# Self-assessment concerning animal research abroad.

Animals Welfare Body prepared this self-assessment to assist researchers in evaluating whether the planned animal research in collaborations outside the EU does comply with KI policies:

The university’s research ethics policy \*dnr.1-443/2022 states that:

“*All animal experiments in which Karolinska Institutet's researchers participate, must be approved by a laboratory animal ethics committee or equivalent in the respective country. Researchers at Karolinska Institutet who conducts or participates in research based on animal experiments in countries outside Sweden, EU countries and Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, must make an assessment of whether the conditions for the current animal handling meet the principles that permeate Swedish legislation, i.e. approved experimental animal ethics, animal welfare and 3R (Replace, Refine, Reduce).*

*If the researcher identifies differences that have a negative impact on animal welfare or suspects that the planned project does not comply with Swedish legislation regarding animal experiments, the researcher must apply for an assessment of the project by a relevant local Animal Welfare Body (AWB at KI or AWB Region Stockholm) before any cooperation begins. The AWBs starting point for such an assessment of animal welfare during experimental procedures, transport, housing, and husbandry shall be that animals are not subjected to more suffering than is the case when similar experiments were conducted in Sweden.* ”

Self-assessment questions

1. Is there an approved laboratory animal ethics license for the experiments in the country where the animal experiments will be performed?

[ ]  Yes. Please state the name of the regulatory reviewing authority and date of approval.

[ ]  No. Has an ethics application been submitted and to which regulatory reviewing authority?

[ ]  No, an laboratory animal ethics license is not required.

1. Would the experiment be possible to conduct in Sweden? Yes [ ]  No [ ]
2. Do you have an ethics license for a similar experiment in Sweden? Yes [ ]  No [ ]
3. Do you know any other research group at KI or at another university in Sweden, who has an ethics license for a similar experiment in Sweden? Yes [ ]  No [ ]
4. Why are the experiments planned to be performed abroad?

[ ]  Collaborations with researchers/groups abroad

[ ]  Contract research with an external company

[ ]  Expensive/unique equipment not available in Sweden

[ ]  Animal models/genetic strains only available in the specific research lab

[ ]  Unique knowhow/expertise/experimental conditions not available in Sweden

[ ]  Other reasons: example, lower costs, fewer regulations, lower education requirements, other financial reasons: Please specify

1. Is there staff on the site responsible for the welfare of laboratory animals?

(*animal care taker, veterinarians, animal welfare officer or similar*) Yes [ ]  No [ ]

1. Does the staff have the relevant training and species-specific knowledge for the planed experiments? (*Staff responsible for animal welfare should be trained in animal welfare, in ethics, in 3Rs for the appropriate animal species*). Yes [ ]  No [ ]
2. Does the planed experiment involve red-listed species? (*Please look at the IUCN:s Red list of threatened species at* [*IUCN Red List of Threatened Species | IUCN*](https://www.iucn.org/resources/conservation-tools/iucn-red-list-threatened-species))

Yes [ ]  No [ ]

1. Other ethical consideration (please consult the content of the research ethics policy on page 1 and the entire document 1-433-2022)?

If you identify, based on above assessment, that there may be a risk of negative impact on animal welfare or suspect that planned procedures do not comply with the Swedish legislation, please contact your local AWB for further instructions.