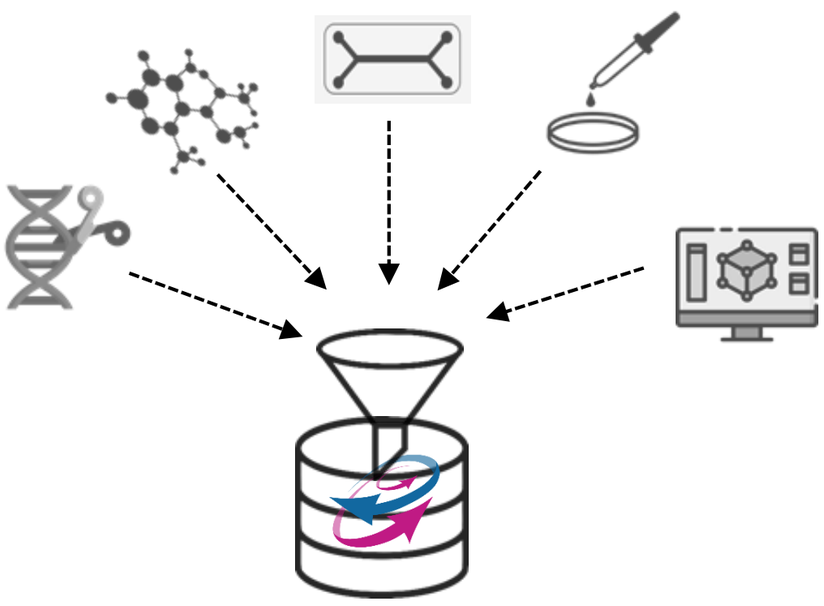
RE-Place: an open access database for all relevant stakeholders

An extensive inventory of the available knowledge on the use of NAMs **in Belgium** across disciplines in biomedical research and regulatory testing will contribute to:

- Improved knowledge sharing on the use of NAMs
- Promotion of the further use and development of new techniques, methods and strategies
- Identification of knowledge gaps to better allocate future funding

Development of an online tool to collect information on NAMs in the RE-Place database

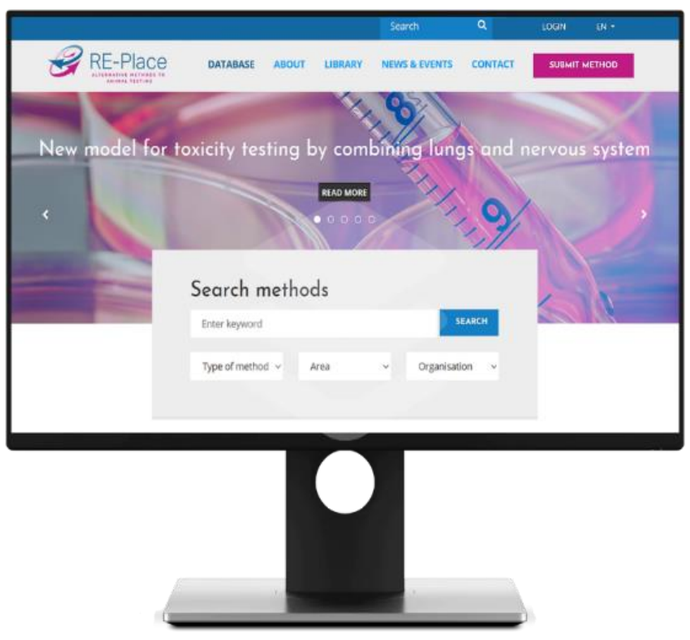
To collect information on the use of NAMs in a fast and consistent manner, an online tool was developed where scientists can easily submit information. All submitted information is directly integrated into the **open access RE-Place database,** available via www.RE-Place.be. **RE-Place links this expertise with the names of experts and research centres where these techniques can be learned**.



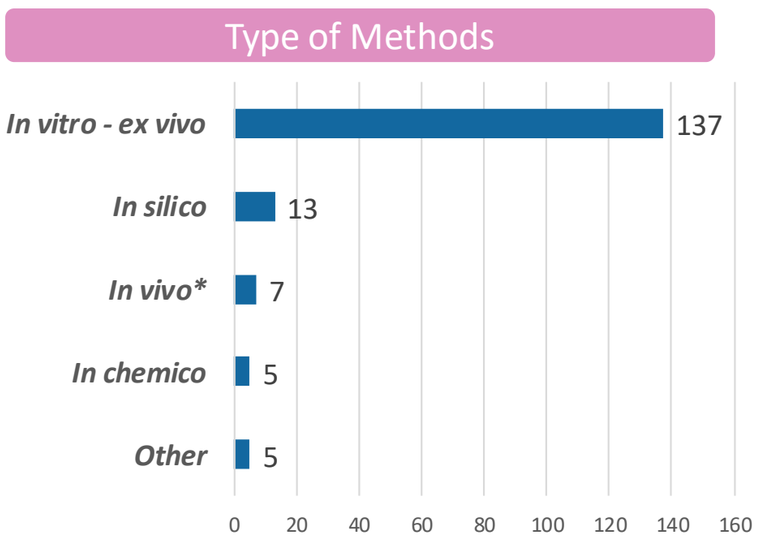
- Registration is required, but **free of charge**
- All NAMs in which one has expertise can be submitted: it can be a single step, or a (whole) research strategy
- Submission **not restricted** to NAMs that have been developed within ones own department or organisation
- The regulatory status of a method can be diverse: one can submit methods in development, internally validated or validated by external bodies

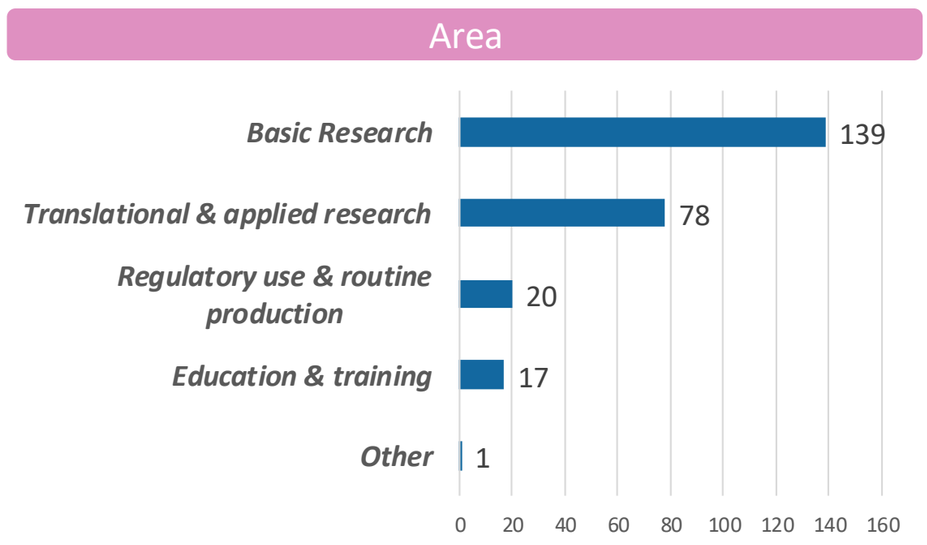
www.RE-Place.be

Current status of the RE-Place database (Mid July 2021)



More than 160 methodologies





* In this context, *in vivo* refers to alternative *in vivo* models such as fruit flies, flatworms, early stages of zebrafish, …

ⓘ Explanatory note: one can select multiple areas per NAM. For instance, a NAM can be linked to 'Basic Research' and 'Education and Training'.

- Submitted by **113 experts**
- From **19 different organisations** *(universities, scientific institutes, industry)*

Overall, RE-Place is a useful tool to…

Promote one's expertise on NAMs to the scientific community and other stakeholders
➔ **Increased visibility and fostering new collaborations**

Learn more about the **NAMs that can (partially) replace** animal-based test methods

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