

Acceleration of scientific confidence-building in non-animal approaches in Germany

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Background

The **EU's Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability** initiative has led to several proposals to update regulations, which will increase regulatory testing requirements for new and already-marketed chemicals. This will result in more requests for animal tests. Simultaneously, **calls to demonstrate product safety without using animals** are getting louder within the scientific and non-scientific communities. As a result, the European Commission committed to developing **a roadmap to phase out animal testing for chemical safety**, which is expected to be published in the first half of 2026.



A strategic Alliance

Representatives from the pharmaceutical, cosmetic and chemicals sectors, academia, and a non-governmental organisation in Germany have formed an alliance to accelerate scientific confidence-building and regulatory application of non-animal methods for toxicity assessment of chemicals.

NGO
PETA SCIENCE CONSORTIUM
INTERNATIONAL e.V.

Academia

MERCK

symrise

BASF
We create chemistry

Beiersdorf

Industry

3R CENTER TÜBINGEN
for In Vitro Models and Alternatives to Animal Testing

CAAT
eu

Universität
Konstanz

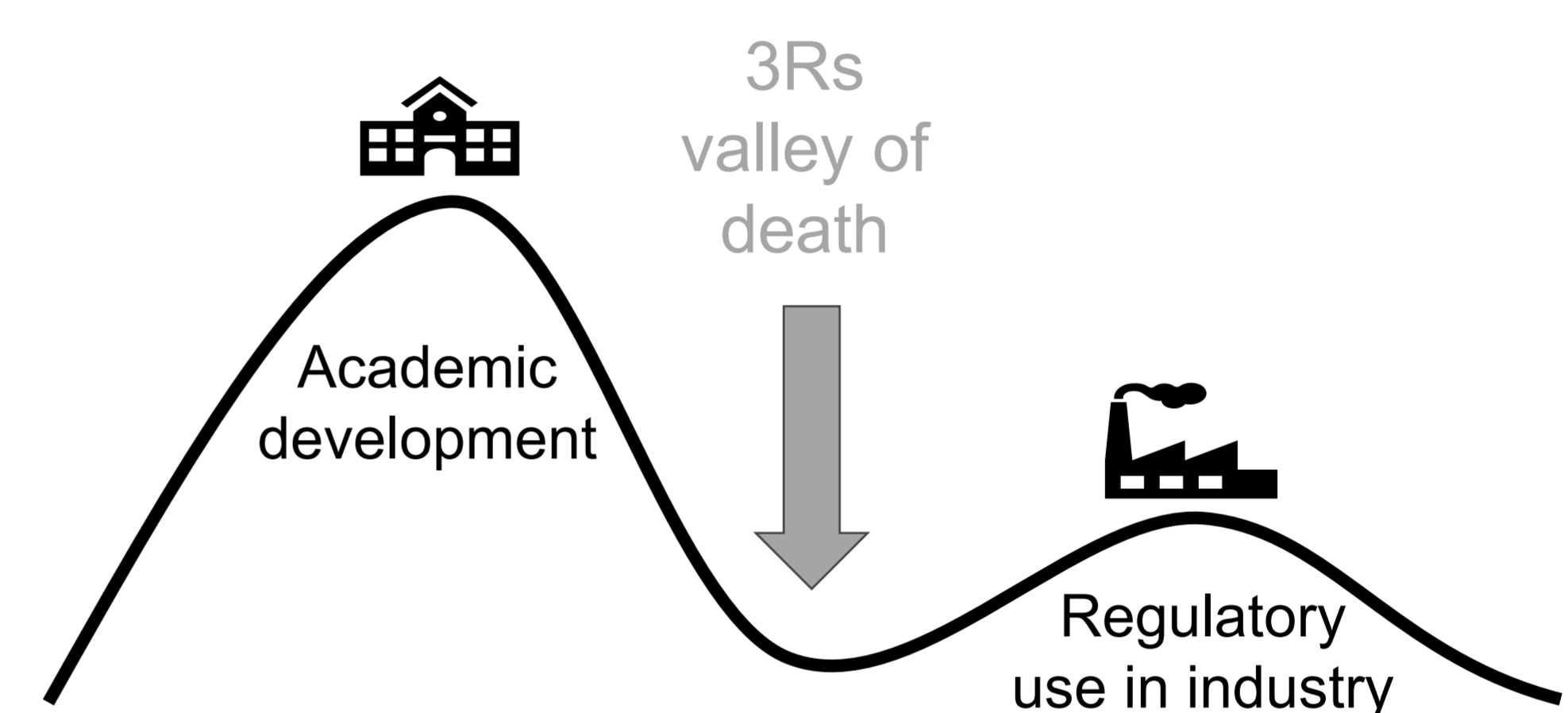
JOHNS HOPKINS
BLOOMBERG
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Fraunhofer
ITEM



Lost in translation

In vitro and *in silico* methods offer novel solutions for predicting risks and protecting human health and the environment. However, few of the methodologies developed in research laboratories proceed to regulatory use in industry – a term coined “**3Rs valley of death**”.



In the view of this alliance, the main barriers to wider adoption of new non-animal methods are a lack of:

- Political prioritisation
- Systematic coordination strategies to facilitate coherent research and development, enabling fit-for-purpose models and future regulatory application
- Targeted funding for the development and validation of test methods to facilitate transfer towards regulatory acceptance and usefulness for industry



Recommended Actions

In February 2026, the alliance **appealed to the German government** for a second time **to take three specific actions** to increase the development and uptake of non-animal methods for toxicity testing:

Action plan

Formulate an action plan to phase out animal use for regulatory testing with short- and medium-term goals

Validation

Provide resources for activities targeted at building scientific confidence in non-animal methods and combinations thereof

Institution

Establish an independent body to guide and accelerate the transition of non-animal methods from development to practical application

Conclusion

Following these steps will be essential for achieving a safer, more sustainable future without testing on animals, while also strengthening the work of the European Commission and EU member states to phase out animal testing for chemical safety assessments.



Improve predictivity



High level of human health and environmental protection



Animal protection